

**Q.1) Consider the following pairs about Sufi philosophy.**

Philosophy	Meaning
1. Waḥdat al-wujūd	Unity of Existence
2. Waḥdat ash-shuhūd	Unity of appearance
3. Al-Wujūd Al-Munbaṣiṭ	Self-unfolding Being

**Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?**

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

**Q.1) Solution (c)**

Major ideas in Sufi metaphysics have surrounded the concept of waḥdah meaning "unity", or in Arabic tawhid. Two main Sufi philosophies prevail on this topic. **waḥdat al-wujūd** literally means the "Unity of Existence" or "Unity of Being" but better translation would be Monotheism of Existence. Wujud (i.e. existence) here refers to Allah's Wujud - implication is Wahdat/Tawheed Of Wujud Of Allah. On the other hand, **waḥdat ash-shuhūd**, meaning "Apparentism" or "Monotheism of Witness", holds that God and his creation are entirely separate.

**Al-Wujūd Al-Munbaṣiṭ (Self-unfolding Being)**

Shah Waliullah Dehlawi tried to reconcile the two (apparently) contradictory doctrines of waḥdat al-wujūd (unity of being) of Ibn Arabi and waḥdat ash-shuhūd (unity in conscience) of Shaykh Ahmad Sirhindi. Shah Waliullah neatly resolved the conflict, calling these differences 'verbal controversies' which have come about because of ambiguous language. If we leave, he says, all the metaphors and similes used for the expression of ideas aside, the apparently opposite views of the two metaphysicians will agree.

**Do you know?**

- While orthodox Muslims emphasise external conduct, the Sufis lay stress on inner purity.
- While the orthodox believe in blind observance of rituals, the Sufis consider love and devotion as the only means of attaining salvation.
- According to Sufis one must have the guidance of a pir or guru, without which spiritual development is impossible.
- Sufism also inculcated a spirit of tolerance among its followers.

**THINK!**

- Types of Silsilah

**Q.2) Consider the following statements.**

1. Konark sun temple is known as 'BLACK PAGODA'.
2. The Jagannath Temple in Puri is called the "White Pagoda".

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.2) Solution (c)**

Konark Sun Temple is a 13th-century CE sun temple at Konark about 35 kilometres (22 mi) northeast from Puri on the coastline of Odisha, India. The temple is attributed to king Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty about 1250 CE.

**This temple was called the "Black Pagoda" in European sailor accounts as early as 1676 because its great tower appeared black. Similarly, the Jagannath Temple in Puri was called the "White Pagoda". Both temples served as important landmarks for sailors in the Bay of Bengal. The temple that exists today was partially restored by the conservation efforts of British India-era archaeological teams. Declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1984, it remains a major pilgrimage site for Hindus, who gather here every year for the Chandrabhaga Mela around the month of February.**

**Do you know?**

- Konark Dance Festival is a five day dance festival held every year in the month of December mostly from 1 to 5 in backdrop of the Sun temple in Konark, Odisha in India. It is one of the biggest dance festivals held in India.
- The exquisite 'Salamander' or the 'dancing hall' of this shrine is an architectural wonder. Every inch of its walls have been covered with fine artistic designs of the ancient times. Musicians playing drums, cymbals and other musical instruments adorn the sculptures in Odissi dance poses.

**THINK!**

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites of India.

**Q.3) Consider the following statements about Nayanars and Alvars.**

1. They drew upon the ideals of love and heroism as found in the Sangam literature (Tamil literature).
2. They were sharply critical of the Buddhists and Jainas.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.3) Solution (c)**

In South India 7th to 9th centuries saw the emergence of new religious movements, led by the Nayanars (saints devoted to Shiva) and Alvars (saints devoted to Vishnu) who came from all castes including those considered “untouchable” like the Pulaiyar and the Panars.

**They were sharply critical of the Buddhists and Jainas.**

**They drew upon the ideals of love and heroism as found in the Sangam literature (Tamil literature).**

Between 10th and 12th centuries the Chola and Pandya kings built elaborate temples around many of the shrines visited by the saint-poets, strengthening the links between the bhakti tradition and temple worship.

**Do you know?**

**Nathpanthis, Siddhas, and Yogis**

- Criticized the ritual and other aspects of conventional religion and the social order, using simple, logical arguments.
- They advocated renunciation of the world.
- To them, the path to salvation lay in meditation on the formless Ultimate Reality and the realization of oneness with it.
- To achieve this they advocated intense training of the mind and body through practices like yogasanas, breathing exercises and meditation.
- These groups became particularly popular among “low” castes.

**THINK!**

- Basavanna and Lingayat

**Q.4) Which of the following pairs correctly matched?**

Tradition	Type of Sannyasi
1. Advaita Vedanta tradition	Dashanami Sannyasi
2. Shaivism	Trishuldhari Sannyasis
3. Vaishnava	Tridandi Sannyāsis

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

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

**Q.4) Solution (c)**

Adi Shankara or Shankara, was an early 8th century Indian philosopher and theologian who consolidated the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta. He is credited with unifying and establishing the main currents of thought in Hinduism.

Adi Shankara is believed to be the organiser of the **Dashanami monastic** order and unified the **Shanmata tradition of worship**.

Dashanami Sanyasi (IAST Daśanāmi Saṃpradāya "Tradition of Ten Names") is a Hindu monastic tradition of "**single-staff renunciation**" (**ĕkadaṇḍisannyāsi**) generally associated with the Advaita Vedanta tradition.

Single-staff renunciates are distinct in their practices from **Shaiva trishuldhari** or "**trident-wielding renunciates**" and **Vaishnava traditions of Tridandi sannyāsis**.

**Do you know?**

- Shanmata (IAST Ṣaṇmata) meaning "**Six Religions**" in Sanskrit, has its origins in the hoary past. While these Six Religions initially had separate followers, theologian Adi Shankara, the 8th century CE Hindu philosopher, worked to join the adherents of the Six Religions into one through spreading his Advaita Vedanta philosophy.
- Adi Sankara's followers worship one divine power, Brahman in all its six manifestations. It centers around the worship of the Six of the supreme Deities of the Vedic Religion, **Shiva, Vishnu, Shakti, Ganesha, Surya and Skanda as One**. This is based on the belief in the essential oneness of all deities, the unity of Godhead, the one divine power, Brahman.

**THINK!**

- Smartism

**Q.5) Arrange the administrative divisions of Vijayanagar Empire from grama (village) to Empire.**

1. Empire
2. Nadus
3. Mandalams
4. Sthalas
5. Grama

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

- a) 5-4-3-2-1
- b) 5-4-2-3-1
- c) 5-2-3-4-1
- d) 5-3-2-4-1

**Q.5) Solution (d)**

Vijaynagar empire was divided in to Mandalams (Headed by Mandaleshwara / nayaks), which was further divided into Nadus, which was further divided into Sthalas & finally into Gramas

**Empire —- Mandalams —- Nadus —- Sthalas —- Gram**

**Do you know?**

**Literature**

- Pedanna wrote Manucharitam, Harikatha saram (both in Telegu)
- Krishnadeva Raya wrote : Amukhamaldaya (Telegu), Jambavti kalyanam + Ushaparinayam (Sanskrit)

**THINK!**

- Srirangam Copper Plate inscription.

**Q.6) With regard to social stratification during Vijayanagar rule, consider the following pairs.**

Caste/varna	Meaning
1. Viprulu	Merchants
2. Matikaratalu	Brahmins
3. Nalavajativaru	Agriculturists



4. Rajulu	Ruling dynasty
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Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

#### Q.6) Solution (d)

#### Society and Economy under Vijayanagara Empire

Allasani Peddana, in his **Manucharitam**, mentions the four castes that existed in the Vijayanagar society.

- **Viprulu or Brahmins** followed the traditional profession of teachers and priests. They sometimes also performed duties of soldiers and administrators. This is confirmed from the narration of Domingo Paes.
- **Rajulu or Rachavaru was generally associated with the ruling dynasty.** The rulers as well as generals were actually Sudras, but called rachavaru on account of their position. As in the case of other parts of South India, the Kshatriya Varna seems to be absent here.
- **Matikaratalu or Vaishyas were the same as merchants** who carried on trade and commerce.
- **Nalavajativaru or Sudras were mainly agriculturists**, but some of them carried on several other professions. They were not segregated, although considered inferior.

#### Do you know?

- The Vijayanagar emperors issued a large number of gold coins, called Varahas or Pagodas (Varahas because the most common symbol was Varaha-the Boar incarnation of Vishnu).
- Harihara I and Bukka I used the Hanuman symbol in their coins.
- Krishna Deva Raya's coins had the figures of Venkatesh and Balkrishna.
- Achyuta Raya used Garuda while Tirumala maintained the original Varaha.

#### THINK!

- Foreign travelers who visited Vijayanagar empire

#### Q.7) Consider the following statements about Gol Gumbaz

1. It is built of Marble and decorated plaster work.
2. The dome is famous for whispering gallery.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

Gumbad is a square building topped with a circular drum over which rests a majestic dome, giving the building its nomenclature.

**It is built of dark grey basalt and decorated plaster work.**

The building has an amazing acoustical system. Along with the drum of the dome, there is a **whispering gallery** where sounds get magnified and echoed many times over.

Gol Gumbad is a fine convergence of many styles located in medieval India.

**Do you know?**

**The Hindola Mahal, Mandu**

- It looks like a railway viaduct bridge with its disproportionately large buttresses supporting the walls.
- This was the audience hall of the Sultan and the place where he showed himself to his subjects.
- Batter was used very effectively to give an impression of swinging (Hindola) walls.

**THINK!**

- Golconda fort

**Q.8) Who of the following personalities gave the term 'Harijans' for lower castes?**

- a) Mahatma Gandhi
- b) Narsinh Mehta
- c) Dr. B R Ambedkar
- d) Jyotiba phule

**Q.8) Solution (b)**

**Narsinh Mehta**

Narsinh Mehta, also known as Narsi Mehta or Narsi Bhagat (1414–1481), was a poet-saint of Gujarat, India, notable as a bhakta, an exponent of Vaishnava poetry. He is especially revered in Gujarati literature, where he is acclaimed as its Adi Kavi (Sanskrit for "first among poets"). **His bhajan Vaishnav Jan To was Mahatma Gandhi's favourite and has become synonymous to him.**

In Junagadh, Mehta lived in poverty with his wife and two children, a son named Shamaldas, and a daughter for whom he had special affection, Kunwarbai. He revelled in devotion to his heart's content along with sadhus, saints, and all those people who were Lord Hari's subjects – Harijans – irrespective of their caste, class or sex. It also seems that he must have fallen into a somewhat ill repute amongst the Nagars following incidents like accepting invitation to sing glories of Lord Krishna in association of devotees belonging to lower social strata.

The term coined by Narsinh Mehta, **Harijan**, was popularized by Mahatma Gandhi.

**Q.9) Who of the following Bhakti Saints of Maharashtra is considered to be spiritual guru of Shivaji?**

- a) Gyandev
- b) Namdev
- c) Tukaram
- d) Samarth Ramdas

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

**Shree Samarth Ramdas**

Shree Samarth Ramdas was a noted 17th-century saint and spiritual poet of Maharashtra. He is most remembered for his Advaita Vedantist text, the Dasbodh. Ramdas was a devotee of Hanuman and Rama

Samarth Guru Ramdas was an inimitable saint of India who had created a religious awareness as well as started the movement of national and cultural awareness and was the guru and guide of Chhatrapati Shivaji.

**Q.10) Surdas was follower of Krishna and one of the foremost saint of Saguna Bhakti order. Which of the following statements are correct regarding Surdas?**

1. It is believed that he was blind by birth.



2. His collection of Dohas is called 'Sur Sagar' written in Awadhi.
3. He stayed at Mathura and made it a popular religious center.

Select the code from following:

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

**Q.10) Solution (c)**

**Surdas**

Sur was a 16th-century blind Hindu devotional poet and singer, who was known for his lyrics written in praise of Krishna. They are written in Braj Bhasa.

Sur is best known for his composition the *Sur Sagar*. Sursagar in its 16th century form contain descriptions of Krishna and Radha as lovers; the longing of Radha and the gopis for Krishna when he is absent and vice versa. In addition, poems of Sur's own personal bhakti are prominent, and episodes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata also appear. The Sursagar's modern reputation focuses on descriptions of Krishna as a lovable child, usually drawn from the perspective of one of the cowherding gopis of Braj.

**Think**

- Saguna Saints

**Q.11) It is believed that Adi Shankaracharya had established four Mathas. In which of the following places has he not established a Muth?**

- a) Badrinath
- b) Puri
- c) Dwarka
- d) Shravanbelagola

**Q.11) Solution (d)**

Adi Sankaracharya, during his travels across the length and breadth of India, founded four mathas (monasteries) as seats of Hindu religion at these four places- the Sringeri matha on

the Sringeri hills in the south, the Sharada matha on the Dwaraka coast in the west, the Jyotir matha at Badrinath in the north, the Govardhan matha at Puri in the east.

**Note:** Don't get confused with 4 dhams. In south the fourth Dham is Rameshwaram.

**Q.12) Urs is celebrated annually at the Dargah of a Sufi Saint. Urs is celebrated to commemorate which of the following events in Saints life?**

- a) The death anniversary of Saint
- b) The birth anniversary of Saint
- c) The date of coronation of a Saint
- d) The date of building of saint's Dargah

**Q.12) Solution (a)**

**Urs**

Urs is the death anniversary of a Sufi saint in South Asia, usually held at the saint's dargah (shrine or tomb). In most Sufi orders such as Naqshbandiyyah, Suhrawardiyya, Chishtiyya, Qadiriyya, etc. the concept of Urs exists and is celebrated with enthusiasm. The devotees refer to their saints as lovers of God, the beloved.

Urs rituals are generally performed by the custodians of the shrine or the existing Shaikh of the silsila. The celebration of Urs ranges from Hamd to Naat and in many cases includes the singing of religious music such as qawwali. The celebration also features food samples, bazaar, and various kinds of shops.

The Urs of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti at Dargah Sharif in Ajmer attracts more than 400,000 devotees each year and is regarded as one of the most famous urs festivals around the world.

**Q.13) Dwarasamudra was the capital of which of the following Kingdoms?**

- a) Rashtrakutas
- b) Vijayanagara
- c) Hoysala
- d) Chalukya

**Q.13) Solution (c)**

Halebidu is a town located in Hassan District, Karnataka, India.

Halebidu (which used to be called Dorasamudra or Dwarasamudra) was the regal capital of the Hoysala Empire in the 12th century. It is home to some of the best examples of Hoysala architecture. Most notable are the ornate Hoysaleswara and Kedareshwara temples.

- Rashtrakuta Capital – Manyakheta
- Vijayanagara Capital – Hampi
- Chalukya Capital – Badami

**Q.14) Who of the following kings was given the title 'Zinda Peer'?**

- a) Babur
- b) Dara Shikoh
- c) Akbar
- d) Aurangzeb

**Q.14) Solution (d)**

Aurangzeb was given the title 'Zinda Peer' for the following reasons:

- He compiled Fatwa-Al-Alamgiri. Which was a digest of Muslim law. It was special because for the First time all the teachings of Sharia Law were compiled in one book.
- He banned music and singing, despite being accomplished in both.
- He banned alcohol, gambling, dancing, castration, drugs, unjust taxes, and bowing to the King because these things were un-Islamic
- Aurangzeb completely memorized Quran (He was a Hafiz)
- Aurangzeb ruled his empire according to Islamic Law (Sharia)
- Aurangzeb did not spend a penny from royal treasury. Unlike his predecessors
- Aurangzeb used to earn money by sewing Islamic Caps and copying Quran.
- Aurangzeb led a simple life. He wore simple clothes.
- His grave was also simple at the time of his death. It was modified later by the British

**Q.15) With reference to the reign of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq, consider the following statements:**

1. He maintained diplomatic relations with far off countries like Egypt, China and Iran.
2. He issued silver coins instead of copper coins due to shortage of copper.
3. He set up a separate department for agriculture, 'diwan-i-kohi'.

4. He abolished the excessive and arbitrary tax that was imposed in the doab region by his father.

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

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

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

Statement 1 is correct as Muhammad Bin Tughlaq maintained diplomatic relations with far off countries like Egypt, China and Iran.

Statement 2 is incorrect as Tughlaq issued copper coins instead of silver coins due to shortage of silver.

He set up a separate department for agriculture, 'diwan-i-kohi'.

Muhammad bin Tughlaq's reign was from 1325 to 1351. Ghiyas-ud-din had reduced the land revenue to one-tenth, but when Mohammed Bin Tughlaq succeeded Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq, Mohammed tried to raise the revenue once again.

Unfortunately, that very year the rains failed and the doab region (between Yamuna and Ganga) came under the grip of famine. The farmers therefore could not pay the taxes. Many of the farmers were caught and punished while others left their lands and ran off to the jungles to escape the tyranny of the Sultan's officers.

When Mohammed realized this, he ordered his officers to spare the farmers and sanctioned financial help to them. But it was too late as the families of many farmers had already died of starvation and lands had also become barren. Hence, statement 4 is wrong.

**Q.16) Consider the following statements with reference to Sufism in medieval India:**

- 1. They followed strict observance of the Sharia.
- 2. They followed self-discipline, meditation, good actions, repentance for sins, performance of prayers and pilgrimages, fasting, charity and suppression of passions.

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

**Q.16) Solution (b)**

Sufism promotes tolerance and acceptance of other religions and points of view. Sufism stressed the elements of love and devotion as effective means of the realization of God. Love of God meant love of humanity and so the Sufis believed service to humanity was equal to service to God.

In Sufism, self-discipline was considered an essential condition to gain knowledge of God by sense of perception. While orthodox Muslims emphasize external conduct, the Sufis lay stress on inner purity. While the orthodox believe in blind observance of rigid rituals, the Sufis consider love and devotion as the only means of attaining salvation.

According to them one must have the guidance of a pir or guru, without which spiritual development is impossible. Sufism also inculcated a spirit of tolerance among its followers. Other ideas emphasized by Sufism are meditation, good actions, repentance for sins, performance of prayers and pilgrimages, fasting, charity and suppression of passions.

**Q.17) With reference to economic history of medieval India, the term 'Takkavi' refers to**

- a) Land assigned to officials
- b) Agricultural loan
- c) Rest house
- d) Token currency

**Q.17) Solution (b)**

Delhi Sultans introduced many reforms in Agriculture. They encouraged farmers to cultivate superior crop like wheat instead of barley.

Sultans like Muhammad bin Tughlaq and Firoz Tughlaq took efforts to enhance agricultural production by providing irrigation facilities and by providing '*takkavi loans*'.

Muhammad bin Tughlaq also created a separate Agricultural department, '*diwan-i-kohi*'.

**Q.18) In the medieval India, 'Jizya' means**



- a) Land revenue
- b) Silver coin
- c) Tax levied on non Muslims
- d) Tax on houses

**Q.18) Solution (c)**

Jizya was tax levied on non-Muslims and non followers of Islam. Ghari was tax on Houses. In India, Islamic ruler Qutb-ud-din Aibak imposed jizya on non-Muslims first time which was called kharaj-o-jizya.

**Note:** This Jizya tax was not a torture. It was collected just for the protection of non-Muslims and the tax was fixed by understanding the payment level of the people. The poor won't pay the same tax what the rich pays.

**Do you know?**

Jizya was abolished by the third Mughal emperor Akbar, in 1564. It was finally abolished in 1579. However, Aurangzeb, the sixth emperor, re-introduced and levied jizya on non-Muslims in 1679. His goal was to promote Islam and weaken the Hindu religion.

**Q.19) Which of the following is/are true about Sangam Literature?**

1. Tolkappiyam deals with Tamil grammar.
2. Silappathigaram provides information on political condition of the Sangam period.

**Choose the correct answer:**

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

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

Sangam literature which combines idealism with realism and classic grace with indigenous industry and strength is rightly regarded as constituting the Augustan age of Tamil literature. It deals with secular matter relating to public and social activity like government, war charity, trade, worship, agriculture etc.

Sangam literature consists of the earliest Tamil works (such as the Tolkappiyam), the ten poems (Pattupattu), the eight anthologies (Ettutogai) and the eighteen minor works (Padinenkilkanakku), and the three epics.

Tolkappiyam is the earliest Tamil literature authored by Tolkappiyar. It is the work on Tamil Grammar.

Silappadikaram was written by Ilango Adigal (grandson of Karikala, the great Chola King). It is a tragic story of a merchant, Kovalan of Puhar who falls in love with a dancer Madhavi, neglecting his own wife, Kannagi, who in the end revenges the death of her husband at the hands of the Pandyan King and becomes a goddess. It also provides valuable information on Sangam polity and society.

**Q.20) Consider the below pairs:**

**(Bhakti saint) : : (Associated Place)**

1. Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti : : Punjab
2. Qutbuddin Bhaktiyar Kaki : : Delhi
3. Tukaram : : Maharashtra
4. Surdas : : Uttar Pradesh

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

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

**Q.20) Solution (c)**

**Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti**, was a Sufi, preacher, ascetic, religious scholar, and philosopher from Sistan (**Afghanistan**), who eventually ended up settling in the **Rajasthan** and **Ajmer** was his main centre of work and he established the famous Chishti Order of Sufism.

**Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki** was a Muslim Sufi mystic, saint and scholar of the Chishti Order from **Delhi**, in what is now India. He was the disciple and the spiritual successor of Moinuddin Chishti as head of the Chishti order, and the person to whom the Qutb Minar, Delhi is dedicated.

**Tukram** was a Bhakti saint from **Maharashtra** and contemporary of Sivaji and a great devotee of Vitthal of Pandharpur(Maharashtra). Also, he was responsible for creating a background for Maratha nationalism.

**Surdas** (1483-1563) was born in **UP**. He was the disciple of Vallabhacharya of south India. He popularized the Krishna cult by singing songs glorifying Krishna's childhood. He was the author of the Sur Sagar, Sur Sarawali etc.

**Q.21) The land grants to religious functionaries in Gupta period were called:**

- a) Vishyas
- b) Peth
- c) Agrahara
- d) Brahmadeya

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

Agrahara was a tax free land grants given to Brahmins in Gupta period and were allowed to collect taxes from peasants.

Vishyas are districts of Gupta provinces and Peth are sub-districts.

Brahmadeya (given to Brahmin) was tax free land gift either in form of single plot or whole villages donated to Brahmins in the early medieval India.

**Q.22) 'EURORDIS' is associated with**

- a) Cyber Security
- b) Orphan Diseases
- c) Neglected Tropical Diseases
- d) European Union's military alliance

**Q.22) 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.23) 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.23) 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.24) 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.24) Solution (d)**

Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) consists of the U.S., Pakistan, Afghanistan and China.

**Q.25) '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.25) 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.26) 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.26) 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.

