

Q.1) Consider the following statements about APEC.

1. It is headquartered in Singapore.
2. India is member of this forum.
3. APEC Summit-2018 will be held in Papua New Guinea

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.1) Solution (a)

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit 2017 was held in Da Nang, Vietnam. The theme of summit was '**Creating New Dynamism, Fostering a Shared Future**'. Leaders of 21 Pacific Rim countries attended the meeting. This was second time Vietnam hosted APEC summit, having hosted the event previously in 2006. **Next year's APEC summit (2018) will be held in Papua New Guinea.**

It was established in 1989 in order to leverage growing interdependence o Asia-Pacific region's economies and promote free trade in the region. **It is headquartered in Singapore.**

India is observer of APEC since 2011 and has applied for membership.

Do you know?

- The East Asia Summit (EAS) is a forum held annually by leaders of, initially, 16 countries in the East Asian, Southeast Asian and South Asian regions. Membership expanded to 18 countries including the United States and Russia at the Sixth EAS in 2011. EAS meetings are held after annual ASEAN leaders' meetings. The first summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 14 December 2005.

THINK!

- SASEC

Q.2) The term 'de minimis' was often in news related to

- a) WTO
- b) World Bank
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) G-20

Q.2) Solution (a)

The subsidies provided by the government to the agricultural sector (i.e., domestic support) is termed by the WTO as Aggregate Measure of Support (AMS). It is calculated in terms of product and input subsidies.

These will cut production cost of farming and will give undue advantage to such countries in their access to the world market—such subsidies are called to cause 'distortions' to the world trade.

Such subsidies are not permitted in one sense as **they have a minimum permissible limit de minimis** under the provisions which is 5 per cent and 10 per cent of their total agricultural output in the case of developed and developing countries, respectively.

Do you know?

- The agricultural subsidies, in the WTO terminology have in general been identified by 'boxes' which have been given the colours of the traffic lights —green (means permitted), amber (means slow down, i.e., to be reduced) and red (means forbidden).
- In the agriculture sector, as usual, things are more complicated. The WTO provisions on agriculture has nothing like red box subsidies, although subsidies exceeding the reduction commitment levels is prohibited in the 'amber box'.

THINK!

- Agreement on Agriculture

Q.3) Consider the following pairs.

WTO boxes	Subsidy example
1. Amber box	Minimum Support Price
2. Blue box	Fertiliser Subsidy
3. Green box	'Raitha Belaku' a scheme to provide direct income assistance to relieve dry-land farmers in Karnataka

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- 1 and 3 only
- 2 only
- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 3 only

Q.3) Solution (a)

All subsidies which are supposed to distort production and trade fall into the amber box, i.e., all agricultural subsidies except those which fall into the blue and green boxes. **These include government policies of minimum support prices (as MSP in India) for agricultural products or any help directly related to production quantities (as power, fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation, etc).**

Blue box is the amber box with conditions. The conditions are designed to reduce distortions. Any subsidy that would normally be in the amber box, is placed in the blue box if it requires farmers to go for a certain production level. These subsidies are nothing but certain direct payments (i.e., direct set-aside payments) made to farmers by the government in the form of assistance programmes to encourage agriculture, rural development, etc.

The agricultural subsidies which cause minimal or no distortions to trade are put under the **green box**. They must not involve price support.

This box basically includes all forms of government expenses, which are not targeted at a particular product, and all direct income support programmes to farmers, which are not related to current levels of production or prices. This is a very wide box and includes all government subsidies like—public storage for food security, pest and disease control, research and extension, and some **direct payments to farmers that do not stimulate production like restructuring of agriculture, environmental protection, regional development, crop and income insurance, etc.**

Do you know?

- Other than the above-discussed highly controversial boxes of agricultural subsidies, the WTO provisions have defined yet another box, i.e., **the Social and Development Box (S & D Box)** allows the developing countries for some subsidies to the agriculture sector under certain conditions. These conditions revolve around human **development issues such as poverty, minimum social welfare, health support, etc.,** specially for the segment of population living below the poverty line. Developing countries can forward such subsidies to the extent of less than 5 per cent of their total agricultural output.

THINK!

- De minimis support

Q.4) Consider the following pairs with regard to GATS:

Modes of supplying services	Examples
1. Cross-border supply	Banking or architectural services transmitted via telecommunications or mail
2. Consumption abroad	Various kinds of tourism activities
3. Commercial presence	Domestic subsidiaries of foreign insurance companies or hotel chains
4. Presence of a natural person	Movement of skilled persons such as accountants, doctors or teachers

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Q.4) Solution (d)

The GATS distinguish between four modes of supplying services: cross-border trade, consumption abroad, commercial presence, and presence of natural persons. They have been defined as follows:

Mode 1: Cross-border supply

Cross-border supply is defined to cover services flows from the territory of one Member into the territory of another Member

Example: Banking or architectural services transmitted via telecommunications or mail

Mode 2: Consumption abroad

Consumption abroad refers to situations where a service consumer (e.g. tourist or patient) moves into another Member's territory to obtain a service

Example: Various kinds of tourism activities

Mode 3: Commercial presence

Commercial presence implies that a service supplier of one Member establishes a territorial presence, including through ownership or lease of premises, in another Member's territory to provide a service

Example: Domestic subsidiaries of foreign insurance companies or hotel chains

Mode 4: Presence of a natural person

Presence of natural persons consists of persons of one Member entering the territory of another Member to supply a service

Movement of skilled persons such as accountants, doctors or teachers.

Do you know?

- The General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) requires most-favoured-nation Treatment, market access commitments and national treatment. GATS was agreed upon at the end of the Uruguay Round negotiations with the participation of all Member nations including developing countries. The GATS covers a wide range of service industries such as financial services, transport and shipping, communications, construction, and distribution.

THINK!

- Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement

Q.5) Consider the following statements with regard to Intellectual Property Rights.

1. The Paris Convention 1883 is for the Protection of Industrial Property
2. Berne Convention (1886) is for the protection copyrights.
3. The TRIPS Agreement incorporates and improves upon protection levels of the Paris Convention and the Berne Convention.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.5) Solution (c)

The WTO sought to establish an appropriate framework for the protection of intellectual property in order to bring greater order to international trade. A number of international treaties already form a common legal framework for the protection of intellectual property, **including the Paris Convention (1883) and covers patents, trademarks and other industrial property rights, the Berne Convention (1886) and covers copyrights.**

The TRIPS Agreement incorporates and improves upon protection levels of the Paris Convention (industrial property rights) and the Berne Convention (copyright).

Do you know?

- The TRIPS Agreement is based on the main conventions of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Most of the provisions of these conventions have been incorporated into the TRIPS.

THINK!

- Trade Facilitation Agreement

Q.6) The 2018 edition of BRICS Summit will be held in

- a) Johannesburg
- b) Brasilia
- c) Moscow
- d) Durban

Q.6) Solution (a)

The 2017 edition of BRICS Summit was held in Xiamen China. The 2018 edition will be in Johannesburg South Africa.

Do you know?

- At the 2015 BRICS summit in Russia, ministers from BRICS nations, initiated consultations for a payment system that would be an alternative to the SWIFT system.

THINK!

- Cross-Border Inter-Bank Payments System (CIPS).

Q.7) Consider the following statements about Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

1. Poverty reduction is one of the major goals.
2. It is headquartered in Beijing, China.
3. Its purpose is to provide finance to infrastructure development and regional connectivity projects in Asia region only.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

d) 3 only

Q.7) Solution (b)

AIIB is multilateral development bank initiated by China. Its purpose is to provide finance to infrastructure development and regional connectivity **projects in Asia-Pacific region**.

It was officially established in December 2015 and opened for business in January 2016. It is **headquartered in Beijing, China. Its goals are to boost economic development in Asia-Pacific region, provide infrastructure, and promote regional cooperation and partnership. It prioritizes investment in energy, power generation, transport, rural infrastructure, environmental protection and logistics in Asia.**

Poverty reduction is not one of its goal.

Do you know?

- China is largest shareholder of AIIB with 26.06% voting shares. India with 7.5% vote share is second largest shareholder followed by Russia, Germany and South Korea.

THINK!

- RCEP

Q.8) Which of the following statements are correct regarding voting rights in UN General Assembly?

- All member countries have one vote each.
- Number of votes is decided on the basis of population of a country
- Number of votes is decided by the grants given by a country to UN bodies.
- Number of votes is based on quota, decided by UN Security Council.

Q.8) Solution (a)

United Nations General Assembly

The United Nations General Assembly is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN), the only one in which all member nations have equal representation, and the main deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the UN. Its powers are to oversee the budget of the UN, appoint the non-permanent members to the Security Council, receive reports from other parts of the UN and make recommendations in the form of General Assembly Resolutions.

Voting in the General Assembly on important questions, namely, recommendations on peace and security, budgetary concerns, and the election, admission, suspension or expulsion of members is by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. Other questions are decided by a straightforward majority. Each member country has one vote. Apart from approval of budgetary matters, including adoption of a scale of assessment, Assembly resolutions are not binding on the members. The Assembly may make recommendations on any matters within the scope of the UN, except matters of peace and security under Security Council consideration. The one state, one vote power structure potentially allows states comprising just five percent of the world population to pass a resolution by a two-thirds vote.

Q.9) Which of the following statements are correct regarding United Nations Security Council?

1. Its primary responsibility is International Peace and Security.
2. It is responsible for International Sanctions and peace keeping military operations.
3. UNSC can take binding decisions.

Select the code from below:

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

Q.9) Solution (d)

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, charged with the maintenance of international peace and security as well as accepting new members to the United Nations and approving any changes to its United Nations Charter.

Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions; it is the only UN body with the authority to **issue binding resolutions** to member states.

Think

India's bid to be a permanent member of UNSC

Q.10) What is the aim of the group called 'Coffee Club' in UN?

- a) They are supporting the claim of G4 countries to become permanent members of UNSC.
- b) They are opposing the claim of G4 countries to become a part of UNSC.
- c) They want increase in the membership of equatorial countries of Africa and South America in UNSC.
- d) They want to remove the custom duties on all coffee trade in the World.

Q.10) Solution (b)

Coffee Club

Uniting for Consensus (UfC) is a movement, nicknamed the Coffee Club, that developed in the 1990s in opposition to the possible expansion of permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council. Under the leadership of Italy, it aims to counter the bids for permanent seats proposed by G4 nations (Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan) and is calling for a consensus before any decision is reached on the form and size of the Security Council.

Q.11) Which of the following reports are published by Food and Agricultural Organisation?

- 1. World State of Forest Report
- 2. Global Forest Resource Assessment
- 3. World Population Prospects Report

Select the code from following:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 only
- d) None of the above

Q.11) Solution (a)

World State of Forest Report and Global Forest Resource Assessment are published by FAO while World Population Prospects Report is published by UNDESA.

The **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate arguments and debate policy.

The Global Forest Resources Assessment provides comprehensive reporting on forests worldwide every five years. FRA 2015 is the most recent global assessment.

Q.12) India has recently hosted the Ministerial meet of International Energy Forum. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding IEF?

1. It is an intergovernmental organization established in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1974 in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis.
2. The secretariat of IEF is based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Select the code from following:

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

Q.12) Solution (b)

International Energy Forum (IEF)

The International Energy Forum (IEF) is an inter-governmental, non-profit international organisation which aims to foster greater mutual understanding and awareness of common energy interests among its members. The 72 Member Countries of the Forum are signatories to the IEF Charter, which outlines the framework of the global energy dialogue through this inter-governmental arrangement.

The IEF 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 member 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.

Note: First statement is about International Energy Agency.

India is a member of IEF and not IEA. It is associate member of IEA.

Q.13) Which of the following countries are not a member of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?

- a) Uzbekistan
- b) Kazakhstan
- c) Afghanistan
- d) Pakistan

Q.13) Solution (c)

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

The full members of the organization are China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, India and Pakistan. Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia have observer status at present.

The groupings main objective is military cooperation between members. It also works towards intelligence-sharing, counter-terrorism operations in Central Asia. It is primarily centred on its member nations' Central Asian security-related concerns, often describing main threats it confronts as being terrorism, separatism and extremism.

Q.14) Which of the following organizations/personalities received Nobel Peace Prize for 2017?

- a) International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)
- b) Convention on Chemical weapons
- c) NASA
- d) Donald Trump

Q.14) Solution (a)

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a coalition of non-government organizations in one hundred countries advocating for a strong and effective nuclear weapon ban treaty.

The campaign received the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize "for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons."

Q.15) Consider the following statements about Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and identify the incorrect statement:

- a) It is a regional economic forum established in 1989.
- b) India is a founding member of APEC.
- c) It is a forum for 21 Pacific Rim member economies that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
- d) China is also a part of APEC.

Q.15) Solution (b)

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific. APEC's 21 members aim to create greater prosperity for the people of the region by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration.

India has requested membership in APEC, and received initial support from the United States, Japan, Australia and Papua New Guinea. However, officials have decided not to allow India to join for various reasons, considering that India does not border the Pacific Ocean, which all current members do.

What does APEC do?

APEC ensures that goods, services, investment and people move easily across borders. Members facilitate this trade through faster customs procedures at borders; more favorable business climates behind the border; and aligning regulations and standards across the region. For example, APEC's initiatives to synchronize regulatory systems is a key step to integrating the Asia-Pacific economy. A product can be more easily exported with just one set of common standards across all economies.

Q.16) Consider the following statements:

1. Most Favored Nation (MFN) status to a country by another country ensures preferential and special treatment between the two member countries.

2. DTAA is a tax treaty signed between countries (or any two/multiple countries) so that taxpayers do not pay double taxes on their income earned from source country as well as their residence country.

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)

MFN status essentially means normal trade among member countries and doesn't ask for special treatment to any country.

In international economic relations and international politics, most favoured nation (MFN) is a status or level of treatment accorded by one state to another in international trade. The term means the country which is the recipient of this treatment must, nominally, receive equal trade advantages as the "most favored nation" by the country granting such treatment. (Trade advantages include low tariffs or high import quotas.) In effect, a country that has been accorded MFN status may not be treated less advantageously than any other country with MFN status by the promising country.

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

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

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

Q.17) Bretton Woods Conference is one of the most historic event post second world war. Which of the following is correct?

- a) The UN Monetary and Financial Conference held post Second World War established the international trading regime called General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs.
- b) WTO is part of whole set up of UNO and thus is guided by the actions its member bodies.
- c) IMF follow voting by consensus pattern by which each member gets to ensure their idea is considered.
- d) WTO doesn't have weighted voting as the World Bank or the IMF and goes by the system of one member one vote.

Q.17) Solution (d)

The conference referred to in statement a is Bretton Wodds Conference and it lead to World Bank and IMF coming to place.

WTO is not part of UN set up and is independent. However both share an agreement between each other.

IMF follow weighted voting and the members with higher quota get a higher voice.

Q.18) Consider the following statements about Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

1. It is a Paris-based multi-disciplinary and inter-governmental body whose purpose is the development and promotion of national and international policies to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.
2. It was founded at the 1989 OECD Economic Summit.

Select the correct code:

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

Q.18) Solution (c)

Both the given statements are correct.

The Financial Action Task Force (on Money Laundering) (FATF), also known by its French name, Groupe d'action financière (GAFI), is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money laundering. In 2001 the purpose expanded to act on terrorism financing.

Q.19) SARTTAC (South Asia Training and Technical Assistance Centre) is a collaborative venture between the member countries and which among the following organisation?

- a) World Bank (WB)
- b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- c) World Trade Organization (WTO)
- d) United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Q.19) Solution (b)

SARTTAC is a collaborative venture between the IMF, the member countries, and development partners. The center's strategic goal is to help its member countries strengthen their institutional and human capacity to design and implement macroeconomic and financial policies that promote growth and reduce poverty.

South Asia is a rapidly growing region that is home to one fifth of the world's population. SARTTAC will allow the IMF to meet more of the high demand for technical assistance and training from the region. Through its team of international resident experts, SARTTAC is expected to become the focal point for the delivery of IMF capacity development services to South Asia.

SARTTAC, the newest addition to the IMF's global network of fourteen regional centers, is a new kind of capacity development institution, fully integrating customized hands-on training with targeted technical advice in a range of macroeconomic and financial areas, and generating synergies between the two. SARTTAC is located in world class facilities in New Delhi and is financed mainly by its six member countries — Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka — with additional support from Australia, the Republic of Korea, the European Union and the United Kingdom.

Q.20) Which among the following statements regarding Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) are correct?

- 1. It is an arm of the IMF.
- 2. It is an arm of the World Bank Group.
- 3. It encourages foreign investment in public sector only.
- 4. It provides insurance to foreign private investors against the loss caused by political risks.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 4 only

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

Q.20) Solution (b)

The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), an arm of World Bank, was set up in 1988 to encourage foreign investment in developing economies by offering insurance (guarantees) to foreign private investors against loss-caused by non-commercial (i.e. political) risks, such as currency transfer, expropriation, war and civil disturbance. IFC lends to both private and public sector.

Q.21) Which organization recently signed an agreement with India to provide a \$200 million loan for implementing National Nutrition Mission?

- a) World Bank
- b) World Health Organization
- c) International Monetary Fund
- d) Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Q.21) Solution (a)

India and **World Bank** recently signed agreement for a \$200 million loan for implementing National Nutrition Mission.

About National Nutrition Mission

- Targeted mission - NNM targets to reduce stunting, under- nutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
- It also strives to reduce the prevalence of stunting from the current level of 38.4% (as per the National Family Health Survey 4) to 25% by 2022.
- Aims at reaching **10 crore beneficiaries**.
- **Beneficiaries** are mainly children up to the age of six years, pregnant women and lactating mothers and adolescent girls.
- Will be implemented in three phases **between 2017 and 2020** across all districts of the country.

Q.22) 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.22) 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.23) 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.23) 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.24) 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. Suvidha is a single window system for giving election-related permission/clearness 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.24) 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

Q.25) 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.25) 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.26) 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.26) Solution (a)



Pic link: https://www.worldatlas.com/img/areamap/continent/central_america_map.gif