

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. India's GNP is always lower than its GDP.
2. GNP is the 'national income' according to which the IMF ranks the nations of the world in terms of the volumes at purchasing power parity (PPP).
3. In India the National Income is calculated at market cost and constant prices.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.1) Solution (c)

Gross National Product (GNP) is the GDP of a country added with its 'income from abroad'. Here, the trans-boundary economic activities of an economy is also taken into account.

'Income from Abroad' segment may turn out to be positive or negative. In India's case it has always been negative (due to heavy outflows on account of trade deficits and interest payments on foreign loans). **It means, the 'Income from Abroad' is subtracted from India's GDP to calculate its GNP.**

The normal formula is $GNP = GDP + \text{Income from Abroad}$. But it becomes $GNP = GDP + (-\text{Income from Abroad})$, i.e., $GDP - \text{Income from Abroad}$, in the case of India. **This means that India's GNP is always lower than its GDP.**

This is the 'national income' according to which the IMF ranks the nations of the world in terms of the volumes—at purchasing power parity (PPP). For a detailed discussion on PPP please see Chapter 24. India is ranked as the 3rd largest economy of the world (after China and the USA), while as per the nominal/ prevailing exchange rate of rupee, India is the 7th largest economy (IMF, April 2016). Now such comparisons are done using the GDP, too.

Since January 2015, the CSO has switched over to calculating **National Income at market price (i.e., market cost)**. The market price is calculated by adding the product taxes (generally taken as the indirect taxes of the Centre and the States) to the factor cost.

As per the new guidelines the base year in India has been revised from 2004–05 to 2011–12 (January 2015). **India calculates its national income at constant prices**—so is the situation among other developing economies, while the developed nations calculate it at the current prices.

Do you know?

- Putting 'indirect taxes' and 'subsidies' together, India's National Income will thus be derived with the following formula (as India does it at factor cost):
- **National Income at Factor Cost = NNP at Market Cost – Indirect Taxes + Subsidies**

THINK!

- **Headline growth rate.**

Q.2) Extended Fund Facility (EFF)- the term is related to

- a) AIIB
- b) IMF
- c) New Development Bank
- d) International Development Assistance

Q.2) Solution (b)

Under the **Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme of the IMF**, countries get external currency support from the fund to mitigate their BoP crisis, but such supports have some obligatory conditionalities put on the economy to be fulfilled. There are no set rules of such conditions already available with the IMF, though they are devised and prescribed to the BoP crisis-ridden economy at the time of need.

Do you know?

- Macroeconomic Stabilization Measures includes all those economic policies which intend to boost the aggregate demand in the economy—be it domestic or external.
- Pro-market or pro-capitalistic inclination in the economic policies of an economy is the process of liberalization.

THINK!

- LPG reforms

Q.3) With regard to Agriculture Census 2010–11 consider the following statements.

1. The average size of operational holding has increased.
2. The percentage share of female operational holders has declined.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None

Q.3) Solution (d)

The average size of land holding in India is continuously decreasing due to rapid and high population growth. The continuous division and fragmentation of holdings has increased the number of holdings, obviously of smaller size. As per the latest (9th) Agriculture Census 2010–11.

There is a marginal increase in the operated area from 158.32 million hectare (ha) in 2005–06 to 159.18 million ha in 2010–11 (an increase of 0.54 per cent). The operated area has primarily increased because the State of Jharkhand participated for the first time in the Agriculture Census 2010–11 (since the state came into being in the year 2000).

The average size of operational holding has declined to 1.16 ha in 2010–11 as compared to 1.23 in 2005–06.

The percentage share of female operational holders has increased from 11.70 in 2005–06 to 12.79 in 2010–11, with the corresponding operated area of 9.33 and 10.36.

The small and marginal holdings taken together (below 2.00 ha) constitute 84.97 per cent in 2010–11, as against 83.29 in 2005–06, with a share of 44.31 per cent in the operated area in the current Census, as against the corresponding figure of 41.14 per cent in 2005–06.

The large holdings (10.00 ha & above) were 0.73 per cent of the total number of holdings in 2010–11 with a share of 10.92 per cent in the total operated area, as against 0.85 per cent and 11.82 per cent respectively for 2005–06 Census.

Share of different social groups in operational holdings stands as: 12.40 per cent for SCs , 8.71 per cent for STs , 0.18 per cent for institutional and 78.72 per cent for others.

In a total of 137.76 million operational holdings in the country, the highest number belonged to Uttar Pradesh (22.93 million) followed by Bihar (16.19 million) and Maharashtra (13.70 million).

Out of a total of 159.18 million hectares of the operated area in the country, the highest contribution was made by Rajasthan (21.14 million ha) followed by Maharashtra (19.84 million ha) and Uttar Pradesh (17.09 million ha)

Do you know?

- **Economic Holding** is that holding which ensures a minimum satisfactory standard of living in a family. In other words, economic holding is a minimum essential area for profitable agriculture.

THINK!

- Optimum Holding

Q.4) With regard to 'Minimum Reserve System', consider the following statements.

1. The central bank is required to keep a certain minimum 'reserve of gold and foreign securities'.
2. The central bank is empowered to issue currency to any extent.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.4) Solution (c)

Under the minimum reserve system, the central bank is required to keep a certain minimum **'reserve of gold and foreign securities and is empowered to issue currency to any extent.** India adopted this system in October 1956. The RBI was required to hold a reserve worth of only Rs 515 crore consisting of foreign securities worth Rs 400 crore and gold worth Rs 115 crore.

Do you know?

Reserve Money

- The gross amount of the following six segments of money at any point of time is known as Reserve Money (RM) for the economy or the government:
- RBI's net credit to the Government;
- RBI's net credit to the Banks;
- RBI's net credit to the commercial banks;
- net forex reserve with the RBI;
- government's currency liabilities to the public;
- net non-monetary liabilities of the RBI.

$$RM = 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6$$

THINK!

- Money Multiplier

Q.5) Consider the following pairs.

Account types	Permitted currency
1. FCNR(B) Account	Pound Sterling, US Dollar, Japanese Yen and Euro.
2. NRE Account	Deposits are allowed in any permitted currency.
3. NRO Account	bonafide transactions in Indian Rupees

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Q.5) Solution (c)

FCNR(B) accounts can be opened by NRIs and Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) with an authorized dealer. The accounts can be opened in the form of term deposits. **Deposits of funds are allowed in Pound Sterling, US Dollar, Japanese Yen and Euro.** Rate of interest applicable to these accounts are in accordance with the directives issued by RBI from time to time.

NRE accounts can be opened by NRIs and OCBs with authorized dealers and with banks authorized by RBI. These can be in the form of savings, current, recurring or fixed deposit accounts. **Deposits are allowed in any permitted currency.** Rate of interest applicable to these accounts are in accordance with the directives issued by RBI from time to time.

NRO accounts can be opened by any person resident outside India with an authorised dealer or an authorised bank for collecting their funds from **local bonafide transactions in Indian Rupees.** When a resident becomes an NRI, his existing Rupee accounts are designated as NRO. These accounts can be in the form of current, savings, recurring or fixed deposit accounts.

Do you know?

- Repatriation of funds in FCNR(B) and NRE accounts is permitted. Hence, deposits in these accounts are included in India's external debt outstanding. While the principal

of NRO deposits is non-repatriable, current income and interest earning is repatriable.

THINK!

- 'differentiated licences'

Q.6) Mutual Agreement Procedure was in news relate to

- a) Free trade Agreement
- b) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement
- c) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
- d) BIMSTEC

Q.6) Solution (b)

Finland-headquartered Nokia has invoked the mutual agreement procedure (MAP) under the India-Finland Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, to resolve the Rs 2,000-crore tax dispute with the Indian tax department.

MAP is an alternative available to taxpayers to resolve disputes giving rise to double taxation, whether juridical or economic in nature. An agreement for avoidance of double taxation between countries would give authorization for assistance of Competent Authorities (CAs) in the respective jurisdiction under MAP.

Do you know?

- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between the ten-member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (**Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam**) and the six states with which ASEAN has existing free trade agreements (**Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand**).

THINK!

- GAAR

Q.7) "Business beyond Borders" is the theme of which of the following Summit/Convention?

- a) The SME International Convention – 2018.
- b) Indian Economic Summit-2018.

- c) World Economic Forum-2018.
- d) The Other Economic Summit (TOES)-2018.

Q.7) Solution (a)

First Ever International SME Convention-2018 is being held in New Delhi. 150 participants from 31 countries and 400 entrepreneurs from India participated in the convention. The convention has specific focus on inclusion of MSMEs in the Make in India program & empowering women entrepreneurs.

The SME International Convention – 2018 is being organized by the **Ministry of MSME and National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) along with KVIC and Coir Board.**

Theme: “Business beyond Borders”.

Do you know?

- **The International SME Convention 2018** is a platform for intensive business discussion, progressive interaction and trade association between progressive entrepreneurs from all over the world and offers a special focus on business and trade opportunities in India for International Entrepreneurs.

THINK!

- MSME and Inclusive development.

(Source <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178860>)

Q.8) India's first International Stock Exchange – Indian International Exchange (INX) has been set up at

- a) GIFT city
- b) Mumbai
- c) Gurugram
- d) Hyderabad

Q.8) Solution (a)

India International Exchange (INX)

The India International Exchange (INX) is India's first international stock exchange, opened in 2017. It is located at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), GIFT City in Gujarat. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

Think

- BSE
- NSE
- SEBI

Q.9) Which of the following is the aim of 'Setu Bharatam' Programme?

- a) To make all important roads in metros signal free.
- b) To make all National Highways free of Railway level crossings.
- c) To preserve Ram Setu between India and Sri Lanka
- d) To improve logistics service at all major Sea ports of India

Q.9) Solution (b)

Setu Bharatam programme

Setu Bharatam programme aims to make all National Highways free of railway level crossings by 2019. This is being done to prevent the frequent accidents and loss of lives at level crossings.

208 Railway Over Bridges (ROB)/Railway Under Bridges (RUB) will be built at the level crossings at a cost of Rs. 20,800 crore as part of the programme.

Think

- Ram Setu

Q.10) Which of the following is/are the objective(s) of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)?

1. It creates an enabling atmosphere in the higher educational institutions and ensures capacity building at all levels of employment.
2. It ensures reforms in the affiliation, academic and examination systems.

Select the code from following:

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

Q.10) Solution (c)**Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)**

Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), launched in 2013 aims at providing strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions. The central funding (in the ratio of 60:40 for general category States, 90:10 for special category states and 100% for union territories) would be norm based and outcome dependent.

The salient objectives of RUSA are to

- Improve the overall quality of state institutions by ensuring conformity to prescribed norms and standards and adopt accreditation as a mandatory quality assurance framework.
- Usher transformative reforms in the state higher education system by creating a facilitating institutional structure for planning and monitoring at the state level, promoting autonomy in State Universities and improving governance in institutions.
- Ensure reforms in the affiliation, academic and examination systems.
- Ensure adequate availability of quality faculty in all higher educational institutions and ensure capacity building at all levels of employment.
- Create an enabling atmosphere in the higher educational institutions to devote themselves to research and innovations.
- Expand the institutional base by creating additional capacity in existing institutions and establishing new institutions, in order to achieve enrolment targets.
- Correct regional imbalances in access to higher education by setting up institutions in unserved & underserved areas.
- Improve equity in higher education by providing adequate opportunities of higher education to SC/STs and socially and educationally backward classes; promote inclusion of women, minorities, and differently abled persons.

Q.11) ISO 27001 is a standard that relates to

- a) Quality Assurance
- b) Purity of metal

- c) Labour safety
- d) Information security

Q.11) Solution (d)**ISO/IEC 27001:2013 (ISO 27001)**

ISO/IEC 27001:2013 (ISO 27001) is the international standard that describes best practice for an ISMS (information security management system). Achieving accredited certification to ISO 27001 demonstrates that your company is following information security best practice, and provides an independent, expert verification that information security is managed in line with international best practice and business objectives. ISO 27001 is supported by its code of practice for information security management, ISO/IEC 27002:2013.

Q.12) Which of the following statements are correct regarding Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project?

1. It will provide an alternate access to North East region of India via Bangladesh.
2. Multimodal transit system includes sea, road and railway links.
3. The Project is being administered by Ministry of External Affairs.

Select the code from following:

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

Q.12) Solution (b)**Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project**

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.

Note: It does not include a railway link. It includes Sea, inland waterway and roadways.

It is administered by Ministry of External Affairs.

Q.13) Troika means a group of three international organizations that were lending money to Greece bailout. Which of the following is not a part of Troika?

- a) World Bank
- b) IMF
- c) European Central bank
- d) European Commission

Q.13) Solution (a)

Troika

The term troika has been widely used in Greece and Cyprus, Ireland, Portugal and Spain to refer to the presence of the European Commission, European Central Bank, and International Monetary Fund in these countries since 2010 and the financial measures that these institutions have taken. Slovenia barely avoided the intervention by the troika in 2013.

Q.14) Which of the following International organizations has the motto – ‘One Vision, One Identity, One Community’?

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

Q.14) Solution (d)

Note: Factual question. This question was asked in CAPF exam by UPSC. It can be repeated this year.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a regional intergovernmental organisation comprising ten Southeast Asian countries which promotes Pan-Asianism and intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational and socio-cultural integration amongst its members and other Asian countries, and globally.

Since its formation on 8 August 1967 by **Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand**, the organisation's membership has expanded to include **Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam**.

Its principal aims include accelerating economic growth, social progress, and sociocultural evolution among its members, alongside the protection of regional stability and the provision of a mechanism for member countries to resolve differences peacefully. ASEAN is an official United Nations observer, as well as an active global partner. It also maintains a global network of alliances, and is involved in numerous international affairs. Communication by member states takes place in English.

Note: India is not a member of ASEAN.

Q.15) Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2018 – is the latest flagship publication of

- World Bank (WB)
- United Nations (UN)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- World Economic Forum (WEF)

Q.15) Solution (b)

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2018 – is the latest flagship publication of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2018 contains an examination of how Governments of countries in the Asia-Pacific region could increase domestic public financial resources and leverage private capital to strengthen their long-term economic prospects.

UN report on the Asia-Pacific region has urged –

- regional powers to invest in inclusive and sustainable growth
- regional countries to take advantage of high growth rate and share the benefits with the national society
- The report described South and Southwest Asia as the fastest growing sub-region of the Asia-Pacific region and urged the countries to increase social spending.
- For less developed countries, the role of external sources of finance, such as official development assistance, South-South cooperation, and global development partnerships... remains critical.

The report was launched at the Indian Council for Research in International Economic Relations (ICRIER)

Q.16) Consider the below statements with reference to minimum support price (MSP):

1. If price were to fall below the specified MSP, the government has the obligation to purchase from farmers at the MSP.
2. Farmer is free to sell in the open market at price higher than MSP.
3. Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices recommendations on MSP are binding on the government.

Which of the above given statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Q.16) Solution (a)

Minimum Support Price (MSP) provides the assurance of a minimum price that ensures the farmer recovers his cost of production and receives a decent return on investment.

MSP is a kind of sovereign guarantee that farmers will not be allowed to suffer losses if crop prices fall below the specified minimum price.

MSP works as an options contract. If price were to fall below the specified MSP, the government has the obligation to purchase from farmers at the MSP. At the same time, the farmer is under no obligation to sell to the government if the price stays above MSP. In the event, the farmer is free to sell in the open market at price higher than MSP.

Q.17) Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) Scheme is often in news. It deals with –

- a) reducing energy consumption and promoting enhanced energy efficiency among specific energy intensive industries in the country.
- b) project financing, wherein a private entity receives a concession from the private or public sector to finance, design, construct, own, and operate a facility stated in the concession contract.

- c) public-private partnership (PPP) project model in which a private organization builds, performs, achieves and trades some facility or structure with some degree of encouragement from the government.
- d) benefits under Startup India Action Plan.

Q.17) Solution (a)

The Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) Scheme is a programme launched by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) to reduce energy consumption and promote enhanced energy efficiency among specific energy intensive industries in the country.

Q.18) Consider the following statements with regard to 'Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework', which was in news recently. Identify the correct statement –

- a) RBI has come out with this framework in order to contain NPAs.
- b) NABARD has come out with this framework for regional rural banks (RRBs).
- c) Ministry of Home Affairs has come out with this framework for directing all NGOs and entities receiving foreign fundings.
- d) Lodha Panel has come out with this framework that will sort out the mess in sports once and for all.

Q.18) Solution (b)

The National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) has come out with a 'Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework' for regional rural banks (RRBs).

The framework is aimed at enabling RRBs that fail to meet prudential requirements relating to capital adequacy, net non-performing assets (NNPAs) and return on assets (ROA) to take self-corrective action to arrest further deterioration in their financial position.

The PCA will be invoked if RRBs breach trigger points on three parameters: capital to risk-weighted assets (CRAR) ratio, assets (NPAs), and profitability (ROA).

The PCA framework will be implemented based on the findings of Nabard's inspection with reference to RRBs' FY2019 financial performance.

Q.19) Which is the only sector in the Indian economy to register a double-digit growth in the last three years?

- a) IT services
- b) Khadi sector
- c) Real estate
- d) Defence

Q.19) Solution (b)**Do you know?**

Khadi sector is the only sector in the Indian economy to register a double-digit growth in the last three years.

Khadi, the symbol of India's self-reliance during the Independence movement, is no longer 'humble' or a fossilised memory. In its new avatar, it is going places, literally: after a sojourn to Russia recently, it goes to South Africa this month. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has chalked out ambitious plans to double the sales of khadi to ₹5,000 crore in the next two financial years. In an aspirational India, khadi has emerged a silent, transformational force: it is also a major job creator in Bharat that is India.

Last year, the KVIC products saw sales worth ₹52,000 crore for the first time in India, including Khadi sales worth ₹2,007 crore.

Q.20) World Indicators of Skills for Employment (WISE) database which offers a “one-stop” location that can be used to create a statistical snapshot of the current status of skills development in more than 200 countries, was established by –

- a) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- b) National Skills Registry (NSR)
- c) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- d) World Skill Development Institute (WSDI)

Q.20) Solution (c)

World Indicators of Skills for Employment (WISE) database is established by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in close collaboration with the World Bank, ETF, ILO and UNESCO.

The World Indicators of Skills for Employment (WISE) database offers a “one-stop” location that can be used to create a statistical snapshot of the current status of skills development in more than 200 countries.

The database is based on a cross-sectoral approach, with indicators covering the fields of education and training, employment and economic and social development. It covers both developed and developing economies, allowing them to assess their skill challenges and performance from a comparative perspective. It includes around 60 internationally comparable indicators for the period 1990 to 2014.

Q.21) Consider the below statements about Market Economy Status (MES):

1. Under WTO norms, once a country gets MES status, exports from it are to be accepted at the production costs and selling price as the benchmark.
2. India recently granted MES status to China.
3. MES status to China, will help increase India's ability to resort to anti-dumping on cheap imports from China.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.21) Solution (a)

India is not inclined to automatically grant the coveted 'Market Economy Status' (MES) to China this December under World Trade Organisation (WTO) norms, highly placed official sources said.

Citing the provisions in the 'Protocol on the accession of China to the WTO' in 2001, Beijing has said WTO member countries must fulfil their promise to deem China a 'market economy' from December 2016.

However, granting MES to China will severely curb the ability of nations including India to impose anti-dumping duties on "unfairly priced" Chinese imports. The matter was discussed recently by the Ministries of Commerce & External Affairs, with the Centre for WTO Studies (at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade).

Of the 535 cases where anti-dumping duties were imposed by India during 1994 to 2014, a maximum of 134 has been on goods from China.

To refuse China the 'MES', India has taken sides with the U.S. and European Union in stating that unlike in 'market economies' where prices of items are market determined (based on

demand & supply conditions), there is still a significant government influence in the Chinese market.

Q.22) 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.22) 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.23) '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.23) 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.24) Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is associated with

- a) Kyoto Protocol
- b) Montreal Protocol
- c) Nagoya- Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol
- d) Madrid Protocol

Q.24) 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 CO₂, 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.25) 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.25) 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.26) 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.26) 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.

