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## **[IASBABA'S 60 DAYS PLAN – (CA COMPILATION)]**

Born with the vision of "Enabling a person located at the most remote destination a chance at cracking AIR 1 in IAS".

**Q.1) Recently, 'Rutland Island' was in news in what context?**

- a) It filed a case against India accusing of not fulfilling its obligations relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament
- b) India's long-range missile test facility
- c) India's overseas military base in Seychelles to counter China's growing influence over the Indian Ocean
- d) Sovereignty dispute between Mauritius and the United Kingdom

**Q.1) Solution (b)****In News**

- The National Board of Wildlife approved Rutland Island in South Andaman to be the site for the country's long-range missile test facility.
- DRDO has been seeking the approval for the test facility since 2012.
- Taking into account the strategic importance of the project for country's defence, the Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife has approved the project.

Rutland Island is an island of the Andaman Islands. It belongs to the South Andaman administrative district, part of the Indian union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

**Think/Map Activity**

- Chagos Archipelago
- Marshall Islands and India
- Assumption Island
- Duncan Passage

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/wildlife-board-okays-andamans-rutland-island-for-drDOS-missile-testing-project/articleshow/59007625.cms>

**Q.2) Consider the following statements about 'NICER' in the context of space technology**

1. It is an external payload aboard the International Space Station
2. It focuses especially on pulsars
3. It was funded through NASA's 'Small Explorer' program

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

NASA's Neutron star Interior Composition Explorer, or NICER, mission is an International Space Station payload that will provide high-precision measurements of neutron stars – objects containing ultra-dense matter at the threshold of collapse into black holes.

NICER will also test — for the first time in space — technology that relies on pulsars as navigation beacons. The technique may eventually guide human exploration to the distant reaches of the solar system and beyond.

It will also carry out the world's first demonstration of X-ray navigation in space.

It was funded under the Missions of Opportunity (MO) program.

The mission will focus especially on pulsars. Pulsars and neutron Stars are the remnants of massive stars that, after exhausting their nuclear fuel, exploded and collapsed into super-dense spheres.

NICER launched June 3, 2017, from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida aboard the SpaceX-11 ISS Commercial Resupply Services flight. It was installed on the space station later that month.

**Think – Recent missions by NASA**

- NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO)
- K2 Mission
- Parker Solar Probe
- GOLD and ICON

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/nasa-set-to-launch-first-ever-mission-to-neutron-stars-4685981/>

**Q.3) Consider the following statements about the report 'Sending Money Home: Contributing to the SDGs, one family at a time'**

1. It is released by the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
2. According to the report, India is the top receiving country for remittances

**Select the correct statements**

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.3) Solution (c)

This report provides data and analysis of remittances and migration trends for developing countries over the past decade, as well as the potential contributions of remittance families to reaching the SDGs by 2030.

The 'One Family at a Time' study by the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) said about 200 million migrants globally sent more than \$445 billion in 2016 as remittances to their families, helping to lift millions out of poverty.

Indians working across the globe sent home USD 62.7 billion last year, making India the top remittance-receiving country surpassing China.

India was the top receiving country for remittances in 2016 at \$62.7 billion, followed by China (\$61 billion), the Philippines (\$30 billion) and Pakistan (\$20 billion).

Asia is the highest originating region with 77 million migrants; with 48 million remaining within the region. Over the past decade, remittances to Asia and the Pacific increased by 87 per cent, reaching \$244 billion, while migration grew by only 33 per cent in comparison.

Asia remains the main remittance-receiving region, with 55 per cent of the global flows and 41 per cent of total migrants.

### IFAD

- The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is an international financial institution and a specialised agency of the United Nations dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.
- It was established as an international financial institution in 1977 as one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference.
- Its headquarters is in Rome, Italy

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/india-top-remittance-receiving-country-in-2016-un-report/article19053537.ece>

### Q.4) Consider the following statements about 'Vatsalya – Maatri Amrit Kosh'

1. It is a National Human Milk Bank launched by Ministry of Women and Child Development
2. It is established as part of the Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI)

3. It will promote, support and protect the breastfeeding by providing lactation support to mothers

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

**Vatsalya - Maatri Amrit Kosh', a National Human Milk Bank and Lactation Counselling Centre**

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Wednesday launched the National Human Milk Bank at Lady Hardinge Medical College. This will be the first government-run human milk bank, and at present, the country's largest.
- The milk bank, called the Vatsalya — Maatri Amrit Kosh, has been established in collaboration with the Norwegian government and the Oslo University as part of the Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI).
- It will not only collect but will also test and will safely store the milk donated by lactating mothers for the infants who are in need
- With the help of dedicated lactated counsellors, the centre will promote, support and protect the breastfeeding by providing lactation support to mothers
- The project will not only act as a dedicated centre to support breastfeeding and improve infant survival, but also act as the teaching, training and demonstration site for other milk banks to be established under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

**Think**

- Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA) programme

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=164479>

**Q.5) Which of the following groupings established 'a one million dollar fund for boosting media cooperation'?**

- a) Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
- b) South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
- c) The Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS)

d) Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC)

**Q.5) Solution (c)**

The BRICS media forum is the result of a joint initiative by Xinhua News Agency, Brazil's CMA Group, Russia's Sputnik News Agency and Radio, The Hindu group of publications from India, and South Africa's Independent Media.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/one-million-dollar-fund-established-to-bolster-brics-media/article18808579.ece>

**Q.6) Recently, Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) was abolished. Consider the following statements about FDI approving authorities after abolition of FIPB**

1. FDI from Pakistan and Bangladesh has to be approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs
2. Foreign investments by non-resident Indians has to be approved by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.6) Solution (c)**

FIPB was an inter-ministerial body housed in the Department of Economic Affairs in the finance ministry responsible for processing foreign direct investment (FDI) proposals and recommending for approval to the finance minister and subsequently to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs if the investment amount exceeded Rs3,000 crore.

Now individual departments of the government have been empowered to clear FDI proposals in consultation with DIPP which will also issue the standard operating procedures for processing applications.

All FDI from Pakistan and Bangladesh and FDI proposals requiring approval of private security agencies and manufacture of small arms will require to be approved by Ministry of Home Affairs. While foreign investments by non-resident Indians and FDI in retail and export oriented units will be approved by DIPP, FDI in banks will be approved by the Department of

Financial Services. DIPP or Department of Economic Affairs will undertake a quarterly review of FDI proposals.

Financial Services not regulated by a regulator or where there is more than one regulator or in respect of which there is a doubt about the regulator will be approved by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

**THINK!**

- FEMA and FCRA

Source: <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/Cs8tkz7CqpiTGx4qnoDBQP/FIPB-abolished-What-happens-to-foreign-investors-now.html>

**Q.7) Consider the following statements about 'INS Khanderi'**

1. It is an Indian Navy's torpedo launch and recovery vessel
2. It is designed by French naval defence and energy company DCNS and built by Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.7) Solution (b)**

INS Khanderi (2017) is the second of the Indian Navy's six Kalvari-class submarines being built in India. It is a diesel-electric attack submarine which is designed by French naval defence and energy company DCNS and being manufactured at Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai.

INS Khanderi, named after Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji's island fort Khanderi.

**THINK!**

- INS Kalvari and INS Karanj
- Project 75

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2017/jun/02/second-scorpene-class-submarine-ready-for-sea-trials-jaitley-1611824.html>

**Q.8) SEBI has formed a Committee on Corporate Governance. It is under the chairmanship of**

- a) TSR Subramanian
- b) N Chandrasekaran
- c) Anand Mahindra
- d) Uday Kotak

**Q.8) Solution (d)**

SEBI constituted a series of committees — Kumar Mangalam Birla Committee in 2000, Narayana Murthy Committee in 2003 and Adi Godrej Committee in 2012 — to come up with more elaborate governance norms for India Inc. The present corporate governance norms, enshrined in the Companies Act, SEBI listing regulations and Clause 49 of the listing agreement are the result of deliberations by these committees. Yet another committee — the Uday Kotak committee — has recently been tasked with a further review.

**Recommendations**

- Splitting up the roles of Chairman and Managing Director or Chief Executive Officer in a company.
- Making a parent company's audit committee responsible for checking the books of its group companies
- Independent directors should make up at least half of every company's board and should attend at least half of the board meets
- A minimum of 6 independent directors, including at least one woman director, should be appointed on the board of a listed company
- SEBI to have the right to pull up auditors for any lapses in corporate governance norms and penalise them for the same. This will ensure diligent auditing of company processes and funds.
- It recommended imposing more checks and balances on royalty and brand payments, related-party transactions and sharing on information between the company management and entities that are not a part of the board, and creation of an independent shareholding structure for listed public sector undertakings so as to reduce their dependency on administrative ministries
- Creation of a formal channel to facilitate sharing of information between promoters and the company
- Disclosure of all rating actions by companies, and mandating a minimum qualification for independent directors

**Source:** <http://www.thehindu.com/business/sebi-forms-committee-on-corporate-governance/article18707720.ece>



**Q.9) Consider the following statements about 'MERIT Portal'**

1. It is launched by the Department of Financial Services under the guidance of Department of Higher Education.
2. It provides a single window electronic platform for Scholarships and Educational Loans.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.9) Solution (d)**

'MERIT' - Merit Order Despatch of Electricity for Rejuvenation of Income and Transparency

- The portal has been developed by Ministry of Power in association with POSOCO and Central Electricity Authority.
- It displays extensive array of information regarding the merit order of Electricity procured by States such as daily source-wise power purchases of respective states/UTs.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=166867>

**Q.10) Consider the following statements about 'Kanyashree Prakalpa'**

1. It aims to improve the status of adolescent girls from disadvantaged families through small cash transfers
2. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.10) Solution (a)**

Kanyashree Prakalpa, the scheme launched by West Bengal in October 2013 won the WB government the United Nations Public Service Award at The Hague.

India was named first in the Asia-Pacific group for the category: 'Reaching the Poorest and Most Vulnerable through Inclusive Services and Participation'.

The government of West Bengal was the awarded institution for Kanyashree which aims to improve status of adolescent girls from disadvantaged families through small cash transfers.

The “Kanyashree Prakalpa” is a targeted conditional cash transfer scheme aimed at retaining girls in schools and other educational institutions. It also aims towards skill development and prevent child marriage.

The award is given on the occasion of The United Nations Public Service Day. It was celebrated in The Hague, Netherlands in 2017.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/bengal-govts-kanyashree-scheme-bags-un-award/article9736259.ece>

**Q.11) India has ratified which of the following fundamental International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions?**

1. Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
2. Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)
3. Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)
4. Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.11) Solution (b)**

**India has ratified six out of the eight core/fundamental International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions. These are the**

- Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)
- Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)

- Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)

**India has not ratified the core/fundamental Conventions, namely**

- Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)

The main reason for non-ratification of ILO Conventions No.87 & 98 is due to certain restrictions imposed on the Government servants.

The ratification of these conventions would involve granting of certain rights that are prohibited under the statutory rules, for the Government employees, namely, to strike work, to openly criticize Government policies, to freely accept financial contribution, to freely join foreign organizations etc.

Source: <http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/dc2o2VmY9rAFIHxSpFJOSK/India-ratifying-ILO-conventions-on-child-labour-a-good-step.html>

**Q.12) The 'Enrica Lexie Incident' is one of the cases being looked into by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. It is concerned with which of the following countries?**

- a) Malaysia and Singapore
- b) India and Italy
- c) Ireland and United Kingdom
- d) Japan and Russia

**Q.12) Solution (b)**

**The Enrica Lexie case**

- It is an ongoing international controversy about a shooting that happened off the western coast of India. On 15 February 2012, two Indian fishermen were killed off the coast of Kerala, India, aboard the St. Antony after they were fired upon by Italian marines on board the Italian-flagged commercial oil tanker MV Enrica Lexie.
- On 24 August 2015 ITLOS by a majority opinion of 15:6 issued provisional measures in the case and ordered that "Italy and India shall both suspend all court proceedings and refrain from initiating new ones which might aggravate or extend the dispute or might jeopardise or prejudice the carrying out of any decision which the arbitral tribunal may render.
- The provisional ruling also demanded that India and Italy each submit to ITLOS by 24 September 2015 their respective Initial Report on the incident.

- ITLOS rejected Italy's request that India provisionally release two marines accused of killing two Indian fishermen, "because that touches upon issues related to the merits of the case".
- ITLOS decision meant neither side got precisely what it wanted. In particular, UNCLOS swayed somewhat from the more interventionist approach taken in when the Tribunal ordered a state to return a person subject to Annex 7 proceedings.

#### ITLOS

- The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) is an intergovernmental organization created by the mandate of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.
- It was established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, signed at Montego Bay, Jamaica, on December 10, 1982.
- The Convention entered into force on November 16, 1994, and established an international framework for law over "all ocean space, its uses and resources".
- The tribunal is based in Hamburg, Germany.
- The Convention also established the International Seabed Authority, with responsibility for the regulation of seabed mining beyond the limits of national jurisdiction that is beyond the limits of the territorial sea, the contiguous zone and the continental shelf.

#### THINK!

- UNCLOS
- International Seabed Authority

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/pti-feed/story/neeru-chadha-becomes-1st-indian-woman-as-member-of-itlos-944139-2017-06-15>

#### Q.13) Consider the following statements about Hard X-ray Modulation Telescope (HXMT)

1. It is a European Space Agency (ESA) mission in cooperation with the Russian Space Agency and NASA
2. It was launched to observe black holes, neutron stars, active galactic nuclei and other phenomena based on their X-ray and gamma-ray emissions

#### Select the correct statements

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

**Q.13) Solution (b)**

The Hard X-ray Modulation Telescope (HXMT), named "Insight", is China's first X-ray astronomy satellite.

There are three main payloads onboard Insight-HXMT, the high energy X-ray telescope (20-250 keV, 5100 cm<sup>2</sup>), the medium energy X-ray telescope (5-30 keV, 952 cm<sup>2</sup>), and the low energy X-ray telescope (1-15 keV, 384 cm<sup>2</sup>).

**The main scientific objectives of Insight-HXMT are:**

- to scan the Galactic Plane to find new transient sources and to monitor the known variable sources
- to observe X-ray binaries to study the dynamics and emission mechanism in strong gravitational or magnetic fields
- to find and study gamma-ray bursts with its anti-coincidence CsI detectors.

It was launched to observe black holes, neutron stars, active galactic nuclei and other phenomena based on their X-ray and gamma-ray emissions.

**THINK!**

- ASTROSAT

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/chinese-space-telescope-to-observe-milky-way-pulsars-may-uncover-energy-source-4687035/>

**Q.14) Consider the following statements about United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

1. Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) are transferred to this office
2. It is headed by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.14) Solution (a)**

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism was established through the adoption of General Assembly resolution 71/291 on 15 June 2017. Mr. Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov was appointed as Under-Secretary-General of the Office.

As suggested by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his report (A/71/858) on the Capability of the United Nations to Assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre, initially established in the Department of Political Affairs were moved into a new Office of Counter-Terrorism headed by an Under-Secretary-General.

The new Under-Secretary-General will provide strategic leadership to United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, participate in the decision-making process of the United Nations and ensure that the cross-cutting origins and impact of terrorism are reflected in the work of the United Nations.

**The Office of Counter-Terrorism has five main functions:**

- a) provide leadership on the General Assembly counter-terrorism mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General from across the United Nations system;
- b) enhance coordination and coherence across the 38 Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities to ensure the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;
- c) strengthen the delivery of United Nations counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Member States;
- d) improve visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts; and
- e) ensure that due priority is given to counterterrorism across the United Nations system and that the important work on preventing violent extremism is firmly rooted in the Strategy.

The Office will aim to have a close relationship with Security Council bodies and Member States, strengthening existing and developing new partnerships through regular travel and attendance at counter-terrorism-related meetings.

The creation of the Office is the first major institutional reform undertaken by the Secretary-General.

**Source:** <https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/06/559582-general-assembly-approves-creation-new-un-counter-terrorism-office>

**Q.15) 'Helmut Kohl' is associated with unification of which of the following countries?**

- a) Yemen
- b) Germany
- c) Belgium
- d) Australia

**Q.15) Solution (b)**

Helmut Kohl, (born April 3, 1930, Ludwigshafen am Rhein, Germany—died June 16, 2017, Ludwigshafen am Rhein), German politician who served as chancellor of West Germany from 1982 to 1990 and of the reunified German nation from 1990 to 1998. He presided over the integration of East Germany into West Germany in 1990 and thus became the first chancellor of a unified Germany since 1945.

Kohl was the architect of the Maastricht Treaty, which established the European Union (EU) and the euro currency.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/helmut-kohl-father-of-german-reunification-dies/article19089515.ece>

**Q.16) Consider the following statements about 'Section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code'**

1. It defines the criminal act of revolting against an established authority, usually in the form of treason or defamation of a government
2. It is a pre-independence provision

Select the correct statements

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

**Q.16) Solution (c)**

Sedition in India is defined by section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code. Section 124A was introduced by the British colonial government in 1870 when it felt the need for a specific section to deal with radical Wahabi movement of the 19th century.

124A. Sedition — Whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the Government established by law in India, shall

be punished with imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine.

Punishment—Imprisonment for life and fine, or imprisonment for 3 years and fine, or fine—Cognizable—Non-bailable—Triable by Court of Session—Non-compoundable.

Sedition was not a part of the original Indian Penal Code (IPC) enacted in 1860 and was introduced in 1870.

**THINK!**

- Kedar Nath Singh v. State of Bihar (1962)

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/left-right-centre-should-the-sedition-law-be-scrapped/article19181085.ece>

**Q.17) National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) deals with appeals arising out of orders of which of the following?**

1. National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)
2. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)
3. Competition Commission of India (CCI)

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.17) Solution (d)**

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), with effect from 1st June, 2016.

NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC), with effect from 1st December, 2016. NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.

NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI)



As per a recent amendment, the Competition Appellate Tribunal (COMPAT) has ceased to exist effective 26 May 2017. The appellate function under the Competition Act, 2002 (Competition Act) would now confer to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

Previously, all appeals against specified orders of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) would lie to the COMPAT whereas the NCLAT dealt with, inter alia, appeals arising out of orders of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) under the CA 2013 as well as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

Source: <http://www.financialexpress.com/industry/nclat-stays-ccis-rs-591-cr-fine-on-coal-india/698656/>

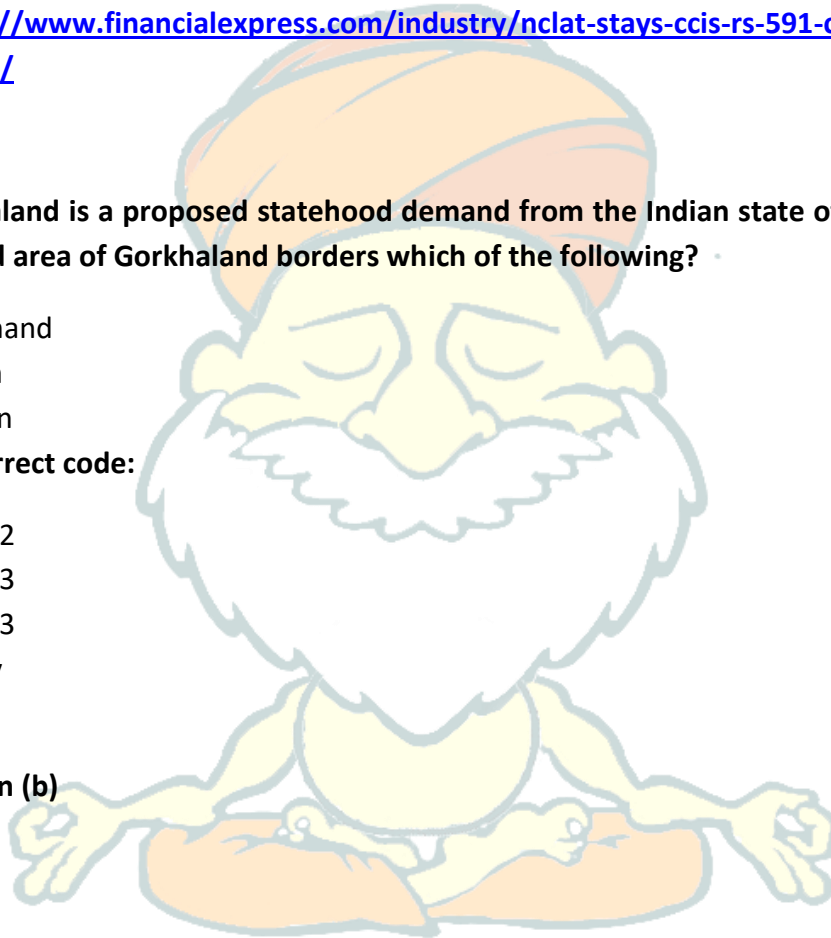
**Q.18) Gorkhaland is a proposed statehood demand from the Indian state of West Bengal. The proposed area of Gorkhaland borders which of the following?**

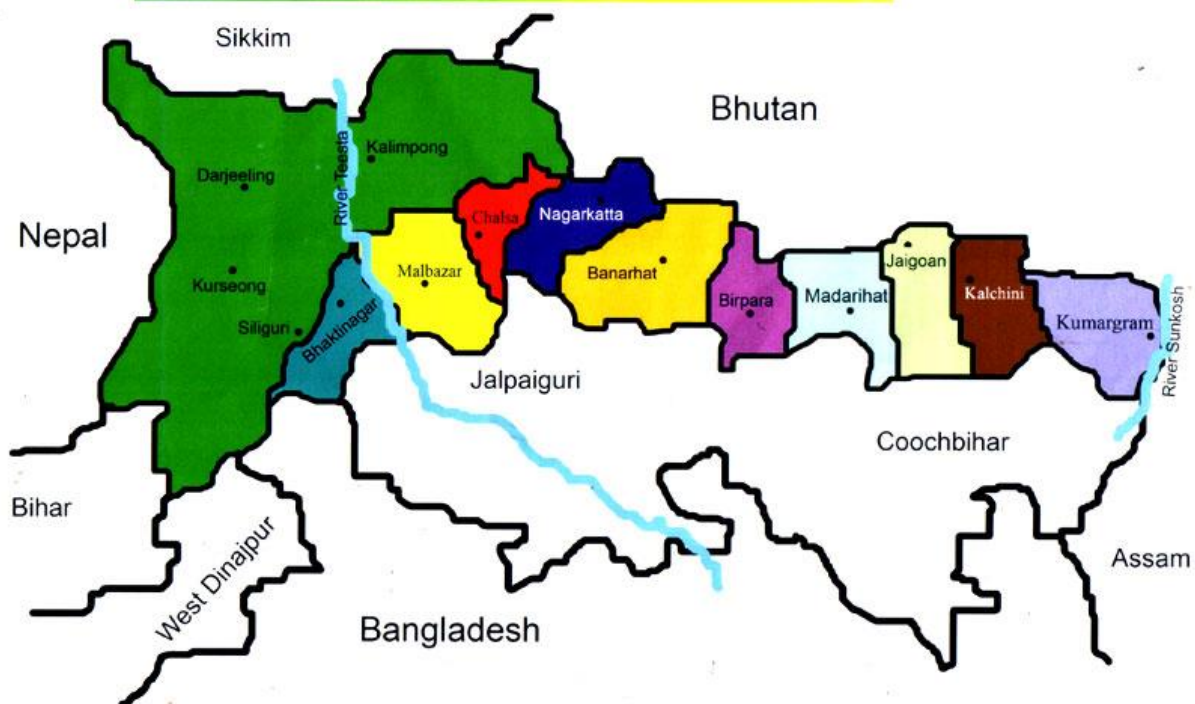
1. Jharkhand
2. Sikkim
3. Bhutan

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.18) Solution (b)**



**Proposed Map Of Gorkhaland**

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/gorkhaland-demand-gim-protests-what-we-know-about-the-darjeeling-crisis-so-far/story-A4cRxE6MoiGOWzzjYcgevL.html>

**Q.19) Consider the following statements about Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL)**

1. It is set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
2. The Deputy Governor of RBI is the Chairman of the Governing Council of CAFRAL
3. It collaborates with other institutions within the country and outside to promote research in areas of interest to the Centre

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.19) Solution (c)**

The specialised, and fully funded institution of the RBI, Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL), was set up in 2011 to serve as a knowledge hub of the country, being inaugurated by the then Prime Minister.

### CAFRAL

- The Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL) is an independent body set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the backdrop of India's evolving role in the global economy, in the financial services sector and its position in various international fora, and to develop into a world class global institution for research and learning in banking and finance.
- The Governor of RBI is the Chairman of the Governing Council of CAFRAL. CAFRAL's learning arm is engaged in conducting seminars, conferences and other learning programs that serve as a platform for exchange of high-level policy dialogues between the various stakeholders by bringing together regulators, policy makers, bankers, academicians, researchers and practitioners. It also conducts advanced programs for enhancing professional capabilities of senior executives in the financial sector.
- CAFRAL's research focus is on the areas of banking and finance. Within these broad areas, our interests include financial institutions, financial markets, behavioural finance, corporate finance, household finance and related areas of macro-finance such as monetary economics or international finance. CAFRAL aims to build intellectual capacity in these areas through its own staff, by hosting researchers of international repute and facilitating collaborative research by building data resources and analytical capabilities.

### Mission

- To evolve as a global centre of excellence for policy research and advanced learning in banking and finance

### Objectives

- Enhance our understanding of how the financial sector contributes to real sector growth through in-house and collaborative research that is useful and relevant
- Enhance professional capabilities in the banks, financial sector, and among central banks regulators and policy makers through learning events and programs
- Provide a platform for dialogue between policy makers' regulators, financial sector, practitioners and academics on issues of topical relevance and systemic importance
- Communicate and disseminate the conclusions and results of the learning and research activities of CAFRAL to policy makers, central banks, regulators and public at large
- Collaborate and network with domestic and global institutions with similar mandate for mutually beneficial arrangements

**Functions**

- To undertake research that will be useful to central banks, regulators and the financial sector
- To conduct learning programs for central banks, regulators, Boards and senior management in the financial system
- To provide a platform for academics, researchers and practitioners to explore policy and regulatory issues in banking and finance
- To disseminate the results of the research and learning activities
- To collaborate with other institutions within the country and outside to promote research in areas of interest to the Centre

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/less-transparency-in-economic-policy/article9737569.ece>

**Q.20) The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a triennial international survey which aims to evaluate education systems worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old students. It is conducted by**

- a) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- b) United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) Etudes Sans Frontières International

**Q.20) Solution (a)**

**PISA**

- The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a worldwide study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in member and non-member nations intended to evaluate educational systems by measuring 15-year-old school pupils' scholastic performance on mathematics, science, and reading.
- It was first performed in 2000 and then repeated every three years.
- Its aim is to provide comparable data with a view to enabling countries to improve their education policies and outcomes. It measures problem solving and cognition in daily life.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/not-for-the-children-indian-education-system-4723452/>

**Q.21) Consider the following statements about 'Article 244A of the Indian Constitution'**

1. It provides for an autonomous state for certain tribal areas in Assam with its own legislature and council of ministers
2. It was inserted by the Twenty-second Amendment of the Constitution of India

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.21) Solution (c)**

The Twenty-second Amendment of the Constitution of India, officially known as The Constitution (Twenty-second Amendment) Act, 1969, inserted new article 244A in the Constitution to empower Parliament to enact a law for constituting an autonomous State within the State of Assam and also to provide the autonomous State with Legislature or a Council of Ministers or both with such powers and functions as may be defined by that law.

**Source (Do go through the editorial):**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/a-gorkhaland-west-bengal-could-live-with-darjeeling-protests-4726753/>

**Q.22) The term 'ISDS' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of trade. It refers to**

- a) Individual companies suing countries for alleged discriminatory practices
- b) Curbing of the tax evasion by multinational companies
- c) Exploitation of genetic resources of a country by multinational companies
- d) Lack of consideration of environmental costs in the planning and implementation of developmental projects

**Q.22) Solution (a)**

Investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) or investment court system (ICS) is a system through which investors can sue countries for alleged discriminatory practices.

While ISDS is often associated with international arbitration under the rules of ICSID (the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes of the World Bank), it often takes place under the auspices of international arbitral tribunals governed by different rules or institutions, such as the London Court of International Arbitration, the International

Chamber of Commerce, the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre or the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules.

If an investor from one country (the "home state") invests in another country (the "host state"), both of which have agreed to ISDS, and the host state violates the rights granted to the investor under the treaty, then that investor may bring the matter before an arbitral tribunal.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/the-art-of-the-free-trade-agreement/article18733830.ece>

**Q.23) Consider the following statements about 'Portugal'**

1. It is the westernmost country of mainland Europe
2. It borders the Catalonia region of Spain
3. Tyrrhenian Sea is to the west of Portugal

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.23) Solution (a)**

It is a sovereign state located mostly on the Iberian Peninsula in southwestern Europe. It is the westernmost country of mainland Europe, being bordered to the west and south by the Atlantic Ocean and to the north and east by Spain.

Its territory also includes the Atlantic archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira, both autonomous regions with their own regional governments.

The Catalonia region is in north-eastern Spain.

Tyrrhenian Sea is part of the Mediterranean Sea off the western coast of Italy.

**THINK!**

- Iberian Peninsula

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/narendra-modi-three-nation-tour-portugal-netherlands-usa/article19139448.ece>

**Q.24)** With reference to 'The Global Science and Innovation Advisory Council (GSIAC)', consider following statements.

1. It is an initiative of the European Union
2. 'Scientists without Borders' is led by the GSIAC
3. It is headquartered in Geneva

Which of the following statements are *incorrect*?

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

**Q.24) Solution (d)**

The Global Science and Innovation Advisory Council (GSIAC)

Malaysia is positioning itself to be a scientifically advanced nation pursuing socio-economic transformation and inclusive growth by 2020. Among the critical strategic thrusts in achieving this aspiration is advancing and mainstreaming Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) at all levels and in all sectors while enhancing strategic international alliances. Recognizing the need to intensify domestic and international networks for research collaboration, strategic partnerships and business relationships, the Global Science and Innovation Advisory Council (GSIAC) was established and convened for the first time on 17 May 2011 in New York.

The GSIAC is chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak, The secretary is the Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia with the support from Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) as the secretariat. The council consists of selected Malaysian Ministers, national and global corporate leaders, Nobel Laureates, eminent global academicians and researchers. The council meets once a year to deliberate on strategic and futurist matters that will benefit Malaysia in the long run.

'Scientists Without Borders' is a global partnership, led by the New York Academy of Sciences.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/a-job-at-hand/article9716989.ece>

**Q.25) Consider the following statements**

1. The Indian Antarctic Program is under the aegis of Ministry of Earth Sciences
2. India has acceded to the Antarctic Treaty System and it has consulting status reserving the right to make a territorial claim

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.25) Solution (a)**

The Indian Antarctic Program is a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional program under the control of the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, Ministry of Earth Sciences.

India officially acceded to the Antarctic Treaty System on 1 August 1983. On 12 September 1983, the country became the fifteenth Consultative Member of the Antarctic Treaty.



India's Status – Party with consulting status.

The Antarctic Treaty and related agreements, collectively known as the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS), regulate international relations with respect to Antarctica, Earth's only continent without a native human population. For the purposes of the treaty system, Antarctica is defined as all of the land and ice shelves south of 60°S latitude. The treaty entered into force in 1961 and currently has 53 parties. The treaty sets aside Antarctica as a scientific preserve, establishes freedom of scientific investigation and bans military activity on the continent. The treaty was the first arms control agreement established during the Cold War. Since September 2004, the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat headquarters has been located in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**THINK!**

- Dakshin Gangotri
- Maitri
- Bharati

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/a-law-this-time-for-antarctica/article19128630.ece>

**Q.26) The 'Six-Day War' refers to**

- a) Third Arab-Israeli war
- b) Third Anglo-Afghan War
- c) Operation Masterdom
- d) Battle of Imphal

**Q.26) Solution (a)**

The Six-Day War also known as the June War, 1967 Arab–Israeli War, or Third Arab–Israeli War, was fought between June 5 and 10, 1967 by Israel and the neighbouring states of Egypt (known at the time as the United Arab Republic), Jordan, and Syria.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/israels-six-day-war-explained/article18960298.ece>

**Q.27) Consider the following statements about Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP)**

1. It is a designation of a securities issue given by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

2. It allows both listed and non-listed companies to raise capital from its domestic markets without the need to submit any pre-issue filings to market regulators

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.27) Solution (a)**

A qualified institutional placement (QIP) is a designation of a securities issue given by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) that allows an Indian-listed company to raise capital from its domestic markets without the need to submit any pre-issue filings to market regulators. Companies are only permitted to raise capital through issuing securities.

For the issuing company, QIPs are less cumbersome than IPOs and FPOs. It doesn't have to file a pre-issue document with the capital markets regulator, and only a placement document with the stock exchanges, which only has details of the issue.

QIP is a less expensive mode of raising capital than, say, an IPO, FPO or rights issue.

SEBI introduced the QIP process through a circular issued on May 8, 2006, to prevent listed companies in India from developing an excessive dependence on foreign capital.

**Read More -** <http://www.livemint.com/Money/zan5S19kFgbSulce4XICTL/Dejargoned-Qualified-institutional-placement.html>

**Source:** <http://www.livemint.com/Industry/uv05ztKB6p1gMtvbetYj1L/SBI-raises-Rs15000-crore-through-Indias-largest-QIP.html>

**Q.28) Consider the following statement about 'Estuarine Crocodile'**

1. It the largest species of crocodiles
2. It is found throughout the Indian subcontinent
3. It is a freshwater species found in lakes and rivers

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.28) Solution (b)**

The saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*), also known as the estuarine crocodile, Indo-Pacific crocodile, marine crocodile, sea crocodile is the largest of all living reptiles, as well as the largest riparian predator in the world.

As its name implies, this species of crocodile can live in marine environments, but usually resides in saline and brackish mangrove swamps, estuaries, deltas, lagoons, and lower stretches of rivers. They have the broadest distribution of any modern crocodile, ranging from the eastern coast of India throughout most of Southeast Asia and northern Australia.

Apart from the eastern coast of India, the saltwater crocodile is extremely rare on the Indian subcontinent. A large population is present within the Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary of Odisha and they are known to be present in smaller numbers throughout the Indian and Bangladeshi portions of the Sundarbans.

Populations are also present within the mangrove forests and other coastal areas of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in India.

**THINK!**

- Project Crocodile

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/steady-increase-in-crocodile-nestings-in-odisha-elates-conservationists/article19155877.ece>

**Q.29) Recently, which of the following lakes was declared as a Biodiversity Heritage Site?**

- Loktak Lake
- Wular Lake
- Ameenpur Lake
- No water body is declared as Biodiversity Heritage Site in India

**Q.29) Solution (c)**

Ameenpur lake, located in the metropolitan area limits of Hyderabad with a number of industrial units nearby, has been designated a biodiversity heritage site. It is the first water body in the country to get such a status.

Ameenpur Lake has the distinction of being the first water body in the country to be declared a Biodiversity Heritage Site.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/fish-for-everyone/article18712907.ece>

**Q.30) Oxytocin is used for which of the following reasons?**

1. To induce labour or strengthen labour contractions during childbirth
2. It is given to milk yielding cattle for increased milk production
3. It is used as a growth promoter in chickens

Select the correct code:

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

**Q.30) Solution (d)**

Oxytocin is a natural hormone that causes the uterus to contract. Oxytocin is used to induce labour or strengthen labour contractions during childbirth, and to control bleeding after childbirth. Oxytocin is also used to stimulate uterine contractions in a woman with an incomplete or threatened miscarriage.

The manufacture and sale of the drug without licence is a cognizable and non-bailable offence under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Despite a ban on the retail sale of hormone drug Oxytocin (that is used to induce labour in women) for veterinary use, several pharmacies in the State continue to sell it illegally over the counter to dairy owners and farmers, who use it to boost milk production. In the long run, it lowers the lifespan of cows and makes them infertile sooner.

It is being injected now a day to a Day Old Chicks (DOC) to get them reared in just 15 days.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/only-psus-may-be-let-to-make-oxytocin/article18868286.ece>

**Q.31) 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:

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

**Q.31) Solution (c)**

Kambala – Karnataka

Jalikattu – Tamil Nadu

Aanaival 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-jalrikattu-1650547>

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

**Q.32) The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project covers which of the following?**

- a) West Bengal and Rakhine
- b) Odisha and Yangon
- c) West Bengal and Yangon
- d) Mizoram and Mandalay

**Q.32) 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.33) 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.33) 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.34) 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.34) 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.35) 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.35) 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>

**Q.36) Consider the following statements about The Admiralty Act, 2017**

1. It extends the admiralty jurisdiction to all High Courts of the coastal states
2. It has provision for transfer of cases from one High Court to other High Court by the Supreme Court
3. Inland vessels are not included under the Act

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

**Q.36) Solution (d)****The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Act, 2017**

- The Act seeks to consolidate the existing laws on jurisdiction of courts on civil admiralty matters, or cases of maritime accidents or contracts related to maritime commerce, proceedings on maritime claims, and seizure of ships.
- It repealed obsolete British statutes on admiralty jurisdiction in civil matters laws such as the Admiralty Court Act, 1861 and the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act, 1890.
- It shall apply to every vessel, irrespective of the place of residence or domicile of the owner
- The Act shall not apply to an inland vessel or a vessel under construction that has not been launched unless it is notified by the Central Government to be a vessel for the purposes of this Act
- The Act shall not apply to a warship, naval auxiliary or other vessel owned or operated by the Central or a State Government and used for any non-commercial purpose, and, shall also not apply to a foreign vessel which is used for any non-commercial purpose as may be notified by the Central Government.
- The Supreme Court may on an application of any party, transfer, at any stage, any admiralty proceeding from one High Court to any other High Court and the latter High Court shall proceed to try, hear and determine the matter from the stage at which it stood at the time of transfer.
- Initially admiralty jurisdiction applied to the Bombay, Calcutta and Madras High Courts and the Act further extends this to the Karnataka, Gujarat, Odisha, Kerala, Hyderabad High Courts and any other High Court notified by the central government.

Read More - <http://lawmin.nic.in/ld/P-ACT/2017/A2017-22.pdf>

**THINK!**

- Parveen Singh Committee

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/admiralty-bill-gets-rajya-sabha-nod/article19346238.ece>

**Q.37) Consider the following statements about Wide Angle Search for Planets (WASP)**

1. It is a collaboration finding exoplanets by gravitational microlensing

2. It is operated by a consortium of US based academic institutions, NASA and ESA

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.37) Solution (d)**

WASP or Wide Angle Search for Planets is an international consortium of several academic organisations performing an ultra-wide angle search for exoplanets using transit photometry.

WASP is the detection program composed of the Isaac Newton Group, IAC and six universities from the United Kingdom.

WASP is operated by a consortium of academic institutions which include:

- Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias
- Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes
- Keele University
- Open University
- Queen's University Belfast
- St. Andrews University
- University of Leicester
- Warwick University.

**THINK!**

- WASP-39B

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/scientists-discover-smallest-ever-star/article19265069.ece>

**Q.38) Which of the following statements about 'SOHUM' are correct?**

1. It is an indigenously developed low-cost hearing screening device for new-borns
2. It has been developed under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT)
3. It uses Otoacoustic Emissions (OAEs) testing

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.38) Solution (a)**

Sohum"- An innovative Newborn hearing screening Device

It is developed by School of International Biodesign (SIB) startup M/s Sohum Innovation Labs India Pvt. Ltd.

This innovative medical device has been developed under Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India supported (SIB). SIB is a flagship Program of the DBT aimed to develop innovative and affordable medical devices as per unmet clinical needs of India and to train the next generation of medical technology innovators in India, it is a valuable contribution to the Make in India campaign of the Government. This Program is implemented jointly at AIIMS and IIT Delhi in collaboration with International partners. Biotech Consortium India Limited manages techno-legal activities of the Program.

Sohum is a low cost and unique device which uses brainstem auditory evoked response, the gold standard in auditory testing to check for hearing response in a newborn.

**Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR)** - <https://www.asha.org/public/hearing/Auditory-Brainstem-Response/>

**THINK!**

- ADIP Scheme

Source: <http://www.livemint.com/Science/YhSHDwNcBpRDMtNRzwrEhM/Govt-launches-lowcost-screening-device-to-detect-congenital.html>

**Q.39) Consider the following statements about 'Breakthrough Starshot Project'**

1. The smallest spacecraft called 'Sprites' ever launched has been developed under this project
2. It is a research and engineering project by ISRO

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.39) Solution (a)**

The world's smallest spacecrafts dubbed as Sprites ever launched are successfully travelling in low Earth orbit and communicating with systems on Earth.

The six prototypes of Sprites were launched in June 2017 as part of the Breakthrough Starshot project designed to test technologies that would eventually be used for interstellar missions.

They are smallest spacecraft that have managed to establish contact with ground stations.

Sprites have been developed by researchers at Cornell University. Each of the mini Sprite spacecrafts are built on a single 3.5\*3.5 centimetre circuit board. They weigh just four grams each.

Breakthrough Starshot is a comprehensive space program launched under the US \$100 million Breakthrough Initiatives, announced by Yuri Milner and Stephen Hawking to develop and launch practical interstellar space missions. The program aims to demonstrate proof of concept for light-propelled spacecraft that could fly at 20 per cent of light speed. Its main objective is to send one-gram chips to star systems beyond the solar system in search of extra-terrestrial intelligence.

**Source:** <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/science-breakthrough-starshot-successfully-launch-worlds-smallest-spacecraft-885/article19393064.ece>

**Q.40) Which of the following statements about 'International Expedited Traveller Initiative Programme' is/are correct?**

- a) It allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travellers upon arrival in the Schengen Area
- b) India has joined the programme
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

**Q.40) Solution (b)**

India recently signed International Expedited Traveler Initiative Programme with the United States. Also called as Global Entry Programme, this scheme will allow expedited entry into the US to low-risk travellers from India.

Global Entry is a US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) program that allows speedy clearance for low-risk travellers upon their arrival in US. The travellers are pre-approved for the programme after a rigorous background check.

Currently, 53 US airports and 15 pre-clearance locations are available under the Global Entry programme.

Source: <http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/india-becomes-11th-country-to-enter-global-entry-programme-of-us-know-what-it-is-and-how-it-works/748586/>

**Q.41) Consider the following statements about COMMIT programme**

1. It is aimed at improving public service delivery
2. It is developed by Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) in collaboration with the World Bank
3. It is targeted at frontline government functionaries

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.41) Solution (c)**

The objective of this training programme is to improve the public service delivery mechanism and provide citizen centric administration through capacity building of officials who interact with the citizens on day-to-day basis.

**Target Group:** For frontline government functionaries who have received no training for professional and personal development, in the last 5 years

**Objective:**

- To improve public service delivery;

- Promote Good-governance and citizen centric administration;
- Provide induction training to recently recruited frontline functionaries in the States

The COMMIT programme, developed by DoPT in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), will supplement the existing 12-Day ITP launched in 2014-15 for newly recruited state Government officials to develop in them Generic & Domain specific competencies.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=166988>

**Q.42) 'Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement (ETCA)' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of negotiations held between India and**

- a) New Zealand
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Venezuela
- d) Jordan

**Q.42) Solution (b)**

The Economic and Technology Co-operation Agreement (ETCA) is a proposed diplomatic arrangement that seeks to add to the existing free trade agreement between the Republic of India and the Republic of Sri Lanka, primarily in relation to trade-in services and the service sector; it seeks to emulate a freedom-of-movement system closer to the TN classification used by Canadian citizens to work in the USA.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/Sri-Lanka-to-seal-trade-pact-with-India-by-mid-2017/article14476471.ece>

**Q.43) Which of the following statements about 'Veblen Goods' is correct?**

- a) These are goods where demand rises as price rises
- b) It describes cyclical supply and demand in a market where the amount produced must be chosen before prices are observed
- c) These are goods which tend to be very scarce and are desired for their ability to show success over other people
- d) None of the above statements are correct

**Q.43) Solution (a)**

A good for which demand increases as the price increases, because of its exclusive nature and appeal as a status symbol. A Veblen good, like a Giffen good, has an upward-sloping demand curve, which runs counter to the typical downward-sloping curve. However, a Veblen good is generally a high-quality, coveted product, in contrast to a Giffen good which is an inferior product that does not have easily available substitutes. As well, the increase in demand for a Veblen good reflects consumer tastes and preferences, unlike a Giffen good, where higher demand is directly attributable to the price increase.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/in-economics-what-is-veblen-good/article19265451.ece>

**Q.44) Consider the following statements about Anti-Profiteering authority under GST**

1. It ensures that the benefits that accrue to entities due to reduction in the rate of tax is passed on to consumers
2. The concept was developed by World Customs Organisation

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.44) Solution (a)****National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) under GST**

The "anti-profiteering" measures enshrined in the GST law provide an institutional mechanism to ensure that the full benefits of input tax credits and reduced GST rates on supply of goods or services flow to the consumers.

Source: [http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/five-member-panel-to-pick-anti-profiteering-authority-117070301397\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/five-member-panel-to-pick-anti-profiteering-authority-117070301397_1.html)

**Q.45) Consider the following statements about Codex Alimentarius Commission**



1. It is a joint intergovernmental body of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WHO
2. The Codex Alimentarius covers processed, semi-processed and raw foods

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.45) Solution (c)**

**News:** Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) has adopted three Codex standards for black, white and green pepper, cumin and thyme

The Codex Alimentarius Commission is a joint intergovernmental body of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WHO with 187 Member States and one Member Organization (EU). Codex has worked since 1963 to create harmonized international food standards to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair trade practices.

WHO works on the provision of independent international scientific advice on microbiological and chemical hazards. Scientific advice is the basis for the development of international Food Standards by Codex.

The Codex Alimentarius covers all foods, whether processed, semi-processed or raw. In addition to standards for specific foods, the Codex Alimentarius contains general standards covering matters such as food labelling, food hygiene, food additives and pesticide residues, and procedures for assessing the safety of foods derived from modern biotechnology. It also contains guidelines for the management of official i.e. governmental import and export inspection and certification systems for foods.

**Source:** <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=169049>

**Q.46) Consider the following statements about The Global Foreign Exchange Committee (GFXC)**

1. It is a forum of central bankers and experts working towards promotion of a robust and transparent forex market
2. India is a member of the GFXC

3. It was constituted during the Bretton Woods

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.46) Solution (b)**

GFXC is a newly-constituted forum of central bankers and experts working towards promotion of a robust and transparent forex market.

The Global Foreign Exchange Committee (GFXC) was established in May 2017 as a forum bringing together central banks and private sector participants with the aim to promote a robust, liquid, open, and appropriately transparent FX market in which a diverse set of participants, supported by resilient infrastructure, are able to confidently and effectively transact at competitive prices that reflect available information and in a manner that conforms to acceptable standards of behaviour.

**Members -** <https://www.globalfxc.org/membership.htm?m=61%7C370>

**THINK!**

- Bank for International Settlements (BIS)
- Financial Stability Board (FSB)

**Source:** <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-to-join-new-global-foreign-exchange-committee/articleshow/59512863.cms>

**Q.47) Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) is released by the**

- a) International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- b) International Cybersecurity Institute (ICSI)
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) International Information System Security Certification Consortium (ISC)<sup>2</sup>

**Q.47) Solution (a)**

Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) is released by the UN telecommunications agency International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

India is ranked 23rd on the index with a score of 0.683 and has been listed in the "maturing" category, which refers to 77 countries that have developed complex commitments to cybersecurity and engage in cybersecurity programmes and initiatives.

The index has been topped by Singapore with a 0.925 score.

The survey is divided into three stages, "initiating stage" — of countries started to make commitments in cybersecurity — this category has 96 countries that score less than the 50th percentile. "Maturing stage" — that have developed complex commitments, and engage in cybersecurity programmes and initiatives – it has 77 countries that score between the 50th and 89th percentile and the "leading stage" – 21 countries scoring in the 90th percentile with high commitment in all five pillars of the index.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/internet/india-ranks-23rd-among-165-nations-in-cybersecurity-index/articleshow/59478111.cms>

**Q.48) Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve is spread across which of the following states?**

1. Maharashtra
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Telangana

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.48) Solution (a)**

Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is a tiger reserve in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra state in central India. It is notable as Maharashtra's oldest and largest national park. It is one of India's 50 "Project Tiger" - tiger reserves.

**Do You Know?**

- Telangana is the first state to have eco-friendly bridges for the movement of tigers over a canal, cutting across the tiger corridor.

- The bridge links Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra with the forests in Telangana.
- It requires laying of fertile soil to raise grass and plants over the structure, so that fragmentation of the reserve forest is camouflaged.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/eco-bridges-for-the-movement-of-tigers/article19297462.ece>

**Q.49) 'Brasilia Declaration' is concerned with**

- a) Women and Trade
- b) Road Safety
- c) Industrial Development and Co-operation
- d) Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All

**Q.49) Solution (b)**

Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety hosted by Brazil and WHO adopted Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety. The member countries have agreed to reduce the number of accidents and deaths to half by the year 2020.

India is a signatory

**THINK!**

- IBSA

Source: <https://www.dailyo.in/politics/road-safety-motor-vehicles-amendment-bill-accidents-traffic-solutions/story/1/18548.html>

**Q.50) Consider the following statements about Pant-Mirza Agreement**

1. It is an agreement between India and Pakistan under the 'Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines', 1974
2. It is the obligation of the concerned country to make every effort to ensure that the places of worship in the agreed list of shrines under the Protocol are properly maintained and their sanctity preserved
3. Ministry of External Affairs solely looks into the matters related to the agreement

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.50) Solution (a)****Pant-Mirza Agreement**

- Visits by nationals of India and Pakistan to mutually agreed list of religious shrines in each other's country are facilitated under the 'Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines' signed in September 1974.
- This includes visits to shrines of Hazrat Moinuddin Chishti (Ajmer), Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya (Delhi), Hazrat Amir Khusro (Delhi), Hazrat Mujaddid Alf Sani (Sirhind Sharif) and Hazrat Khwaja Alauddin Ali Ahmed Sabir (Kalyar Sharif) in India and Shadani Darbar (Hyat Pitafi), Shri Katasraj Dham (Lahore), Gurudwaras of Shri Nankana Sahib (Rawalpindi), Shri Panja Sahib (Rawalpindi) and Shri Dera Sahib (Lahore) in Pakistan.
- Under the Protocol it is the obligation of the concerned country to make every effort to ensure that the places of worship in the agreed list of shrines under the Protocol are properly maintained and their sanctity preserved.
- Government of India ensures that these Shrines in India are properly maintained and their sanctity preserved.
- Ministry of Minority Affairs is involved with protection and preservation of non-Muslim shrines in Pakistan and Muslim shrines in India in terms of the Pant-Mirza Agreement of 1955, in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/mbErel.aspx?relid=168666>

**Q.51) 'Dree Festival' is concerned with which of the following tribes?**

- a) Nyishi
- b) Apatanis
- c) Shompen
- d) Onge

**Q.51) Solution (b)**

The Apatani tribe, which is located in a small Ziro valley town in Arunachal Pradesh, celebrates the three-day Dree Festival in July every year for good harvest season.

The Apatani tribe is known for their colourful culture, festivals, intricate handloom designs, skills in cane, bamboo crafts, and vibrant traditional village councils called bulyañ. The Apatani tribe is located in Arunachal Pradesh's small town named Ziro valley.

The tribe practices their own religion, which is known as Donyi-Polo. They pray to the Sun (Donyi) and the Moon (Polo).

The tribe has four major festivals namely Dree, Yapung, Myoko and Murung. While Dree festival is celebrated in July, Yapung is celebrated in September or October, Myoko is celebrated in March and Murung is celebrated in January.

These festivals are celebrated to ensure better cultivation, protection of the grains from hailstone, storms, insects and wild animals.

**Q.52) Which of the following countries is/are partners of the 'Equator Initiative'**

1. Sweden
2. Norway
3. Finland

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.52) Solution (a)**

Partners of the Equator Initiative include the governments of Germany, Norway, and Sweden, as well as Conservation International, the Convention on Biological Diversity, EcoAgriculture Partners, Fordham University, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, The Nature Conservancy, PCI Media Impact, Rainforest Foundation Norway, Rare, UN Environment, UNDP, UN Foundation, USAID, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

**Read More - <https://www.equatorinitiative.org/about/partners/>**

The Equator Prize, organized by the Equator Initiative within the United Nations Development Programme, is awarded biennially to recognize outstanding community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The Equator Prize recognizes innovative community initiatives that promote nature-based solutions for local sustainable development.

Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), a Pune-based NGO, has won the 2017 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Equator Prize for its women led climate resilient agro-ecological farming model and innovative solutions in climate resilient farming in the Marathwada region of India.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/pune-ngo-wins-un-prize-for-sustainable-farming-model/article19205990.ece>

**Q.53) Consider the following statements about 'World Petroleum Congress'**

1. It is organised by Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
2. It is to be held every three years
3. The inaugural World Petroleum Congress was held in United Arab Emirates in 2017

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.53) Solution (d)**

The World Petroleum Council (WPC) is an oil and gas industry forum and international organization representing the petroleum sector worldwide.

WPC has been called "the world's premier oil & gas forum since 1933." It is widely recognised to "include the most prestigious national oil and gas companies and agencies of the world".

The premier conference that is organized by the World Petroleum Council is called the World Petroleum Congress. Starting in 1933, the congress was held every four years until 1991, with a 14-year hiatus in between 1937 and 1951 because of World War II. After 1991,

it was held every three years until the year 2000. There was a move to have it hosted every two years after the 2000 edition, with Rio de Janeiro hosting one in 2002, but the cycle returned to every three years after that. In order to host a congress, there is a bidding process by interested cities for one in a particular year.

22<sup>nd</sup> WPC (2017) – Istanbul

23<sup>rd</sup> WPC (2018) – Houston

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167253>

**Q.54) Consider the following statements about 'Saola'**

1. It is native to CLMV countries
2. World's first centre for breeding Saola is being constructed in Vietnam

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.54) Solution (b)**

The world's first centre for breeding Saola, a critically endangered hoofed mammal, is being constructed in Vietnam's central region.

Saola is recognised by two parallel horns with sharp ends, which can reach 51 centimetres in length and are found on both males and females.

Meaning "spindle horns" in Vietnamese, Saola is a cousin of cattle but resembles an antelope.

This species occurs only in the Annamite Mountains region of Laos and Vietnam.

Source: [http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/world-s-1st-saola-breeding-centre-in-vietnam-117071100340\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/world-s-1st-saola-breeding-centre-in-vietnam-117071100340_1.html)

**Q.55) 'Technology and Innovation Support Centres' is often seen in news. It is associated with which of the following?**



- a) World Intellectual Property Organization
- b) World Trade Organization
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) World Bank

**Q.55) Solution (a)**

WIPO's TISC programme provides innovators in developing countries with access to locally based, high-quality technology information and related services, helping them to exploit their innovative potential and to create, protect and manage their IPRs.

Services offered by TISCs include access to online patent and non-patent (scientific and technical) resources and IP-related publications, assistance in searching and retrieving technology information, training in database search, on-demand searches (novelty, state of the art and infringement), monitoring technology and competitors, basic information on industrial property laws, management and strategy and technology commercialisation and marketing.

The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) is designated as the National Focal Point for the TISC national network. As the national focal point, CIPAM shall identify potential host institutions, assess their capacities and support them in joining the TISC programme.

**Source:** [http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/dipp-to-set-up-india-s-first-innovation-support-centre-in-punjab-117071300872\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/dipp-to-set-up-india-s-first-innovation-support-centre-in-punjab-117071300872_1.html)

**Q.56) Consider the following statements with respect to 'North Natuna Sea'**

1. Philippines renamed the part of South China Sea that falls under their claimed exclusive economic zone (EEZ) as 'North Natuna Sea'
2. Part of the 'North Natuna Sea' falls in China's nine-dash line

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.56) Solution (b)**

Indonesia renamed the waters northeast of the Natuna Islands, at the far southern end of the South China Sea, the 'North Natuna Sea'. Indonesia did not rename the entire South China Sea, only the part that falls under their claimed exclusive economic zone.

That exclusive economic zone (EEZ), however, overlaps with China's infamous nine-dash line.

Indonesia is not the first country to rename part of the South China Sea.

In 2011, the Philippines renamed the waters as the "West Philippine Sea"





Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/indonesia-renames-part-of-south-china-sea/article19288965.ece>

**Q.57) Which of the following statements is correct about 'MUNTRA', developed by DRDO?**

- a) It is an Air-Borne Telemetry Receiving System for down Range Applications
- b) It is a Main Battle Tank (MBT) developed in collaboration with Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE)
- c) It is India's first unmanned tank
- d) It is Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)

**Q.57) Solution (c)**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has recently developed India's first unmanned tank "Muntra" that can remotely operate. The agency has developed the tank in three different variants to tackle any kind of situation – 'Muntra S' for surveillance missions, 'Muntra M' for mine detection and a third variant 'Muntra N' for reconnaissance in areas with nuclear and bio threats.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/muntra-countrys-first-unmanned-vehicle-rolls-out-from-the-chennai-lab/articleshow/59817744.cms>

**Q.58) Which of the following is aimed at improving the WASH services?**

1. Jalmani
2. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
3. National Rurban Mission

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.58) Solution (d)**

WASH stands for "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene"

**National Rurban Mission** - talks about 24x7 piped water supply and Sanitation

**Jalmani** - To supplement NRDWP to ensure good quality safe drinking water by installing standalone purification systems, esp. in schools

**Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** - To clean up the streets, roads and infrastructure of India's cities, smaller towns, and rural areas

Source: <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/A5mSEeFG9QokP8LiPmaLcN/NSSO-to-conduct-survey-on-drinking-water-sanitation-hygiene.html>

**Q.59) 'Tiwa' tribe is found in which of the following states?**

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Tripura
- c) Odisha
- d) Both (a) and (b)

**Q.59) Solution (a)**

Tiwa is an indigenous tribal community inhabiting the states of Assam and Meghalaya (main region) and also found in some parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur in Northeast India. They are recognized as a Scheduled tribe within the State of Assam. They are known as Lalungs.

Panthai Langa is a ritual related with agriculture which is organised to worship the deities of nature.

**THINK!**

- Wanchuwa festival

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/welcoming-harvest/article19274686.ece>

**Q.60) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

World Heritage Site	Country
1. Okinoshima	Japan
2. Sambor Prei Kuk	Cambodia
3. Valongo wharf	Spain

**Select the correct code:**

- 1 and 2
- 1 Only
- 1 and 3
- All of the above

**Q.60) Solution (a)**

Okinoshima - Japan

Sambor Prei Kuk - Cambodia

Valongo wharf – Brazil

**Read More (UNESCO World Heritage Centre - New Inscribed Properties (2017) -**  
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/newproperties/>

Source:

1. <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/japans-men-only-island-gets-unesco-heritage-tag/article19253112.ece>
2. <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/another-feather-in-cambodias-cap/article19245738.ece>

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/valongo-wharf-gets-unesco-heritage-status/article19255007.ece>

**Q.61) Consider the following statements about Global Breastfeeding Collective (GBC)**

1. It is a partnership of non-governmental organisations, academic institutions, and donors
2. It is led by UNICEF and WHO
3. It releases 'Global Breastfeeding Scorecard' which analyses indicators on how countries protect, promote and support breastfeeding through funding or policies

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.61) Solution (d)**

The Global Breastfeeding Collective (Collective) is a partnership of non-governmental organisations, academic institutions, and donors, led by UNICEF and WHO.

The Global Breastfeeding Scorecard analyses indicators on how countries protect, promote and support breastfeeding through funding or policies.

The Global Breastfeeding Scorecard documents key indicators on the policies and programmes that impact breastfeeding rates and provides information on current rates of breastfeeding around the world. It is intended to encourage progress, increase accountability, and document change for all countries as they take the necessary steps to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding.

No country is highly compliant on all indicators, illustrating that substantial progress on all fronts is needed.

Source: <http://www.livemint.com/Science/UFYgJrAfJp1G89HYOhYvHO/Lack-of-investment-in-breastfeeding-promotion-marring-child.html>

**Q.62) Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) is composed of**

1. Prime Minister
2. Minister of Home Affairs
3. Minister in-charge of the concerned Ministry

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.62) 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.

Read More - [https://cabsec.gov.in/files/allocation/cabinet\\_committees.pdf](https://cabsec.gov.in/files/allocation/cabinet_committees.pdf)

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=169671>

**Q.63) Consider the following statements about Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY)**

1. It is aimed at promoting industry-specific need-based research so as to keep up the competitiveness of the Indian industry in the global market
2. The scheme would be applicable to projects proposed by the IITs, NITs and IISc
3. Department of Higher Education is the sole administrator of the scheme

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.63) Solution (c)**

The Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY) was launched to promote industry-specific need-based research so as to keep up the competitiveness of the Indian industry in the global market. All the IITs have been encouraged to work with the industry to identify areas where innovation is required and come up with solutions that could be brought up to the commercialization level.

### Objective

- To promote innovation in areas that are of direct relevance to the manufacturing and design industry
- To spur innovative mind set in the students and faculty in premier technological institutes
- To bring a coordinated action between academia and the industry
- To strengthen the laboratories and research facilities in the premier technological institutions.
- To have outcome-based research funding.

The scheme would be applicable to the projects proposed by the Indian Institutes of Technologies initially. The projects should have collaboration between the academia and industry - within or outside India.

UAY is handled by the Department of Higher Education and is the sole administrator of the scheme.

Read More - [https://uay.iitm.ac.in/proposal/sites/default/files/uay\\_guidelines.pdf](https://uay.iitm.ac.in/proposal/sites/default/files/uay_guidelines.pdf)

### Q.64) Consider the following statements about Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)

1. It is registered as a Non-Banking Financial Institution
2. 'Equity Grant Scheme' is being operated by SFAC
3. It is one of the Central Procurement Agencies under Price Stabilization Fund

### Select the correct statements

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

### Q.64) Solution (c)



**Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)**

- Society promoted by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India
- It is registered as Non-Banking Financial Institution by Reserve Bank of India.
- President - Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- Vice President - Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare
- SFAC is endowed with the task of implementation of National Agriculture Market by setting up of an appropriate common e-market platform through private partnership that would be deployable in selected regulated wholesale markets in State/wholesale markets in States/Union Territories (UT) desirous of joining the e-platform.
- SFAC has been identified as central procurement agency by GoI for price stabilization of onion and pulses under Price Stabilization Fund.

**The role of State SFACs is to aggressively promote agribusiness project development in their respective States. The main functions of SFAC are:**

- Promotion of development of small agribusiness through VCA scheme;
- Helping formation and growth of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) / Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs);
- Improving availability of working capital and development of business activities of FPOs/FPCs through Equity Grant and Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme;
- Implementation of National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Electronic Trading platform.

**Equity Grant and Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Farmer Producer Companies**

Equity Grant Scheme is being operated by Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium (SFAC)

**Objectives –**

- Enhancing viability and sustainability of FPCs
- Increasing credit worthiness of FPCs
- Enhancing the shareholding of members to increase their ownership and participation in their FPC

Equity Grant shall be a cash infusion equivalent to the amount of shareholder equity in the FPC subject to a cap of Rs. 10 lakh per FPC.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erecontent.aspx?relid=169745>

**Q.65) Consider the following statements about 'Medium-term Expenditure Framework Statement'**

1. It is a statement presented to the Parliament under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003
2. It is presented separately in the session next to the session in which Union Budget is presented
3. The first Medium Term Expenditure Framework was laid in the Monsoon Session of Parliament in August 2017

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.65) Solution (a)****Medium-term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Statement**

- It is a statement presented to the Parliament under Section 3 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 and sets forth a three-year rolling target for the expenditure indicators with specification of underlying assumptions and risks involved.
- The objective of the MTEF is to provide a closer integration between budget and the FRBM Statements. This Statement is presented separately in the session next to the session in which Union Budget is presented, i.e. normally in the Monsoon Session.
- The MTEF is essentially a vertical expansion of the aggregates of the expenditure projections in the fiscal framework presented along with the Annual Financial Statement and the Demands for Grants. While the Medium Term Fiscal Policy (MTFP) lays down the fiscal constraints of the Government in medium term, Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) lays down the expenditure commitments for various sectors over a 3 years rolling framework.

**Do You Know?**

- The first Medium Term Expenditure Framework was laid in the Monsoon Session of Parliament in August 2013.
- The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 was enacted with a view to provide a legislative framework for reduction of deficit, and thereby debt, of the Government to sustainable levels over a medium term so as to ensure

inter-generational equity in fiscal management and long term macro-economic stability.

- FRBM Act required the government to lay before the parliament three policy statements in each financial year namely, Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement, Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement and Macroeconomic Framework Policy Statement.
- Through Finance Act 2012, amendments were made to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003 through which it was decided that in addition to the existing three documents, Central Government shall lay another document - the Medium Term Expenditure Framework Statement (MTEF) - before both Houses of Parliament in the Session immediately following the Session of Parliament in which Medium-Term Fiscal Policy Statement, Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement and Macroeconomic Framework Statement are laid.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/business/economy/medium-term-expenditure-framework-statement-tax-gdp-ratio-to-widen-in-next-two-years-on-gst-note-ban/>

**Q.66) 'Shekatkar Committee' is associated with which of the following?**

1. Enhancing combat capability of the armed forces
2. Rebalancing defence expenditure of the armed forces
3. Border fencing along the India-Pakistan border

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.66) Solution (b)**

The Ministry of Defence had constituted a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Lt Gen (Retd) (Dr.) DB Shekatkar with a mandate to recommend measures for enhancing of Combat Capability & Rebalancing Defence Expenditure of the Armed Forces with an aim to increase "teeth to tail ratio".

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170365>

**Q.67) Consider the following statements about 'Tanzania'**

1. It is part of the African Great Lakes region
2. It is bordered with Kenya, Zimbabwe and Mozambique

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.67) Solution (a)**

The African Great Lakes are a series of lakes constituting the part of the Rift Valley lakes in and around the East African Rift. They include Lake Victoria, the third-largest fresh water lake in the world by area, and Lake Tanganyika, the world's second-largest freshwater lake by volume and depth. Countries in the African Great Lakes region (sometimes also called Greater Lakes region) include Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.



Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170318>

**Q.68) Consider the following statements about Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)**

1. It is a multi-disciplinary organisation having experts for prosecution of white-collar crimes
2. It is under the aegis of Ministry of Finance
3. It was established in 2003 on the basis of recommendations of the Naresh Chandra committee on corporate governance

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.68) Solution (c)****Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)**

- The SFIO is a multi-disciplinary organisation having experts for prosecution of white-collar crimes and frauds under the companies' law.
- It is under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- SFIO has head office in New Delhi and regional offices in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal

**SFIO can now arrest people**

- The director as well as additional or assistant director level officials at the SFIO can arrest a person if they believe he or she is guilty of any offence with regard to the case being probed
- The SFIO director would be the competent authority for all decisions pertaining to arrest.
- The arrest of a person in connection with a government or a foreign company under investigation can be made by the SFIO only "with prior written approval of the central government".

Government approved setting up of this organization on the basis of the recommendations made by the Naresh Chandra Committee which was set up by the Government on corporate governance.

Source: [http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/now-serious-fraud-investigation-office-has-powers-to-arrest-117082700322\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/now-serious-fraud-investigation-office-has-powers-to-arrest-117082700322_1.html)

**Q.69) 'Bonnet Macaque' is found in which of the following states?**

1. Karnataka
2. Kerala
3. Maharashtra
4. Tamil Nadu

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.69) Solution (d)**

This species occurs in peninsular India (Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Telangana).

It is found from the southern tip of India up to the southern banks of Tapti River in the north, and to the Krishna River in the northeast.

**Source:** <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/bonnet-monkey-may-soon-be-endangered/article19573705.ece>

**Q.70) Consider the following statements about 'Bundi Painting'**

1. It is an example of Indian miniature painting
2. They are in the form of manuscripts on palm-leaf relating to the Buddhist themes

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.70) Solution (a)**

**Bundi painting**

- It is an important school of the Rajasthani style of Indian miniature painting that lasted from the 17th to the end of the 19th century in the princely state of Bundi and its neighbouring principality of Kotah (both in the present state of Rajasthan).
- The earliest examples (c. 1625) show Rajasthani features, particularly in the depiction of men and women, but Mughal influence is exceptionally strong. In richness and brilliance Bundi painting has an affinity also with the painting of the Deccan, an area with which the rulers of Bundi and Kotah were often in contact.
- The Bundi School is characterized by a fondness for lush vegetation, dramatic night skies, a distinctive way of depicting water by light swirls against a dark background, and vivid movement.
- The school reached its peak during the first half of the 18th century but continued to flourish into the 19th century and had a brilliant phase at Kotah during the reign of Ram Singh II (1828–66). These vigorous paintings depict royal tiger hunts in the thick and hilly jungle of the region and various aspects of the life of the king.

Source: [http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/rajasthan-s-bundi-has-preserved-its-rich-heritage-of-miniature-paintings-117082501197\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/rajasthan-s-bundi-has-preserved-its-rich-heritage-of-miniature-paintings-117082501197_1.html)

**Q.71) Consider the following statements about SUNREF Housing India programme**

1. It seeks to encourage the development of green residential buildings that demonstrate more efficiency in energy, water and building material use
2. It is funded by the World Bank
3. Through the SUNREF programme, National Housing Bank (NHB) will provide funding to the green housing sector

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.71) Solution (c)**

The National Housing Bank (NHB) has joined hands with the French Development Agency (FDA) and the European Union to launch the SUNREF Housing India programme as part of efforts aimed at scaling up green housing projects in India.

This is not the first time that NHB is availing overseas funds to promote green housing in the country. Five years ago, NHB had tied up with Germany's KfW for €50-million funding.

NHB would, through the SUNREF programme, provide funding to the green housing sector — home buyer and developers — via banks and housing finance corporations.

SUNREF project aims to reduce the negative impact on environment. It seeks to encourage the development of green residential buildings that demonstrate more efficiency in energy, water and building material use.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/real-estate/green-housing-boost-112million-sunref-india-programme-launched/article9821644.ece>

**Q.72) Which of the following statements about GARV App is correct?**

- a) It is a village-wise and habitation-wise base line data on household electrification for all States
- b) It tracks upcoming transmission projects and monitor the progress of Inter-State & Intra-State transmission systems in the country
- c) It is a platform for e-bidding and e-reverse auction for Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) in transmission projects
- d) It is a common e-bidding platform with e-reverse auction facility to facilitate nation-wide power procurement through a wider network so as to bring uniformity and transparency in the process of power procurement

**Q.72) Solution (a)**

GARV App provides real time data of all six lakh villages of the country.

It enables the commoners to participate in the development work and can give their input about rural electrification programme. Thus, the rural electrification work would be open to public scrutiny.

Under this facility, village-wise; habitation-wise base line data on household electrification for all states provided by them has been incorporated. Further, village-wise works sanctioned under DeenDayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) have also been mapped to monitor progress of works in each village.

A citizen engagement window 'SAMVAD' to enhance participation. They can contribute in the programme by providing their feedback and suggestions which shall be automatically



forwarded to the concerned Managing Directors and Superintending Engineers of DISCOMs through SMS & Email on their dashboard.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=169941>

**Q.73) Consider the following statements about 'Kurnool Circular'**

1. It intended to paralyze all means of communications and machinery of administration during the Quit India Movement
2. It was drafted by Kala Venkat Rao

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.73) Solution (c)**

**Kurnool Circular**

- Quit India Movement spread to all the states and provinces across the country. In Andhra the Provincial Congress Committee had issued a circular popularly known as the 'Kurnool Circular' – drafted by Kala Venkat Rao
- 'Kurnool Circular' intended to paralyze all means of communications and machinery of administration.
- The 'Kurnool Circular' envisaged a programme of defying prohibitory orders, lawyers to give up practice, students to leave colleges, picketing salt and foreign trade and industry, cutting of communications, cutting of toddy yielding trees, travelling without tickets, pulling chains to stop trains and blow up bridges to disrupt communications and retard the movement of Army personnel: the cutting of telegraph and telephone wires, non-payment of taxes excepting municipal taxes, and hoisting of national flags on all Government buildings as a sign of independence.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=169423>

**Q.74) Consider the following statements about Madhyamik and Uchchatar Shiksha Kosh (MUSK)**

1. All the funds collected from the secondary and higher education cess would be credited to the MUSK
2. Expenditure would be financed from MUSK only after gross budgetary support (GBS) is exhausted

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.74) Solution (c)**

**Madhyamik and Uchchta Shiksha Kosh (MUSK)**

- A non-lapsable pool in the Public Account for secondary and higher education
- The funds arising from the MUSK would be utilized for schemes in the education sector which would be available for the benefit of students of secondary and higher education, all over the country.
- Administration and maintenance of the above pool by Ministry of Human Resource Development
- The MUSK would be maintained as a Reserve Fund in the non-interest bearing section of the Public Accounts of India.
- Accruals from the Cess would be utilized in the ongoing schemes of Secondary and Higher Education.
- MHRD can allocate funds for any future programme/scheme of secondary and higher education
- Expenditure would be financed from the MUSK only after the gross budgetary support (GBS) is exhausted.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170021>

**Q.75) The Prime Meridian and the Equator intersect at**

- a) Gulf of Guinea
- b) Mediterranean Sea
- c) Equatorial Guinea
- d) Cape Verde

**Q.75) Solution (a)**

The equator has a mark of zero degrees latitude and the prime meridian one of zero degrees longitude, and the two lines intersect in the Gulf of Guinea, just off the western coast of Africa.

**Q.76) Consider the following statements about 'Hague Abduction Convention'**

1. It is an international treaty to ensure the prompt return of a child who has been "abducted" from the country of their "habitual residence".
2. Under the Convention, contracting countries must establish a central authority to trace unlawfully removed children and secure their return to the country of habitual residence, irrespective of the country's own laws on the issue.
3. The Convention only applies to children under the age 16.
4. India is yet to ratify the convention

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.76) Solution (d)**

The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction or Hague Abduction Convention is a multilateral treaty developed by the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) that provides an expeditious method to return a child internationally abducted by a parent from one member country to another.

The Convention was concluded 25 October 1980 and entered into force between the signatories on 1 December 1983. The Convention was drafted to ensure the prompt return of children who have been abducted from their country of habitual residence or wrongfully retained in a contracting state not their country of habitual residence.

The primary intention of the Convention is to preserve whatever status quo child custody arrangement existed immediately before an alleged wrongful removal or retention thereby deterring a parent from crossing international boundaries in search of a more sympathetic court. The Convention applies only to children under the age of 16.

Under the Convention, contracting countries must establish a central authority to trace unlawfully removed children and secure their return to the country of habitual residence, irrespective of the country's own laws on the issue.

India has not ratified the Convention

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/behind-indias-unease-with-a-global-child-abduction-law-4781318/>

**Q.77) Consider the following statements about 'Treaty on Open Skies'**

1. It is related to civil-aviation open skies agreements
2. India has signed the treaty, but is yet to ratify it.
3. Open Skies Consultative Commission (OSCC) is the implementing body for the Open Skies Treaty

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.77) Solution (d)**

The Open Skies Consultative Commission (OSCC) is the implementing body for the Open Skies Treaty. It consists of representatives from each of the 34 States Parties to the Open Skies Treaty. The OSCC meets at the headquarters of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna, Austria.

The Open Skies Treaty entered into force in January 2002, and covers territory from Vancouver to Vladivostock. The Treaty establishes a regime of unarmed aerial observation flights over the entire territory of its 34 signatories. It is designed to enhance mutual understanding and confidence by giving all participants, regardless of size, the possibility to obtain information on military or other activities of concern to them. Open Skies is the most wide-ranging international effort to date to promote openness and transparency of military forces and their activities.

This treaty is not related to civil-aviation open skies agreements.

The 34 state parties to the Open Skies Treaty are: Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark (including Greenland), Estonia,

Finland, France, the Republic of Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/russian-surveillance-plane-soars-over-the-pentagon-capitol-and-other-washington-sights-1735921>

**Q.78) Which of the following statements about 'Comoros'**

- a) It is an overseas French territory
- b) It lies in the Mozambique Channel
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

**Q.78) Solution (b)**

It is a sovereign archipelago island nation in the Indian Ocean located at the northern end of the Mozambique Channel off the eastern coast of Africa between northeastern Mozambique and northwestern Madagascar.

Source:

[http://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/August\\_2017\\_Bilateral\\_Brief\\_in\\_r\\_o\\_Co\\_moros\\_for\\_XP.pdf](http://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/August_2017_Bilateral_Brief_in_r_o_Co_moros_for_XP.pdf)

**Q.79) Consider the following statements about 'WiDHWAN'**

1. It caters to the recurring call drop issues in no-signal and low-signal network scenarios
2. It is developed by Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.79) Solution (c)**

'WiDHWAN' has been exclusively designed to cater to the recurring call drop issues in no-signal and low-signal network scenarios in places such as offices and homes.

It is developed by Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), an autonomous Telecom Technology development centre under the Ministry of Communication.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170345>

**Q.80) Consider the following statements about VEN $\mu$ S Satellite**

1. It is an Earth Observation micro-satellite
2. It is jointly developed by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Israel Space Agency (ISA)

Select the correct statements

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

**Q.80) Solution (a)**

Vegetation and Environment monitoring on a New Micro-Satellite (VEN $\mu$ S) is a near polar sun-synchronous orbit microsatellite being jointly built by France's National Centre for Space Studies and Israel's space agency.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/satellite-launched-to-monitor-climate-change/article19411219.ece>

**Q.81) Consider the following statements about 'AGRI-UDAAN'**

1. It enables farmers to sell their agricultural products through auction
2. It is managed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
3. It will provide logistics support for sellers and buyers

Select the correct statements

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

**Q.81) Solution (b)**

AGRI UDAAN is a Food & Agribusiness Accelerator organised by NAARM, a-IDEA and IIM-A, CIIE in partnership with Caspian Impact Investment and supported by DST. The program focuses on catalyzing scale-up stage Food & Agribusiness startups through rigorous mentoring, industry networking and Investor pitching.

AGRI UDAAN is a unique platform for scale up stage innovators, entrepreneurs and startups in the Food & Agribusiness sectors to showcase their products/ services and to receive valuable inputs from mentors, incubators, R&D institutions, Agribusiness industries and investors.

It is managed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=169569>

**Q.82) Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Paridhan Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMPRPY)**

1. It is under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
2. It incentivises employers for generation of new employment
3. Establishment should be registered with Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for claiming benefit under the scheme

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.82) Solution (b)**

The Scheme is under the Ministry of Textiles, benefitting the apparel industries.

The scheme enables incentives towards employers, registered with Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), for creation of new employment.

Under Pradhan Mantri Paridhan Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMPRPY), Ministry of Textiles will bear additional 3.67% share of the employer's contribution of the Employers Provident Fund Scheme in addition to the 8.33% already covered under Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY), for all new employees of apparel and made-up units enrolling in EPFO, for the first three years of their employment.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=169584>

**Q.83) Consider the following statements about Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES)**

1. It was established in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami
2. African countries on the western coast are not members of the RIMES
3. CLMV countries are members of the RIMES

**Select the correct statements**

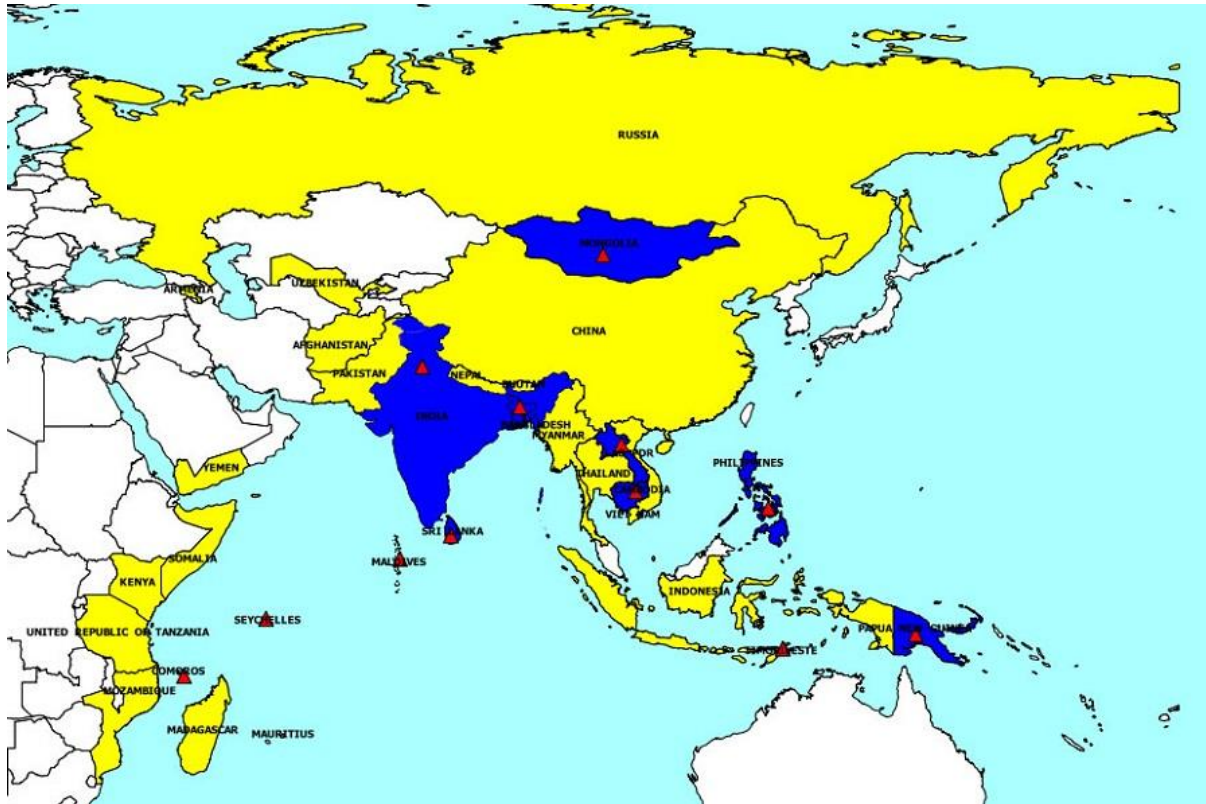
- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.83) Solution (a)**

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) is an international and intergovernmental institution, owned and managed by its Member States, for the generation and application of early warning information.

RIMES evolved from the efforts of countries in Africa and Asia, in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, to establish a regional early warning system within a multi-hazard framework for the generation and communication of early warning information, and capacity building for preparedness and response to trans-boundary hazards.





12 Member States: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Comoros, India, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste.

19 Collaborating Countries: Afghanistan, Armenia, Bhutan, China, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Somalia, Tanzania, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Yemen

It is a UN registered agency

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ocean-forecasting-system-for-madagascar-and-mozambique/article19571161.ece>

#### Q.84) Supporting Indian Trade and Investment for Africa (SITA)

1. It is a project by International Trade Centre (ITC)
2. It caters to Eastern and Central African Countries

Select the correct statements

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

**Q.84) Solution (a)**

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's Department for International Development (DFID) mandated the International Trade Centre (ITC) to design and implement a project, called 'Supporting India's Trade Preferences for Africa' (SITA).

The project responds to the challenges that selected East African countries – Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania – face in increasing and diversifying exports. It also addresses trade priorities of the beneficiary countries so they can achieve sustainable development.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/efforts-to-promote-indian-trade-in-east-african-countries/article19481889.ece>

**Q.85) India Volatility Index (VIX) is released by**

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) SEBI
- c) NSE
- d) RBI

**Q.85) Solution (c)**

India VIX is India's volatility Index which is a key measure of market expectations of near-term volatility conveyed by NIFTY stock index option prices. This volatility index is computed by NSE based on the order book of NIFTY Options. For this, the best bid-ask quotes of near and next-month NIFTY options contracts which are traded on the F&O segment of NSE are used. India VIX indicates the investor's perception of the market's volatility in the near term i.e. it depicts the expected market volatility over the next 30 calendar days. Higher the India VIX values, higher the expected volatility and vice-versa.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Money/Eu4Aj8roGtAW5h1mpZE8KM/Volatility-at-fivemonth-high-as-markets-fall-for-fourth-str.html>

**Q.86) 'Pulikali' is a recreational folk art from which of the following states?**

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala

- c) Karnataka
- d) Andhra Pradesh

**Q.86) Solution (b)**

Pulikali ("Puli" = Leopard/Tiger & "Kali" = Play in Malayalam language) is a recreational folk art from the state of Kerala. It is performed by trained artists to entertain people on the occasion of Onam, an annual harvest festival, celebrated mainly in Kerala. On the fourth day of Onam celebrations (Nalaam Onam), performers painted like tigers and hunters in bright yellow, red, and black dance to the beats of instruments like Udukku and Thakil. Literal meaning of Pulikkali is the 'play of the tigers' hence the performance revolve around the theme of tiger hunting. The folk art is mainly practiced in Thrissur district of Kerala.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/A-small-step-for-women-a-big-crack-in-tradition/article14986802.ece>

**Q.87) Consider the following statements about 'Sahara Forest Project'**

1. It is launched by the countries covered under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)
2. It is funded by the European Union and Norway

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.87) Solution (b)**

Jordan has launched Sahara forest project, which will use innovative technology to produce food using, sun and sea water, in a bid to turn the desert land into a flourishing farmland.

The SFP is centred around the core technologies of saltwater-cooled greenhouses, concentrated solar power, and desert revegetation practices.

The Norwegian government and European Union are the two biggest donors to the project.

The project aims to produce 130 tons of organic vegetables per year and 10,000 litres of fresh water per day in the water-poor nation.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-life/sun-and-sea-water-powers-vegetable-farms-in-jordan/article19647529.ece>

**Q.88) Consider the following statements about 'Kaushal Panjee'**

1. It is under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
2. It provides a citizen centric end-to-end solution to aid mobilization of candidates for Deen Dayal Upadhaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana
3. It is connected to the Social Economic Caste Census (SECC 2011)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.88) Solution (c)**

Kaushal Panjee or Skill Register aims to be the first step for any rural youth looking for getting skilled or starting a business. Rural Youth can register free of cost and be connected to Training Partners and Banks working in collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development.

DDU-GKY (Deen Dayal Upadhaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana) is a demand driven placement linked skill training initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development. DDU-GKY functions in a PPP mode in collaboration with training partners. Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI) is a credit linked self-employment training initiative with the aim to hand hold trainees to setup micro-enterprises. It's managed by lead banks in rural districts.

By registering in Kaushal Panjee, one can be informed about nearby mobilization camps, training centres, Job Melas and start of batches. All of this is can be customized based on one's interest and aspirations.

Training Partners, PIAs and Banks can use Kaushal Panjee to contact registered candidates for training, counselling, or jobs – based on the geography and trades they offer.

**Benefits under DDUGKY**

- DDU-GKY is a free of cost placement linked skill training scheme for rural poor youth.
- Aptitude based choice of sector, IT and English training
- Government recognized 3 month, 6 month or 12 month skill training certificate courses with on-the-job Training
- Candidate is entitled to free uniform, course books and study material. Tablet and PC are provided for use during training
- Reimbursement of travel cost during training in case of Residential Training Centres.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171070>

**Q.89) Consider the following statements about 'European Free Trade Association (EFTA)'**

1. It is a trade agreement between non-EU countries, members of which are now mostly located in South-eastern Europe
2. They participate in the European Single Market
3. It was signed by the Visegrád Group countries

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.89) Solution (b)**

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is a regional trade organization and free trade area consisting of four European states: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. The organization operates in parallel with the European Union (EU), and all four member states participate in the European Single Market. They are not, however, party to the European Union Customs Union.

**THINK!**

- EFTA
- CEFTA
- CISFTA
- Visegrád Group

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/switzerland-for-early-india-efta-pact/article19604210.ece>

**Q.90) Consider the following statements about The Partnership for Land Use Science (Forest-PLUS)**

1. It is a joint programme by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
2. It is aimed at strengthening the capacity for REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) implementation in India

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.90) Solution (b)**

The Partnership for Land Use Science (Forest-Plus) is a joint programme by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to strengthen capacity for REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) implementation in India.

The programme brings together experts from India and the United States to develop technologies, tools and methods of forest management to meet the technical challenges of managing forests for the health of ecosystem, carbon stocks, biodiversity and livelihood.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170685>

**Q.91) Consider the following statements about Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS)**

1. It is the measure for domestic subsidies for agriculture under the WTO Agreement of Agriculture
2. It consists of Amber Box
3. It is associated with product specific subsidies only

**Select the correct statements**

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

d) All of the above

**Q.91) Solution (a)**

Aggregate measurement of support (AMS) is the indicator on which the domestic support discipline for the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture is based. It is determined by calculating a market price support estimate for each commodity receiving such support, plus non-exempt direct payments or any other subsidy not exempted from reduction commitments, less specific agricultural levies or fees paid by producers.

The 'current aggregate measurement of support' (AMS) is the measure for domestic subsidies for agriculture under the WTO Agreement of Agriculture. It consists of the so-called Amber Box which includes all internal support measures considered to distort production and trade that are not excluded pursuant to other provisions of the Agreement.

AMS has two components viz., (i) 'product-specific' or the excess of price paid to farmers over international price or ERP (external reference price) multiplied by quantum of produce; (ii) 'non-product specific' or money spent on schemes to supply inputs such as fertilisers, seed, irrigation, electricity at subsidised rates.

Under Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), developing countries can give agricultural subsidies or aggregate measurement support (AMS) up to 10 per cent of the value of agricultural production.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170392>

**Q.92) Consider the following statements about 'Hortinet'**

1. It is developed by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
2. It allows farmers to apply online to facilitate their farm registration
3. It provides for testing and certification of vegetables meant for export from India to the European Union

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.92) Solution (c)**

The Centre has launched a new mobile app (Hortinet) for facilitating farm registration, testing and certification of grape, pomegranate and vegetables meant for export from India to the European Union.

The mobile app, hortinet, developed by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), allows farmers to apply online to facilitate their farm registration. It also helps track the status of applications and approvals by States and sampling by authorised laboratories. "This new mobile app will also assist State horticulture/ agriculture department to capture real-time details of farmers, farm location, products and details of inspections such as date of inspection and name of inspecting agency directly from the field."

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170439>

**Q.93) Consider the following statements about 'Silai/Sal Tree'**

1. It is found in both the Eastern Ghats and Western Ghats
2. The dry leaves of the tree are a major source for the production of leaf plates
3. Oil extracted from the seeds of the tree is used as edible oil

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.93) Solution (b)**

Sal seeds and fruit are a source of lamp oil and vegetable fat. The seed oil is extracted from the seeds and used as cooking oil after refining.

Sal is one of the most important sources of hardwood timber in India, with hard, coarse-grained wood that is light in colour when freshly cut, but becomes dark brown with exposure. The wood is resinous and durable, and is sought-after for construction, although not well suited to planing and polishing. The wood is especially suitable for constructing frames for doors and windows.

The dry leaves of sal are a major source for the production of leaf plates called as patravali and leaf bowls in northern and eastern India.



This tree is native to the Indian subcontinent, ranging south of the Himalaya, from Myanmar in the east to Nepal, India and Bangladesh. In India, it extends from Assam, Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand west to the Shivalik Hills in Haryana, east of the Yamuna. The range also extends through the Eastern Ghats and to the eastern Vindhya and Satpura ranges of central India. It is often the dominant tree in the forests where it occurs.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/odisha-villagers-grow-back-their-forest/article19615926.ece>

**Q.94) Consider the following statements about 'Kandariya Mahadeva Temple'**

1. It was built during the reign of Vidyadhara of the Chandela dynasty
2. It was built to celebrate Vidyadhara's success over Mahmud of Ghazni
3. It is located in Khajuraho

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.94) Solution (d)**

Kandariya Mahadeva Temple is the largest among the group of temples at Khajuraho. As the name suggests, this temple is devoted to Lord Shiva. It means 'Great God of the Cave.'

It is one considered one of the best examples of temples preserved from the medieval period in India. The temple was built during the reign of Vidyadhara of the Chandela dynasty. It was built to celebrate his success over Mahmud of Ghazni, a powerful ruler.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/kandariya-mahadeva-temple/article19627076.ece>

**Q.95) 'Global Human Capital Index' is released by**

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) International Labour Organization
- c) World Bank
- d) None of the above

**Q.95) Solution (a)**

Global Human Capital Index is compiled by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) takes into account "the knowledge and skills people possess that enable them to create value in the global economic system" to measure the 'human capital' rank of a country.

India was ranked at 103.

Source: [http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-at-103-rank-on-global-human-capital-index-lowest-among-brics-nations-117091300680\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-at-103-rank-on-global-human-capital-index-lowest-among-brics-nations-117091300680_1.html)

**Q.96) Consider the following statements about Global Wildlife Program (GWP)**

1. It is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)
2. All the partner countries of GWP are located in Asia and Africa only
3. It helps countries achieve their biodiversity goals

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.96) Solution (d)**

The GWP is a \$131 million global partnership on wildlife conservation, crime prevention and sustainable development led by the World Bank and funded by the Global Environment Facility that coordinates with partners in 19 countries across Asia and to improve wildlife and protected area management, enhance community livelihood benefits, strengthen law enforcement, reduce demand of illegal wildlife products and accelerate learning on relevant topics on the illegal trade of wildlife.

In Africa, the GWP has programs in Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, the Republic of Congo, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. In Asia, programs are in Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

India is hosted the Global Wildlife Programme (GWP) jointly with World Bank and United Nations Development Programme.

It is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

It will support the implementation of country priorities identified in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Associated institutions - (CITES TRAFFIC, WildAid, and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171254>

**Q.97) Consider the following statements about 'International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime'**

1. It is aimed at strengthening criminal justice systems and provide coordinated support at national, regional and international level to combat wildlife and forest crime
2. It is collaboration between INTERPOL, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the World Customs Organization

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.97) Solution (a)**

ICCWC is the collaborative effort of five inter-governmental organizations working to bring coordinated support to the national wildlife law enforcement agencies and to the sub-regional and regional networks that, on a daily basis, act in defence of natural resources. The ICCWC partners are the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization. This powerful alliance was formally established on 23 November 2010 in St. Petersburg, Russia during the International Tiger Forum when the signatures of all partners were included on the Letter of Understanding.

ICCWC's mission is to strengthen criminal justice systems and provide coordinated support at national, regional and international level to combat wildlife and forest crime to ensure

perpetrators of serious wildlife and forest crime will face a formidable and coordinated response.

In this context, ICCWC works for, and with, the wildlife law enforcement community, since it is frontline officers who eventually bring criminals engaged in wildlife crime to justice. ICCWC seeks to support the development of law enforcement that builds on socially and environmentally sustainable natural resource policies, taking into consideration the need to provide livelihood support to poor and marginalized rural communities.

**Q.98) Consider the following statements about Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA)**

1. It was jointly set up by the Government of India and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
2. It is under the aegis of Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.98) Solution (d)**

**Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA)**

- The Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) is under Deptt. Of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.
- This organisation is more than hundred years old and provides Quality Assurance (QA) cover for the entire range of Arms, Ammunitions, Equipments and Stores supplied to Armed Forces.
- Apart from QA activities, the organisation is responsible for import substitution and associates with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in the development projects.
- It also ensures Documentation, Codification and Standardisation Action for minimizing the variety of components/equipments.

- The other services rendered are promotion of small scale industries, Post procurement services, Defect Investigations and Technical Consultancy to the users, Ministry and the Production Agencies.
- The establishments under this organisation are spread all over the country where mainly the Ordnance Factories, Defence Public Sector undertakings and Industrial base exist.

#### Do You Know?

- The origin of the Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) can be traced back to 1869, when the first Inspectorate was set up at Ammunition Factory, Kirkee.

Source: [http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/directorate-general-of-quality-assurance-celebrates-its-diamond-jubilee-117092800636\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/directorate-general-of-quality-assurance-celebrates-its-diamond-jubilee-117092800636_1.html)

#### Q.99) 'Mount Agung' was recently in news. Where is it located?

- a) Aleutian Islands
- b) Andean Mountains
- c) Cascade Volcanoes
- d) Bali

#### Q.99) Solution (d)

##### Mount Agung

- It is a volcano in Bali in Indonesia
- It is the highest point on the island
- It is found towards the western edge of the island and southeast of Mount Batung volcano.
- Agung also plays an important role in Balinese culture and is integral to the islanders' religious beliefs.
- Balinese people who follow the Agama Tirta religion, a Shivaite sect of Hinduism, believe that the mountain is a replica of the Mt Meru, the central axis of the universe.
- The holy site of Pura Besakih, the most important temple complex on the island, is found on the eastern slopes of the volcano nearly 1,000 metres (3,280 feet) up.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/evacuations-from-bali-volcano-cross-57000-officials-expect-mount-agung-eruption-4862529/>

**Q.100) Consider the following statements about 'SAUBHAGYA' Yojana**

1. It is aimed at providing energy access to all by last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all un-electrified households in rural as well as urban areas
2. It has been launched to plug gaps of Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) & Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.100) Solution (c)**

**SAuBHAGYA: Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana**

- To achieve universal household electrification in the country
- To provide last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all households in rural and urban areas.
- Free of cost electricity connections to all remaining un-electrified households with at least one deprivation on the basis of SECC data in rural areas and economically poor households in urban areas would be given.
- Others would be charged a sum of Rs. 500 per household in ten equal instalments with the bill.
- The households located in remote and inaccessible areas would be provided with Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) based standalone systems with LED lights, fan, power plug etc.
- The beneficiaries will be identified on the basis of socio economic conditions using SECC 2011 data.
- Target - universal household electrification in the country by 31st March 2019
- Saubhagya has been launched to plug gaps of DDUGJY & IPDS and comprehensively address the issues of entry barrier, last mile connectivity and release of electricity connections to all un-electrified households in rural and urban areas.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171148>

**Q.101) Consider the following statements about 'Graded Surveillance Measure'**

1. It is developed by Reserve Bank of India
2. It is launched in order to enhance market integrity and safeguard interest of investors
3. It is aimed at advising market participants to carry out necessary due diligence while dealing in identified securities

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.101) Solution (c)**

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Exchanges in order to enhance market integrity and safeguard interest of investors, have introduced Graded Surveillance Measures (GSM) wherein certain identified securities shall be subjected to enhanced monitoring and surveillance actions

The main objective of these measures is to:

- alert and advice investors to be extra cautious while dealing in these securities and
- advice market participants to carry out necessary due diligence while dealing in these securities.

Read More - <http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/all-you-need-to-know-about-graded-surveillance-measure/article19747350.ece>

**Q.102) Consider the following statements about 'Bakhshali manuscript'**

1. It was written in Sanskrit
2. It is notable as the evidence of the spread and sharing of ideas in ancient times between India, China and central Asia
3. It is the oldest surviving palm leaf manuscript text

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.102) Solution (a)**

The Bakhshali manuscript is a mathematical text written on birch bark that was found in 1881 in the British-ruled village of Bakhshali (near Mardan in present-day Pakistan). It is notable for being "the oldest extant manuscript in Indian mathematics", with portions dated to AD 224–383. It contains the earliest known Indian use of a zero symbol. It is written in Sanskrit with significant influence of local dialects.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Science/MSxVoPsCyzUQcvUMh10hDN/1800yearold-black-dot-in-Bakhshali-manuscript-is-first-z.html>

**Q.103) The 'P5+1' is composed of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and which of the following countries?**

- a) Japan
- b) Germany
- c) Australia
- d) India

**Q.103) Solution (b)**

The P5+1 refers to the UN Security Council's five permanent members (the P5); namely China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States; plus Germany. The P5+1 is often referred to as the E3+3 by European countries. It is a group of six world powers which, in 2006, joined together in diplomatic efforts with Iran with regard to its nuclear program.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-walks-a-fine-line-as-us-iran-spar-over-nuclear-deal/article19733664.ece>

**Q.104) Konkani language is spoken in which of the following states?**

1. Karnataka



2. Maharashtra
3. Kerala
4. Goa

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.104) Solution (d)**

It is spoken in Goa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Diu and Daman.

It is one of the 22 scheduled languages mentioned in the 8th schedule of the Indian Constitution and the official language of the Indian state of Goa.

It is the only language in the world in everyday use in five different scripts: Devanagiri, Malayalam, Kannada, Arabic and Latin (aka Romi)

**Source:** <https://www.livemint.com/Leisure/AJVHke7VvvVPerV1jv8WO/Konkani-a-language-in-crisis.html>

**Q.105) Consider the following statements about 'Aquatic Rhabdops'**

1. It is a non-venomous aquatic snake species
2. It is endemic to Western Ghats

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.105) Solution (c)**

The Aquatic Rhabdops is found only in the laterite plateaus of the northern Western Ghats in Goa, southern Maharashtra and northern Karnataka, in areas facing severe human pressures.

All Rhabdops snakes are endemic to India. The Olive Forest Snake Rhabdops olivaceus is found only in the Western Ghats while the bi-coloured Forest Snake Rhabdops bicolor lives in a few localities in the northeast.

The non-venomous aquatic species, Aquatic Rhabdops is endemic to habitat where human pressure is high.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/western-ghats-throw-up-a-new-snake/article19764405.ece>

**Q.106) Consider the following statements about 'FoSCoRIS'**

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries
2. It ensures that Indian food businesses comply with food safety and hygiene standards

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.106) Solution (b)**

In a bid to ensure that Indian food businesses comply with food safety and hygiene standards in an effective and transparent manner, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has directed states to implement a web-based real-time inspection platform for food safety officers (FSOs).

**'Food Safety Compliance through Regular Inspections and Sampling' (FoSCoRIS)**

**Basic objectives of the FoSCoRIS Application are:**

- To create a district wise and state wise food safety Compliance matrix of the country.
- Create a Food safety compliance verification platform.
- To reduce the time of Inspection process and action initiated.
- To build a transparent system within the inspections framework.

- Create a platform to authenticate and validate the inspection reports.
- To ensure that the inspections are actually done and without any deviations.
- The process shall initiate Quick Response during Food Safety Emergencies.

It uses instant geo-tagging, time stamping, real-time data collection and multiple levels of verification and can be used via hand-held devices like mobile phones and tablets.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Home-Page/M1XMzWJtkQwGqDYGXjqGHN/Use-webbased-inspection-platform-FSSAI-tells-states.html>

**Q.107) The Trade and Development Report (TDR) is released by**

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) UNCTAD
- d) World Trade Organisation

**Q.107) Solution (c)**

The Trade and Development Report (TDR), launched in 1981, is issued every year for the annual session of the Trade and Development Board.

The Report analyses current economic trends and major policy issues of international concern, and makes suggestions for addressing these issues at various levels.

The 2017 report was titled 'Beyond austerity — towards a global new deal'

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/india-china-unlikely-to-be-growth-poles-for-global-economy-unctad-report/article9860055.ece>

**Q.108) Parali I island, one of biodiversity-rich uninhabited islands has disappeared due to coastal erosion. Where is it located?**

- a) Andaman
- b) Lakshadweep
- c) Odisha Coast
- d) Gulf of Khambhat

**Q.108) Solution (b)**

Parali I island, part of Bangaram atoll, which had an area of 0.032 sq.km in 1968 has been completely eroded, resulting in its inundation.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-life/lakshadweep-island-parali-i-has-vanished/article19633348.ece>

**Q.109) Consider the following statements about Interconnection Usage Charge (IUC)**

1. It is a charge payable by a service provider, whose subscriber originates the call, to the service provider in whose network the call terminates
2. Only calls made via wireless to wireless devices attract IUC in India
3. IUC is regulated by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.109) Solution (c)**

Currently only calls made via wireless to wireless devices attract IUC in India.

The term 'interconnection' refers to an arrangement under which telecom players connect their equipment, networks and services with other Telecom Services Providers. The regulator, TRAI, addresses the various issues related to interconnection arrangements. It also regulates the IUC.

This is a charge payable by a service provider, whose subscriber originates the call, to the service provider in whose network the call terminates. In a calling-party pays regime (CPP), if you originate a call, you pay your access provider, who in turn pays termination charges to the network you placed the call. This is paid to cover the network usage costs as the operator, on whose network the call terminates, carries the call on its network to the customers. This requires infrastructure investment. Thus, IUC ensures operators make appropriate investments to carry voice calls without terminations.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/slate/all-you-wanted-to-know-aboutinterconnection-usage-charge/article9833749.ece>

**Q.110) Consider the following statements about Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)**

1. It is a statutory body
2. It is under the aegis of Ministry of Women & Child Development
3. It deals with inter-country adoptions according to Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.110) Solution (d)**

Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body of Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India. It functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions. CARA is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993, ratified by Government of India in 2003.

CARA primarily deals with adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children through its associated /recognised adoption agencies

CARA has started a monthly “Jan Sampark” program to enable the public to have interaction with its officials and staff for seeking information related to Adoption as well as flagging their concerns.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171184>

**Q.111) What is the purpose of VAJRA Scheme?**

- a) To enable NRIs and overseas scientific community to participate and contribute to research and development in India
- b) To enable the famous foreign educational institutions to open their campuses in India
- c) To increase the quality of education provided in government schools by taking help from the private sector

- d) To encourage voluntary monetary contributions from private individuals and organizations so as to improve the infrastructure facilities for government schools

**Q.111) Solution (a)**

**VAJRA (Visiting Advanced Joint Research) Faculty scheme**

It is a scheme by the Department of Science and Technology

It enables NRIs and overseas scientific community to participate and contribute to research and development in India.

The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body of the Department will implement the Scheme.

It will undertake research in S&T priority areas of nation wherein the capability and capacity are needed to be developed. The VAJRA faculty will engage in collaborative research in public funded institutions.

The residency period of the VAJRA Faculty in India would be for a minimum of 1 month and a maximum of 3 months a year.

The VAJRA Faculty is provided a lump-sum amount of US\$ 15000 in the first month of residency in a year and US\$ 10000 p.m. in the other two months to cover their travel and honorarium. While no separate support is provided for e.g. accommodation, medical / personal insurance etc. the host institute may consider providing additional support.

A Selection Committee of eminent scientists will evaluate the applications. The Committee will meet twice a year in January and July and make recommendations. SERB will announce the results in the month of April and September.

Public funded academic institutions and national laboratories are eligible to host the VAJRA Faculty. These institutions should appoint them as Adjunct / Visiting Faculty and involve them in co-guiding and mentoring of students and developing collaborative programs. The Faculty can also be allowed to participate in other academic activities as agreed to by the host institution and the Faculty.

**Source:** <http://indianexpress.com/article/education/vajra-faculty-scheme-260-applicants-for-governments-visiting-researcher-programme-4881275/>

**Q.112) Consider the following statements about 'Minsky Moment'**

1. It refers to the point where the financial system moves from stability to instability
2. It refers to a sudden collapse in asset prices after long periods of growth, sparked by debt or currency pressures

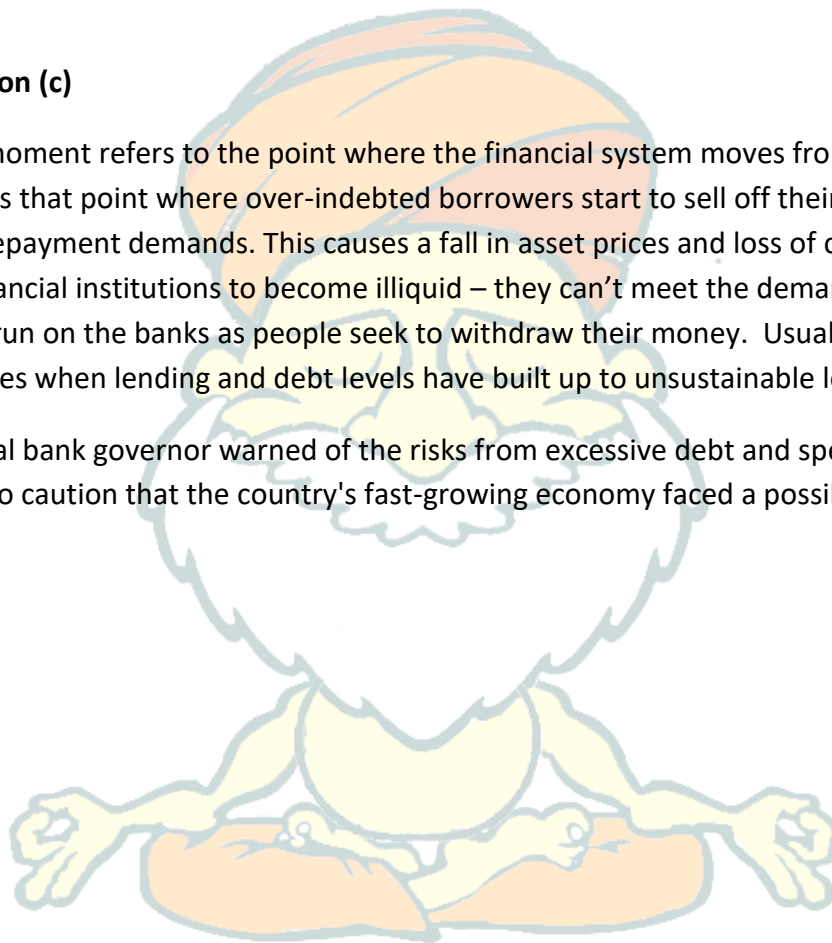
**Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

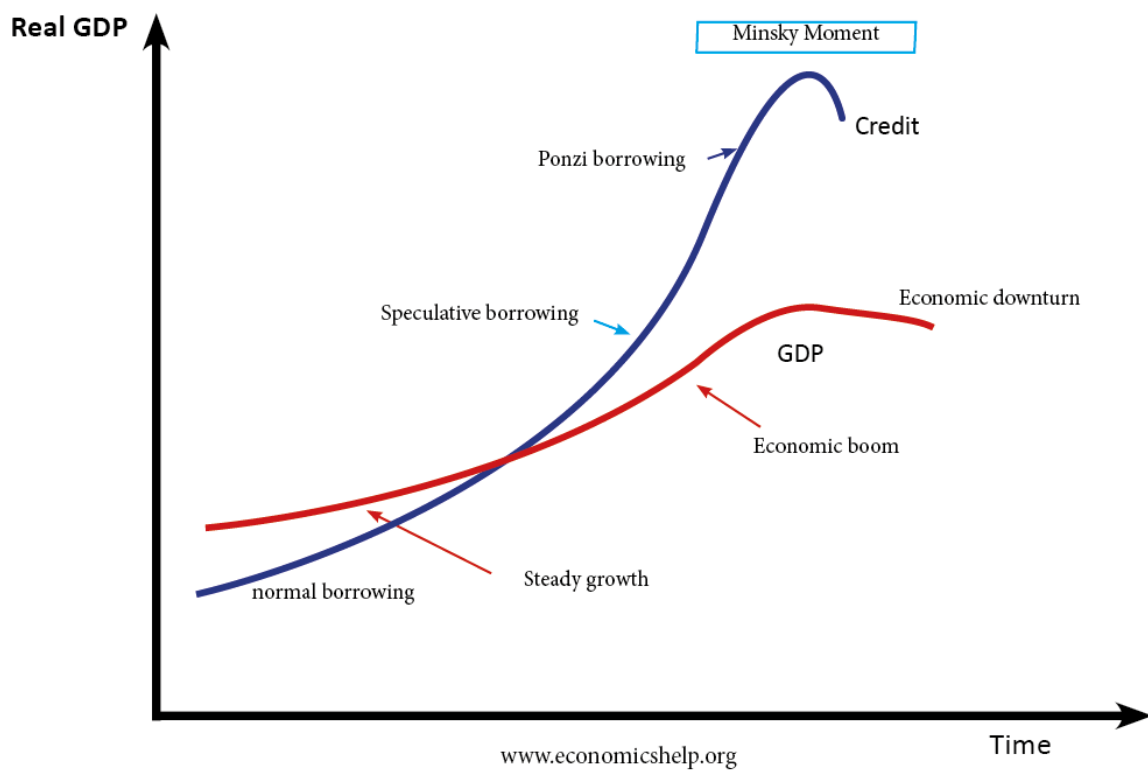
- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.112) Solution (c)**

The Minsky moment refers to the point where the financial system moves from stability to instability. It is that point where over-indebted borrowers start to sell off their assets to meet other repayment demands. This causes a fall in asset prices and loss of confidence. It can cause financial institutions to become illiquid – they can't meet the demand for cash. It may cause a run on the banks as people seek to withdraw their money. Usually, the Minsky moment comes when lending and debt levels have built up to unsustainable levels.

China's central bank governor warned of the risks from excessive debt and speculative investment, to caution that the country's fast-growing economy faced a possible "Minsky moment".





Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/Dy3nvTOGRy9vGf8uflIUUI/The-search-for-the-Minsky-Moment-is-bigger-than-China.html>

**Q.113) Consider the following statements about Commercial Paper (CP)?**

1. It is an unsecured form of promissory note that pays a fixed rate of interest
2. It can be issued for maturities for a minimum of 90 days
3. Only a scheduled bank can act as an Issuing and Paying Agent (IPA) for issuance of CP

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.113) Solution (d)**

Commercial Paper (CP) is an unsecured money market instrument issued in the form of a promissory note. It was introduced in India in 1990. It was introduced in India in 1990 with a view to enabling highly rated corporate borrowers to diversify their sources of short-term



borrowings and to provide an additional instrument to investors. Subsequently, primary dealers and all-India financial institutions were also permitted to issue CP to enable them to meet their short-term funding requirements for their operations.

Corporates, primary dealers (PDs) and the All-India Financial Institutions (FIs) are eligible to issue CP.

**A corporate would be eligible to issue CP provided –**

- the tangible net worth of the company, as per the latest audited balance sheet, is not less than Rs. 4 crore
- company has been sanctioned working capital limit by bank/s or all-India financial institution/s; and
- the borrowal account of the company is classified as a Standard Asset by the financing bank/s/ institution/s.

All eligible participants shall obtain the credit rating for issuance of Commercial Paper either from Credit Rating Information Services of India Ltd. (CRISIL) or the Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Ltd. (ICRA) or the Credit Analysis and Research Ltd. (CARE) or the FITCH Ratings India Pvt. Ltd. or such other credit rating agency (CRA) as may be specified by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time, for the purpose. The minimum credit rating shall be A-2 [As per rating symbol and definition prescribed by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)].

CP can be issued for maturities between a minimum of 7 days and a maximum of up to one year from the date of issue. However, the maturity date of the CP should not go beyond the date up to which the credit rating of the issuer is valid.

Only a scheduled bank can act as an IPA for issuance of CP.

Individuals, banking companies, other corporate bodies (registered or incorporated in India) and unincorporated bodies, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) etc. can invest in CPs. However, investment by FIIs would be within the limits set for them by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) from time-to-time.

CP will be issued at a discount to face value as may be determined by the issuer.

**Role and responsibilities of the Issuer/Issuing and Paying Agent and Credit Rating Agency**

**Issuer:**

- Every issuer must appoint an IPA for issuance of CP.
- The issuer should disclose to the potential investors its financial position as per the standard market practice.

- After the exchange of deal confirmation between the investor and the issuer, issuing company shall issue physical certificates to the investor or arrange for crediting the CP to the investor's account with a depository.

#### Issuing and Paying Agent

- IPA would ensure that issuer has the minimum credit rating as stipulated by the RBI and amount mobilised through issuance of CP is within the quantum indicated by CRA for the specified rating or as approved by its Board of Directors, whichever is lower.
- IPA has to verify all the documents submitted by the issuer viz., copy of board resolution, signatures of authorised executants (when CP in physical form) and issue a certificate that documents are in order. It should also certify that it has a valid agreement with the issuer
- Certified copies of original documents verified by the IPA should be held in the custody of IPA.

#### Credit Rating Agency

- Code of Conduct prescribed by the SEBI for CRAs for undertaking rating of capital market instruments shall be applicable to them (CRAs) for rating CP.
- Further, the credit rating agencies have the discretion to determine the validity period of the rating depending upon its perception about the strength of the issuer. Accordingly, CRA shall at the time of rating, clearly indicate the date when the rating is due for review.
- While the CRAs can decide the validity period of credit rating, CRAs would have to closely monitor the rating assigned to issuers vis-a-vis their track record at regular intervals and would be required to make its revision in the ratings public through its publications and website

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/why-companies-use-commercial-papers-as-a-source-of-funds/article19944940.ece>

**Q.114) The term 'Destination Restriction Clause' was in news in the context of India & Japan. It is associated with**

- a) Liquid Natural Gas
- b) Civil Nuclear Agreement
- c) High Speed Rail
- d) Vehicles other than Railway & Tramway

**Q.114) Solution (a)**

Cabinet approved the proposal to sign a Memorandum of Cooperation between India and Japan on establishing a liquid, flexible and global LNG Market.

Japan is the world's largest LNG importer, and India the fourth biggest.

Under the arrangement, the two countries will try to get more flexibility in LNG contracts and abolish the Destination Restriction Clause, which prevents them from re-selling imports to third parties.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171622>

**Q.115) Pan African e-Network Project (PAENP) is an ICT project by**

1. India
2. Japan
3. United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology

Select the correct code:

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

**Q.115) Solution (a)**

Pan African e-Network Project (PAENP) was conceived by former President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and was formally launched on February 26, 2009.

Under the Pan African e-Network Project, India has set up a fibre-optic network to provide satellite connectivity, tele-medicine and tele-education to countries of Africa.

The project aims to create significant linkages for tele-education and telemedicine, internet, video-conferencing and VoIP services, making available the facilities and expertise of some of the best universities and super-specialty hospitals in India to the people of Africa.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171961>

**Q.116) Consider the following statements about 'Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development'**

1. It is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)
2. It is focused on countries from Asia, South America and Africa
3. It was established during the Gaborone Convention

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 Only
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 1 and 3
- d) None of the above

**Q.116) Solution (a)**

Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development" program also known as the Global Wildlife Program (GWP)

The GWP, initiated in 2015, is a World-Bank led partnership of 19 countries to promote the conservation and sustainable development by combating trafficking in wildlife.

It is funded by GEF.

In Africa, the GWP has programs in Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, the Republic of Congo, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. In Asia, programs are in Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The implementing agencies channelling the funds to the governments or other partners for the national projects are the World Bank Group, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

**THINK**

- National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) 2017-2031
- Secure Himalaya

**Read More -**

[https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/publications/GWP\\_BrochureENG\\_Mar2017\\_Web.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/publications/GWP_BrochureENG_Mar2017_Web.pdf)

Source: <http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/india-to-host-global-wildlife-programme-from-october-2-58778>

**Q.117) Which of the following is concerned with Israel-Palestine Conflict?**

1. Madrid Conference of 1991
2. Saudi Initiative
3. Oslo Accords
4. The Quartet

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.117) Solution (d)**

The Madrid Conference of 1991 was a peace conference, held from 30 October to 1 November 1991 in Madrid, hosted by Spain and co-sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union. It was an attempt by the international community to revive the Israeli–Palestinian peace process through negotiations, involving Israel and the Palestinians as well as Arab countries, including Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

The Arab Peace Initiative, also known as the "Saudi Initiative", is a 10 sentence proposal for an end to the Arab–Israeli conflict that was endorsed by the Arab League in 2002 at the Beirut Summit and re-endorsed at the 2007 Arab League summit and at the 2017 Arab League summit. The initiative calls for normalizing relations between the Arab region and Israel, in exchange for a full withdrawal by Israel from the occupied territories (including East Jerusalem) and a "just settlement" of the Palestinian refugee problem based on UN Resolution 194.

The Oslo Accords are a set of agreements between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO): the Oslo I Accord, signed in Washington, D.C., in 1993; and the Oslo II Accord, signed in Taba, Egypt, in 1995. The Oslo Accords marked the start of the Oslo process, a peace process aimed at achieving a peace treaty based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and at fulfilling the "right of the Palestinian people to self-determination." The Oslo process started after secret negotiations in Oslo, resulting in the recognition by the PLO of the State of Israel and the recognition by

Israel of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people and as a partner in negotiations.

The Oslo Accords created a Palestinian Authority tasked with limited self-governance of parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip; and acknowledged the PLO as Israel's partner in permanent-status negotiations about remaining questions. The Oslo Accords did not create a Palestinian state.

The Quartet on the Middle East or Middle East Quartet, sometimes called the Diplomatic Quartet or Madrid Quartet or simply the Quartet, is a foursome of nations and international and supranational entities involved in mediating the Israeli–Palestinian peace process. The Quartet comprises the United Nations, the United States, the European Union, and Russia. The group was established in Madrid in 2002, recalling Madrid Conference of 1991, as a result of the escalating conflict in the Middle East.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/the-israel-palestine-conflict-100-years-of-history/article19954348.ece>

**Q.118) A dry port is being developed in Wardha District of Maharashtra. Consider the following statements**

1. It will be located in the Marathwada region
2. It is being developed by the Mumbai Port Trust

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.118) Solution (d)**

It is located in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, near Nagpur

It is being developed by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT)

Another dry Port is coming up in Jalna (Marathwada) as well.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/ground-breaking-ceremony-performed-for-wardha-dry-port-in-maharashtra-4872013/>

**Q.119) Consider the following statements about India Investment Grid (IIG)**

1. It is an interactive web portal showcasing information on various projects across States, Sectors and Schemes for both domestic and international investors
2. It is an initiative of NITI Aayog

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.119) Solution (a)****India Investment Grid (IIG)**

- It is an interactive and dynamic web portal showcasing information on various projects in India, across States, Sectors and Schemes, in need of investment or technology.
- IIG is the first point of contact for investors from around the world. It allows them to view, filter and choose from projects across various states, sectors and flagship schemes in India. On the other hand, project owners get a platform to exhibit their projects as viable investment opportunities to an array of potential investors.
- Thus, it aims to boost Investment and streamline project discovery and promotion.
- Additionally, with the help of its various customizable dashboards, it allows sophisticated data analytics and informed decision making.
- IIG is an initiative of Invest India - India's National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/invest-india-the-inside-story-of-a-unique-industry-government-collaboration-to-attract-fdi-into-india/articleshow/61165128.cms>

**Q.120) Consider the following statements about 'Usutu Virus'**

1. It belongs to the poxvirus family
2. It is the active constituent of the vaccine that eradicated smallpox

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.120) Solution (d)**

Usutu virus (USUV) first identified in South Africa in 1959, is an emerging zoonotic arbovirus of concern because of its pathogenicity to humans and its similarity in ecology with other emerging arboviruses such as West Nile Virus. USUV is a flavivirus belonging to the Japanese encephalitis complex.

USUV has been reported from several African countries including Senegal, Central African Republic, Nigeria, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, and Morocco.

Source: <https://www.pressreader.com/india/the-hindu/20171015/282260960690308>

**Q.121) Which of the following is/are impacted by 'Bottom Trawling'?**

- 1. Local Fishing
- 2. Ocean-based tourism
- 3. Coral Reefs

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.121) Solution (d)**

Bottom trawling often leads to overfishing because the gear is not selective and discards a lot of dead fish. Overfishing by bottom trawls is a direct threat to local fishing communities and to tourism from sport fishing.

Corals, seagrasses and other seafloor habitats are especially vulnerable to disturbance by bottom trawling, and can be extremely slow to recover. Bottom trawling flattens any



upright structure on the seafloor, destroying coral reefs and other places where juvenile fish hide.

Ocean-based tourism involving snorkeling, diving, and sport fishing is directly threatened by discards of the marine wildlife people most want to see. Bottom trawling not only affects valuable fish species, but also threatens sea turtles, sharks and rays, seagrasses and coral reefs.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/india-acts-against-bottom-trawling/article19864138.ece>

**Q.122) Consider the following statements about National e-Governance Services Ltd. (NeSL)**

1. It is India's first information utility (IU) for bankruptcy cases under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code
2. It is completely owned by the State Bank of India and the Life Insurance Corporation
3. It is incorporated as a union government company

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.122) Solution (c)**

NeSL is India's first Information Utility and is registered with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) under the aegis of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC). The company has been set up by leading banks and public institutions and is incorporated as a union government company. The primary role of NeSL is to serve as a repository of legal evidence holding the information pertaining to any debt/claim, as submitted by the financial or operational creditor and verified and authenticated by the other parties to the debt.

NeSL is owned and promoted by leading public institutions like State Bank of India, Life Insurance Corporation, Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, ICICI Bank, CDSL, HDFC, Axis Bank, Union Bank of India and NABARD among others.

An Information Utility is a professional organization (which is registered with IBBI under Section 210 of IBC, 2016 as per the eligibility criteria prescribed) that will collect financial

information, get the same authenticated by other parties connected to the debt & store the same and provide access to the Resolution Professionals, Creditors and other stake holders in the Insolvency Resolution Process, so that all stake holders can make decisions based on the same information.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/nesl-gets-final-nod-to-become-indias-first-information-utility/article19761236.ece>

**Q.123) Global Hunger Index (GHI) is released by**

- a) International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- b) Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA)
- c) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- d) World Bank

**Q.123) Solution (a)**

The Index was adopted and further developed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and was first published in 2006 with the Welthungerhilfe, a German non-profit organization (NPO). Since 2007, the Irish NGO Concern Worldwide joined the group as co-publisher.

India is ranked 100th out of 119 countries.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-100th-on-global-hunger-index-trails-north-korea-bangladesh/article19846437.ece>

**Q.124) Consider the following statements about Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE)**

- 1. It is used in a Formicarium
- 2. It is hydrophobic
- 3. It has low heat resistance

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.124) Solution (a)**

PTFE (Teflon) is best known for its use in coating non-stick frying pans and other cookware, as it is hydrophobic and possesses fairly high heat resistance.

Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) is a synthetic fluoropolymer of tetrafluoroethylene that has numerous applications.

PTFE is used to prevent ants climbing out of formicaria.

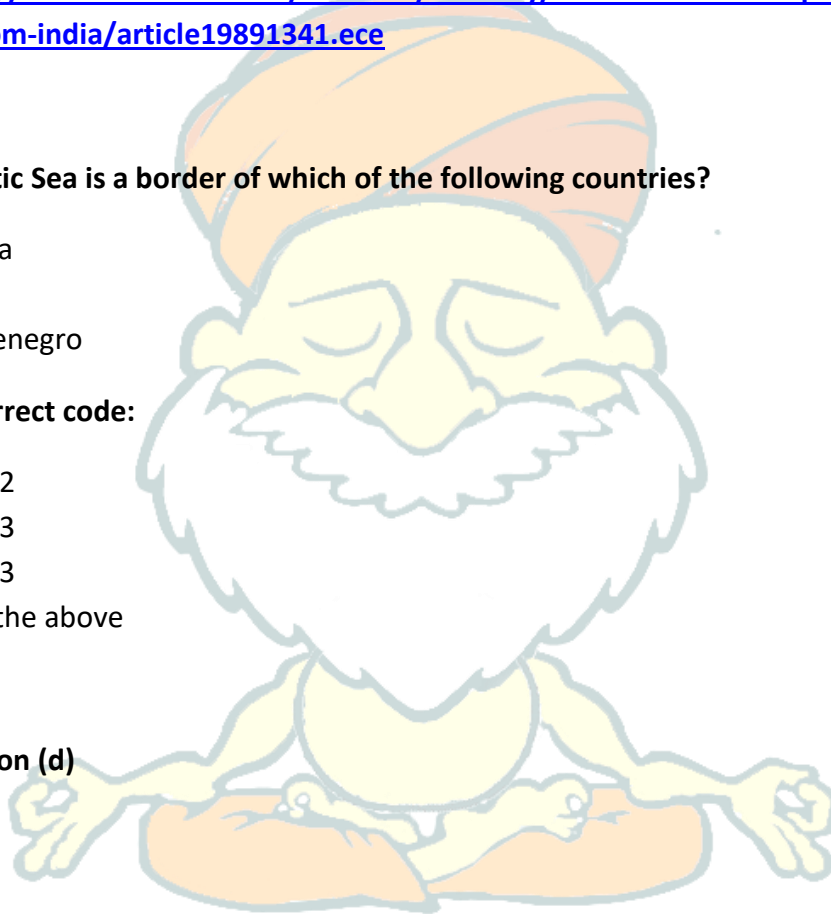
Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/us-starts-anti-dumping-probe-into-ptfe-resin-from-india/article19891341.ece>

**Q.125) Adriatic Sea is a border of which of the following countries?**

1. Croatia
2. Italy
3. Montenegro

Select the correct code:

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

**Q.125) Solution (d)**



**Q.126) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

**Folk Music/Dance**

**State**

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Gotipua       | Odisha           |
| 2. Siddhi Dhamal | Gujarat          |
| 3. Bhand Pather  | Himachal Pradesh |

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.126) Solution (a)**

- Bhand Pather of Kashmir
- Gotipua from Odisha
- Siddhi Dhamal from Gujarat

**Source:** <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171704>

**Q.127) Which of the following statements is/are correct about 'circadian rhythm'?**

1. It is a biological rhythm with a twelve hour cycle
2. It can be found in plants and animals only
3. It can be synchronized by environmental cycles

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.127) Solution (c)**

A circadian clock, or circadian oscillator, is a biochemical oscillator that cycles with a stable phase and is synchronized with solar time.

Such a clock's in vivo period, is necessarily almost exactly 24 hours (the earth's current solar day). In most living things, internally synchronized circadian clocks make it possible for the organism to anticipate daily environmental changes corresponding with the day–night cycle and adjust its biology and behaviour accordingly.

The term circadian derives from the Latin circa (about) diem (a day), since when taken away from external cues (such as environmental light), they do not run to exactly 24 hours. Clocks in humans in a lab in constant low light, for example, will average about 24.2 hours per day, rather than 24 hours exactly.

The normal body clock oscillates with an endogenous period of exactly 24 hours, it entrains, when it receives sufficient daily corrective signals from the environment, primarily daylight and darkness. Circadian clocks are the central mechanisms that drive circadian rhythms.

It can be disrupted by prolonged exposure to constant darkness

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/what-is-circadian-rhythm/article19785658.ece>

**Q.128) Which of the following is/are features of the Baratang Island?**

1. Limestone caves
2. Mud volcanoes
3. Sentinelese Tribe

Select the correct code:

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

**Q.128) Solution (a)**

Baratang Island is an island of the Andaman Islands. It belongs to the North and Middle Andaman administrative district, part of the Indian union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Beaches, mangrove creeks, limestone caves, and mud volcanoes are some of the physical features. Baratang contains the only known examples of mud volcanoes in India.

This island is inhabited mainly by the local Jarawa tribes.

**THINK**

- Barren Island volcano
- Narcondum volcano

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2017/oct/02/andaman-opens-alternate-sea-route-to-baratang-island-to-protect-jarawas-1665376.html>

**Q.129) The Gulf of Suez is bordered by**

1. Egypt
2. Jordan
3. Saudi Arabia

Select the correct code:

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

**Q.129) Solution (c)**

The Gulf of Suez is entirely bordered by Egypt.

The Gulf of Aqaba borders Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.



**Q.130) Consider the following statements about 'Chicago Convention'**

1. It established the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
2. It looks into acts that may jeopardize the safety of the aircraft
3. India is a party to the convention

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.130) Solution (c)**

The Convention on International Civil Aviation, also known as the Chicago Convention, established the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a specialized agency of the UN charged with coordinating and regulating international air travel. The Convention establishes rules of airspace, aircraft registration and safety, and details the rights of the signatories in relation to air travel. The Convention also exempts air fuels in transit from (double) taxation.

The document was signed on December 7, 1944, in Chicago by 52 signatory states. It received the requisite 26th ratification on March 5, 1947 and went into effect on April 4, 1947, the same date that ICAO came into being. In October of the same year, ICAO became a specialized agency of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

India is a party.

Tokyo Convention is applicable to offences against penal law and to any acts jeopardising the safety of persons or property on board civilian aircraft while in-flight and engaged in international air navigation.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/home-ministry-set-to-take-over-bureau-of-civil-aviation-security-4911537/>

**Q.131) Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA)**

1. All the digitally illiterate person from every rural household is eligible for the scheme
2. National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology is the only National Level Certifying Agency for the scheme
3. CSC e-Governance Services India Limited is the implementing agency

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.131) Solution (d)**

**Statement 1 –**

- The beneficiary should be Digitally Illiterate
- Only one person per eligible household would be considered for training
- Age Group: 14 - 60 years

**Statement 2 –**

Independent external evaluation will be conducted by a National level certifying agency like NIELIT, NIOS, IGNOU, HKCL, ICTACT, NIESBUD etc.



**Statement 3 –**

The scheme will be implemented by CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) incorporated under the Companies Act 1956, under the overall supervision of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, with active collaboration of all the State Governments and UT Administrations.

**Q.132) Which of the following countries are full members of Square Kilometre Array (SKA)?**

1. Canada
2. China
3. India
4. Italy

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.132) Solution (d)**

The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) is a large multi radio telescope project aimed to be built in Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.

Organisations from ten countries are currently members of the SKA Organisation – Australia, Canada, China, India, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

**Q.133) The India–Myanmar border has the Free Movement Regime (FMR) which allows the tribes living along the border to travel 16-km across the boundary without visa restrictions. A visa-free movement regime (FMR) exists in which of the following states?**

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

Select the correct code:

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

**Q.133) Solution (b)**

The India–Myanmar border has the Free Movement Regime (FMR) which allows the tribes living along the border to travel 16-km across the boundary without visa restrictions

A visa-free movement regime (FMR) exists in the four states (Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh) along the Indo-Myanmar border, under which people from both countries can stay for up to 72 hours in the area with effective and valid permits issued by the designated authorities on either side.

**Q.134) 'Rafah Crossing Point' is often in news. Where is it located?**

- a) Egypt and Gaza Strip
- b) Jordan and Syria
- c) Syria and Iraq
- d) Israel and Lebanon

**Q.134) Solution (a)**

**Rafah Border Crossing**

- The Rafah Border Crossing or Rafah Crossing Point is the sole crossing point between Egypt and Gaza Strip.
- It is located on the Gaza–Egypt border, which was recognized by the 1979 Israel–Egypt Peace Treaty.
- The original crossing point was named Rafah land port. Only passage of persons takes place through the Rafah Border Crossing.
- All traffic of goods is diverted to the Kerem Shalom border crossing.

**Q.135) Which of the following statements about 'Greater bamboo lemur' is/are correct?**

- a) They are native to Madagascar only
- b) They are 'Critically Endangered' under the IUCN Red List
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

**Q.135) Solution (c)****Greater bamboo lemur**

- It is the largest bamboo lemur, at over five pounds or nearly 2.5 kilograms.
- Its current range is restricted to southeastern Madagascar, although fossils indicate its former range extended across bigger areas of the island, including as far north as Ankarana.
- It almost exclusively eats a single species of bamboo, including the woody trunk, known as culm.
- This species is listed on Appendix I of CITES. This species has also been on the list of the World's 25 Most Endangered Primates.

**Q.135) Consider the following statements about 'SELENE'**

1. It is a space telescope mainly used to perform high precision observations of electrons and gamma rays
2. It is developed and sponsored by JAXA and NASA

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.135) Solution (d)****SELENE**

- Selenological and Engineering Explorer, better known as Kaguya in Japan by its nickname was the second Japanese lunar orbiter spacecraft following the Hiten probe.

- Produced by the Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS) and the National Space Development Agency (NASDA), the spacecraft was launched in September 2007.
- After successfully orbiting the Moon for a year and eight months, the main orbiter was instructed to impact on the lunar surface near the crater Gill in June, 2009.

### Objectives

- Study the origins of the Moon and its geologic evolution
- Obtain information about the lunar surface environment
- Perform radio science, especially precise measurement of the Moon's gravity field

### Q.136) Which of the following statements is correct?

- a) International Energy Forum includes member states of International Energy Agency (IEA) and Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) only
- b) India is hosting the 2018 edition of the International Energy Forum Ministerial
- c) United Arab Emirates hosted the 7th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER7)
- d) Both (b) and (c)

### Q.136) Solution (b)

The International Energy Forum, also known as IEF, is the world's largest recurring gathering of energy ministers. It is unique in that participants not only include IEA and OPEC countries, but also key international actors such as Brazil, China, India, Mexico, Russia, and South Africa. The IEF countries account for more than 90 percent of global oil and gas supply and demand. The IEF is promoted by a permanent Secretariat based in the Diplomatic Quarter of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Asia Ministerial Energy Round Table Government of Thailand hosted the 7th Asian Ministerial Energy Round Table (AMER7) between 1 November-3 November 2017). It was co-Hosted by the United Arab Emirates.

The 16th International Energy Forum Ministerial (IEF16) gathers IEF Energy Ministers, industry leaders, and heads of key international organisations to debate the future of global energy security on 10-12 April 2018 in New Delhi under the theme "The Future of Global Energy Security: Transition, Technology, Trade and Investment." Hosted by India and co-hosted by China and Korea, IEF16 aims to focus on how global shifts, transition policies and new technologies influence market stability and future investment in the energy sector.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173163>

**Q.137) Consider the following statements about Project HIMANK**

1. It is a project of the Ministry of Home Affairs
2. It is associated with the construction of roads in states bordered with China

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.137) Solution (d)**

Project HIMANK, is a project of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in the Ladakh region of northernmost India that started in August 1985. Himank is responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads and related infrastructure including the world's highest motorable roads across the Khardung La, Tanglang La and Chang La passes. Himank's work ensures access to sensitive military areas including the world's highest battle-ground at the Siachen Glacier and Pangong Tso Lake (at 14500 ft) whose waters span the de facto India-China border.

BRO is under the Ministry of Defence

Border Roads Organization (BRO) has constructed the world's highest motorable road in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir, passing through Umling La Top at a height of over 19,300 feet. The world's highest motorable road passes through Umling La Top in Ladakh at a height of over 19,300 feet and connects Chisumle and Demchok villages, located 230km from Leh.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Politics/YpojBHOzLBVypMDOyIGPXJ/BRO-builds-worlds-highest-motorable-road-in-Ladakh-at-1930.html>

**Q.138) India falls under which of the following categories?**

- a) Low-income economies
- b) Lower-middle-income economies
- c) Upper-middle-income economies
- d) High-income economies

**Q.138) Solution (b)**

India maybe high middle-income economy in 30 years: World Bank

The World Bank considers countries of regions with a Gross National Income per capita between \$3,956 and \$12,235 as high middle-income economies.

India currently falls in the lower middle-income category, recording a GNI per capita of \$1,680 in 2016, according to World Bank data.

While lower income economies accounted for GNI per capita of \$1,005 or less in 2016, lower middle-income economies were those between \$1,006 and \$3,955, and high income economies had \$12,236 or more.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/business-news/world-bank-says-india-could-be-a-high-middle-income-economy-in-30-years-what-does-this-mean/story-KGshH20TZqQrGnZFm7kzbj.html>

**Q.139) 'Lead' is likely to be found in which of the following?**

1. Lipstick
2. Household paints
3. PVC plumbing pipes

Select the correct code:

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

**Q.139) Solution (d)**

Lead Contamination due to PVC pipes is one of the major contributing factors of groundwater pollution in India.

It's very difficult to find lead free lipstick in India as almost every brand uses lead in some amount to increase the pigments; long staying lipsticks supposedly have more lead content.

All household paints should have lead less than 90 ppm (parts per million) and their label should say so, according to new rules.

The rules issued by the environment ministry and enforced by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) regulate lead in household and decorative paints.

Lead imparts colour in some cases, makes the paint more durable, corrosion-resistant and speeds up drying.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/environment/if-your-paint-label-doesn-t-say-lead-less-than-90-ppm-don-t-buy-it/story-agL3ICozFbenZct1y2afDI.html>

**Q.140) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

Joint Exercise	Country
1. SAMPRITI	India and Bangladesh
2. PRABAL DOSTYK	India and Kazakhstan
3. Desert Tiger	United Arab Emirates & India

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.140) Solution (a)**

SAMPRITI - India and Bangladesh

PRABAL DOSTYK - India and Kazakhstan

Desert Eagle - United Arab Emirates & India

Desert Tiger – Malaysia and UAE

**Q.141) Consider the following statements about 'Dracunculiasis'**

- 1. It is a Neglected tropical disease (NTD)
- 2. It is endemic to South America
- 3. It is spread by drinking water containing Guinea worm larvae

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.141) Solution (c)**

Dracunculiasis, also called Guinea-worm disease (GWD), is an infection by the Guinea worm. A person becomes infected when they drink water that contains water fleas infected with guinea worm larvae.

Guinea-worm disease is seasonal, occurring with two broad patterns found in endemic areas of Africa, depending on climatic factors.

In the Sahelian zone, transmission generally occurs in the rainy season (May to August).

In the humid savanna and forest zone, the peak occurs in the dry season (September to January).

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a diverse group of tropical infections which are especially common in low-income populations in developing regions of Africa, Asia, and the Americas. They are caused by a variety of pathogens such as viruses, bacteria, protozoa and helminths.

- Buruli Ulcer
- Chagas disease
- Dengue & Chikungunya
- Dracunculiasis
- Echinococcosis
- Yaws
- Fascioliasis
- African trypanosomiasis
- Leishmaniasis
- Leprosy
- Lymphatic filariasis
- Onchocerciasis
- Rabies
- Schistosomiasis
- Soil-transmitted helminthiasis
- Cysticercosis
- Trachoma



Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/parasite-lost/article19985022.ece>

**Q.142) India's Distance to Frontier score is 60.7 in 2018. Distance to Frontier score is associated with which of the following organisations?**

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

**Q.142) Solution (b)**

#### **Distance to Frontier**

The distance to frontier score helps assess the absolute level of regulatory performance over time.

It measures the distance of each economy to the "frontier," which represents the best performance observed on each of the indicators across all economies in the Doing Business sample since 2005.

One can both see the gap between a particular economy's performance and the best performance at any point in time and assess the absolute change in the economy's regulatory environment over time as measured by Doing Business.

An economy's distance to frontier is reflected on a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 represents the lowest performance and 100 represents the frontier. For example, a score of 75 in 2017 means an economy was 25 percentage points away from the frontier constructed from the best performances across all economies and across time. A score of 80 in 2018 would indicate the economy is improving. Read the methodology, explaining how the ease of doing business rankings and the distance to frontier measure are calculated (PDF).

India's Distance to Frontier score in Doing Business 2018 is 60.7, which means it is around 40 percentage points away from the frontier. This year, New Zealand ranked first with a Distance to Frontier score of 86.5, followed by Singapore with 84.5.

India's Distance to Frontier score improved by 4.7 percentage points in Doing Business 2018 from 56 in Doing Business 2017.

Distance to Frontier scores were introduced in the Doing Business 2015 report.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-to-hit-ton-in-business-ease-rank/article19940995.ece>

**Q.143) Which of the following is associated with the 'United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific'**

1. Incheon Strategy
2. Biwako Millennium Framework
3. Busan Partnership

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.143) Solution (b)**

**Incheon Strategy**

- Governments of the ESCAP region gathered in Incheon, Republic of Korea in 2012 to chart the course of the new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities for the period 2013 to 2022.
- The Governments at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting adopted the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.
- The Incheon Strategy provides the Asian and Pacific region, and the world, with the first set of regionally agreed disability-inclusive development goals.
- The Incheon Strategy will enable the Asian and Pacific region to track progress towards improving the quality of life, and the fulfilment of the rights, of the region's 650 million persons with disabilities, most of whom live in poverty.

<http://www.unescap.org/resources/incheon-strategy-%E2%80%9Cmake-right-real%E2%80%9D-persons-disabilities-asia-and-pacific>

**Biwako Millennium Framework**

- BMF for Action Towards an Inclusive, Barrier-Free and Rights-Based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific

<http://www.unescap.org/resources/biwako-millennium-framework-action-towards-inclusive-barrier-free-and-rights-based-society>

#### Busan Partnership agreement

- Busan Partnership agreement sets out principles, commitments and actions that offer a foundation for effective co-operation in support of international development.
- The Busan Partnership agreement is a consensus that a wide range of governments and organisations have expressed their support for. It offers a framework for continued dialogue and efforts to enhance the effectiveness of development co-operation.

<http://www.oecd.org/development/effectiveness/busanpartnership.htm>

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/mbErel.aspx?relid=173979>

#### Q.144) Arrange the following islands from North to South

1. Paracel Islands
2. Pratas Islands
3. Senkaku Islands
4. Spartly Islands

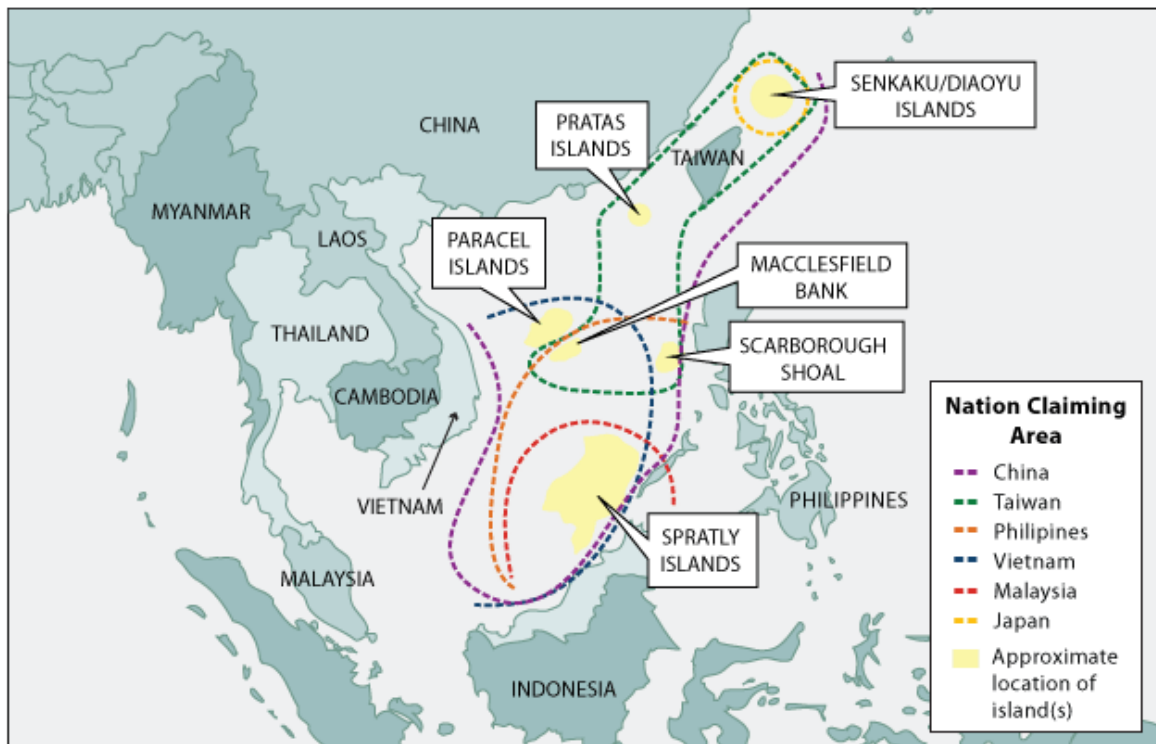
#### Select the correct code:

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

#### Q.144) Solution (a)

## China Sea Territory Disputes

This map depicts disputed islands in the China Sea, as well as the conflicting territory claims.



Sources: Money Morning staff research, NPR, Google News.

**Q.145) Consider the following statements**

1. In India, Tropic of Cancer passes through 8 States only
2. In India, 82.5° E longitude passes through 4 States only

**Select the correct statements**

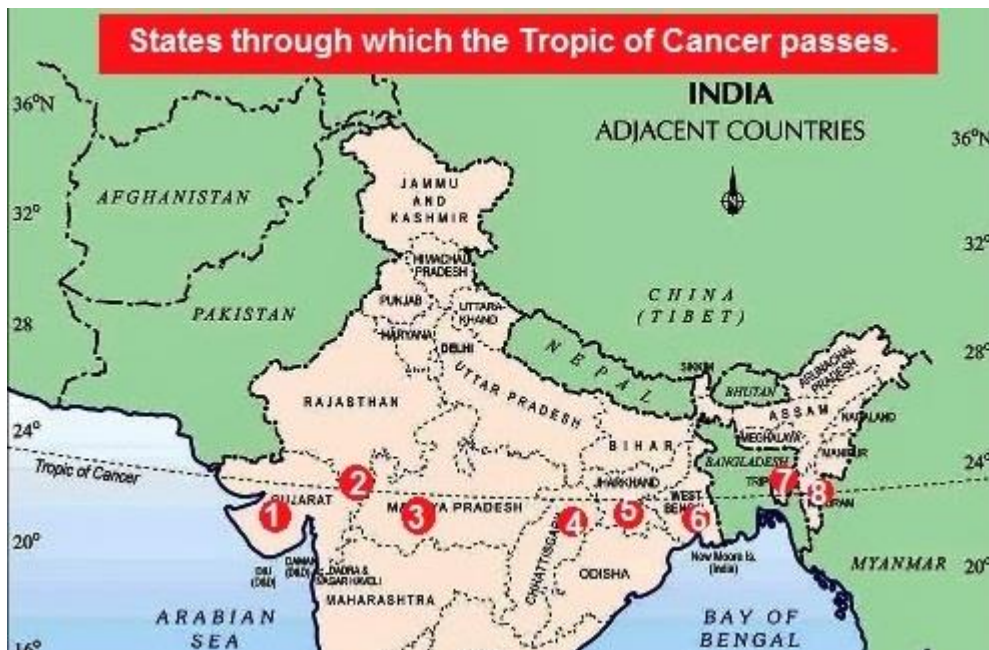
- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.145) Solution (a)**

**Tropic of Cancer passes through 8 Indian states:**

- Gujarat,
- Rajasthan,

- Madya Pradesh,
- Chhattisgarh,
- Jharkhand,
- West Bengal,
- Tripura,
- Mizoram



**82.5° E longitude passes through 5 Indian states:**

- Uttar Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh
- Chhattisgarh
- Odisha
- Andhra Pradesh

**Q.146) Consider the following statements about 'UNESCO Creative Cities Network'**

1. It was created to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development
2. Chennai, Jaipur and Varanasi are the only Indian cities part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network
3. The network includes Literature, Music and Folk Arts only

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.146) Solution (b)**

The Network covers seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts, Film, Design, Gastronomy, Literature and Music.

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development. The 180 cities which currently make up this network work together towards a common objective: placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level.

Jaipur (Crafts and Folk Arts)

Varanasi & Chennai (Music)

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/chennai-now-part-of-creative-cities-network/article20008340.ece>

**Q.147) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

1. Sagol Kangjei – Manipur
2. Yubi Lakpi – Nagaland
3. Huyen Langlon - Mizoram

Select the correct code:

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

**Q.147) Solution (a)**

All are from Manipur.

Sagol Kangjei was the inspiration for modern polo. Imphal is the oldest polo ground in the world.

Huyen Langlon is a martial art.

Yubi Lakpi is played with a greased coconut instead of a rugby ball.

Source: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1510363>

**Q.148) Consider the following statements about Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)**

1. There is no CBFC certification for T.V programs and serials
2. A dubbed film is certified in the same region where the original film was certified
3. It is tasked with regulating the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952 and Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.148) Solution (a)**

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) (often referred to as the Censor Board) is a statutory censorship and classification body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. It is tasked with "regulating the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952". Films can be publicly exhibited in India only after they are certified by the Board, including films shown on television.

Ratings prescribed by CBFC - U, UA, A and S

There is no CBFC certification for T.V programs and serials. However, under Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 content code / Advertisement code have been prescribed for programme and advertisements appearing in cable TV Network. The offences under Cable Television Network Regulation Act being non-cognizable, a specific complaint has to be made by an Officer authorised by the State Governments.

A dubbed film is certified in the same region where the original film was certified. For instance, after a Malayalam film is certified in Thiruvananthapuram region, all further dubbed versions in other languages - Tamil, Telugu etc. are examined and certified by

Thiruvananthapuram region only unless written waiver is given by Chairperson u/r 21. However, for films which are dubbed in Hindi, the certification will be done in Mumbai only.

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2017/nov/21/padmavati-row-states-cant-ban-movie-before-censor-board-certification-says-former-cbfc-chairman-p-1706654.html>

**Q.149) Consider the following statements about 'Anasuya Sarabhai'**

1. She was involved in the Ahmedabad Mill Strike
2. She is the pioneer of women's labour movement in India
3. She founded the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association (Majadoor Mahajan Sangh) in 1920

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.149) Solution (d)**

In England she was influenced by the Fabian Society and new ideas concerning equality and got involved with the Suffragette struggle.

Back home in India, she worked with dis-empowered women.

She decided to get involved in the labour movement after witnessing exhausted female mill workers returning home after a 36-hour shift.

In 1914, she helped Ahmedabad's weavers successfully organise their first strike for higher wages.

In the years that followed, she went on to become their most vocal supporter, negotiating with the mill owners - including her brother - for better working conditions.

She was supported in her work by the father of nation, Mahatma Gandhi, with whom she set up Gujarat's oldest labour union, which later paved the way for the founding of the Self-Employed Women's Association of India (SEWA).



She founded India's oldest union of textile workers the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association (Majadoor Mahajan Sangh) in 1920.

She was a part of Ahmedabad Mill Strike.

She was influenced by the Fabian Society, and got involved in the Suffragette movement.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/google-celebrates-132nd-birth-anniversary-of-anasuya-sarabhai/article20190056.ece>

**Q.150) Consider the following statements about Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)**

1. It is being implemented with a view to promote organic farming
2. It focuses on creating sources for assured irrigation and protective irrigation by harnessing rain water at micro level
3. Under this scheme, an area of 5 lakh acre is targeted to be covered through 10,000 clusters of 50 acre each

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.150) Solution (c)**

**Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana**

**About**

- It is an elaborated component of Soil Health Management (SHM) of major project National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).
- Under PKVY Organic farming is promoted through adoption of organic village by cluster approach and PGS certification.

**The Scheme envisages:**

- Promotion of commercial organic production through certified organic farming.
- The produce will be pesticide residue free and will contribute to improve the health of consumer.
- It will raise farmer's income and create potential market for traders.

- It will motivate the farmers for natural resource mobilization for input production

#### Implementation

- Groups of farmers would be motivated to take up organic farming under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY).
- Fifty or more farmers will form a cluster having 50 acre land to take up the organic farming under the scheme. In this way during three years 10,000 clusters will be formed covering 5.0 lakh acre area under organic farming.
- There will be no liability on the farmers for expenditure on certification.
- Every farmer will be provided Rs. 20,000 per acre in three years for seed to harvesting of crops and to transport produce to the market.
- Organic farming will be promoted by using traditional resources and the organic products will be linked with the market.
- It will increase domestic production and certification of organic produce by involving farmers.

#### Q.151) Consider the following statements about 'Balfour Declaration'

1. It stated that the British government supported the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people
2. It was issued post 1948 Palestinian exodus

#### Select the correct statements

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

#### Q.151) Solution (a)

The Balfour Declaration was a public statement issued by the British government during World War I announcing support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine, then an Ottoman region with a minority Jewish population (around 3–5% of the total).

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/100-years-on-uks-balfour-declaration-stirs-celebration-and-mourning-in-west-asia/article19976491.ece>

**Q.152) 'Global Financial Development Report' is published by**

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) World Trade Organization
- d) None of the above

**Q.152) Solution (b)**

It is published by World Bank.

Global Financial Development Report 2017/2018: Bankers without Borders is the fourth in a World Bank series. It provides a unique contribution to financial sector policy debates, building on novel data, surveys, research, and wide-ranging country experience, with emphasis on emerging markets and developing economies.

The report's findings and policy recommendations are relevant for policy makers, staff of central banks, ministries of finance, and financial regulation agencies.

The report tracks financial systems in more than 200 economies before and during the global financial crisis.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/international-banking-must-for-better-growth-prospectsworld-bank/article20002840.ece>

**Q.153) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

- 1. Tholpavakoothu – Andhra Pradesh
- 2. Mamallapuram stone sculptures - Tamil Nadu
- 3. Ravanachhaya – Maharashtra

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.153) Solution (a)**

**Shadow Puppetry**

- Tholpavakoothu – Kerala
- Ravanachhaya – Odisha
- Tholu Bommalata – Andhra Pradesh
- Togalu Gombeyatta – Karnataka

Mamallapuram stone sculptures - Tamil Nadu

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/art/puppetry-in-odisha-who-is-pulling-the-strings/article20781988.ece>

**Q.154) New research has revealed that the oldest water in the ocean in the North Pacific has remained trapped in a shadow zone around 2 kilometres below the sea surface for over 1,000 years. Consider the following statements about this zone.**

1. Oxygenation of the zone is very low
2. Marine life is restricted
3. The zone traps millennia old nutrients and carbon

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.154) Solution (d)**

It was found is that at around 1.2 miles (2km) below the surface of the Indian and Pacific Oceans there is a 'shadow zone' with barely any vertical movement that suspends ocean water in an area for centuries.

The research found that water at the bottom of the ocean, heated by geothermal energy deep within the planet, was unable to rise above 1.5 miles (2.5km) below the surface.

Instead of travelling upwards, currents loop back on themselves horizontally, leaving the layer directly above untouched.

Carbon-14 dating had already told us the most ancient water lied in the deep North Pacific.

The lack of contact with the ocean's surface means oxygenation of the zone is very low. That means marine life is restricted, but not completely absent.

The 'shadow zone' covers an area 3,700 by 1,250 (6,000 by 2,000 km) where the North Pacific meets the Indian Ocean, between 0.6 and 1.5 miles (one and 2.5 km) below the surface

It could help understand the capacity of the oceans to absorb heat trapped by rising greenhouse gases.

When this isolated shadow zone traps millennia old ocean water it also traps nutrients and carbon.



Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/what-is-the-pacific-shadow-zone/article20236733.ece>

**Q.155) 'Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana' is associated with**

- a) Numismatics
- b) Philately
- c) Rural Digital Literacy
- d) Empowerment of scheduled tribes based on sustainable S&T activities/applications

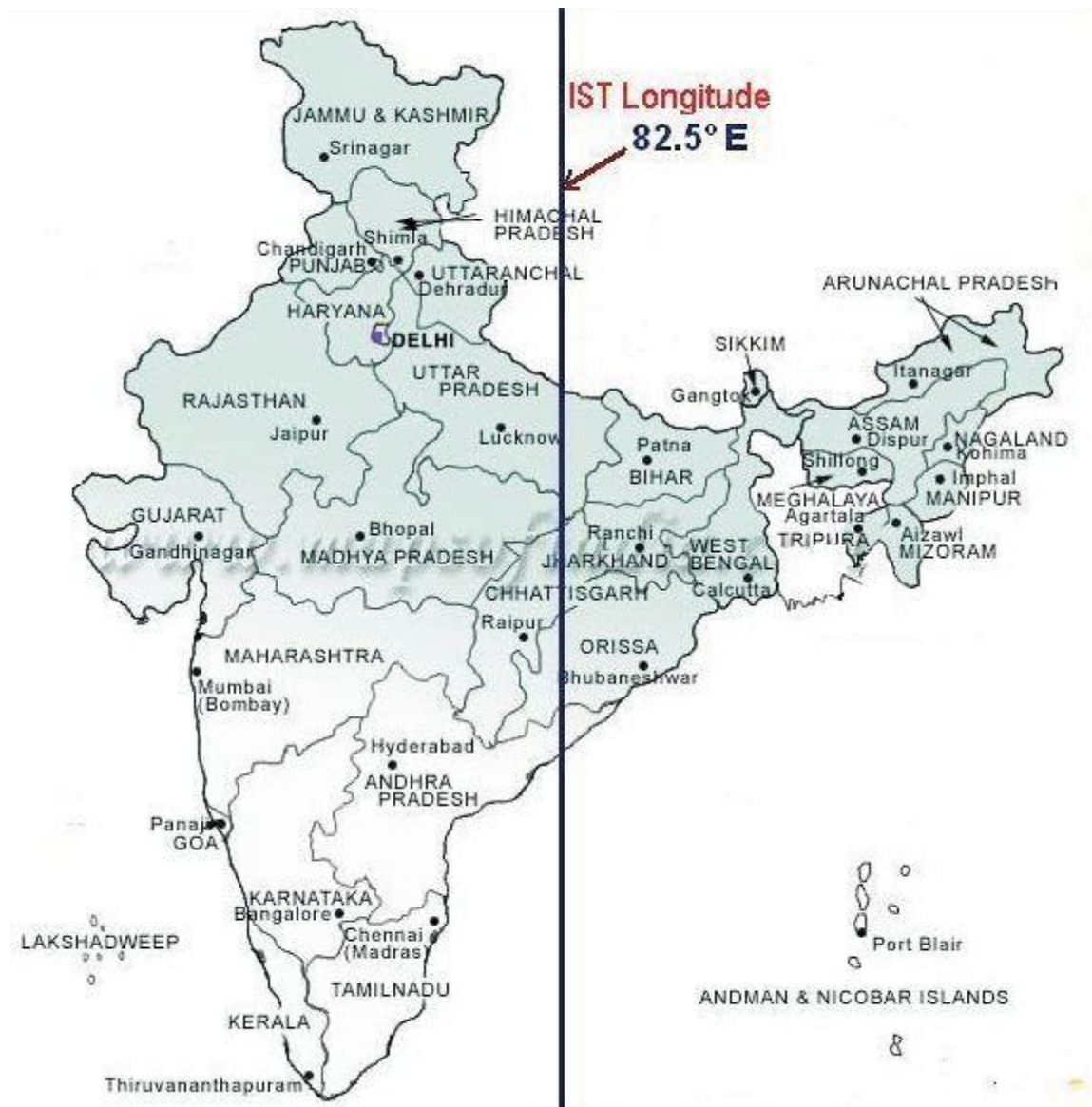
**Q.155) Solution (b)**

SPARSH - Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby

It is a pan India Scholarship programme to children of Standard VI to IX having good academic record and also pursuing Philately as a hobby.

Launched by Ministry of Communication

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173212>



**Q.156) Consider the following statements about International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)**

1. It aims to reduce poverty and hunger
2. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is IRRI's nodal agency in India
3. Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP) is being led in Asia by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

**Select the correct fees**

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

**Q.156) Solution (d)**

India began its partnership with IRRI through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in 1967 when Indian scientists from ICAR's two main rice research centers—the Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI) in Cuttack and the Directorate of Rice Research (DRR) in Hyderabad—began regularly visiting IRRI. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is IRRI's nodal agency in India.

It aims to reduce poverty and hunger, improve the health of rice farmers and consumers, and ensure environmental sustainability of rice farming.

It is headquartered in Los Baños, Laguna in the Philippines and offices in seventeen countries

India is setting up a regional centre of the IRRI in Varanasi

**CGIAR (formerly the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research)**

- It is a global partnership that unites organizations engaged in research for a food-secured future.
- CGIAR research is dedicated to reducing rural poverty, increasing food security, improving human health and nutrition, and ensuring sustainable management of natural resources.

**Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP)**

- Also known as the CGIAR Research Program on Rice, is an initiative of the CGIAR to bring together research and development partners from around the world to undertake and deliver rice research.
- Launched in November 2010, GRiSP aims to "aims to dramatically improve the ability of rice farmers to feed growing populations in some of the world's poorest nations".
- GRiSP is being led in Asia by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), in Africa by the Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice), and in Latin America by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT).

**Think**

- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/narendra-modi-visits-rice-research-institute-meets-indian-scientists/article20378607.ece>

**Q.157) Consider the following statements about 'Konyaks'**

1. They have the largest population among the Nagas
2. They have now adopted Buddhism
3. They were known for the tradition of headhunting

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.157) Solution (c)**

The Konyaks are a Naga people. They are easily distinguishable from other Naga tribes by their pierced ears; and tattoos which they have all over their faces, hands, chests, arms, and calves.

The Konyaks have the largest population among the Nagas. They are found in Tirap, Longding, and Changlang districts of Arunachal Pradesh; Sibsagar District of Assam; and also in Myanmar. They are known in Arunachal Pradesh as the Wanchos-- 'Wancho' is a synonymous term for 'Konyak'. Ethnically, culturally, and linguistically the Noctes of the same neighbouring state of Arunachal Pradesh, are also closely related to the Konyaks.



The Konyak language belongs to the Northern Naga sub branch of the Sal subfamily of Sino-Tibetan.

The Konyaks were the last among the Naga tribes to accept Christianity. In the past, they were infamous for marauding nearby villages of other tribes, often resulting in killings and decapitations of the heads of opposing warriors. The decapitated heads were taken as trophies and usually hung in the 'Baan' (a communal house). The number of hunted heads indicated the power of a warrior. The headhunting expeditions were often driven by, and founded on certain beliefs, code of honour; and, principles of loyalty and sacrifice.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kozhikode/chronicling-the-konyaks/article19978027.ece>

**Q.158) Consider the following statements about 'Gene Silencing'**

1. It aims to reduce or eliminate the production of a protein from its corresponding gene
2. It involves disabling the function of mRNA by preventing it from being translated into a protein
3. It can be used to treat Huntington's disease (HD) by targeting the mutant huntingtin protein

**Select the correct statements**

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

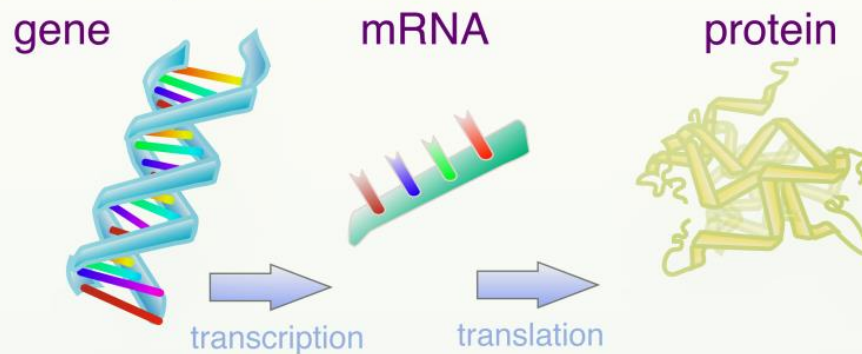
**Q.158) Solution (d)**

As the name implies, gene silencing is a technique that aims to reduce or eliminate the production of a protein from its corresponding gene. Genes are sections of DNA that contain the instructions for making proteins. Proteins are essential molecules that perform an array of functions including signaling between cells, speeding up biochemical reactions, and providing structural support for the cell. Each gene is responsible for producing a corresponding protein in a two-step process. First, a copy of the information encoded in a gene is made in the form of messenger RNA (mRNA), a process known as transcription. This occurs in the nucleus of the cell, the cellular structure where all of the cell's genetic material

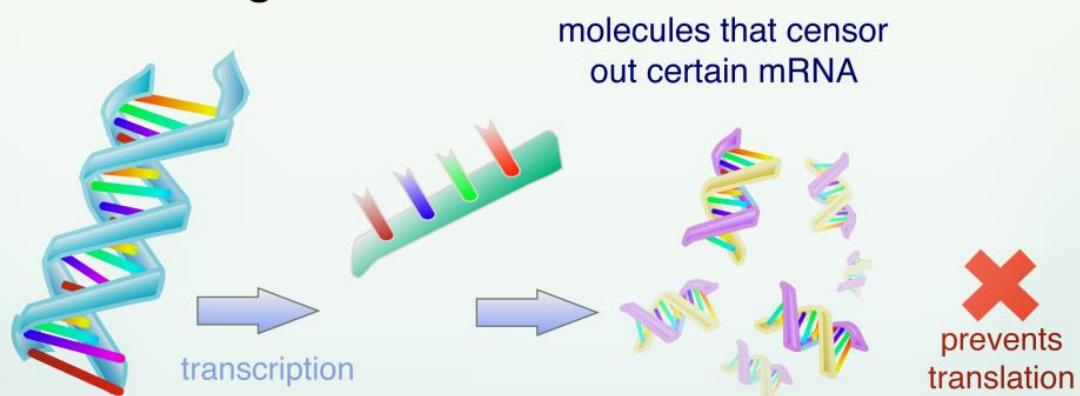
is contained. The mRNA subsequently travels out of the nucleus, and the genetic information it carries is used to produce a specific protein, a process known as translation.

Instead of directly editing DNA or inhibiting the transcription process, the key idea behind gene silencing is intervening in gene expression prior to translation. By designing a molecule that can specifically identify and breakdown the mRNA carrying instructions for making a certain protein, scientists have been able to effectively decrease levels of that protein. Imagine the gene silencing molecule as a censor and mRNA as messages from genes that are broadcast into proteins: the molecule will censor out a specified mRNA message, preventing the corresponding protein from being broadcast into the cell, and thus silencing the gene that is providing these instructions. The ability to significantly lower the levels of a specific protein opens up many possibilities in scientific research and drug development, since proteins are critically involved in the proper function and structure of cells.

### normal protein production



### gene silencing



There are various gene silencing methods currently employed in research and being developed as potential disease therapeutics. Nearly all of them involve disabling the function of mRNA by preventing it from being translated into a protein.

Huntington's disease (HD) results from a mutation in the huntingtin gene that causes an excess of CAG repeats. The gene then forms a mutated huntingtin protein with polyglutamine repeats near the amino terminus. This disease is incurable and known to cause motor, cognitive, and behavioral deficits. Researchers have been looking to gene silencing as a potential therapeutic for HD.

Gene silencing can be used to treat HD by targeting the mutant huntingtin protein.

Gene silencing is often considered the same as gene knockdown. When genes are silenced, their expression is reduced. In contrast, when genes are knocked out, they are completely erased from the organism's genome and, thus, have no expression. Gene silencing is considered a gene knockdown mechanism since the methods used to silence genes, such as RNAi, CRISPR, or siRNA, generally reduce the expression of a gene by at least 70% but do not completely eliminate it. Methods using gene silencing are often considered better than gene knockouts since they allow researchers to study essential genes that are required for the animal models to survive and cannot be removed. In addition, they provide a more complete view on the development of diseases since diseases are generally associated with genes that have a reduced expression.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/agriculture/icrisat-researchers-make-peanuts-free-of-aflatoxin/article20048362.ece>

**Q.159) Consider the following statements about 'International Indian Ocean Expedition' (IIOE-2)**

1. It is organised by the Indian-Ocean Rim Association
2. It focuses on oceanographic as well as atmospheric research

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.159) Solution (b)**

The Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2) is a major global scientific program which will engage the international scientific community in collaborative oceanographic and atmospheric research from coastal environments to the deep sea over the period 2015-2020, revealing new information on the Indian Ocean (i.e. its currents, its

influence upon the climate, its marine ecosystems) which is fundamental for future sustainable development and expansion of the Indian Ocean's blue economy.

IIOE-2, as the ongoing commemorative expedition is known, is organised by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) under the UN.

IIOE-1 was a watershed event for ocean research in India - it triggered the formation of several ocean-based research institutions in India like the NIO, NIOT, INCOIS and NCAOR & ocean studies departments in various universities. The event was among the factors instrumental in rechristening the Indian Naval Physical Laboratory in 1968 to NPOL as we are known today.

INS Sagardhwani was part of it.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/sagardhwani-retraces-historic-indian-ocean-expedition-routes/article20790777.ece>

**Q.160) 'Aditya - L1 Mission' is mean to observe**

1. Photosphere
2. Chromosphere
3. Corona

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.160) Solution (c)**

Aditya-1 was meant to observe only the solar corona. The outer layers of the Sun, extending to thousands of km above the disc (photosphere) is termed as the corona. It has a temperature of more than a million degree Kelvin which is much higher than the solar disc temperature of around 6000K. How the corona gets heated to such high temperatures is still an unanswered question in solar physics.

Aditya-L1 with additional experiments can now provide observations of Sun's Photosphere (soft and hard X-ray), Chromosphere (UV) and corona (Visible and NIR).

Source: <https://www.isro.gov.in/aditya-l1-first-indian-mission-to-study-sun>

**Q.161) Which of the following initiatives is associated with Indian Railways?**

1. SRESTHA
2. NIVARAN
3. SUTRA

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.161) Solution (d)**

'NIVARAN is the Indian Railways' internal Grievance Portal for resolution of service related grievances of serving and former railway employees

SRESTHA - New R&D organisation to serve the future technology needs of Railways.

SUTRA World class data analytics, simulation softwares, network optimisation and decision support systems.

**THINK**

- IR-OneICT

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/mbErel.aspx?relid=174358>

**Q.162) A number of countries have formed coalitions in the WTO. These groups often speak with one voice using a single coordinator or negotiating team. G-33 is one of them. G-33 is a**

- a) Coalition of developing countries seeking flexibilities to limit market opening in industrial goods trade
- b) Coalition of developing countries pressing for flexibility for developing countries to undertake limited market opening in agriculture
- c) Coalition of countries with less than 35% of non-agricultural products covered by legally bound tariff ceilings. They have agreed to increase their binding coverage substantially, but want to exempt some products

- d) Coalition of developing countries seeking greater market access for tropical products

**Q.162) Solution (b)**

G-33 Also called “Friends of Special Products” in agriculture. It is a coalition of developing countries pressing for flexibility for developing countries to undertake limited market opening in agriculture.

WTO members (47): Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Plurinational State of, Botswana, China, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Korea, Republic of, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Chinese Taipei, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Source: <http://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/wto-summit-why-buenos-aires-ministerial-was-a-non-event-there-was-not-even-a-big-fight/978215/>

**Q.163) Consider the following statements about 'Santa Claus Rally'**

1. It is a surge in the price of stocks that often occurs in the last week of December
2. It maybe a result of people buying stocks in anticipation of the rise in stock prices during the month of January

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.163) Solution (c)**

A Santa Claus rally is a rise in stock prices in the month of December, generally seen over the final week of trading prior to the New Year. The rally is generally attributed to anticipation of the January effect, an injection of additional funds into the market, and to additional trades which must, for accounting and tax reasons, be completed by the end of the year. Many consider the Santa Claus rally to be a result of people buying stocks in

anticipation of the rise in stock prices during the month of January, otherwise known as the January effect.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/santa-claus-rally-takes-sensex-past-34000mark/article10002702.ece>

**Q.164) The 'Global Education Monitoring Report' is published by**

- a) OECD
- b) UNESCO
- c) WEF
- d) None of the above

**Q.164) Solution (b)**

The Global Education Monitoring Report (the GEM Report, formerly known as the Education for All Global Monitoring Report) is an editorially independent, authoritative and evidence-based annual report published by UNESCO.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Politics/Xy9Yn0MsHBLiurzxfVR7aK/266-million-adults-cant-read-12-million-children-out-of-sc.html>

**Q.165) Consider the following statements about 'Indian Parliamentary Group'**

1. It acts as a link between the Parliament of India and the various Parliaments of the world
2. The Speaker, Lok Sabha is the ex-officio President of the Group
3. The Chairman, Rajya Sabha is the ex-officio Secretary-General of the Group

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.165) Solution (b)**

Indian Parliamentary Group-The Indian Parliamentary Group is an autonomous body formed in 1949 in pursuance of a motion adopted by the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on 16 August 1949. The Speaker of Lok Sabha is the ex-Officio President of the Group. The Secretary-General of Lok Sabha is the ex-officio Secretary-General of the Indian Parliamentary Group.

The Secretariat to the IPU Group is provided by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. All work related to enrolment of Members, collection of subscription, accounts of the group, meetings of the Executive Committee/annual General Meetings of the I.P.G. & functions etc. held under the auspices of the IPG is handled by that Secretariat.

Membership of the Indian Parliamentary Group is open to all Members of Parliament and ex-Members of Parliament. A Member of Parliament can become a life Member of the Group on payment of life subscription. On ceasing to be a Member of Parliament, a life member of the Group is designated as 'Associate Life Member'. The management and control of the affairs of the Group are vested in the Executive Committee.

The Group aims to promote personal contacts between Members of Parliament and disseminate information to the Members of Parliament by conducting seminars etc. on the issues that are likely to come up before Parliament. It arranges lectures on political, defence, economic, social and educational problems and also arranges visits to foreign countries with a view to develop contacts with Members of other Parliaments.

The Group acts as a link between the Parliament of India and the various Parliaments of the world by exchange of delegations, goodwill missions, correspondence, documents etc. with foreign Parliaments. It also functions as the (a) National Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and (b) Main Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in India.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174983>

**Q.166) Consider the following statements about 'Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA)'**

1. It was initiated by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Department of Science & Technology (DST)
2. Technology Acquisition and Development Fund (TADF) is implemented through GITA
3. It extends financial support in form of Grant or Loan to promote industrial R&D, Technology Acquisition and International S&T Collaborative efforts.

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 Only



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

**Q.166) Solution (d)**

In order to stimulate private sector's investment in R&D, an innovative pilot project named Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA) was initiated by CII and the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India in 2007-08.

Technology Acquisition and Development Fund (TADF) implemented through Global Innovation and Technology Alliance (GITA), a joint venture company

**Mandate**

- **Funding** - GITA extends financial support in form of Grant /Loan/Conditional Grant to promote industrial R&D, innovation, Technology Acquisition and International S & T Collaborative efforts.
- **Capacity Building** - GITA catalyses innovation and empowers ideas through training and offering specialized information, matchmaking, IP protection etc. in the areas of technology design and IPR management.
- **Strengthening Eco System** - GITA is involved in Technical, Financial, Strategic policy research and recommendation to industry, research institution, State & Central Government and offers global networking platforms.
- **Deployments** - GITA is mandated to facilitate the implementation of various innovative and revolutionary scientific and technological industrial research and development projects worldwide.

**Q.167) Consider the following statements about 'Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme'**

1. It was launched in 2014 by Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Science and Technology
2. SCAAP (Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme) is a corollary of the ITEC
3. It is strictly bilateral in nature

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only

- c) 1 and 2
- d) 2 and 3

**Q.167) Solution (b)**

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme was instituted by a decision of the Indian Cabinet on 15 September 1964 as a bilateral programme of assistance of the Government of India.

Under ITEC and its sister programme SCAAP (Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme), 161 countries in Asia, Africa, East Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean as well as Pacific and Small Island countries are invited to share in the Indian developmental experience acquired over six decades of India's existence as a free nation.

The ITEC Programme is essentially bilateral in nature. However, in recent years, ITEC resources have also been used for cooperation programmes conceived in regional and inter-regional context such as Economic Commission for Africa, Commonwealth Secretariat, UNIDO, Group of 77 and G-15. In more recent years, its activities have also been associated with regional and multilateral organizations and cooperation groupings like Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC), African Union (AU), Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), Pan African Parliament, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), World Trade Organization (WTO) and Indian Ocean Rim - Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) and India-Africa Forum Summit.

In 2012, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) set up a Development Partnership Administration (DPA) under its Economic Relations Division to consolidate outgoing aid and to streamline administrative matters related to such aid.

**Q.168) World Inequality Report is published by**

- a) OXFAM International
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) World Bank
- d) None of the above

**Q.168) Solution (d)**

World Inequality Report is a report by the World Inequality Lab at the Paris School of Economics that provides estimates of global income and wealth inequality based on the most recent findings compiled by the World Wealth and Income Database (WID).

**Q.169) India employs the '2 + 2 dialogue' format with which of the following countries?**

1. Japan
2. Australia
3. Russia

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.169) Solution (b)**

Japan and Australia

**2+2 dialogues**

- The two-plus-two dialogue comprising ministries of defence and foreign affairs discusses issues of bilateral cooperation threadbare and identifies new areas of cooperation, which are generally finalised later at the summit level interactions between the political leadership of the two states.

**Source:**

[http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29174/Inaugural IndiaAustralia 2432 Foreign Secretaries and Defence Secretaries Dialogue New Delhi December 12 2017](http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29174/Inaugural%20IndiaAustralia%202432%20Foreign%20Secretaries%20and%20Defence%20Secretaries%20Dialogue%20New%20Delhi%20December%2012%202017)

**Q.170) Consider the following statements about SANKALP and STRIVE Projects**

1. It will be supported by the World Bank
2. SANKALP is associated with health system development
3. STRIVE is aimed at improving childhood nutrition

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 Only

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

**Q.170) Solution (a)****STRIVE Project**

- The objective of the Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement Operation Project for India is to improve access to quality and market-driven vocational training provided in ITIs and apprenticeships.
- STRIVE is a Rs. 2,200 crore - central sector scheme, with half of the scheme outlay as World bank loan assistance.
- World Bank has committed USD 125 million (around Rs 800 crore) loan to India for the STRIVE project for skill development.

**The result areas for the project include**

- improved performance of industrial training institutes
- increased capacities of state governments to support industrial training institutes and apprenticeship training
- improved teaching and learning; and improved and broadened apprenticeship training

**SANKALP Project**

- World Bank's financing arm IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) will provide this USD 250 million loans.
- Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion" (SANKALP) Project
- SANKALP is Rs 4,455 crore Centrally sponsored scheme including Rs. 3,300 crore loan support from World Bank
- The Objective of the project is to enhance institutional mechanisms for skills development and increase access to quality and market-relevant training for the work force.

**The Key result areas for the project include Institutional Strengthening at the National and State Levels for**

- Planning, Delivering, and Monitoring High-Quality Market-Relevant Training;
- Improved Quality and Market Relevance of Skills Development Programs;

- Improved access to and completion of skills training for female trainees and other disadvantaged groups;
- Expanding skills training through private-public partnerships (PPPs)

**Q.171) World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) Report is published by**

1. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
2. World Economic Forum (WEF)
3. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.171) Solution (c)**

The World Economic Situation and Prospects report is the UN's flagship publication on expected trends in the global economy.

The report is a joint product of the

- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- Five United Nations regional commissions (Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)).

**Q.172) Common Risk Mitigating Mechanism (CRMM), an insurance scheme is associated with which of the following groupings**

- a) BRICS
- b) Climate Vulnerable Forum
- c) United Nations Environment Programme
- d) International Solar Alliance

**Q.172) Solution (d)****Common Risk Mitigating Mechanism (CRMM)**

- International Solar Alliance (IAS), which became a treaty-based global entity, will develop an insurance scheme - Common Risk Mitigating Mechanism –
- To protect investors' interests so that more and more investment can be attracted to the growing solar energy sector.
- It has set up an international expert group to work on blue print of the mechanism
- There is a task force headed by the Terrawatt Initiative (TWI) with members from the World Bank Group, The Currency Exchange Fund (TCX), the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), and also the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)
- CRMM will act as a pooled insurance with limited liability. Banks and multi-lateral institutions can contribute to the fund for a marginal premium. This will lower the cost of capital for developing renewable energy projects

**Funds**

- CRMM fund already has channelled \$250 million through the India-UK Fund.
- The body aims to raise another \$350 million through the Green Climate Fund and around \$250 million from private investors.
- A \$300-million India-French fund, similar to the India-UK Fund, is also being assessed.

**Q.173) 'RuTAG' is a**

- a) RFID tag that enables automatic deduction of toll charges
- b) Mechanism to achieve rural advancement through S&T interventions
- c) Low-cost small satellite launcher by ISRO
- d) Payment app using Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

**Q.173) Solution (b)****RuTAGs (Rural Technology Action Groups)**

It is helping towards

- Addressing defused rural economy through S&T Platform.
- Dissemination of refined technologies reaching to rural areas.
- Technology delivery for non-farm/ agriculture sectors.
- Benefiting Rural groups through network of NGOs.

- Adding value to the produce and Enhancing quality of rural life.

**Q.174) Consider the following statement about 'DARPAN'**

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Communications
2. It is aimed at financial inclusion of rural population
3. It is subsumed under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.174) Solution (b)**

The Ministry of Communications launched DARPAN – “Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for A New India” Project to improve the quality of service, add value to services and achieve “financial inclusion” of un-banked rural population.

The goal of the IT modernization project with an outlay of Rs. 1400 Crore is to provide a low power technology solution to each Branch Postmaster (BPM) which will enable each of approximately 1.29 Lakhs Branch Post Offices (BOs) to improve the level of services being offered to rural customers across all the states.

The Project shall increase the rural reach of the Department of Posts and enable BOs to increase traffic of all financial remittances, savings accounts, Rural Postal Life Insurance, and Cash Certificates; improve mail operations processes by allowing for automated booking and delivery of accountable article; increase revenue using retail post business; provide third party applications; and make disbursements for social security schemes such as MGNREGS.

It is not subsumed under PMJDY.

Read More - <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174674>

**Q.175) \_\_\_\_\_ became the first state in India to operationalise a law that makes social audit of government programmes and schemes a part of government practice.**

- a) Assam
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Telangana

**Q.175) Solution (c)**

The Meghalaya Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act, 2017'

Social audits of government programmes have been done at the initiative of civil society organizations. These social audits had no official sanction. However Meghalaya became the first state in India to operationalize a law that makes social audit of government programmes and schemes a part of government practice.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/indias-first-social-audit-law-meghalaya-4984781/>

**Q.176) Consider the following statement about 'Photo Pollution'**

1. It is the excessive and misdirected use of artificial outdoor lighting.
2. It affects the mating and migration cycles of wildlife.
3. It disrupts the circadian rhythms.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.176) Solution (d)****Light Pollution**

- Light pollution, also known as photo pollution or luminous pollution, is the excessive, misdirected or invasive use of artificial outdoor lighting.
- Mismanaged lighting alters the colour and contrast of the night-time sky, eclipses natural starlight, and disrupts circadian rhythms (the 24-hour processes of most organisms), which affects the environment, energy resources, wildlife, humans and astronomy research.



- The threat of light pollution continues to grow as the demand for artificial light increases each year.
- Luminous pollution is caused by using outdoor lights when and where they are not necessary.
- Poorly designed residential, commercial, and industrial outdoor lights also contribute significantly to light pollution.
- Unshielded light fixtures emit more than 50% of their light skyward or sideways. In many instances, only 40% of the light emitted actually illuminates the ground.
- Luminous pollution has dire effects on our environment and resources of energy as well as wildlife ecology and astronomical research. Light pollution also affects the quality of life and safety of humans.
- Luminous pollution affects the feeding, sleeping, mating, and migration cycles of all wildlife.
- Wildlife can also experience disorientation of time when there is too much artificial light at night.

**Think**

- Bortle Scale

**Q.177) Consider the following statements about Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**

1. It increased the quota for disability reservation in higher educational institutions and in government jobs from 3% to 7%
2. It fulfils the obligations to the United National Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which India is a signatory

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.177) Solution (b)****Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**

- The Act replaces the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.
- It fulfills the obligations to the United National Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which India is a signatory.
- The Act recognises 21 kinds of disabilities compared to the previous seven, including dwarfism, speech and language disability, and three blood disorders.
- The Act also increased the quota for disability reservation in higher educational institutions from 3% to 5% and in government jobs from 3% to 4%, for a more inclusive society.
- The Act provides for grant of guardianship by District Court under which there will be joint decision – making between the guardian and the persons with disabilities.

**Q.178) India has ratified which of the following conventions?**

1. Ballast Water Management Convention
2. International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.178) Solution (d)**

India is yet to ratify Ballast Water Management Convention and International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage (BUNKER)

**BUNKER Convention**

- The International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage (BUNKER) is an International treaty listed and administered by the International Maritime Organization, signed in London on 23 March 2001 and in force generally on 21 November 2008.
- The purpose is to adopt uniform international rules and procedures for determining questions of liability and providing adequate compensation.
- In the convention, Bunker Oil is fuel used to power the ship.
- The convention covers leakage of that oil, and requires signatories to the convention to have their ships appropriately insured against such leakages.

**Ballast Water Management Convention**

- The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (Ballast Water Management Convention) 2004, is an international maritime treaty which requires Signatory flag states to ensure that ships flagged by them comply with standards and procedures for the management and control of ships' ballast water and sediments.
- The Convention aims to prevent the spread of harmful aquatic organisms from one region to another and halt damage to the marine environment from ballast water discharge, by minimising the uptake and subsequent discharge of sediments and organisms.
- From 2024 all ships are required to have approved Ballast Water Management Treatment System, according to the D2 standard.
- Existing ships are required to install an approved system, which may cost up to 5 million USD per ship to install.
- To assist with implementation the IMO has released 14 Guidance documents in regards to the Convention including the G2 Guidelines for Ballast Water Sampling, G4 Guidelines for Ballast Water management and G6 Guidelines for Ballast Water Exchange.

**Q.179) The term, 'Data Secure Status' is often seen in news, in the context of**

- a) European Union
- b) BRICS
- c) IBSA
- d) G7

**Q.179) Solution (a)**

India has been keen to obtain 'data secure' nation status from the EU, a classification that is crucial for the development of its IT and ITES sectors in Europe.

**Q.180) Which of the following is listed as an Intangible Cultural Heritage under UNESCO?**

1. Kalbelia
2. Ramman
3. Chhau dance

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.180) Solution (d)**

All are listed as Intangible Cultural Heritage under UNESCO.

Read More - <https://ich.unesco.org/en/state/india-IN?info=elements-on-the-lists>

**Q.181) Which of the following is not a 'Multilateral Export Control Regime'?**

- a) Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)
- b) Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)
- c) Australia Group (AG)
- d) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

**Q.181) Solution (d)**

A Multilateral Export Control Regime is an international body that states use to organize their national export control systems.

There are currently four such regimes:

- The Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies
- The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), for the control of nuclear related technology
- The Australia Group (AG) for control of chemical and biological technology that could be weaponized
- The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) for the control of rockets and other aerial vehicles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction

India is a member of AG, MTCR and WA.

**Q.182) Consider the following statements about 'Gross fixed capital formation (GFCF)'**

1. It refers to the net increase in physical assets (investment minus disposals) within the measurement period

2. It does not account for the consumption (depreciation) of fixed capital, and also does not include land purchases

**Select the correct statement**

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

**Q.182) Solution (c)**

**Gross fixed capital formation (GFCF)**

- It is a macroeconomic concept used in official national accounts such as the United Nations System of National Accounts (UNSNA), National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) and the European System of Accounts (ESA).
- The concept dates back to the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) studies of Simon Kuznets of capital formation in the 1930s, and standard measures for it were adopted in the 1950s.
- Gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) refers to the net increase in physical assets (investment minus disposals) within the measurement period.
- It does not account for the consumption (depreciation) of fixed capital, and also does not include land purchases.
- It is a component of expenditure approach to calculating GDP.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/getting-back-on-track/article21293417.ece>

**Q.183) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

Paintings	State
1. Chitrakathi	Maharashtra
2. Pattachitra	West Bengal
3. Patua	Jammu & Kashmir

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only

- c) 1 and 2
- d) 2 and 3

**Q.183) Solution (a)****Chitrakathi**

- Chitrakathi is a unique style of Painting, practised in Pinguli, a small village near Kudal, in the district of Sindhudurg in the Indian States of Maharashtra, dating back to the 17th century.
- Painting is done using paper, brush and hand-made colours and in the sequence, based on the story of Mahabhartha or Ramayana.
- The collection of pictures are used to narrate the whole story.
- The sutradhar (narrator) unfolds the tale in the form of songs supported by the music of the vina, the taal and the huduk.
- All paintings belonging to one story were kept in a bundle called pothi.
- The Theme of Chitrakathi paintings include stories on local versions of Ramayana and Mahabharata and mythical themes.

**Pattachitra**

- Pattachitra is a general term for traditional, cloth-based scroll painting, based in the eastern Indian state, Odisha.
- In the Sanskrit language, "Patta" literally means "cloth" and "Chitra" means "picture".
- These paintings are based on Hindu mythology and specially inspired by Jagannath and Vaishnava sect.
- Pattachitra is registered under the identity of Odisha Pattachitra. This ensures the high quality that the artisans of Odisha deliver.
- The geographical indication ensures that the real artists are not overshadowed by fake claims of pattachitra in the neighbouring regions.

**Patua**

- The birth of the Patua Paintings can be traced back to the 13th century.
- The word Patua is actually the corruption of a Bengali word Pota which literally translates to 'an engraver'.
- The Potas started out with being a community of Hindu idol makers in the Mindapur region of West Bengal, but most of them were islamized over time.

- With time, their art form evolved and Pota, or now the Patuas became Scroll Painters or Chitrakars, paying little heed to faith and instead, looking for patronage.
- They have made their mark in the Hindu, Islamic and Buddhist cultures.
- The subjects painted by the Patua artists are extremely varied. From something as minimal to a lobster eating a fish, to complex political themes of the French Revolution and, more recently the depiction of natural calamities in the form of scrolls.
- The scrolls are made from sheets of white paper. The pencil outline is drawn first of the story and the characters and is later filled in with colour.
- Once the paint dries off, its outlined with black paint, which is a distinguishing character of the Patua Paintings.
- After single panels have been painted, the segments of paper are sewn together and the seams seem to disappear in the scroll border.
- The entire scroll is then glued to a recyclable piece of cloth, usually a sari to make it durable.

**Q.184) 'IFRS 9' is associated with**

- a) Financial Instrument
- b) Bear and Bull Markets
- c) Mezzanine Financing
- d) JICA and LEAP

**Q.184) Solution (a)**

**IFRS 9**

- It is an International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) promulgated by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).
- It addresses the accounting for financial instruments. It contains three main topics: classification and measurement of financial instruments, impairment of financial assets and hedge accounting.
- It will replace the earlier IFRS for financial instruments, IAS 39, when it becomes effective in 2018.

**Q.185) Which of the following is/are associated with 'Conflict Diamonds'?**

- a) Kimberly Process
- b) Fowler Report

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

**Q.185) Solution (c)****Kimberly Process Certification Scheme**

- India was appointed as the Kimberly Process (KP) Vice Chair for 2018 & Chair for 2019 in the last plenary held in Dubai in November, 2016. The EU will be KP Chair for 2018.
- The Kimberley Process is a joint Government, International Diamond Industry and Civil Society initiative to stem the flow of Conflict Diamonds.
- “Conflict Diamonds” means rough diamonds used by rebel movements or their allies to finance conflict aimed at undermining legitimate governments.
- It is also described in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.
- The KPCS came into effect from 1st January, 2003 and evolved into an effective mechanism for stopping the trade in conflict diamonds.
- India is the founding member of KPCS. At present, KPCS has 54 members representing 81 countries including the EU with 28 members.
- India is one of the founding members of the KPCS and was Chair of the KPCS for the year 2008.

The Fowler Report, released on March 14, 2000, is a United Nations report detailing how various companies, African and European governments, including that of Angola and the political wing of UNITA, violated the Lusaka Protocol as well as UN-imposed sanctions. Robert Fowler, Canada's ambassador to the United Nations, headed the commission that compiled the report, which raised widespread international concern by highlighting the strong link between the illicit diamond trade and third world conflicts.

**Q.185) Consider the following statements about 'Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR)'**

1. It measures a bank's capital in relation to its risk-weighted assets.
2. Under Basel III, the minimum capital adequacy ratio that banks must maintain is 4%.
3. It promotes financial stability and efficiency in economic systems throughout the world.

**Select the correct statements**

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



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

**Q.185) Solution (c)****Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR)**

- It is the ratio of a bank's capital in relation to its risk weighted assets and current liabilities. It is decided by central banks and bank regulators to prevent commercial banks from taking excess leverage and becoming insolvent in the process.
- It is measured as - Capital Adequacy Ratio =  $(\text{Tier I} + \text{Tier II} + \text{Tier III (Capital funds)}) / \text{Risk weighted assets}$
- The risk weighted assets take into account credit risk, market risk and operational risk.
- The Basel III norms stipulated a capital to risk weighted assets of 8%.
- Banks are mandated to maintain minimum 9% capital adequacy ratio (CAR) plus a capital conservation buffer of 2.5%.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/govt-injects-funds-into-6-public-banks/article22328348.ece>

**Q.186) Consider the following statements about 'GAVI Alliance'**

1. It is an inter-governmental partnership to increase access to immunisation based in New York
2. 100% of GAVI's funding is from governments committed to Gavi's mission of saving children's lives
3. In 2014, India became the first implementing country donating to Gavi

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 1 and 3
- c) 3 Only
- d) None of the above

**Q.186) Solution (c)**

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is a public–private global health partnership committed to increasing access to immunisation in poor countries based in Geneva. The Alliance was officially launched in Davos, Switzerland in January 2000.

79% of Gavi's funding is from governments committed to Gavi's mission of saving children's lives. 21% of contributions come from the private sector, which is becoming a prominent component of Gavi's diversified financing strategy.

In 2014, India became the first implementing country donating to Gavi. The grant agreement was signed in January 2014, with India committing USD 4 million over a 4 year period from 2013-2016.

**Q.187) 'OPEX Model', is sometimes seen in news in the context of**

- a) Solar Energy
- b) Piped Natural Gas
- c) CNG Kits in vehicles
- d) Mining of Cryptocurrency

**Q.187) Solution (a)**

Capital expenditures (CAPEX) and operating expenses (OPEX) represent two categories of business expenses. Capital expenditures are the amounts that companies use to purchase major physical goods or services that will be used for more than one year.

OPEX (here) is a term used for a distinct model of solar Photo Voltaic installations. Under OPEX Model, a third party project developer finances and installs the solar PV system on rooftop owner/consumer's premises. Then, the project developer will sell all power output to him under a long-term agreement.

**Q.188) Consider the following statements about the 'Mogs'**

1. They are Arakanese descendants who migrated to Meghalaya
2. People belonging to the Mog community are the followers of Hinduism
3. 'Sangrai dance' is performed by the Mog community

**Select the correct statements**

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

- c) 1 and 3
- d) 3 Only

**Q.188) Solution (d)**

The Mog are Arakanese descendants who migrated to Tripura through Chittagong Hill Tracts. Their language is grouped under Tibeto-Chinese family which is also linked with Assam-Burmese section of language.

Almost all the people belonging to the Mog community are the followers of Buddhism. The Mog Buddhists have close affinity with Burmese Buddhism in all socio-cultural and religious aspects. Their major concentrations are at Sabroom and Belonia in South Tripura.

'Sangrai dance' is performed by the Mog tribal community on the occasion of Sangrai festival during the month of Chaitra (in April) of the Bengali calendar year. The Mogs are one of the 19 tribes in Tripura.

Mogs are dependent on Jhum Cultivation.

**Q.189) Consider the following statements about 'Under2 Coalition'**

1. It is a commitment driven by state, regional and provincial governments to reduce their GHG emissions towards net-zero by 2050.
2. Telangana and Chhattisgarh are signatories to this pact from India

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.189) Solution (c)**

The Under2 Coalition – for which The Climate Group acts as Secretariat – is the world's premier sub-national government climate action network. It is led by state and regional governments committed to supporting the efforts of nations and delivering the goals of the Paris Agreement, to keep global temperature rises to below 2 degrees Celsius.

The Under2 Coalition brings together over 200 signatories and endorsers, spanning six continents and 43 countries committing to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050.

Currently, Telangana and Chhattisgarh are signatories to this pact from India.

Read More - <https://www.theclimategroup.org/project/under2-coalition>

**Q.190) Consider the following statements about 'Plug Nursery'**

1. It is a technique wherein seedlings for different crops are nurtured under controlled environment in a net house
2. It is used for commercially raising vegetables and bedding plants

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.190) Solution (c)**

A plug nursery is an Israeli farming technique, wherein seedlings for different crops are nurtured under controlled environment in a net house.

The net house must have open space around it, and get six-eight hours of sunlight during the day.

The plug nursery predominantly uses media made from a mixture of coco peat, vermiculite, perlite and nutrients in a proportion of 8:1:1.

The seeds supplied by farmers will be sown in a tray of 10x10 pockets for seedlings. These seedlings are then supplied to farmers who use them in a net house. This type of plug is used for commercially raising vegetables and bedding plants.

**Q.191) Consider the following statements about 'LEADS Index'**

1. It is developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the World Bank
2. It is a composite indicator to assess international trade logistics across states and Union territories

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.191) Solution (b)****LEADS index**

- Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) index is developed by the commerce and industry ministry along with Deloitte.
- It is a composite indicator to assess international trade logistics across states and Union territories
- Gujarat has topped the index closely followed by Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.
- LEADS is loosely based on the World Bank's biannual Logistics Performance Index (LPI), on which India was ranked 35 among 160 countries in 2016, up from 54 in 2014.
- LEADS is based on eight parameters such as infrastructure, services, timeliness, track and trace, competitiveness of pricing, safety of cargo, operating environment and regulatory process.

**Q.192) Consider the following statements**

1. Badakhshan province of Afghanistan borders China's Xinjiang
2. Wakhan Corridor separates Tajikistan from Pakistan
3. Uyghurs are a Turkic ethnic group living in East and Central Asia

**Select the correct statement**

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

**Q.192) Solution (d)****China to fund base in Afghanistan**

**News:** China will fund construction of an Afghan counterterrorism base in Badakhshan province to block cross-border infiltration of the ethnic Uyghur militants.

### Badakhshan

- It is one of Afghanistan's northern provinces.
- The Wakhan Corridor is the province's thin strip of land — often called a panhandle — that winds through the mountains between Tajikistan, to the north, and Pakistan, to the south.
- Badakhshan borders China's Xinjiang.
- Badakhshan is viewed by some as strategic and has proven problematic. During Taliban rule, it remained one of the few regions out of reach.

### Uyghurs

- They are a Turkic ethnic group living in East and Central Asia.
- Uyghurs live primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in the People's Republic of China, where they are one of 55 officially recognized ethnic minorities.
- Outside of China, significant diasporic communities of Uyghurs exist in the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, and in Turkey.

**Q.193) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

Mountains	Country
1. Mt Aconcagua	Chile
2. Mt McKinley	United States of America
3. Mt Vinson	Canada
4. Mt Carstenz Pyramid	Indonesia

**Select the correct code:**

- 1, 2 and 4
- 2 and 4
- 1 and 3
- 2, 3 and 4

**Q.193) Solution (b)**

The Seven Summits are composed of each of the highest mountain peaks of each of the seven continents.

- Mt Everest (Asia),
- Mt Carstenz Pyramid (Indonesia- Australasia continent),
- Mt Elbrus (Russia-Europe),
- Mt Kilimanjaro (Africa),
- Mt Aconcagua (Argentina-South America),
- Mt McKinley/Denali (Alaska-North America)
- Mt Vinson in (Antarctica)

**Q.194) Consider the following statements about 'IPrism'**

1. It is an initiative for start-ups to protect their Intellectual Property
2. It is launched by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM)
3. It is supported by Sequoia Capital and NITI Aayog

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 Only
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 2 and 3
- d) None of the above

**Q.194) Solution (d)**

**IPrism**

- The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) in collaboration with ASSOCHAM and ERICSSON India has launched a one of its kind Intellectual Property (IP) Competition 'IPrism' for college and university students.

**Q.195) The Budapest Convention provides for**

1. Criminalisation of conduct, ranging from illegal access, data and systems interference to computer-related fraud and child pornography
2. Procedural law tools to make the investigation of cybercrime and the securing of e-evidence in relation to any crime more effective
3. International police and judicial cooperation on cybercrime and e-evidence

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.195) Solution (d)****Budapest Convention**

- It is the first international treaty seeking to address Internet and computer crime by harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and increasing cooperation among nations.
- It was drawn up by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, with the active participation of the Council of Europe's observer states Canada, Japan, South Africa and the United States.

**The Budapest Convention provides for**

- the criminalisation of conduct, ranging from illegal access, data and systems interference to computer-related fraud and child pornography
- procedural law tools to make the investigation of cybercrime and the securing of e-evidence in relation to any crime more effective
- international police and judicial cooperation on cybercrime and e-evidence.

**Do You Know?**

- In 2014, the Council of Europe established a dedicated Programme Office on Cybercrime (C-PROC) in Bucharest, Romania.
- In 2007 and 2008, India and the Council of Europe cooperated in the reform of India's Information Technology Act. These reforms brought the legislation of India broadly in line with the Budapest Convention.
- While membership in the Budapest Convention more than doubled since then, India is yet to join this treaty.

**Q.196) Consider the following statements**

1. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal ministry on Drug Demand Reduction
2. National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use is conducted by NITI Aayog

**Select the correct statements**



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

**Q.196) Solution (a)****National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use**

- The National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India (also known as the National Drug Use Survey or NDUS) is a large-scale epidemiological study being conducted across the country to estimate the prevalence of use of various psychoactive substances in the Indian population.
- NDUS involves a combination of several methodological approaches to study the drug use situation in the country which include a general population survey in a representative sample of households throughout India, a Respondent Driven Sampling Survey, Focussed thematic studies and survey among service providers.
- The survey has been commissioned and funded by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Government of India which is the nodal ministry on Drug Demand Reduction.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has designated National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi as the nodal agency for conducting the survey.
- As the nodal agency, NDDTC, AIIMS has developed the design and methodology for the survey and is responsible for providing technical guidance to the other agencies involved in the project.
- The survey is being executed as a collaborative project between NDDTC, AIIMS and various Government and Non-governmental Organizations such National Institute of Social Defence (NISD, Government Medical Colleges, Regional Resource and Training Centres (RRTCs) of MoSJE and Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA).
- The collaborating agencies are responsible for conducting survey activities in one or more states covered by the NDUS.
- The last National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India was conducted in the year 2000-2001. Thereafter, no such survey has been conducted.

**Do You Know?**

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal Ministry for drug demand reduction.

- It coordinates and monitors all aspects of drug abuse prevention which include assessment of the extent of the problem, preventive action, treatment and rehabilitation of addicts, dissemination of information and public awareness.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1518321>

**Q.197) Consider the following statements**

1. 'Sanitease' has been launched by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
2. Stree Swabhiman aims to create a sustainable model for providing adolescent girls and women access to affordable sanitary products by leveraging CSCs
3. Under the 'Stree Swabhiman' project, sanitary napkin micro manufacturing units are being set up at CSCs across India, particularly those operated by women entrepreneurs.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.197) Solution (d)**

**Stree Swabhiman**

- It aims to create a sustainable model for providing adolescent girls and women an access to affordable sanitary products by leveraging CSCs.
- Under the 'Stree Swabhiman' project, sanitary napkin micro manufacturing units are being set up at CSCs across India, particularly those operated by women entrepreneurs.
- The initiative is driven by awareness and personalised outreach by women entrepreneurs who produce and market sanitary napkins themselves

**Sanitease**

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has launched 'Sanitease' under its social development activity, Swachhagraha, to promote women's health and hygiene, especially in rural areas.
- The objective of 'Sanitease' is to create awareness and provide logistics for women specially in the rural parts of the state.

- The project is being carried out in association with the Nehru Kendra Sanghatana and Aquakraft Projects Pvt.
- Under the project 'Sanitease', Swachhagraha would reach out to both urban and rural schools at the secondary level and compile the data on female students and sanitary napkins required per month.

**Q.198) Recently 'Global Centre for Cybersecurity' was announced to safeguard the world from hackers and growing data by**

- a) International Telecommunication Union
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) World Bank
- d) None of the above

**Q.198) Solution (b)**

**Global Centre for Cybersecurity**

**News:** World Economic Forum (WEF) announced a new Global Centre for Cybersecurity to safeguard the world from hackers and growing data

**About**

- It will be headquartered in Geneva
- It will function as an autonomous organization under the auspices of the World Economic Forum.
- The aim of the centre is to establish the first global platform for governments, businesses, experts and law enforcement agencies to collaborate on cybersecurity challenges.

**It will focus on the following aims:**

- Consolidating existing cybersecurity initiatives of the World Economic Forum
- Establishing an independent library of cyber best practices
- Helping partners to enhance knowledge on cybersecurity
- Working towards an appropriate and agile regulatory framework on cybersecurity
- Serving as a laboratory and early-warning think tank for future cybersecurity scenarios

**Q.199) Inclusive Development Index (IDI) is published by**

- a) UNDP
- b) World Bank
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) None of the above

**Q.199) Solution (c)**

**Inclusive Development Index (IDI)**

- The Inclusive Development Index (IDI) 2018, a report published by the World Economic Forum, ranked India 62 out of the total 74 emerging countries
- The index namely has three pillars of growth for global economies: growth and development; inclusion, intergenerational equity and sustainability.
- The report says that the IDI is 'designed as an alternative to GDP that reflects more closely the criteria through which people evaluate their respective countries' economies'.

**Q.200) Consider the following statements about 'office of profit'**

1. The origin of this term can be found in the English Act of Settlement, 1701.
2. If an MLA or an MP holds a government office and receives benefits from it, then that office is termed as an "office of profit"
3. The word 'office' has not been defined in the Constitution, but is defined in the Representation of the People Act of 1951.

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.200) Solution (a)**

**Office of Profit**

**What are the basic criteria to disqualify an MP or MLA?**

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

- Holding an office of profit under government of India or state government
- Being of unsound mind
- Being an undischarged insolvent
- Not being an Indian citizen or for acquiring citizenship of another country

#### What is 'office of profit'?

- It is a position in the government which cannot be held by an MLA or an MP. The post can yield salaries, perquisites and other benefits.
- The origin of this term can be found in the English Act of Settlement, 1701.
- Under this law, "no person who has an office or place of profit under the King, or receives a pension from the Crown, shall be capable of serving as a member of the House of Commons."
- This was instituted so that there wouldn't be any undue influence from the royal household in administrative affairs.
- If an MLA or an MP holds a government office and receives benefits from it, then that office is termed as an "office of profit".
- A person will be disqualified if he holds an office of profit under the central or state government, other than an office declared not to disqualify its holder by a law passed by Parliament or state legislature.
- 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.

#### Why should an MLA or an MP not hold an office of profit?

- According to Articles 102(1)(a) and 191(1)(a) of the Constitution, an MP or MLA is barred from holding an office of profit as it can put them in a position to gain a financial benefit. "A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament, (a) if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State, other than an office declared by Parliament by law not to disqualify its holder," says the law.
- Under the Representation of People Act too, holding an office of profit is grounds for disqualification.

#### What is the underlying principle for including 'office of profit' as criterion for disqualification?

- Makers of the Constitution wanted that legislators should not feel obligated to the Executive in any way, which could influence them while discharging legislative functions.
- In other words, an MP or MLA should be free to carry out her duties without any kind of governmental pressure.

#### **What do parliamentary secretaries do?**

- In the Westminster system, a parliamentary secretary is a Member of Parliament who assists a Minister in their duties.
- Prime Ministers and Chief Ministers usually appoint parliamentary secretaries from their own parties.

**Q.201) 'SPARK (Systematic Progressive Analytical Real-time Ranking)' and 'Personalised After-training Rapid Assessment System (PARAS)' are associated with which of the following ministries?**

- a) Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
- b) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- c) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- d) Ministry of Labour & Employment

#### **Q.201) Solution (a)**

SPARK and PARAS are measures taken under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

A system of ranking of states and cities named as SPARK (Systematic Progressive Analytical Real-time Ranking) has been put in place by the Ministry to infuse competitive spirit amongst the States and cities.

Personalised After-training Rapid Assessment System (PARAS) has been launched by the Ministry to seek feedback regarding skill training directly from the beneficiaries.

**Q.202) Consider the following statements about 'Perform Achieve and Trade Scheme (PAT)'**

1. It aims to improve energy efficiency in industries by trading in energy efficiency certificates in energy intensive sectors

2. It is a component of the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.202) Solution (c)**

Perform Achieve and Trade Scheme (PAT) is a component of the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE) which is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). NMEEE aims to strengthen the market for energy efficiency by creating conducive regulatory and policy regime and has envisaged fostering innovative and sustainable business models to the energy efficiency sector.

PAT scheme is a regulatory instrument to reduce specific energy consumption in energy intensive industries, with an associated market based mechanism to enhance the cost effectiveness through certification of excess energy saving which can be traded.

**Q.203) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

- 1. Pashupatinath Temple – Nepal
- 2. Angkor Wat – Cambodia
- 3. Vat Phou – Laos

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.203) Solution (c)**

Vat Phou is a ruined Khmer Hindu temple complex in southern Laos.

Angkor Wat is a temple complex in Cambodia and the largest religious monument in the world, on a site measuring 162.6 hectares. It was originally constructed as a Hindu temple

dedicated to the god Vishnu for the Khmer Empire, gradually transforming into a Buddhist temple towards the end of the 12th century.

Pashupatinath Temple is a famous and sacred Hindu temple complex that is located on the banks of the Bagmati River, north-east of Kathmandu in the eastern part of Kathmandu Valley.

**Q.204) Operation “Olive Branch” was launched by**

- a) Russia
- b) France
- c) Egypt
- d) Turkey

**Q.204) Solution (d)**

In January 2018, the Turkish military launched a military operation, code-named Operation Olive Branch by Turkey, in the SDF-controlled Afrin District and the Tell Rifaat Sub district.

**Q.205) Which of the following countries forms ‘South Asia Growth Quadrangle (SAGQ)’?**

- 1. Bangladesh
- 2. Bhutan
- 3. Sri Lanka
- 4. India
- 5. Nepal

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.205) Solution (b)**

The South Asia Growth Quadrangle (SAGQ) was launched in April 1997 by the Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal.



**Think**

- SASEC

**Q.206) Which of the following were regarded as the Trinity of modern Carnatic music?**

1. Tyagaraja
2. Syama Sastri
3. Muthuswami Dikshitar

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.206) Solution (d)**

**Thyāgarāja**

- He was one of the greatest composers of Carnatic music
- He was a prolific composer and highly influential in the development of the South Indian classical music tradition.
- Thyāgarāja has composed thousands of devotional compositions, most of them in praise of Lord Rāma — most of which remain very popular even today.
- He is one of the Music trinities in Carnātic music.
- Tyagaraja and his contemporaries Syama Sastri and Muthuswami Dikshitar were regarded as the Trinity of modern Carnatic music.
- He saw the reigns of four kings of Maratha dynasty — Tulaja II (1763-1787), Amarasimha (1787-1798), Serfoji II (1798-1832) and Sivaji II (1832-1855).

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1517159>

**Q.207) The criteria presently followed for specification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe are**

1. Indications of primitive traits
2. Distinctive culture
3. Inadequate representation in the Central Government posts and services

## 4. Geographical Isolation

Select the correct code:

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

**Q.207) Solution (c)**

The criteria presently followed for specification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe are

- indications of primitive traits
- distinctive culture
- geographical isolation
- shyness of contact with the community at large
- backwardness

**Criteria for SCs**

- Extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of traditional practice of untouchability.

**OBCs**

- Social, educational, economic backwardness and inadequate representation in the Central Government posts and services.

**Q.208) Consider the following statements about 'The Sexual Harassment of Women At Workplace Act, 2013'**

1. The Act is for any woman who is harassed in any workplace
2. Under the Act, the victims can directly approach the court
3. It replaced the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in the Vishaka case judgment

Select the correct statements

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

d) 2 and 3

**Q.208) Solution (a)**

**The Sexual Harassment of Women At Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition And Redressal) Act, 2013**

- It had replaced the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in the historic Vishaka case judgment
- This Act makes it illegal to sexually harass women in the workplace.
- It talks about the different ways in which someone can be sexually harassed and how they can complain against this kind of behaviour.
- This Act is only for women who are sexually harassed in workplaces.
- This Act is for any woman who is harassed in any workplace. It is not necessary for the woman to be working at the workplace in which she is harassed. A workplace can be any office, whether government or private.
- Even if there are no cases of sexual harassment at the moment, it is still necessary for the Internal Complaints Committee to be set up (if you employ more than 10 workers) and for all rules to be followed.
- The Act gives a choice between dealing with the offender within the office or approaching a court.
- If a woman wishes, she can file a criminal complaint instead of approaching the Internal/Local Complaints Committee.

**Q.209) Consider the following statements about 'Credit Enhancement Fund'**

1. The credit enhancement fund by providing partial guarantees on the bonds of infrastructure projects will increase the attractiveness of such project bonds for institutional investors.
2. It is anchored by Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.209) Solution (a)**

**Credit Enhancement Fund**

- It is anchored by India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)
- It will help raise credit rating of bonds floated by infrastructure companies and facilitate investments from long-term investors.
- To ease the flow of institutional credit to infrastructure projects

**Q.210) Consider the following statements**

1. A whip is a member of a political party's parliamentary body, having a central role in 'Floor Management' in both the Houses of Parliament and is responsible for discipline within the party.
2. The First All India Whips Conference was organised at Indore in 1952

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.210) Solution (c)****Whip**

- A whip is an important member of a political party's parliamentary body, having a central role in 'Floor Management' in both the Houses of Parliament and is responsible for discipline within the party.
- Their main job is ensuring that their members in Parliament and legislature vote in line with the party's official policy on important issues and make sure that the members turn out for important votes.
- Such an importance of Whips in the Parliamentary system had been acknowledged by organizing the First All India Whips Conference at Indore in 1952, in the very first year of general elections to the First Lok Sabha.

**Q.211) Recently constituted N Gopalaswami Committee is associated with**

- a) Institute of National Importance
- b) Institutes of Eminence

- c) National Education Policy
- d) Restructuring and Strengthening of the Technical Education

**Q.211) Solution (b)**

N Gopalaswami has been appointed chairperson of the empowered expert committee (EEC) that will be the final authority to select 20 “institutes of eminence”.

**Q.212) Which of the following statements about United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is/are correct?**

1. It is the only agency dedicated to helping refugees from a specific region or conflict
2. UNRWA provides aid only in Palestine and Lebanon
3. It allows refugee status to be inherited by descendants

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 Only
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 1 and 3
- d) None of the above

**Q.212) Solution (c)****United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)**

- Following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict, UNRWA was established by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 to carry out direct relief and works programmes for Palestine refugees. The Agency began operations on 1 May 1950.
- In the absence of a solution to the Palestine refugee problem, the General Assembly has repeatedly renewed UNRWA's mandate, most recently extending it until 30 June 2017.
- The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions from UN Member States.
- UNRWA also receives some funding from the Regular Budget of the United Nations, which is used mostly for international staffing costs.

- The Agency's services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance, including in times of armed conflict.
- Aid is provided in five areas of operation: Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; aid for Palestinian refugees outside these five areas is provided by UNHCR.

#### UNRWA & UNHCR

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

#### Do You Know?

- India pledged \$1.25 million humanitarian assistance to UNRWA (UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) in 2016.
- India's support to UNRWA is in contrast to U.S. policy to the organisation as President Donald Trump has announced slashing of American funds to UNRWA.

#### Q.213) Which of the following countries do not border Guatemala?

- a) Nicaragua
- b) Belize
- c) Honduras
- d) El Salvador

#### Q.213) Solution (a)

It is a country in Central America bordered by Mexico to the north and west, the Pacific Ocean to the southwest, Belize to the northeast, the Caribbean to the east, Honduras to the east and El Salvador to the southeast.



**Q.214) Consider the following statements about Coal Bed Methane (CBM)**

1. It is a sour gas
2. It is high amount of hydrogen sulphide
3. It is explored and exploited under the provisions of OIL Fields (Regulation & Development) Act 1948

**Select the INCORRECT statements**

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) None of the above

**Q.214) Solution (a)**

**Coal Bed Methane (CBM)**

- It is a clean energy source extracted from coal seams.
- It refers to methane adsorbed into the solid matrix of the coal.
- It is called 'sweet gas' because of its lack of hydrogen sulphide.
- The presence of this gas is well known from its occurrence in underground coal mining, where it presents a serious safety risk.

- Coalbed methane is distinct from a typical sandstone or other conventional gas reservoir, as the methane is stored within the coal by a process called adsorption.
- The methane is in a near-liquid state, lining the inside of pores within the coal (called the matrix).
- The open fractures in the coal (called the cleats) can also contain free gas or can be saturated with water.
- CBM being Natural Gas is explored and exploited under the provisions of OIL Fields (Regulation & Development) Act 1948 (ORD Act 1948) and Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules 1959 (P&NG Rules 1959) administered by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MOP&NG).

**In a bid to incentivize production, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had approved a new policy**

- The new policy allows contractors to sell CBM at arm's length price in the domestic market.
- The contractor, while discovering the market price for arm's length sales, has to ensure a fully transparent and competitive process for sale of CBM with the objective that the best possible price is realized for the gas without any restrictive commercial practices

**Do You Know?**

- Sour Gas is a natural gas or any other gas that has significant amounts of H<sub>2</sub>S
- Sweet Gas is a natural gas that doesn't contain Hydrogen Sulphide [H<sub>2</sub>S] or significant quantities of CO<sub>2</sub>

**THINK**

- Acid Gas

**Q.215) Consider the following statements about 'Global 200'**

1. It is the list of ecoregions identified by IUCN
2. A conservation status is assigned to each ecoregion in the Global 200: critical or endangered; vulnerable; and relatively stable or intact

**Select the correct statements**

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



d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.215) Solution (b)**

The Global 200 is the list of ecoregions identified by WWF, the global conservation organization, as priorities for conservation. According to WWF, an ecoregion is defined as a "relatively large unit of land or water containing a characteristic set of natural communities that share a large majority of their species dynamics, and environmental conditions". So, for example, based on their levels of endemism, Madagascar gets multiple listings, ancient Lake Baikal gets one, and the North American Great Lakes get none.

The WWF assigns a conservation status to each ecoregion in the Global 200: critical or endangered; vulnerable; and relatively stable or intact. Over half of the ecoregions in the Global 200 are rated endangered.

Read More - <https://www.worldwildlife.org/publications/global-200>

**Q.216) Consider the following statements about 'GOBAR-DHAN'**

1. It will manage and convert cattle dung and solid waste in farms to compost, biogas and bio-CNG
2. It complements the Swachch Bharat Campaign
3. It will generate an alternative source of income for the farmers

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.216) Solution (d)**

GOBAR is an acronym for Galvanizing Organic Bio Agro Resources. The aim of this scheme is to ensure cleanliness in villages and generate wealth and energy by converting cattle dung and solid agricultural waste into compost and Bio Gas. Under the Swachch Bharat Mission (Rural), the Central government strides to use animal dung and other bio-waste to produce energy.

The Gobar Dhan scheme or Gobar Dhan Yojana will provide many benefits to the rural people. It will be easier to keep the village clean and sanitized, livestock health will improve and farm yields will increase. Biogas generation will increase self-reliance in energy utilized for cooking and lighting. Farmers and cattle herders will be helped in augmenting their income. There will be novel opportunities for newer jobs linked to waste collection, transportation, biogas sales etc. In addition to this, an online trading platform will be created for better implementation of Gobar Dhan Yojana that will connect farmers to buyers so that they can get the right price for dung and agricultural waste.

**Q.217) The term 'AURIC' is associated with**

- a) Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC)
- b) Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP)
- c) Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)
- d) Dam Health and Rehabilitation Monitoring Application (DHARMA)

**Q.217) Solution (a)**

AURIC is India's well-planned and greenfield smart industrial city being developed across an area of 10,000 acres in Maharashtra State, as part of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC).

**Q.218) Which of the following organizations brings out the publication, known as 'Global Corruption Perception Index'?**

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) Transparency International
- d) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

**Q.218) Solution (c)**

India has been ranked 81st in the 'Global Corruption Perception Index' for 2017, released by 'Transparency International'

**Q.219) Which of the following 'border towns/places' often in news is correctly matched?**

1. Nathu La – Arunachal Pradesh and China
2. Jaigaon – West Bengal and Bangladesh
3. Moreh – Manipur and Myanmar

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.219) Solution (d)**

Jaigaon is a town in the Alipurduar district, West Bengal, India. It is located on the country's border with Bhutan. The main overland entrance to Bhutan is through Jaigaon and Bhutan Gate separates the two countries.

Moreh is a town located on the India-Myanmar border in the Tengnoupal district of the Indian state of Manipur. Moreh is already a huge commercial hub, and economists suggested that it could become a bustling city in the next couple of decades. The town is already seen as the commercial capital of Manipur and India's Gateway to South-East Asia.

Nathu La is a mountain pass in the Himalayas in East Sikkim district. It connects the Indian state of Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

**Think**

- 'Friendship Gate' – India (Meghalaya) and Bangladesh

**Q.220) The 'Paris Principles' is associated with**

- a) Human Rights
- b) Export Control Regimes
- c) Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- d) All of the above

**Q.220) Solution (a)**

The United Nations Paris Principles provide the international benchmarks against which national human rights institutions (NHRIs) can be accredited by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).

**Q.221) For the first time, India was accorded the 'Guest of Honour' status at the Janadriyah Festival. The Festival is celebrated in which of the following countries?**

- a) Saudi Arabia
- b) Madagascar
- c) Kenya
- d) Qatar

**Q.221) Solution (a)**

Janadriyah Festival is the prestigious annual 'National Heritage and Cultural Festival' of Saudi Arabia. Giving due recognition to the strategic partnership, close ties and historical linkages between the two countries, for the first time, India was accorded the 'Guest of Honour' status at the Festival.

**Q.222) Consider the following statements about 'World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)'**

1. It is organised annually by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
2. The inaugural WSDS was held in India
3. It brings together Nobel laureates, political leaders, decision-makers from bilateral and multilateral institutions, business leaders, high-level functionaries from the diplomatic corps, scientists and researchers, media personnel, and members of civil society; to deliberate on issues related to sustainable development.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.222) Solution (d)**

The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI's) annual event, the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS), has been rebranded to World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS).

The WSDS brings together Nobel laureates, political leaders, decision-makers from bilateral and multilateral institutions, business leaders, high-level functionaries from the diplomatic corps, scientists and researchers, media personnel, and members of civil society; to deliberate on issues related to sustainable development.

The first edition of the WSDS is slated from 5–8 October 2016 in New Delhi, India under the broad rubric of 'Beyond 2015: People, Planet and Progress'.

The theme of WSDS 2018 is 'Partnerships for a Resilient Planet'. It seeks to create action frameworks to resolve some of most urgent challenges facing developing economies in backdrop of climate change.

**Q.223) Carpathian Mountains is spread across which of the following countries?**

1. Moldova
2. Ukraine
3. Romania
4. Slovakia

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.223) Solution (b)**

Carpathians are a mountain range system forming an arc roughly 1,500 km (932 mi) long across Central and Eastern Europe, making them the second-longest mountain range in Europe (after the Scandinavian Mountains, 1,700 km (1,056 mi)).

The Carpathians consist of a chain of mountain ranges that stretch in an arc from the Czech Republic (3%) in the northwest through Slovakia (17%), Poland (10%), Hungary (4%) and Ukraine (10%), Serbia (5%) and Romania (50%).

The highest range within the Carpathians is the Tatras, on the border of Slovakia and Poland.



**Q.224) 'Forest Owlet' is found in**

- a) Western Ghats
- b) Eastern Himalayas
- c) Sundarbans
- d) Central India

**Q.224) Solution (d)**

The forest owlet (*Athene blewitti*) is an owl that is endemic to the forests of central India.

**Q.225) 'Mission Innovation Challenges' talks about**

1. Developing systems that enable off-grid households and communities to access affordable and reliable renewable electricity
2. Enabling near-zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from power plants and carbon intensive industries
3. Making low-carbon heating and cooling affordable for everyone

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

**Q.225) Solution (d)**

**The seven Innovation Challenges are the following:**

- Smart Grids Innovation Challenge – to enable future grids that are powered by affordable, reliable, decentralised renewable electricity systems
- Off-Grid Access to Electricity Innovation Challenge – to develop systems that enable off-grid households and communities to access affordable and reliable renewable electricity
- Carbon Capture Innovation Challenge – to enable near-zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from power plants and carbon intensive industries
- Sustainable Biofuels Innovation Challenge – to develop ways to produce, at scale, widely affordable, advanced biofuels for transportation and industrial applications
- Converting Sunlight Innovation Challenge – to discover affordable ways to convert sunlight into storable solar fuels
- Clean Energy Materials Innovation Challenge – to accelerate the exploration, discovery, and use of new high-performance, low-cost clean energy materials
- Affordable Heating and Cooling of Buildings Innovation Challenge – to make low-carbon heating and cooling affordable for everyone

Read more - <http://mission-innovation.net/our-work/innovation-challenges/>

**Q.226) Consider the following statements**

1. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes.
2. The State Legal Services Authority is headed by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the respective High Court who is the Patron-in-Chief of the State Legal Services Authority.

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.226) Solution (c)****National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)**

- It has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes.
- In every State, State Legal Services Authority has been constituted to give effect to the policies and directions of the NALSA and to give free legal services to the people and conduct Lok Adalats in the State.
- The State Legal Services Authority is headed by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the respective High Court who is the Patron-in-Chief of the State Legal Services Authority.
- In every District, District Legal Services Authority has been constituted to implement Legal Services Programmes in the District.
- The District Legal Services Authority is situated in the District Courts Complex in every District and chaired by the District Judge of the respective district.
- Taluk Legal Services Committees are also constituted for each of the Taluk or Mandal or for group of Taluk or Mandals to coordinate the activities of legal services in the Taluk and to organise Lok Adalats.
- Every Taluk Legal Services Committee is headed by a senior Civil Judge operating within the jurisdiction of the Committee who is its ex-officio Chairman.

**Do You Know?**

- Article 39A of the Constitution of India provides that State shall secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disability.
- Articles 14 and 22(1) also make it obligatory for the State to ensure equality before law and a legal system which promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity to all.

**Q.227) Consider the following statements about 'Biofuture Platform'**

1. It aims to accelerate development and scale-up the deployment of modern sustainable low-carbon alternatives to fossil based solutions in transport fuels, industrial processes, chemicals, plastics and other sectors
2. It was launched at the twenty-third Conference of the Parties (COP23), Bonn



**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.227) Solution (a)**

Biofuture Platform, a coalition of 20 leading countries in the clean energy and the bio economy fields was launched 16 November 2016 at COP22, Marrakech.

It aims to be an action-oriented, country-led, multistakeholder mechanism for policy dialogue and collaboration among leading countries, organizations, academia and the private sector conscious of the need to accelerate development and scale up deployment of modern sustainable low carbon alternatives to fossil based solutions in transport, chemicals, plastics and other sectors.

It has been proposed by the government of Brazil to several leading countries in all five continents.

Twenty countries are the founding and current Member States of the Biofuture Platform: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Morocco, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Paraguay, the Philippines, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay.

A number of international organisations, such as IRENA, UNCTAD, IEA, FAO, and SE4ALL, as well as private sector associations and initiatives such as the WBCSD, ABBI, UNICA, and below50, are supporting this initiative.

Brazil is serving as the interim secretariat/facilitator of the Biofuture Platform since its launch in November 16, 2016.

**Q.228) 'Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organisation (GEIDCO)'**

1. It is an international organization among willing firms, associations, institutions and individuals who are dedicated to promoting the sustainable development of energy worldwide.
2. It is the brainchild of European Union

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.228) Solution (a)**

The Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO), with its permanent office domiciled in Beijing, China, is a international organization among willing firms, associations, institutions and individuals who are dedicated to promoting the sustainable development of energy worldwide.

The purpose of GEIDCO is to promote the establishment of a GEI system, to meet the global demand for electricity in a clean and green way, to implement the United Nations “Sustainable Energy for All” and climate change initiatives, and to serve the sustainable development of humanity.

The GEIDCO will promote the concept of GEI, formulate GEI development plans, promote the creation of a GEI technical standards framework, organize concerted and collaborative efforts in researches and innovations, key studies, international communication and cooperation, engineering project implementation, provide consulting services, and lead the development of GEI.

**Q.229) ‘Global Climate Risk Index’ is published by**

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) UNEP
- c) Climate Vulnerable Forum
- d) GermanWatch

**Q.229) Solution (d)**

Global Climate Risk Index (CRI) is released by Germanwatch, an independent Berlin-based development and environmental organisation

The Germanwatch comes out with the CRI by analysing number of deaths per 1,00,000 inhabitants, extent of financial losses and loss per unit of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of countries.

India is the sixth most vulnerable country in the world in terms of facing extreme weather events with Haiti, Zimbabwe, Fiji, Sri Lanka and Vietnam taking top five positions

India was at number four in terms of CRI ranking last year. Economic and population data from International Monetary Fund (IMF) was taken into account while arriving at the ranking. The CRI indicates a level of exposure and vulnerability to extreme events.

In the present analysis, only weather related events - storms, floods and temperature extremes (heat and cold waves) - are incorporated. "Geological incidents like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or tsunamis, for which data is also available, are not relevant in this context as they do not depend on the weather and therefore are not possibly related to climate change".

**Q.230) 'VIVID 2018' was a national meet on**

- a) Medical Tourism
- b) Intellectual Property Rights
- c) Cyber Security
- d) Harnessing Solar Energy

**Q.230) Solution (c)**

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

Read More - <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176283>

**Q.231) 'Vientiane Vision' is concerned with which of the following organizations?**

- a) BRICS
- b) ASEAN
- c) The Quad
- d) APEC

**Q.231) Solution (b)**

**Vientiane Vision**

- It is a guiding principle for Japan's defence cooperation with ASEAN, announced as Japan's own initiative by Defence Minister Inada at the second ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting held in Vientiane, Lao PDR in 16 November 2016.
- The vision for the first time shows, in a transparent manner, the full picture of the future direction of defence cooperation with the ASEAN as a whole in the priority fields.

**Q.232) Consider the following statements about 'Sela Pass'**

1. It carries the main road connecting Tawang with the rest of India
2. It is a sacred site in Tibetan Buddhism
3. A tunnel is being constructed through the pass by Border Roads Organisation under 'Project SAMPARK'

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.232) Solution (a)**

The Sela Pass is a high-altitude mountain pass located on the border between the Tawang and West Kameng Districts of Arunachal Pradesh state in India. It has an elevation of 4170 m (13,700 ft) and connects the Tibetan Buddhist town of Tawang to Dirang and Guwahati. The pass carries the main road connecting Tawang with the rest of India. The pass supports scarce amounts of vegetation and is usually snow-covered to some extent throughout the year. Sela Lake, near the summit of the pass, is one of approximately 101 lakes in the area that are sacred in Tibetan Buddhism.

Tunnel is being constructed under BRO's Project VARTAK

Project VARTKA – Arunachal Pradesh and Assam

Project SAMPARK – J&K

**Q.233) Which of the following is under the ambit of Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010**

1. Establishments under the military forces
2. All public establishments
3. All private establishments
4. AYUSH establishments

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.233) Solution (b)**

**Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010**

- It has been enacted by the Central Government to provide for registration and regulation of all clinical establishments in the country with a view to prescribing the minimum standards of facilities and services provided by them
- The Act requires all clinical establishments to register themselves and provides a set of standard treatment guidelines for common diseases and conditions.
- The Act cannot be directly applied to all states of India. The states have the choice of passing a resolution to adopt the bill or passing a similar bill.
- With the exception of the establishments under the military forces, all public and private establishments, including AYUSH establishments, are required to register.
- The Act is applicable to all types (both therapeutic and diagnostic types) of clinical establishments from the public and private sectors, belonging to all recognized systems of medicine, including single doctor clinics.
- The Act lays down establishment for the a Council Body called The National Council for Clinical Establishment which is responsible primarily for setting up standards for ensuring proper healthcare by the clinical establishment and develop the minimum standards and their periodic review.

**Q.234) Find the odd one out**

- a) Giant ant eater
- b) Echidna
- c) Pangolin
- d) Tamandua

**Q.234) Solution (b)**

It is one of the five extant species of monotremes, the only mammals that lay eggs instead of giving birth to live young.

**Q.235) Consider the following statements about Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD)**

1. It looks at a range of issues in a particular country, and seeks to identify barriers to and/or opportunities for sustainable poverty reduction and shared prosperity
2. It is an analytical exercise conducted by World Economic Forum

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.235) Solution (a)****Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD)**

- World Bank Group's first Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) for India.
- The SCD is an analytical exercise World Bank conducts in all countries.
- It articulates, from the perspective of the World Bank Group, an analysis of the most important opportunities and challenges to achieving, in that country, the two goals the Bank Group holds itself accountable for – eliminating extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity.
- Introduced in July 2014, the SCD looks at a range of issues in a particular country, and seeks to identify barriers to and/or opportunities for sustainable poverty reduction and shared prosperity.
- Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) reports are prepared by World Bank Group staff in close consultation with national authorities and other stakeholders.

**Think**

- World Bank Group's Country Partnership Framework (CPF)

**Q.236) 'EURORDIS' is associated with**

- a) Cyber Security
- b) Orphan Diseases
- c) Neglected Tropical Diseases
- d) European Union's military alliance

**Q.236) Solution (b)**

The European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS) is a non-governmental patient-driven alliance of patient organizations and individuals active in the field of rare diseases, that promotes research on rare diseases and commercial development of orphan drugs.

**Q.237) Which of the following statements correctly describes 'Kabul Conference'?**

- a) It is an inclusive peace process led by Afghanistan
- b) It is aimed at connecting Afghanistan to Central Asian Republics via road and rail connectivity
- c) It deals with Conservation of World Heritage Sites in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries
- d) It is a bilateral conference with India to promote education and skill development

**Q.237) Solution (a)**

**Kabul Conference**

- It is also known as the Kabul Process for Peace and Security Cooperation
- It is an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned inclusive peace process
- The Purpose of the Kabul conference is to place the Afghan Government as the key driving force for achieving peace, with the earnest support of regional and international partners.

**Q.238) Which of the following countries are members of the 'Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG)'**

1. United States of America
2. Pakistan
3. Afghanistan

4. China

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.238) Solution (d)**

Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) consists of the U.S., Pakistan, Afghanistan and China.

**Q.239) 'Reciprocal Logistic Support Agreement' was in news recently. It is associated with**

- 1. India and Israel
- 2. Water desalinisation
- 3. Dryland farming

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 1 and 3
- c) 2 and 3
- d) None of the above

**Q.239) Solution (d)**

Agreement between India and France regarding the provision of reciprocal logistics support between their Armed Forces

This Agreement shall facilitate the reciprocal provision of Logistic Support, Supplies and Services between the Armed Forces of the two countries during authorised port visits, joint exercises, joint training, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts etc.

This is similar to LEMOA

**Q.240) Consider the following statement about Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)**



1. It has higher daily liquidity and lower fees than mutual fund shares
2. It trades like a common stock on a stock exchange
3. It experience price changes throughout the day

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.240) Solution (d)**

An ETF, or exchange-traded fund, is a marketable security that tracks an index, a commodity, bonds, or a basket of assets like an index fund. Unlike mutual funds, an ETF trades like a common stock on a stock exchange. ETFs experience price changes throughout the day as they are bought and sold.

ETFs experience price changes throughout the day as they are bought and sold. ETFs typically have higher daily liquidity and lower fees than mutual fund shares, making them an attractive alternative for individual investors.

**Q.241) Global Forest Fund has been established by**

- a) Foundation for Environmental Education
- b) World Bank
- c) United Nations Forum on Forests
- d) Global Forest Coalition

**Q.241) Solution (a)**

The Global Forest Fund has been established by the Foundation for Environmental Education to offset CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from travel. This non-profit fund is managed by the International LEAF Director. The fund invests 90% of its income directly into tree planting and other CO<sub>2</sub> compensation efforts that are combined with environmental education activities.

**Q.242) Aapravasi Ghat is an Immigration Depot set up by the British in 1849 to receive indentured labourers from India. It is located in**

- a) Comoros
- b) Mauritius
- c) Maldives
- d) Seychelles

**Q.242) Solution (b)**

In the district of Port Louis, lies the 1,640 m<sup>2</sup> site where the modern indentured labour diaspora began. In 1834, the British Government selected the island of Mauritius to be the first site for what it called 'the great experiment' in the use of 'free' labour to replace slaves. Between 1834 and 1920, almost half a million indentured labourers arrived from India at Aapravasi Ghat to work in the sugar plantations of Mauritius, or to be transferred to Reunion Island, Australia, southern and eastern Africa or the Caribbean. The buildings of Aapravasi Ghat are among the earliest explicit manifestations of what was to become a global economic system and one of the greatest migrations in history.

It was declared a World Heritage Site in 2006.

**Q.243) Which of the following are benefits of 'Coated Fertilizers'?**

1. Prolonged supply of nutrients
2. Uniform plant nutrition
3. Decreased leaching

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.243) Solution (d)**

**News:** Boron and Zinc coated fertilizers will attract an additional per tonne subsidy to encourage their application along with primary nutrients.

The composition and thickness of the fertilizer coating is carefully adjusted to control the nutrient release rate (It can vary from several weeks to many months). Therefore they provide a prolonged supply of nutrients.

Sustained nutrient release also decrease leaching and gaseous losses.

Prolonged nutrient release may provide more uniform plant nutrition, better growth and improved plant performance.

**Q.244) Consider the following statements about Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)**

1. They are aimed at addressing the mismatch of renewable energy resources in the States and their Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) requirements
2. They are traded on the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) and the Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.244) Solution (c)**

**Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO)**

- It is a mechanism by which the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions are obliged to purchase a certain percentage of power from renewable energy sources.
- RPO is being implemented throughout the country to create demand for renewable energy.
- RPOs make it compulsory for all large consumers of energy to ensure that a certain percentage of that energy mix is from renewable sources such as wind and solar.
- RPO is of two categories – (a) Non Solar & (b) Solar.

**Renewable Energy Certification (REC)**

- RECs are aimed at addressing the mismatch of renewable energy resources in the States and their RPO requirements. Obligated entities can fulfill their RPOs by purchasing RECs.

- RECs are traded on the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) and the Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL)
- In line with RPOs there are two categories of RECs – Solar & Non-Solar

**Q.245) Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**

1. It offers a renewable one year accidental death cum disability cover to all subscribing bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 70 years
2. A premium of Rs.12/- per annum per subscriber is to be auto debited from subscriber's bank account

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.245) Solution (d)**

**Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)**

- These Schemes are offered/administered through both Public and Private Sector Insurance companies, in tie-up with scheduled commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks.
- PMJJBY and PMSBY provide insurance cover to common people, especially poor and the under-privileged sections of the society.

**PMJJBY**

- It offers a renewable one year term life cover of Rupees Two Lakh to all subscribing bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 50 years, covering death due to any reason, for a premium of Rs.330/- per annum per subscriber, to be auto debited from subscriber's bank account.

**PMSBY**

- It offers a renewable one year accidental death cum disability cover to all subscribing bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 70 years for a premium of Rs.12/- per annum per subscriber to be auto debited from subscriber's bank account.
- The scheme provides a cover of Rs. two Lakh for accidental death or total permanent disability and Rs One Lakh in case of permanent partial disability.

**Q.246) Which of the following are benefits of 'Millets'?**

1. It helps in bowel movement
2. It manages diabetes and obesity
3. It keeps hypertension at bay
4. It helps maintain blood pressure

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.246) Solution (d)**

Their high-fibre content helps in bowel movement and manages diabetes and obesity. Their high magnesium level is good for lowering blood pressure, while the potassium content keeps hypertension at bay.

**Read More (IMPORTANT) - <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/feacontent.aspx?relid=106818>**

**Q.247) The term "Fragile Five" was coined back in August 2013 to represent five emerging market economies that have become too dependent on unreliable foreign investment to finance their growth plans. Which of the following countries are among them?**

1. Thailand
2. Colombia
3. Chile
4. Brazil
5. South Africa

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.247) Solution (b)****Fragile Five**

- It is a term coined to represent emerging market economies that have become too dependent on unreliable foreign investment to finance their growth ambitions.
- India, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia and Turkey
- As capital flows out of emerging markets to developed markets, many of their currencies experienced significant weakness and made it difficult to finance current account deficits.
- The lack of new investment also made it impossible to finance many growth projects, which contributed to a slowdown in their respective economies. This created a potential issue for certain vulnerable economies.

**Troubled Ten**

- After China's surprise devaluation of the yuan in mid-2015, Morgan Stanley analysts highlighted ten additional countries that could be facing troubles ahead.
- Bloomberg has coined these "Troubled Ten" and they include Colombia, Chile, Peru, South Korea, Thailand, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Brazil, and South Africa.
- These countries have the highest export exposure and export competitiveness with China and could be the most vulnerable to a currency war.

**Q.248) Consider the following statements with respect to Elections in India**

1. Samadhan is a public grievance redressal and monitoring system developed by the Election Commission
2. Suvridha is a single window system for giving election-related permission/clearance within 24 hours
3. Tasmanian Dodge is the term used for the fraud in the elections

**Select the correct code:**

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

d) All of the above

**Q.248) Solution (d)**

**Tasmanian Dodge** is the term used for the fraud in the elections to State Legislative Councils when some voters steal in fake ballot papers (blank papers of the same colour as the original ballot papers).

**National Electoral Roll Purification and Authentication Programme (NERPAP)** was launched in 2015 with the main objective of building a completely error-free and authenticated electoral roll.

**Samadhan** is a public grievance redressal and monitoring system developed by the Election Commission to provide a common platform for all complaints, grievances, concerns and suggestions lodged by any member of the public.

**Suvidha** is a single window system for giving election-related permission/clearness within 24 hours.

**Sugam** is an IT based Vehicle Management System with the facility of issuance of requisition letters for vehicles, capturing of vehicle details with address, mobile number and bank details of owner and drive, transfer of vehicles from one district to another district etc.

**EASY – (Electoral Assistance System)** - A web enabled service to all electors including on mobile App and SMS to know all information about Electoral Rolls, Election officers and to apply in Electoral Rolls for inclusion, deletion, modification and migration; details of Polling stations and how to reach there and to get Voter Slip with Key map to Reach the Polling Station

Read More - [http://eci.nic.in/eci\\_main1/current/ECI-NewInitiatives2015.pdf](http://eci.nic.in/eci_main1/current/ECI-NewInitiatives2015.pdf)

**Q.249) Consider the following statements about European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)**

1. It is a multilateral development bank set up after the Second World War
2. India will become EBRD's 69th member and will take a shareholding in the bank, but it will not be a recipient of EBRD financing
3. It is headquartered in Brussels

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 and 2

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

**Q.249) Solution (c)****European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)**

- India is set to join multilateral lender EBRD. India to EBRD's 69th member
- It enables Indian companies to undertake joint investments in regions in which the EBRD operates.
- The EBRD's largest shareholder is currently the U.S., while other G7 nations also hold significant stakes.
- While India will not be a recipient of EBRD financing, it will benefit from the bank's expertise and support in the region.
- The London-headquartered EBRD is a multilateral development bank set up in 1991 after the fall of the Berlin wall
- It is based on a proposal by former French President Francois Mitterand, the bank's initial focus was helping central and Eastern European nations reconstruct their economies in the post-Cold War era.
- It invests in 38 emerging economies across three continents, according to a set of criteria that aim to make its countries more competitive, better governed, greener, more inclusive, more resilient and more integrated.

**Do You Know?**

- In 2017, the EBRD signed a pact with the International Solar Alliance

**Think**

- European Investment Bank (EIB)

**Q.25) Arrange the following countries from North to South**

1. El Salvador
2. Belize
3. Nicaragua
4. Costa Rica

Select the correct code:



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

Q.250) Solution (a)



Q.251) Consider the following statements about Financial Stability Board (FSB)

1. It was established in the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis

2. It was established by the Group of Twenty (G-20) finance ministers and central bank governors
3. It is hosted and funded by the Bank for International Settlements

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.251) Solution (d)**

**Financial Stability Board (FSB)**

- In the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis, the Group of Twenty (G-20) finance ministers and central bank governors came together to establish the Financial Stability Board (FSB) in April 2009.
- It is an international body that monitors and makes recommendations about the global financial system.
- It was created to strengthen and coordinate international standards among national financial authorities and international standard-setting bodies as a way to foster the implementation of more effective financial sector policies for increased global financial stability.
- The FSB, which comprises 24 member countries, the European Commission and numerous international bodies, is an outgrowth of the Financial Stability Forum (FSF) founded in 1999 by the member countries of the Group of Seven (G-7).
- It is hosted and funded by the Bank for International Settlements; the board is based in Basel, Switzerland.

**Q.252) 'Krem Puri' was recently in news for**

- a) World's longest sandstone cave
- b) World's longest limestone cave
- c) Wettest Place on Earth
- d) India's First Private Railway Station

**Q.252) Solution (a)**

**Krem Puri**

**News:** World's longest sandstone cave named Krem Puri was recently discovered in Meghalaya

**About**

- It has a length of 24.5 km
- This underground cavern is more than 6,000 metres longer than the world record-holder, the Cueva Del Saman in Edo Zulia, Venezuela — a quartzite sandstone cave measuring 18,200 metres.
- This sandstone cave has also become India's second longest cave in the general category after the limestone Krem Liat Prah-Umim-Labit system measuring a little over 31km in Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya
- The cave system has fossils of dinosaurs, especially the Mosasaurus, a giant reptile that lived 66-76 million years ago.
- Krem Puri is now the second longest cave system in the general category after this.

**Q.253) Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is associated with**

- a) Kyoto Protocol
- b) Montreal Protocol
- c) Nagoya- Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol
- d) Madrid Protocol

**Q.253) Solution (a)****Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)**

- The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is one of the Flexible Mechanisms defined in the Kyoto Protocol (IPCC, 2007)
- It provides for emissions reduction projects which generate Certified Emission Reduction units (CERs) which may be traded in emissions trading schemes.
- It allows a country with an emission-reduction or emission-limitation commitment under the Kyoto Protocol to implement an emission-reduction project in developing countries.
- Such projects can earn saleable certified emission reduction (CER) credits, each equivalent to one tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>, which can be counted towards meeting Kyoto targets.

- It is the first global, environmental investment and credit scheme of its kind, providing a standardized emissions offset instrument, CERs.

**Q.254) Consider the following statement about Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS)**

1. It is a set of criteria which allows tiger sites to check if their management will lead to successful tiger conservation
2. Lansdowne Forest Division is the only site in India that is CA|TS approved

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.254) Solution (c)**

The CA|TS was developed in response to the need for stringent conservation procedures for protection of the big cat through a partnership between governments and conservation organisations to assess the levels of effective management, among others.

To date, three sites - Lansdowne Forest Division in Uttarakhand, India, Chitwan National Park in Nepal and Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve in Russia - have been awarded CA|TS Approved status.

CA|TS is a set of criteria which allows tiger sites to check if their management will lead to successful tiger conservation. CA|TS is organised under seven pillars and 17 elements of critical management activity.

CA|TS was developed by tiger and protected area experts. Officially launched in 2013, CA|TS is an important part of Tx2, the global goal to double wild tiger numbers by the year 2022.

Read More - <http://tigers.panda.org/news/what-is-conservation-assured/>

**Q.255) Project UNNATI is associated with**

- a) Allocation of coal mines

- b) Digital Literacy in Rural India
- c) Improving operational and financial performance of Ports
- d) Monitor high value transactions and detect tax evaders

**Q.255) Solution (c)**

**The aims and objectives of Project UNNATI of the Ministry of Shipping are**

- Benchmark operational and financial performance of the 12 major ports with selected Indian private ports and best-in-class international ports for identifying improvement areas.
- Undertake capability maturity assessment for key processes and functional capabilities (e.g., IT, HR, Environment, and Health) and identify gaps and areas for further strengthening.
- Detailed deep-dive diagnosis and root cause analysis for the identified opportunity areas in each of the 12 major ports to understand underlying reasons for performance bottlenecks.
- Develop practical and actionable solutions on the basis of root cause findings, and develop a comprehensive improvement roadmap for each of the 12 major ports.

**Q.256) Consider the following statements about E-Way Bill System**

1. It offers the technological framework to track intra-state as well as inter-state movements of goods under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime
2. One e-way bill will be valid throughout the country for the movement of goods and it does away with the separate transit pass for every state
3. It has to be generated only for goods transported through roadways

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.256) Solution (a)**

**E-Way Bill**

- An electronic way bill or 'e-way bill' system offers the technological framework to track intra-state as well as inter-state movements of goods of value exceeding Rs 50,000, for sales beyond 10 km in the new Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.
- The E-way bill must be raised before the goods are shipped and should include details of the goods, their consignor, recipient and transporter.
- Under the e-way bill system, there will be no need for a separate transit pass for every state — one e-way bill will be valid throughout the country for the movement of goods.
- Every E-way bill generated by a sender or buyer of goods is to be automatically updated in the outward sales return (GSTR1) of the supplier
- Whether goods are transported on one's own or hired conveyance, by air, rail or road, the E-way bill has to be generated.
- Where the goods are handed over to a transporter for conveyance by road and neither the consignor nor the consignee has generated the E-way Bill, the transporter becomes liable to generate it.
- When the consignor or transporter generates the E-way bill, the recipient for the consignment has to either accept or reject it on the portal. If no action is taken by the recipient in 72 hours, it shall be taken as accepted.

#### Exemptions

- The GST Council exempted 154 items of common use, such as meat, fish, curd, vegetables and some cereals, human blood, LPG for households and kerosene for the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- The system will not be applicable on goods being transported by non-motorised conveyance, and where goods are transported from the port, airport, air cargo complex and land Customs stations to an inland container depot or a container freight station for Customs clearance.

#### Q.257) Consider the following statements about 'CRISIL Inclusix'

1. It is an index to measure India's progress on financial inclusion
2. Life insurance and Pension data are included to compute the Inclusix

#### Select the correct statements

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

**Q.257) Solution (a)**

CRISIL Inclusix is a unique index to measure the extent of financial inclusion in India across its 666 districts. It uses a statistically robust, transparent, and easy-to-understand methodology, and is based on a modular, scalable architecture.

It is a relative index on a scale of 0 to 100, and combines four critical parameters of basic financial services - branch penetration, deposit penetration, credit penetration, and insurance penetration - into one metric.

In the latest edition of CRISIL Inclusix, life insurance data has been incorporated for the first time. CRISIL has not included pension to compute Inclusix, this edition carries details of the progress on the National Pension Scheme. Similarly, in the 2013 edition, CRISIL had incorporated microfinance data for the first time.

It enables districts, states and regions to track the progress made with respect to financial inclusion in their jurisdiction. Thus, CRISIL Inclusix assesses the degree of financial inclusion at the national, regional, state and district levels.

**Q.258) Consider the following statements about 'Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children' (CCPWC)**

1. It will be funded through Nirbhaya fund
2. Over 27,000 police personnel across the country will be trained to tackle cybercrimes against women and children under the scheme
3. It facilitates removal of child pornographic content in coordination

**Select the correct statements**

1. 1 Only
2. 1 and 2
3. 1 and 3
4. All of the above

**Q.258) Solution (d)**

Ministry of Home Affairs is implementing a scheme 'Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children' (CCPWC) from NIRBHAYA funds

One cyber forensic training laboratory will be set up in each State/UT

It aims to train 27,500 police personnel across the country in the field of cyber domain.

It envisages creation of an online cyber-crime reporting platform to allow public to report complaints of cybercrime including child pornography and facilitate removal of child pornographic content in coordination with concerned ministries

**Q.259) Consider the following statements about 'SUVIDHA napkins'**

1. It is biodegraded when it reacts with oxygen, after it is used and discarded
2. It is launched under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)
3. It was launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.259) Solution (b)**

**SUVIDHA**

- It is a 100% Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin launched under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)
- It will be available for Rs. 2.50 per pad at over 3200 Janaushadhi Kendras across India and would ensure 'Swachhta, Swasthya and Suvidha' for the underprivileged Women of India.
- SUVIDHA napkins would be physically available at all Janaushadhi Kendras in the country by May 28, 2018 – World Menstrual Hygiene Day

**Q.260) Turkey borders which of the following countries?**

1. Greece
2. Azerbaijan
3. Bulgaria

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 2 Only



- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None of the above

**Q.260) Solution (c)**

Turkey is bordered by eight countries with Greece and Bulgaria to the northwest; Georgia to the northeast; Armenia, the Azerbaijan and Iran to the east; and Iraq and Syria to the south.

**Q.261) Consider the following statements about 'Luminescence Dating'**

1. It measures the amount of light emitted from energy stored in certain rock types and derived soils to obtain an absolute date for a specific event that occurred in the past
2. It does not require a contemporary organic component of the sediment to be dated

**Select the correct statements**

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.261) Solution (c)

#### About

- Luminescence dating (including thermoluminescence and optically stimulated luminescence) is a type of dating methodology that measures the amount of light emitted from energy stored in certain rock types and derived soils to obtain an absolute date for a specific event that occurred in the past.
- The method is a direct dating technique, meaning that the amount of energy emitted is a direct result of the event being measured.
- It is much more useful than carbon dating
- Unlike carbon-14 dating, luminescence dating methods do not require a contemporary organic component of the sediment to be dated.

#### Two forms of luminescence dating are used by archaeologists to date events in the past:

- Thermoluminescence (TL) or thermally stimulated luminescence (TSL), which measures energy emitted after an object has been exposed to temperatures between 400 and 500°C;
- Optically stimulated luminescence (OSL), which measures energy emitted after an object has been exposed to daylight.

#### Luminescence

- The term luminescence refers to the energy emitted as light from minerals such as quartz and feldspar after they've been exposed to an ionizing radiation of some sort.
- Minerals are exposed to cosmic radiation: luminescence dating takes advantage of the fact that certain minerals both collect and release energy from that radiation under specific conditions.

#### OSL

- It is a method widely used by geologists for dating the sediment layers in which tools are found

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/science/115-000-year-old-bone-tools-in-china-show-how-sophisticated-prehistoric-techniques-were/story-sMszgnCuLM795ly54o2CVN.html>

**Q.262) Which of the following are channels of monetary policy transmission?**

1. Interest rate
2. Credit
3. Exchange rate
4. Asset price

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.262) Solution (d)**

#### **Monetary Policy Transmission**

News: Monetary policy transmission improves if friction in the financial system diminishes: Development Research Group (DRG) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

#### **It said**

- It is possible with greater financial inclusion in terms of depositors' base and easing of the collateral constraints of the households
- Easier norms for collateral are likely to enable households to increase their borrowings which, in turn, may improve the transmission

#### **About**

- It refers to the process by which a central bank's monetary policy decisions are passed on, through financial markets, to businesses and households.
- Interest rate is the main channel of monetary policy transmission. Similarly, there is credit channel, asset price channel, confidence channel, exchange rate channel etc.
- In the Indian scenario, the momentary policy transmission is heavily depending upon the repo rate.

**Q.263) Consider the following statements about 'Baobab Tree'**

- a) They are generally found in Tropical Evergreen Forests
- b) It is native to India
- c) Both (a) and (b)

d) Neither (a) nor (b)

**Q.263) Solution (d)**

Adansonia is a genus of deciduous trees known as baobabs. They are found in arid regions of Madagascar, mainland Africa, Arabia, and Australia.

Baobabs store water in the trunk (up to 120,000 litres) to endure harsh drought conditions. All occur in seasonally arid areas, and are deciduous, shedding their leaves during the dry season.

**Q.264) Consider the following statements about Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF)**

1. It is an alternative investment fund registered with SEBI
2. National Investment and Infrastructure Fund of India (NIIF) and the UK government have committed £120 million each for the fund

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.264) Solution (c)**

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund of India (NIIF) announced a partnership with the UK government to launch Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF), an alternative investment fund registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

NIIF and the UK government have committed £120 million each for the fund which will be managed by EverSource Capital, a joint venture of home-grown private equity firm Everstone Group and Lightsource BP.

**Q.265) Which of the following capital account transactions by an individual are permitted under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)?**

1. Trading on the foreign exchange markets
2. Opening of foreign currency account abroad with a bank

3. Purchase of property abroad

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) None of the above

**Q.265) Solution (b)**

**Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)**

- It was introduced as a liberalization measure to facilitate resident individuals to remit funds abroad for permitted current or capital account transactions or combination of both.
- These Regulations are amended from time to time to incorporate the changes in the regulatory framework and published through amendment notifications.
- Remittances are permitted for overseas education, travel, medical treatment and purchase of shares and property, apart from maintenance of relatives living abroad, gifting and donations.
- Individuals can also open, maintain and hold foreign currency accounts with overseas banks for carrying out transactions.
- The rules do not allow remittances for trading on the foreign exchange markets, margin or margin calls to overseas exchanges and counterparties and the purchase of Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds issued by Indian companies abroad.
- Under LRS, people can't send money to countries identified as 'non cooperative' by the Financial Action Task Force.

**Q.266) Consider the following statements about Schedule H Drug**

1. It is a class of drugs appearing as an appendix to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945
2. They cannot be purchased over the counter without the prescription of a qualified doctor

**Select the correct statements**

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.266) Solution (c)**

**Schedule H Drug**

- It is a class of prescription drugs in India appearing as an appendix to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 introduced in 1945.
- These are drugs which cannot be purchased over the counter without the prescription of a qualified doctor.
- The manufacture and sale of all drugs are covered under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules.

**Schedule X Drug**

- It is a class of prescription drugs in India appearing as an appendix to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules introduced in 1945.
- These are drugs which cannot be purchased over the counter without the prescription of a qualified doctor.
- Also, the retailer has to preserve the prescription for a period of two years.

**Q.267) Which of the following banks are insured by Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)?**

1. Foreign banks functioning in India
2. Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)
3. Nationalised Banks

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.267) Solution (d)**

**Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)**

- It is a very old subsidiary of RBI which provides insurance to all the banks registered under the guidelines of the RBI Act.
- The aim of the DICGC Act, 1961 is to provide for the establishment of a corporation for the purpose of insurance of deposits and guaranteeing of credit facilities and various other matters which are incidental to any event occurring DICGC Act.
- No insured banks can withdraw themselves from the DICGC coverage. The deposit insurance scheme is mandatory for all the banks.
- All commercial banks including branches of foreign banks functioning in India, nationalized/local banks and RRB's are insured by the DICGC.
- At present all the co-operative banks other than those from the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Lakshadweep, the State of Meghalaya and Dadra and Nagar Haveli are covered by the DICGC.
- Primary cooperative societies are also not insured by the DICGC. Deposit insurance premium is borne entirely by all the insured banks, respectively.

#### **What comes under DICGC insurance?**

- It is important to know that the DICGC insures all the deposits such as savings, current, fixed, recurring, etc.
- Deposits which are not covered are deposits of the foreign governments, deposits of the central or the state governments, deposits of the state land development banks with the state co-operative banks, various inter-bank deposits, any amount due on account of and deposit received outside India and any amount, which has been specifically exempted by the corporation with the previous approval of RBI.

#### **Maximum amount of deposit insured under DICGC**

- Each of the depositor, who has an account in a bank, is insured up to a maximum of Rs 1 lakh for both principal and interest amount held by them as on the date of cancellation or liquidation of bank's license or the date on which the scheme of amalgamation/merger/reconstruction takes place.

#### **DICGC liable to pay the insurance amount**

- When a bank goes into liquidation then in such a case the DICGC is liable to pay to each depositor through the liquidator, the amount of his deposit up to Rs 1 lakh within two months from the date of claim list from the liquidator.
- If a bank is reconstructed or amalgamated or merged with another bank then in such a case the DICGC pays to the bank concerned.

**Q.268) Consider the following statements about 'Project Dhoop'**

1. It is aimed at achieving India's solar energy target of 100GW by 2022
2. It is under the aegis of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
3. It calls for strong enforcement of Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) and for providing Renewable Generation Obligation (RGO)

**Select the INCORRECT statement**

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

**Q.268) Solution (d)**

**Project Dhoop**

- It urges schools to shift their morning assembly to noon time, mainly between 11 am and 1 pm to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight
- Launched by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to spread awareness about availing Vitamin D through natural sunlight and consuming fortified food among school-going children
- The project was implemented in collaboration with the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), North MCD and several private schools through a Joint Noon Assembly.
- Vitamin D deficiency occurs due to overuse of sunscreen, wearing clothes that cover most of the skin, working all day in an air-conditioned atmosphere, and other factors.
- Sunshine from 11am to 1pm that is most beneficial in increasing Vitamin D levels in human body because of the best ultraviolet B (UVB) radiation
- Vitamin D deficiency occurs due to overuse of sunscreen, wearing clothes that cover most of the skin, working all day in an air-conditioned atmosphere, and other factors.

Source: <http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/fssai-introduces-project-dhoop-encourages-children-to-absorb-vitamin-d-through-sunlight-60123>

**Q.269) 'Sentinel Wrap', recently in news is a**

- a) New Kind of bubble wrap
- b) Material used to store antiquities



- c) Space Debris Cleaner
- d) Patch that can detect if the food has gone bad

**Q.269) Solution (d)****Sentinal Wrap**

**News:** Scientists have developed a transparent patch that can detect if food has gone bad, by monitoring the presence of harmful pathogens in real time.

**About**

- The patch can be incorporated directly into food packaging, and signal E coli and Salmonella contamination as it happens
- It has the potential to replace the traditional "best before" date on food and drinks
- If a pathogen is present in the food or drink inside the package, it would trigger a signal in the packaging that could be read by a smartphone or other simple device.
- The test itself does not affect the contents of the package
- It would be cheap and easy to mass produce, as the DNA molecules that detect food pathogens can be printed onto the test material
- The same technology could also be used in other applications, such as bandages to indicate if wounds are infected, or for wrapping surgical instruments to assure they are sterile.

**Source:** <http://www.dnaindia.com/science/report-new-novel-patch-can-detect-food-contamination-in-real-time-2602655>

**Q.270) Consider the following statements about 'Silappatikaram'**

1. It describes 'Tamizhakam' divided into three major kingdoms, viz. Chola, Pandya and Chera
2. The focus in Silappatikaram is on the lives of Vaisyas (traders and merchants)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.270) Solution (c)**

Silappatikaram is an epic similar to Mahabharata, Ramayana, Iliad and Odyssey. It is authored in the ancient Tamil language spoken during 500 BCE to 500 CE period in southern India. Its name means the 'Anklet Story' or the chapter on the history of an Anklet. 'Silappu' (Silappu) in Tamil means 'Anklet'. 'Atikaram' in Tamil means 'chapter, narrative or passage focusing on a particular topic of interest'. Like Mahabharata which forms a window of information or a time portal to the lives of people in ancient India, especially in the Indo-Gangatic plain during Kurukshetra War period (dated to around 3100 BCE), Silappatikaram forms a window to southern India during 500 BCE to 500 CE period. It describes the Tamil country (Tamizhakam) divided into three major kingdoms, viz. Chola, Pandya and Chera (alternatively Cheral or Kerala) with their capital cities respectively Pukkar, Maturai and Vanchi. Unlike the Kuru-Panchala kingdoms of Indo Gangatic plain, described vividly in Mahabharata, the Chola, Pandya and Chera kingdoms had a maritime culture and engaged in sea trade with distant lands. These distant lands included Ionia in Greece and Rome. The Greeks and Romans were described as Yavanas and small pockets of Yavana territory existed in the Tamil country, such as in the city of Pukkar, the capital of the Chola kingdom. Indirect references reveals cultural influences in the Tamil country through trade relations via land or sea with Arabia, Israel, Egypt, Dwaraka (Gujarat of India), Lanka (Srilanka), Vanga (Bangal of India and Bangladesh), South East Asia and China.

In Mahabharata the focus is on the lives of Kshatriyas (warriors) and Brahmanas (scholars). In Silappatikaram the focus is on the lives of Vaisyas (traders and merchants). The most important person described in the epic is a Vaishya women named Kannaki who became a goddess after suffering a very painful life including the death of her husband Kovalan. She is comparable to Sita of Ramayana and Panchali of Mahabharata. Sita's abduction by Ravana and the fulfillment of her subsequent revenge caused his destruction at the city of Lanka. Panchali's humiliation by the Kauravas caused their destruction at Kurukshetra. Kannaki's revenge for the unrighteous execution of her husband by Pandya king Netunchezhiyan caused his destruction at the city of Maturai.

Read More - <http://naalanda.wikidot.com/article:silappatikaram>

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Tiruchirapalli/rare-dance-panel-of-nayak-period-found-at-pathalapettai/article23487605.ece>

**Q.271) Consider the following statements about 'e-FRRO scheme'**

1. It is aimed at providing faceless, cashless and paperless visa related services to foreigners
2. It is launched by Ministry of External Affairs

3. Common Services Centres (CSCs) are the access points for delivery of these services

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.271) Solution (a)**

**e-FRRO scheme**

**News:** Home Ministry launched the web-based application 'e-FRRO' (e-Foreigners Regional Registration Office)

**About**

- It is aimed at building a centralized, transparent online platform for the foreigners to avail visa related services and to provide Faceless, Cashless and Paperless services to the foreigners with user friendly experience.
- It is vital in improving the ease of service delivery with respect to foreigners visiting and staying in India.
- In the new system, foreigners would be able to get as many as 27 Visa and Immigration related services in India from the comfort of their place of stay.
- Using the e-FRRO application, foreigners can apply online on the portal and obtain the service(s) through email/post without appearing in person at the FRO/FRRO office.

**Present System**

- In the present system, foreigners staying in India on Visa duration of more than 180 days have to get themselves registered with their respective FROs/FRROs.
- Similarly, foreigners requiring different kind of visa related services such as Visa extension, Visa Conversion, Change of address, Change of Educational institutions, Exit permits etc are currently required to visit the FROs/FRROs office.

**Q.272) 'Aqaba Process' is associated with**

- 1. Countering extremism and radicalisation in the Arab world
- 2. It was launched by Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia

3. India is an active participant in the process

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.272) Solution (c)**

Jordan launched the Aqaba process to promote deradicalisation in which India is an active participant.

**Q.273) Consider the following statements about 'e-Vidhan'**

1. It is a mission mode project to digitize and make the functioning of State Legislatures in India paperless.
2. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is the Nodal Ministry for the project.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.273) Solution (a)**

**e-Vidhan**

- It is a mission mode project to digitize and make the functioning of State Legislatures in India paperless.
- It is a part of the broader Digital India Programme of the Government and is likely to contribute to the cleanliness & environment by reducing the use of papers to a great extent.
- The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is the Nodal Ministry for the project.

**Q.274) Consider the following statements about 'Bratachari movement'**

1. It was initiated by Gurusaday Dutt
2. It was aimed at the all-round development of the body, mind and soul through the invention of a specific tradition

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.274) Solution (c)**

The Bratachari movement was a movement for spiritual and social improvement in India initiated by Gurusaday Dutt in 1932. The movement aimed to raise the self-esteem and national awareness of people of undivided India regardless of their religion, caste, sex or age. It was a comprehensive programme of physical, mental, and intellectual culture, based on folk traditions of physical exercise, art, dance, drama, music, singing and social service. The Bratacharis undertake to perform good deeds, strengthen fellowship and develop the mind and body through dance.

**Source:** <https://www.livemint.com/Leisure/dehpsfYdswcW49JJsAZgIN/Will-the-curtain-fall-on-Gurusaday-Museum.html>

**Q.275) 'Wojaris' is a community from**

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

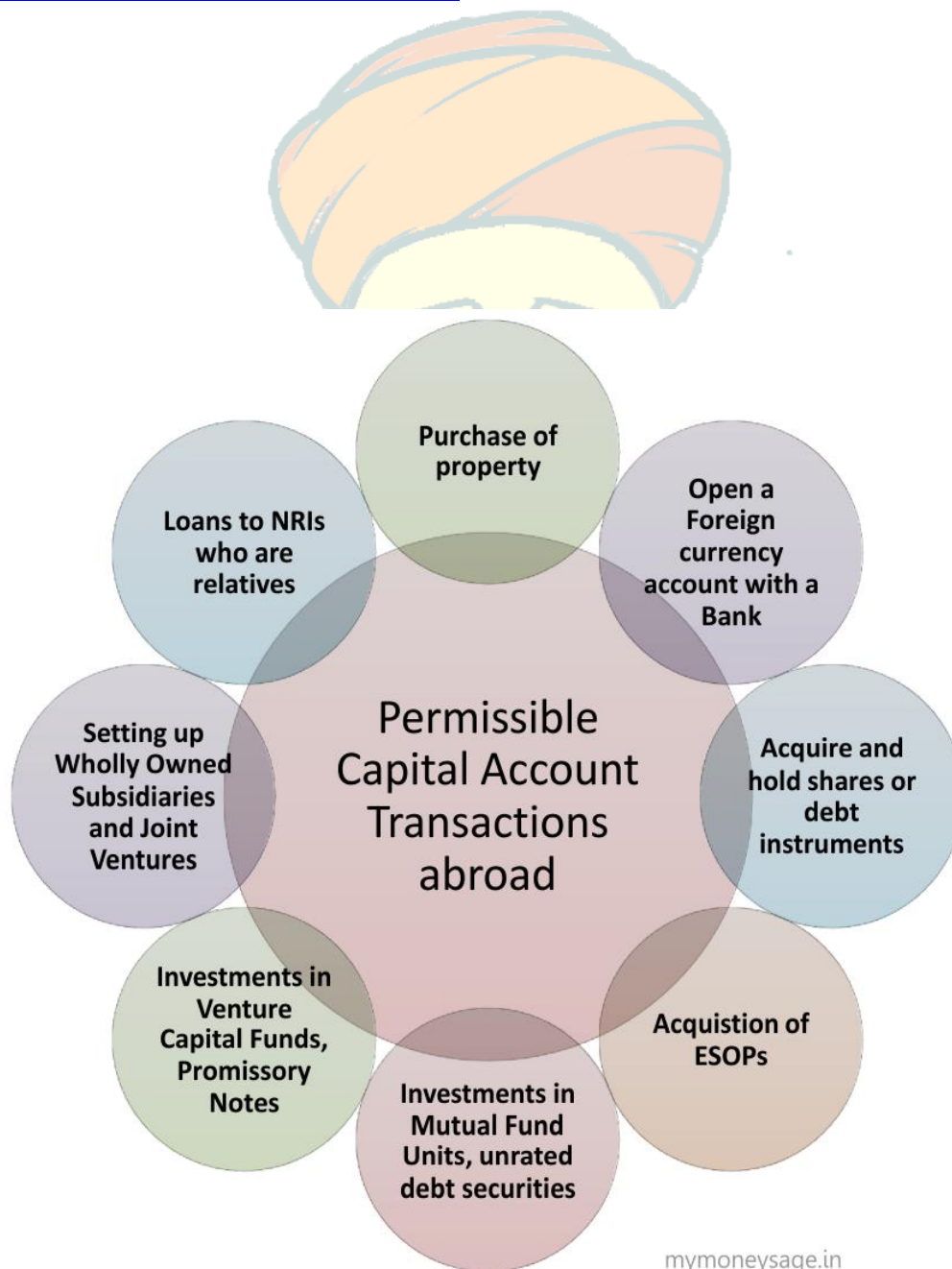
**Q.275) Solution (a)**

Adilabad Dokra, an ancient bell metal craft popular in the tribal regions of Adilabad in Telangana, and Warangal durries, have been issued Geographical Indication (GI) Registration Certificate.

The Dhokra craftsmen belong to the Woj community, called Wojaris, and also called Otaris, in Telangana State. The uniqueness of Adilabad Dokra is that no two pieces are alike in shape as well as in size and hence replicas of the antiques are nearly impossible.

Adilabad Dhokra metal casting products mainly include idols of local deities, bells, dancing figures, jewellery, statues and other decorative items. Apart from all this, the craftsmen also make figures of animals and birds, santhal jewels such as twinkly saltation bells, and measuring chitties.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/tribal-metal-craft-products-from-telangana-get-gi-tag/article23576492.ece>



**Q.276) Consider the following statements about Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR)**

1. It responds directly to the Bonn Challenge to restore 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded land by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.
2. It was initiated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.276) Solution (c)****Bonn Challenge**

- It is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.
- It was launched in 2011 by the Government of Germany and IUCN, and later endorsed and extended by the New York Declaration on Forests at the 2014 UN Climate Summit.
- Underlying the Bonn Challenge is the forest landscape restoration (FLR) approach, which aims to restore ecological integrity at the same time as improving human well-being through multifunctional landscapes.
- The Bonn Challenge is not a new global commitment but rather a practical means of realizing many existing international commitments, including the CBD Aichi Target 15, the UNFCCC REDD+ goal, and the Rio+20 land degradation neutrality goal.
- It is an implementation vehicle for national priorities such as water and food security and rural development while contributing to the achievement of international climate change, biodiversity and land degradation commitments.

**Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR)**

- It was initiated by IUCN to unite governments, organisations, communities and individuals working towards the restoration of degraded and deforested lands.
- Its members are active in every major region of the world, gathering knowledge on restoration, facilitating restoration assessments, and supporting Bonn Challenge commitments.

Read More - <http://www.forestlandscaperestoration.org/about-partnership>

**Q.277) 'Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)' is associated with which of the following organisations?**

- a) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
- b) European Union
- c) North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- d) Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition

**Q.277) Solution (a)**

**Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS)**

- RATS is headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- It is a permanent organ of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- It serves to promote cooperation of member states against the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism.
- The Head of RATS is elected to a three-year term. Each member state also sends a permanent representative to RATS.

**Q.278) Recently, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) granted first license for Liquid Chlorine on All India Basis. 'Liquid Chlorine' is used in which of the following industries/sectors?**

1. Water purification
2. Plastics
3. Agriculture
4. Paper

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.278) Solution (d)**



**Industrial applications****Agriculture**

- Liquid chlorine is used to manufacture pesticides and insecticides including BHC and DDT.

**Chemical processing**

- Liquid chlorine serves as a reactive intermediate to make inorganic chemicals such as hydrochloric acid, chloro sulphonic acid and metallic chlorides.

**Dyes, pigments and paints**

- Chlorine derivatives of copper phthalocyanines are commercially important.

**Pharmaceuticals**

- 98 per cent of pharmaceuticals drugs are manufactured using liquid chlorine.

**Plastics**

- Chlorination of ethylene produces PVC. Liquid chlorine is also used in the production of methylene diphenyl diisocyanate (MDI) and toluene diisocyanate (TDI) which are used to make polyurethanes.

**Pulp and paper**

- As a bleaching agent, liquid chlorine helps in pulp whitening.

**Textile**

- Liquid chlorine is used to bleach cotton yarn and cloth in the textile industry.

**Water purification**

- When added to raw water, liquid chlorine helps prevent biological growth. Liquid chlorine added to the rapid mix before sedimentation is often used for disinfection, oxidation of iron and manganese, taste and odour, as well as control and oxidation of hydrogen sulphide.

**Q.279) Consider the following statements about Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act**

1. According to AFSPA, an area can be disturbed due to differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.

2. The Central Government or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.
3. Armed Forces personnel are immune from prosecution under AFSPA

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.279) Solution (a)**

**Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)**

- AFSPA gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in “disturbed areas”.
- They have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area, can use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.
- If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant; enter or search a premises without a warrant; and ban the possession of firearms.
- Any person arrested or taken into custody may be handed over to the officer in charge of the nearest police station along with a report detailing the circumstances that led to the arrest.
- It is effective in the whole of Nagaland, Assam, Manipur (excluding seven assembly constituencies of Imphal) and parts of Arunachal Pradesh. The Centre revoked it in Meghalaya on April 1, 2018. Tripura withdrew the AFSPA in 2015. Jammu and Kashmir too has a similar Act.

**Origin**

- The Act came into force in the context of increasing violence in the North-eastern States decades ago, which the State governments found difficult to control.
- The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Bill was passed by both the Houses of Parliament and it was approved by the President on September 11, 1958. It became known as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958.

**Disturbed Area**

- A disturbed area is one which is declared by notification under Section 3 of the AFSPA.

- An area can be disturbed due to differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.
- The Central Government, or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.
- As per Section 3, it can be invoked in places where “the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary”.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs would usually enforce this Act where necessary, but there have been exceptions where the Centre decided to forego its power and leave the decision to the State governments.

**On July 8, 2016, in a landmark ruling, The Supreme Court of India ended the immunity of the armed forces from prosecution under AFSPA.**

**Q.280) Which of the following have Constitutional Status?**

1. National Commission for Minorities (NCM)
2. National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)
3. National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.280) Solution (b)**

Only the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes have Constitutional status till now, which gives them powers to act against officials.

**National Commission for Minorities (NCM)**

- It was under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
- Five religious communities, viz; Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) have been notified as minority communities by the Union Government.
- Further vide notification dated 27th Jan 2014; Jains have also been notified as minority community.

- Some of the states have also set up State Minorities Commissions in their respective States.
- Aggrieved persons belonging to the minority communities may approach the concerned State Minorities Commissions for redressal of their grievances. They may also send their representations, to the National Commission for Minorities, after exhausting all remedies available to them.
- NCM has powers to summon officials, including chief secretaries and director generals of police, but has to rely on departments concerned for action against officials.

**Q.281) 'Incheon Strategy' is associated with**

- a) Disability
- b) Agriculture Subsidies
- c) Deficit financing
- d) Desertification

**Q.281) Solution (a)**

Incheon Strategy provides Asian and Pacific region and world with first set of regionally agreed disability-inclusive development goals.

The Incheon Strategy builds on UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Biwako Millennium Framework for Action (BMF) and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and Pacific. It comprises 10 goals, 27 targets and 62 indicators.

**Q.282) 'Sao Tomé and Príncipe' is located in**

- a) South Atlantic
- b) South Pacific
- c) Indian Ocean
- d) Mediterranean Sea

**Q.282) Solution (a)**



**Q.283) Consider the following statements about 'Narmada River'**

1. It is the longest river that flows entirely within India
2. It flows eastwards into the Bay of Bengal
3. It flows through three states only

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.283) Solution (d)**

It is the third longest river that flows entirely within India, after the Godavari, and the Krishna. It flows through Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat.

It is one of only three major rivers in peninsular India that run from east to west (longest west flowing river), along with the Tapi River and the Mahi River. It is one of the rivers in India that flows in a rift valley, flowing west between the Satpura and Vindhya ranges. The other rivers which flow through rift valley include Damodar River in Chota Nagpur Plateau

and Tapti. The Tapti River and Mahi River also flow through rift valleys, but between different ranges.

**Q.284) Consider the following statements about 'Urban Services Environmental Rating System (USERS)'**

1. It aims to develop an analytical tool to measure the performance with respect to basic services delivery in local bodies
2. It is executed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
3. It is funded by the United Nations Development Programme

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.284) Solution (c)**

The Urban Services Environmental Rating System (USERS) Project funded by UNDP, executed by Ministry of Environment and implemented by Tata Energy Research Institute, addressed some of these problems. The project aims to develop an analytical tool to measure the performance with respect to basic services delivery in local bodies (Delhi Jal Board, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Kanpur Jal Sansthan and Kanpur Nagar Nigam) of Delhi and Kanpur, identified as pilot cities. Performance Measurement (PM) tool was developed through a set of performance measurement indicators that are benchmarked against set targets using the input-output efficiency outcome framework.

**Q.285) Consider the following statements about Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (GEEREF)**

1. It is a Fund-of-Funds advised by the World Bank
2. GEEREF funds concentrate on infrastructure projects that generate clean power through proven technologies with low risk
3. It invests in private equity funds which focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in emerging markets

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.285) Solution (b)****GEEREF**

- It is a Fund-of-Funds advised by the European Investment Bank Group.
- GEEREF invests in private equity funds which focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in emerging markets.
- GEEREF's funds concentrate on infrastructure projects that generate clean power through proven technologies with low risk.
- GEEREF's funds target attractive financial investments that also deliver a strong positive environmental and developmental impact.

**Q.286) Panmunjom Declaration was signed between**

- a) South Korea and North Korea
- b) North Korea and China
- c) Myanmar and Bangladesh
- d) Taiwan and Hong Kong

**Q.286) Solution (a)**

The Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula was adopted between leaders of North Korea and South Korea on April 27, 2018, during the 2018 inter-Korean Summit.

**Q.287) Consider the following statements about 'Satkosia Tiger Reserve'**

1. It is located where the Mahanadi River passes through a gorge in the Eastern Ghats
2. It supports moist deciduous forest and dry deciduous forest
3. It is a natural habitat for Sangai Deer

Select the correct statements

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

**Q.287) Solution (b)**

Satkosia Tiger Reserve is a tiger reserve located in the Angul district of Odisha, covering an area of 988.30 km<sup>2</sup>.

It is located where the Mahanadi River passes through a 22 km long gorge in the Eastern Ghats mountains.

The area of Satkosia Tiger Reserve supports moist deciduous forest, dry deciduous forest and moist peninsular Sal forest. This area is the home for Tiger, Leopard, Elephant, Gaur, Sambar, Spotted deer, Mouse deer, Nilgai, Chousingha, Sloth bear, Wild dog etc., Varieties of resident and migratory birds, reptilian species( Gharial, Magar, Crocodile, Fresh Water turtle, Poisons & Non poisons snakes etc.)

**Q.288) Right to Convert is a**

- a) Fundamental Right
- b) Constitutional Right
- c) Legal Right
- d) Civil Right

**Q.288) Solution (a)**

Right to convert is part of fundamental right of choice: Supreme Court -

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/right-to-convert-is-part-of-fundamental-right-of-choice-supreme-court/article23483824.ece>

Articles 25-30 guarantee citizens freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion. They also guarantee freedom to manage religious affairs, monetarily contribute to promotion of any religion, and to set up and administer educational institutions.

In 1977, a constitution bench headed by then Chief Justice of India A N Ray upheld the validity of the laws, saying freedom to propagate one's religion, as stipulated under Article 25 (1), did not grant a fundamental right to convert another person. The bench ruled that a



purposive conversion would impinge on the “freedom of conscience” guaranteed to all citizens.

### Law on conversion before Independence

The British did not enact any law. But many princely states did. Examples: Raigarh State Conversion Act, 1936, Patna Freedom of Religion Act, 1942, Sarguja State Apostasy Act, 1945, Udaipur State Anti-Conversion Act, 1946. Specific laws against conversion to Christianity were enacted in Bikaner, Jodhpur, Kalahandi and Kota.

### Q.289) Consider the following statements about ‘Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership (GIASI Partnership)’

1. All Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity are partners of the (GIASI Partnership)
2. The partners are committed to the effective implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 9

### Select the correct statements

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

### Q.289) Solution (c)

Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership (GIASI Partnership) is intended to support Parties to the CBD who are committed to the effective implementation of Article 8(h), Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 (invasive alien species), and the various decisions under the CBD pertaining to the prevention, eradication, and control of invasive alien species.

### Q.290) Consider the following statements about ‘Earth Biogenome Project’

1. It aims to sequence all eukaryotic species
2. It is supported by the World Economic Forum as part of its Fourth Industrial Revolution for the Earth Initiative

### Select the correct statements

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

**Q.290) Solution (c)**

The World Economic Forum announced today an ambitious partnership to sequence the DNA of all life on Earth and create an inclusive bio-economy, as part of its Fourth Industrial Revolution for the Earth Initiative.

The Earth Bio-Genome Project (EBP) will sequence all the plants, animals and single-cell organisms on Earth – the eukaryotic species – now possible due to the exponential drop in costs of genomic sequencing.

Fourth Industrial Revolution for the Earth is part of the World Economic Forum's Shaping the Future of Environment and Natural Resource Security System Initiative

**Q.291) 'Walong' is a tri-junction between**

- 1. India
- 2. China
- 3. Myanmar
- 4. Sikkim

Select the correct code:

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

**Q.291) Solution (a)**

Walong is situated on the bank of Lohit river.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Politics/pk7ZEWPLKnYoVCO5o8SWpN/Army-increases-strength-at-IndiaChinaMyanmar-trijunction.html>

**Q.292) 'Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana' (PMAGY) is under the**

- a) Ministry of Rural Development
- b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- c) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- d) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

**Q.292) Solution (b)**

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana' (PMAGY) is being implemented for integrated development of Scheduled Castes (SC) majority villages having SC Population concentration > 50%. Initially the scheme was launched on Pilot basis in 1000 villages in 5 States viz. Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The Scheme was further revised on 22.01.2015 with expansion to another 1500 SC majority villages distributed in Assam, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Haryana.

The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

**Q.293) Consider the following statement**

1. There are only two landlocked countries in South America
2. There are no landlocked countries in South East Asia
3. No Scandinavian Country is landlocked

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.293) Solution (c)**

Statement 1 is correct – Bolivia and Paraguay are landlocked

Statement 2 is incorrect – Laos is landlocked.

Statement 3 is correct.

**Q.294) Consider the following statements about 'Nipah Virus'**

1. The natural host of the virus are Culex mosquitoes
2. It was first identified in Coastal Kerala

**Select the correct statements**

1. 1 Only
2. 2 Only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.294) Solution (d)**

Nipah virus (NiV) infection is a newly emerging zoonosis that causes severe disease in both animals and humans. The natural host of the virus are fruit bats of the Pteropodidae Family, Pteropus genus.

NiV was first identified during an outbreak of disease that took place in Kampung Sungai Nipah, Malaysia in 1998.

The Nipah virus or NiV infection has symptoms like breathing trouble, inflammation of the brain, fever, headache, drowsiness, disorientation and delirium. A patient can slip into coma within 48 hours.

In 2004, many were infected in Bangladesh after consuming date palm sap contaminated by infected fruit bats.

The virus is transmitted through direct contact with infected bats, pigs, or from other NiV-infected people. Doctors advise that fruits strewn on the ground should not be eaten, for safety.

**Q.295) 'Karamay Declaration' is associated with which of the following?**

- a) INSTC
- b) CPEC
- c) TAPI
- d) SCO

**Q.295) Solution (b)**

Karamay Declaration is collaboration between Pakistan and China in space technology under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

It stressed upon a joint launch of space missions which would consist of astronauts from both countries.

CPEC is one of the six economic corridors conceived by china under its "Road and Belt" initiative. CPEC is China and Pakistan's bilateral project connecting Xinjian to Gwadar port through highways, railways, pipelines etc.

**Q.296) Consider the following statements about 'Yangli Festival'**

1. It is celebrated by the Tiwa tribe in Assam
2. It is celebrated for a bountiful harvest as well as protection of crops against pests and other harmful natural calamities

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.296) Solution (c)****Yangli festival**

- It is celebrated in Assam's Karbi Anglong by Tiwa tribes
- Tiwas pray for a bountiful harvest as well as protection for their crops against pests and other harmful natural calamities
- It is celebrated every 3 years

**Q.297) 'Lake Victoria' is bordered by**

1. Kenya
2. Tanzania
3. Rwanda



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

**Q.298) Solution (d)**

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP), with support from the Government of Norway, launched a coalition to promote the expansion of renewable energy and energy efficiency in climate change mitigation efforts.

The '1 Gigaton Coalition' is so named because it is believed that emission reductions from renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts could deliver annual savings of 1 gigaton of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) per year by 2020.

**Q.299) Consider the following statements about 'Blackbuck'**

1. It is a moderately sized antelope
2. It is listed as critically endangered by IUCN
3. It inhabits grassy plains and thinly forested areas where perennial water sources are available for its daily need to drink

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.299) Solution (c)**

Blackbuck, also known as the Indian antelope, is an antelope found in India, Nepal and Pakistan. The blackbuck is the sole extant member of the genus Antelope.

Blackbuck is native to the Indian subcontinent, but extinct in Bangladesh. In Nepal, the last surviving population of blackbuck inhabits the Blackbuck Conservation Area south of the Bardia National Park.

Blackbuck inhabits grassy plains and thinly forested areas where perennial water sources are available for its daily need to drink. Herds travel long distances to obtain water. Scrublands are a good source of forage and cover. Cold climates do not suit the blackbuck.

**Q.300) Gurudongmar Lake is located in**

- a) Sikkim
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Jammu & Kashmir
- d) Uttarakhand

**Q.300) Solution (a)**

Gurudongmar Lake is one of the highest lakes in the world and in India, located at an altitude of 17,800 ft (5,430 m) in Sikkim. It is considered sacred by Buddhists, Sikhs and Hindus.

