

# 2018

IASBABA



## **[IASbaba's 60 DAY PLAN- SOLUTION FULL MOCK 2]**

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

**Q.1) Solution (d)**

Sannati or Sannathi is a small village, located on the banks of the Bhima River in Chitapur taluk of Gulbarga District of Northern Karnataka. It is famous for the Chandrala Parameshwari Temple and the excavations by the Archaeological Survey of India in the 1986.

In 1986, when the roof of the Kali temple in Chandralamba temple complex collapsed, it destroyed the idol. However it revealed four Ashokan edicts on the floor and foundation stone of the temple. These edicts were written in the Prakrit language and Brahmi script and one of them was used as foundation of the pedestal for the Kali idol.

One of the stones - the only known example of its type - is of Emperor Asoka seated on his throne. It is probably the only surviving image of the emperor.

**Do you know?**

- Kanaganahalli is 3 km from Sannati, which is also on the banks of the river Bhima.
- As this is an important Buddhist site, Govt of Karnataka and ASI are planning to develop it as an international Buddhist center.
- It is the place where an ancient Buddhist Mahastupa site was found.

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

Even if you don't know the correct answer, can get the right option with common sense ☺

Do remember some of the famous rivers in Southeast Asia and its running/flow pattern like Salween and Irrawaddy etc. You will remember that they flow through mainland of China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam etc.

Any option that mentions Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines etc. should be ruled out because these rivers cannot run through Ocean to meet these countries ☺

So eliminate Malaysia and Indonesia.

Q.3) Solution (c)

**Established in 2001, the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve is spread across the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.** Located in the southernmost end of the Western Ghats, the Reserve covers an impressive area of over 3,500 sq.km. Hosting one of the most diverse ecosystems in peninsular India, it constitutes an important biogeographical hotspot within the Western Ghats.

Three wildlife sanctuaries - Shendurney, Peppara and Nayar, as well as the **Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve - located here.**

In addition, there are buffer zones that are open to economic uses. Not just flora and fauna, even human communities who inhabit these regions are protected.

**The Reserve contains moist forests, tropical wet evergreen and deciduous rainforests, plains and grasslands, nourished generously by several rivers.** It hosts over 2,000 species of plants, including about 405 that are endemic to the region. And as recently as 2016, it was included in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Q.4) Solution (b)

The Government of India has launched a new sub-scheme named **"Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)"** as part of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). The Self Help Groups under DAY-NRLM will operate road transport service in backward areas.

AGEY aims to provide an alternative source of livelihood to members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) by facilitating them to operate public transport services in backward rural areas.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=169804>

Q.5) Solution (c)

**NITI Aayog released the National Nutrition Strategy, 2017 in September 2017.**

Over the years, various government initiatives have been launched which seek to improve the nutrition status in the country. These include the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), the National Health Mission (NHM), and the Janani Suraksha Yojana, among others.

Q.6) Solution (b)

Sawfish are closely related to sharks and have shark-shaped bodies and, hence, are also called flat sharks.

There are only five species of the sawfish ever identified — dwarf sawfish, knifetooth sawfish, smalltooth sawfish, largetooth sawfish and green sawfish.

Sawfish are elasmobranchs, meaning their skeleton is made of cartilage.

***The sawfish family has been assessed either 'Endangered' or 'Critically Endangered' in the International Union for Conservation of Nature Global Red List.***

The sawfish is included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.

**THINK!**

- Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and its schedules

Q.7) Solution (a)

Neelakurunji (*Strobilanthus*), a purple-blue flower, has the distinct specialty of blooming once in 12 years.

The species is found in the shola forests of the Western Ghats.

Besides the Western Ghats, Neelakurinji is also seen in the Shevroys in the Eastern Ghats, Anamalai hills Idukki district and Agali hills in Palakad in Kerala and sandur hills of Bellary district in Karnataka.

**THINK!**

- Hills of southern India

Q.8) Solution (b)

**The Milinda Pañha ("Questions of Milinda") is a Buddhist text which dates from sometime between 100 BCE and 200 CE.**

It purports to record a dialogue between the Buddhist sage Nāgasena, and the Indo-Greek king Menander I of Bactria, who reigned from Sagala (modern Sialkot, Pakistan).

The Milinda Pañha is regarded as canonical in Burmese Buddhism, included as part of the book of Khuddaka Nikaya. An abridged version is included as part of Chinese Mahayana translations of the canon. The Milinda Pañha is not regarded as canonical by Thai or Sri Lankan Buddhism, however, despite the surviving Theravāda text being in Sinhalese script.

**The Milinda Pañha is also referred to as the Nāgasena-sutra.**

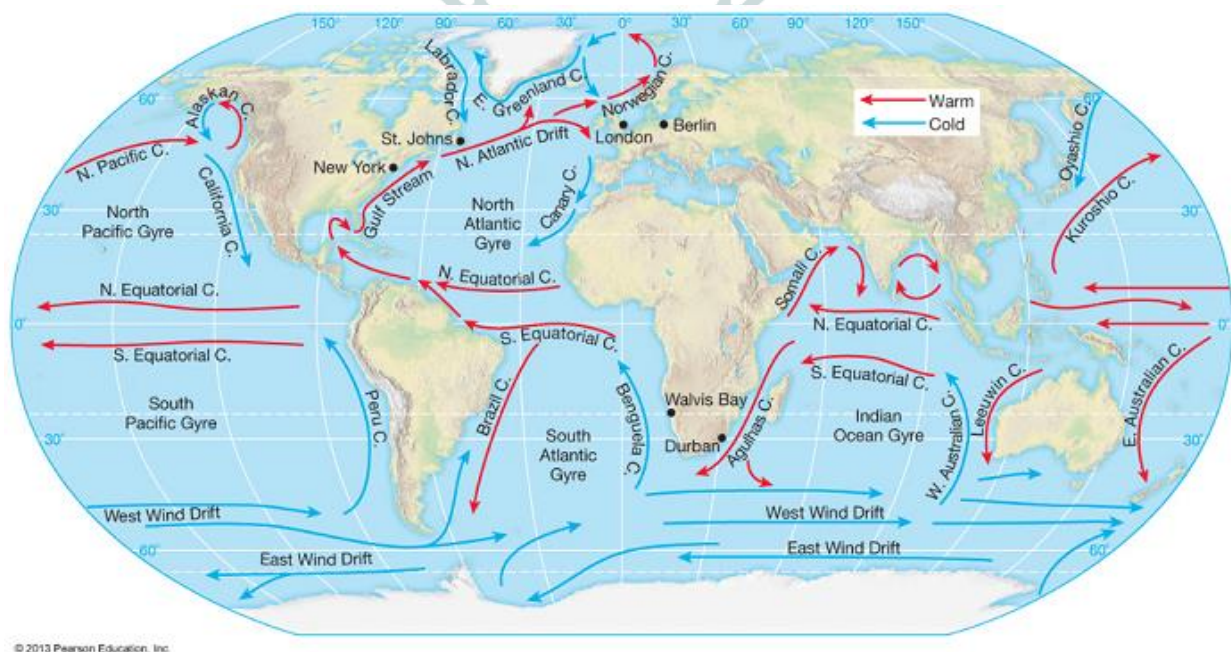
Q.9) Solution (d)

The Ashta Pradhan was a council of eight ministers that administered the Maratha empire. The council was formed in 1674 by their king, **Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**.

The body discharged the functions of a modern council of ministers; this is regarded as one of the first successful instances of ministerial delegation in India.[citation needed] The council is credited with having implemented good governance practices in the Maratha heartland, as well as for the success of the military campaigns against the Mughal Empire.

Q.10) Solution (a)

Remember that the best fishing grounds of the world are located at confluence of cold and warm ocean currents. See this map carefully





- Falkland and Brazilian Currents- Cold and Warm
- Oyashio and Kuroshio Currents- Cold and Warm
- There is one more fishing ground- Labrador Current and North Atlantic Drift (Gulf Stream)
- California Current and Gulf Stream- Cold and Warm but they do not meet
- Canary Current and Norwegian Current- Cold and Warm but they do not meet

Q.11) Solution (c)



Q.12) Solution (d)

The Critical Wildlife Habitats have been envisaged in **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006**.

This act defines the Critical Wildlife Habitats (CWH) as the “areas of national parks and sanctuaries where it has been specifically and clearly established, case by case, on the basis of scientific and objective criteria, that such areas are required to be kept as inviolate for the purposes of wildlife conservation”.

The above definition makes it very clear that the **Critical Wildlife Habitats are absolutely free of human presence**. But the same act duly recognizes the traditional rights of the Forest dwellers.

**The power to notify the rules to designate a CWH rests with Ministry of Environment and Forests.** The State Government are needed to initiate the process for notification of a critical wildlife habitat by submitting an application on a case by case basis, to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, which is the nodal agency under the said Act. **Critical Wildlife Habitats are thus, declared by Central Government ONLY.**

Q.13) Solution (b)

First statement is incorrect.

The share of investment, and in particular that of fixed investment in the GDP continuously declined between 2011-12 and 2016-17

The share of agriculture and allied sectors in Gross Value Addition (GVA) declined from 18.2 percent in 2012-13 to 16.4 percent in 2017-18.

Q.14) Solution (c)

Both the statements are correct

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/in-a-new-orbit/article18733824.ece>

Q.15) Solution (a)



Q.16) Solution (d)

**List of Largest Peninsulas of World**

| Peninsula                         | Area (SqKm) | Location       | Countries  | Bordering Seas  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--|---|
| Arabian                           | 3,237,500   | Middle East    | Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Yemen | Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Arabian sea, Gulf of Aden, Red sea    |
| Indian (Deccan) Peninsula         | 2,072,000   | South Asia     | South India  | Arabian sea, Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal                          |
| Indo-china Peninsula              | 1,938,743   | Southeast Asia | Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam             | China sea, Bay of Bengal, Malacca Strait, Indian Ocean            |
| Horn of Africa (Somali Peninsula) | 1,882,857   | East Africa    | Djibouti, Eritria, Ethiopia, Somalia,                  | Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea   |
| Alaska Peninsula                  | 1,500,000   | Alaska         | US   | Pacific ocean, Bering sea   |
| Labrador Peninsula                | 1,400,000   | North America  | Canada   | Hudson bay, Labradore sea, Gulf of Saint Lawrence, Atlantic Ocean |
| Scandinavian Peninsula            | 750,000     | North Europe   | Norway, Sweden, north Finland                          | Baltic Sea, North Sea, Norwegian sea                              |





|                           |         |                  |  |  |
|---------------------------|---------|------------------|--|--|
| Balkan Peninsula          | 666,700 | Southeast Europe | Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, north Turkey | Adriatic sea, Ionian sea, Mediterranean sea, Aegean sea, Black sea |
| Iberian Peninsula         | 582,000 | Southwest Europe | Andorra, Portugal, Spain, France   | Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean sea                                  |
| Kamchatka Peninsula       | 270,000 | Far-east Russia  | Russia   | Bering sea, North Pacific, Sea of Okhotsk                          |
| Korean Peninsula          | 220,847 | Northeast Asia   | North Korea, South Korea   | East China sea, Yellow sea, Korean Strait                          |
| Florida Peninsula         | 170,304 | North America    | US (Florida state)   | Gulf of Mexico, Florida Strait, Atlantic Ocean                     |
| Baja California Peninsula | 143,390 | North America    | Mexico   | Pacific ocean, Gulf of California                                  |

|                   |         |                     |   |   |
|-------------------|---------|---------------------|---|---|
| Italian Peninsula | 131,337 | South Europe        | Italy, San Marino, Vatican City         | Adriatic sea, Ionian sea, Tyrrhenian sea, Mediterranean sea |
| Kola Peninsula    | 100,000 | Northwest Russia    | Russia                                  | Barents Sea, White sea                                      |
| Sinai Peninsula   | 60,000  | Egypt-Israel border | Egypt                                   | Suez Canal, Gulf of Aqaba, Red sea, Mediterranean sea       |
| Crimean Peninsula | 27,000  | East Europe         | Ukraine (now Russia)                    | Black Sea, Sea of Azov                                      |
| Tasman Peninsula  | 660     | Southeast Australia | Australia                               | Fredrick Henry Bay, Storm Bay, Tasman sea                   |
| Chukchi Peninsula |         | Northeast Russia    | Russia                                  | Chukchi Sea, Bering Strait, Bering Sea                      |
| Malay Peninsula   |         | Southeast Asia      | South Thailand, South Myanmar, Malaysia | Andamanese Sea, Strait of Malacca, South China Sea          |
| Yucatan Peninsula |         | Southeast Mexico    | Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean sea           | Mexico  |

Q.17) Solution (c)

Malkajgiri in Telangana was the largest Lok Sabha Constituency (elector-wise) and Lakshadweep was the smallest.

Q.18) Solution (c)

The increase in long term debt is primarily due to the increase in Foreign Portfolio Investment included under commercial borrowing.

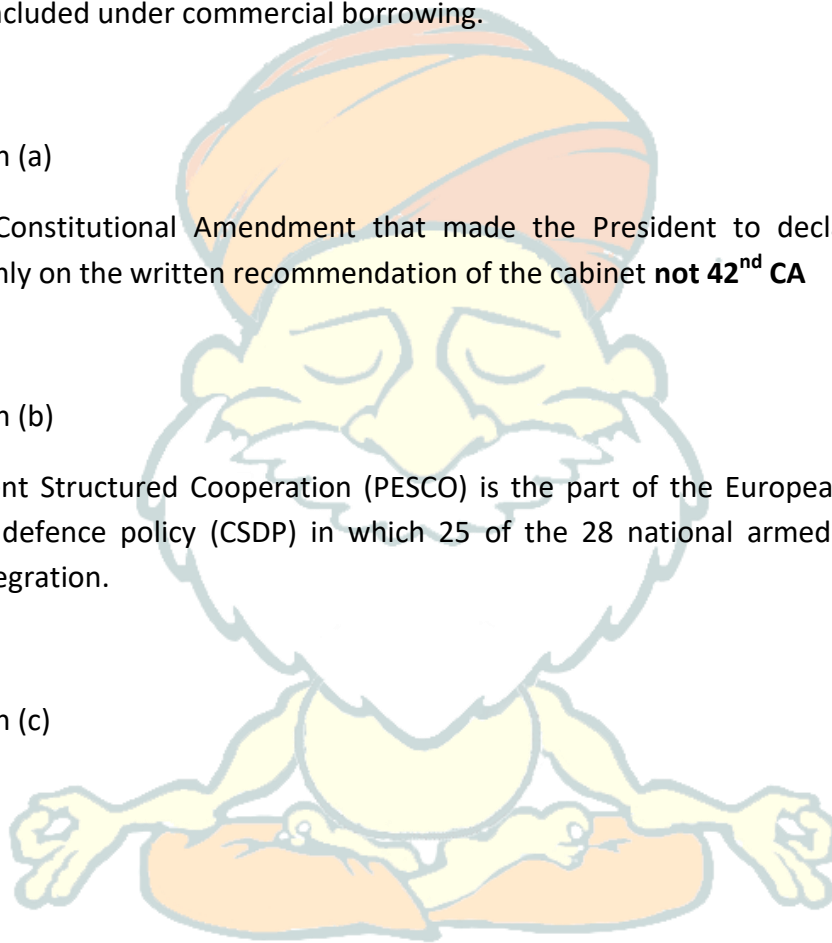
Q.19) Solution (a)

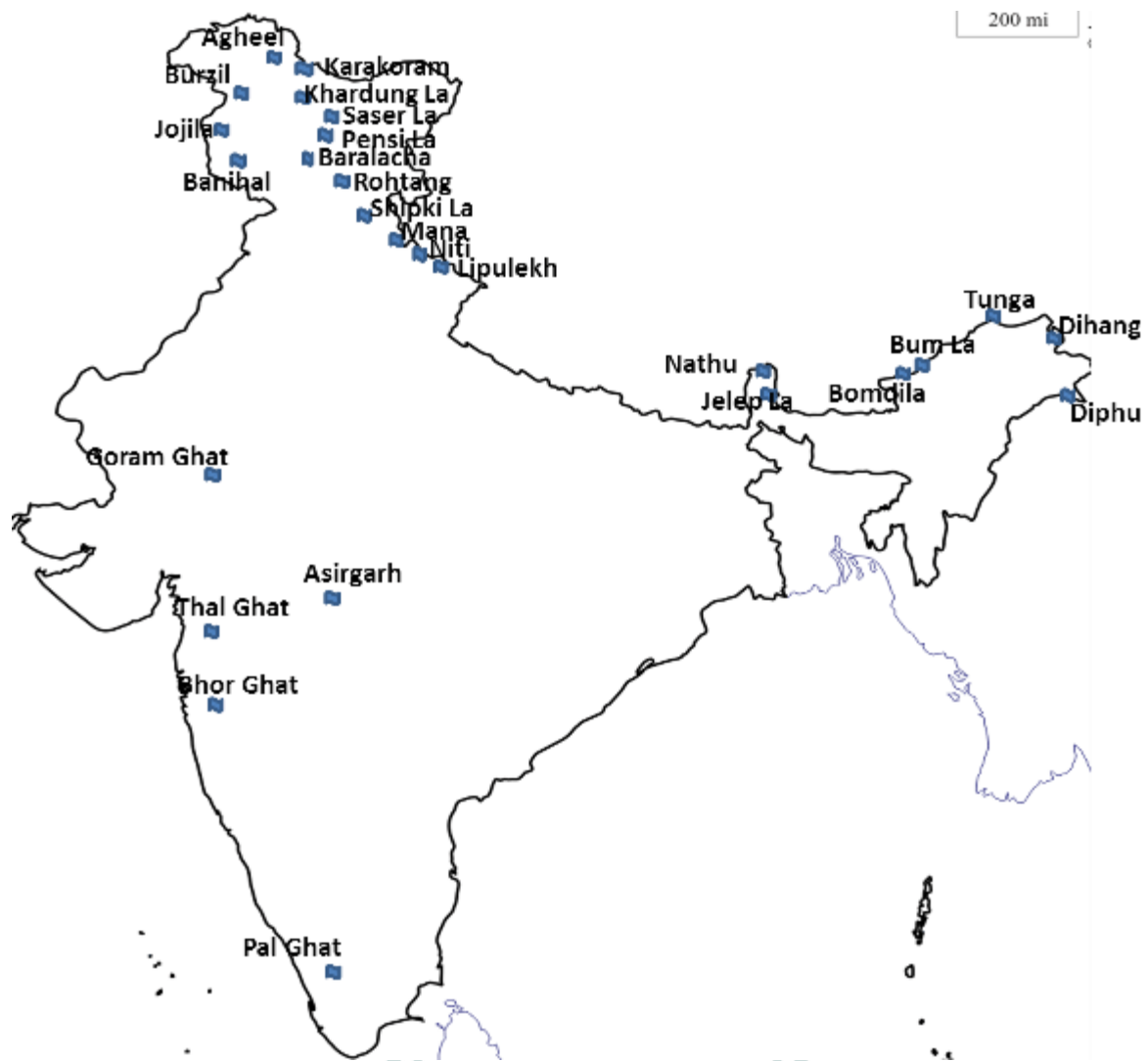
It was 44<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment that made the President to declare a national emergency only on the written recommendation of the cabinet **not 42<sup>nd</sup> CA**

Q.20) Solution (b)

The Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) is the part of the European Union's (EU) security and defence policy (CSDP) in which 25 of the 28 national armed forces pursue structural integration.

Q.21) Solution (c)





Q.22) Solution (b)

Article 14 says that ***the State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.***

Note that it is applicable only within the territory of India.

Q.23) Solution (d)

The Hindoo Patriot was an English weekly published from Kolkata in the later half of the nineteenth century. The Hindoo Patriot was a nationalist publication known for its active role in exposing the oppression of indigo planters in Bengal.

Girish Chandra Ghosh was the first editor of Hindoo Patriot

Manmohan Ghosh and Devendranath Tagore in 1861, the newspaper, **Indian Mirror**, was edited and published by Manmohan Ghosh and Devendranath Tagore from Calcutta.

In 1854, Dadabhai Naoroji was the founder of the fortnightly publication, the Rast Goftar (or The Truth Teller) in England to clarify Zoroastrian concepts.

In 1852, Akhbar -O-Saudagar, a Gujarati tri-weekly was started. Its editor was Dadabhai Kavasji.

Q.24) Solution (c)

1. First major famine in India-1770
2. Passing of first Indian Factory Act-1881
3. Passing of Vernacular Press Act-1878
4. Passing of Ilbert Bill-1884

Q.25) Solution (c)

Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad said "**the Muslims were fools to ask for safeguards, and the Hindus were greater fools to refuse them**"

At the all-party conference to consider the Report, Jayakar, representing the Hindu Mahasabha, wanted Muslim representation to be limited to twenty-five per cent, but Jinnah, on behalf of the Muslim League, claimed thirty-three and one-third per cent. Sapru supported Jinnah, but Jayakar said that if Jinnah's proposal was accepted then the Hindu Mahasabha would rebel and the whole scheme would be jeopardized. The rejection of his proposal upset Jinnah and he, as also Muhammed Ali, felt that the Congress was dominated by the Mahasabha mentality, and, as such, the Muslims would not get justice. In 1928 Muhammed Ali lamented that while in accepting Dominion Status, instead of independence, the Congress was willing to compromise it was not prepared to make any compromise at all with regard to the claim of the Muslims. 'You', he said, 'make compromises in your constitution every day with false doctrines, immoral conceptions and wrong ideas, but you make no compromise with your communalists with separate electorates and reserved seats. Twenty-five per cent is the proportion of our population, and yet you will not give us thirty-three per cent in the Assembly. You are a Jew, a Bania.' Later, Maulana Azad summed up the tragedy of the situation thus: '**The Muslims were fools to ask for safeguards, and the Hindus were greater fools to refuse them.**'

Q.26) Solution (a)

### **Soil Health Card**

A Soil Health Card is used to assess the current status of soil health and, when used over time, to determine changes in soil health that are affected by land management. A Soil Health Card displays soil health indicators and associated descriptive terms. The indicators are typically based on farmers' practical experience and knowledge of local natural resources. The card lists soil health indicators that can be assessed without the aid of technical or laboratory equipment.

Soil Health Card (SHC) is a Government of India's scheme promoted by the Department of Agriculture & Co-operation under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. It is being implemented through the Department of Agriculture of all the State and Union Territory Governments.

### **Key Features**

- The government is planning to cover as many as all farmers under the scheme.
- The scheme will cover all the parts of the country.
- In the form of soil card, the farmers will get a report. and this report will contain all the details about the soil of their particular farm.
- A farm will get the soil card once in every 3 years.

### **What is a Soil Health Card?**

SHC is a printed report that a farmer will be handed over for each of his holdings. It will contain the status of his soil with respect to 12 parameters, namely N,P,K (Macro-nutrients); S (Secondary- nutrient); Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn, Bo (Micro - nutrients); and pH, EC, OC (Physical parameters). Based on this, the SHC will also indicate fertilizer recommendations and soil amendment required for the farm.

### **How can a farmer use a SHC?**

The card will contain an advisory based on the soil nutrient status of a farmer's holding. It will show recommendations on dosage of different nutrients needed. Further, it will advise the farmer on the fertilizers and their quantities he should apply, and also the soil amendments that he should undertake, so as to realize optimal yields.

Q.27) Solution (b)

**ARYA:**

The ICAR has initiated a program on “Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) in selected districts through KVKs with an objective for entrepreneurial development of Youth in Rural Areas to take up various Agriculture, allied and service sector enterprises for sustainable income and gainful employment. The identified youth are trained on entrepreneurship development skills by providing a basket of options to start agriculture ventures for self employment.

**Farmers FIRST:** The objectives of the 'Farmer FIRST' initiative is to move beyond the production and productivity and to privilege the complex, diverse & risk prone realities of the farmers through enhancing farmers-scientists contact with multi stakeholders participation for technology development and application. The project has been conceptualized with focus on Enriching Farmers –Scientist interface; Technology Assemblage, Application and feedback; Partnership and Institutional Building and Content Mobilization.

**Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav:**

The “Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav” has been conceptualized in which scientists of ICAR and Agricultural Universities will identify villages in the vicinity of the Institutions for providing advisories and consultations to farmers for increasing farm productivity and production.

Q.28) Solution (d)

**Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana**

With the aim of providing affordable life insurance services to people living in rural areas of the country through postal network, the Ministry of communications launched Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana (SBG Yojana). The coverage of Postal Life Insurance was also expanded by the ministry.

- SBG Yojana identifies at least one village (with a minimum of 100 households) in each of the revenue districts of the country and intends to cover all the households with a minimum of one Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) in that village.
- It covers all the villages under Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana.
- The benefits of PLI will no more be confined to government and semi-government employees only. It shall also be made available to professionals such as bankers, lawyers, architects, chartered accountants, management consultants, engineers,



doctors etc. and also to the employees of listed companies of BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) and NSE (National Stock Exchange).

- The decision has been taken to enlarge the cover of social security and bring the maximum number of people under the protection of Postal Life Insurance (PLI).

Q.29) Solution (b)

### **'Junior Heritage Mistri' programme**

- The scheme comes under the **Centre's Heritage Mason programme**. Rajasthan was chosen as a pilot State for the scheme in view of its rich architectural heritage.
- Rajasthan government is raising a new class of masons to help conserve the State's rich architectural heritage.
- Under the programme, the government has started training youths on indigenous building practices, arts and crafts, traditional structures and knowledge systems, with an emphasis on preservation of heritage architecture.
- The institution promotes construction practices based on adaptive reuse of traditional technology blended with modern techniques.

Q.30) Solution (c)

### **Stereolithography**

- Scientists have developed a novel way to 3D-print objects using glass.
- Researchers mixed nanoparticles of high-purity quartz glass and a small quantity of liquid polymer and allowed the mixture to be cured by light at specific points — by means of stereolithography.
- Stereolithography is a form of 3D-printing technology used for creating models, prototypes, patterns and production parts in a layer by layer fashion using **photopolymerisation**.
- Photopolymerisation is a process by which light causes chains of molecules to link, forming polymers.
- A variety of 3D-printing techniques available so far have been used on polymers or metals, but rarely on glass.
- Scientists have developed a new method to 3D-print objects using glass, an advance that could be used to make **very small optical components for complex computers**.
- The 3D-printed glass can be used for many applications, including data technology.

Q.31) Solution (a)

**The Zamindari Association**, reckoned to be the first political association of modern India. Formally launched in Calcutta in March 1838, it was renamed the Landholders' Society shortly afterwards. Landed magnates like Raja radhakant dev, dwarkanath tagore, Prasanna Kumar Tagore, Rajkamal Sen and Bhabani Charan Mitra were its leading members. The promotion of landholders' interests through petitions to government and discreet persuasion of the bureaucracy was its professed object. Among its aims were securing a halt to the resumption of rent-free tenures and an extension of the permanent settlement of land all over India, including the grant of lease of waste land to their occupants. The demand for reform of the judiciary, the police and the revenue departments was also on its agenda.

To attain its aims and objectives, the Society maintained close contact with the bureaucracy in Calcutta, established links with the British India Society of London and appointed its President, George Thompson, the Landholders' Society's agent in London.

With its distinctive mark of loyalism, the Landholders' Society was an exclusive aristocratic club of native zamindars and compradors. Membership of the club was also extended to non-official Britons engaged in trade and commerce in Bengal. It was beyond the means of ordinary raiyats to become its members. The Landholders' Society failed to take root in areas outside the Bengal Presidency, where the Permanent Settlement was not in vogue. With its limited field and range of activity, its only achievement was the concession it had extracted from government in the form of exemption of Brahmottara (land donated for the services of Brahmins and temples), to the extent of ten bighas, from rent. The Landholders' Society may be said to have inaugurated the new course of modern institutional politics in India.

Q.32)Solution (b)

**The Arms Act, 1878**

The Arms Act, 1878 is an Act of the Parliament of India to consolidate and amend the law relating to arms and ammunition in order to curb illegal weapons and violence stemming from them.

It was passed during the Governor general Lytton.

Q.33) Solution (d)

**Swadesh Bandhab Samiti**

Swadesh Bandhab Samiti was founded by Ashwini Kumar Dutta. It aimed to promote the consumption of indigenous products and boycott foreign goods.

It was formed during Swadeshi movement of 1906.

**Q.34) Solution (d)**

To protest against the draconian Rowlatt Act, Gandhi launched a satyagraha movement, popularly known as Rowlatt Satyagraha. He told everyone that it would be a non-violent protest and requested people to maintain peace at all costs, or there would be severe repression by the government and the movement will fail.

However, things started to spiral out of control after the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. Infuriated by the police firing on peaceful protestors, which caused more than 400 deaths, people started to act violently against the government. There were violent outbreaks of arson and riots. Government officials were attacked and government buildings were vandalized.

The government came down with a heavy hand to crush the movement. Hundreds of protestors were arrested and tortured in jails.

Seeing that a peaceful mass movement is taking a wrong turn, and fearing that the government might further escalate its repression, Gandhi called off the Rowlatt Satyagraha and called it a Himalayan blunder.

**Q.35) Solution (d)**

The Karachi session was presided by Sardar Patel. The congress adopted a resolution on Fundamental Rights and Economic Policy which represented the Party's Social, Economic and Political programme. It was later known as Karachi Resolution. Nehru had originally drafted it, but some Congress leaders thought it was too radical and it was redrafted.

Apart from these two resolutions, Congress admired the 'bravery' and 'sacrifice' of the three martyrs dissociating itself from political violence. Also the Delhi pact was endorsed.

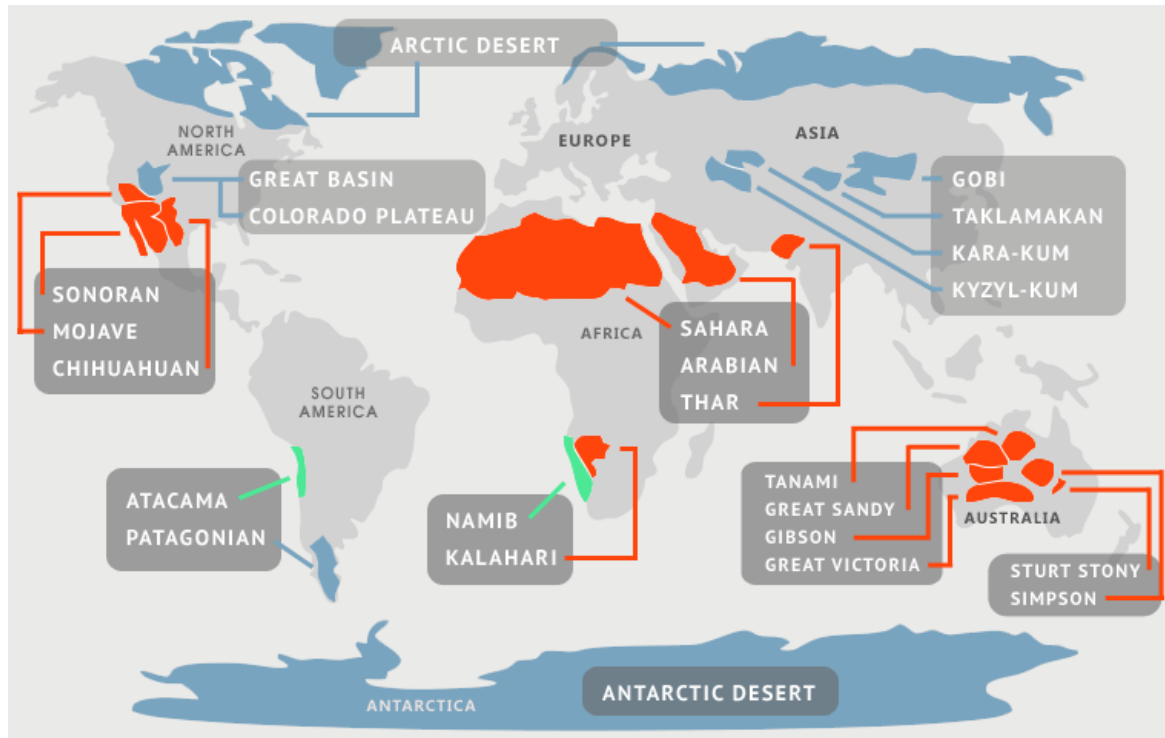
**Q.36) Solution (c)**

**Bomb Cyclone**

By definition, the barometric pressure must drop by at least 24 millibars in 24 hours for a storm to be called a bomb cyclone; the formation of such a storm is called bombogenesis.

Deep drops in barometric pressure occur when a region of warm air meets one of cold air. The air starts to move, and the rotation of the earth creates a cyclonic effect. The direction is counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere (when viewed from above), leading to winds that come out of the northeast — a Nor'easter.

Q.37) Solution (d)



### Cold Deserts of the World

| Name  | Size  | Physical Features  | Some Animals | Plants          | & Special Facts  |
|---|---|--|--------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>Atacama</b><br><i>Coasts of Peru and Chile</i> | 54,000 mi <sup>2</sup><br>140,000 km <sup>2</sup> | Covered by sand dunes and cactus, pebbles. One of the driest areas on earth. | lizards,     | cardon tamaruga | Only a few thousand people (mostly farmers) live in the inland desert areas. Large deposits of sodium nitrate are found in the desert. Sodium nitrate is used to make gunpowder. |
| <b>Gobi</b>                                       | 450,000 mi <sup>2</sup>                           | Covered  | by camel's   | thorn,          | Crossed by Genghis   |

|  |                            |   |   |
|--|----------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Northern China and Southern Mongolia</i>                    | 1,200,000 km <sup>2</sup>  | sandy soil and grasses areas of small stones called "gobi."                                   | Khan in the early 13th century. Many nomads now settling on government-run farms.                           |
| <b>Great Basin</b>   | 158,000 mi <sup>2</sup>    | Covered by greasewood, sand, gravel, sagebrush, and clay.                                     | Great Salt Lake located here.   |
| <i>Western United States (Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah)</i> | 411,000 km <sup>2</sup>    | Many mountains, ranges, basins, and expanses of salt flats.                                   | bighorn sheep, jackrabbit, pocket mouse, poor-will, pronghorn antelope, sage thrasher, side-blotched lizard |
| <b>Iranian</b>   | 150,000 mi <sup>2</sup>    | Covered by grasses, coarse soil, stony pavement, and salt flats.                              | pistachio World's largest salt flat located here.   |
| <i>Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan</i>                         | 390,000 km <sup>2</sup>    | gray trees, shrubs, monitor lizard, onager, scorpion  |   |
| <b>Namib Coasts</b>  | 52,000 mi <sup>2</sup>     | Covered by aloe, sand dunes, lichens, and gravel farther inland.                              | Coast of the Namib Desert is world's greatest source of gemstones.  |
| <i>Southwestern Africa</i>                                     | of 135,000 km <sup>2</sup> | darkling beetle, fringe-toed lizard, golden mole, jackal, sidewinder, viper, web-footed gecko |   |
| <b>Takla Makan</b>   | 600,000 mi <sup>2</sup>    | Covered by grasses, shrubs, sand dunes and rocky soil.  | The word "Takla Makan" means "place from which there is no return."   |
| <i>Western China</i>   | 1,600,000 km <sup>2</sup>  | bactrian camel, jerboa, long-eared hedgehog, gazelle  |   |
|  |                            |   | Crossed by Marco Polo in the 13th Century.  |
| <b>Turkestan</b>   | 215,000 mi <sup>2</sup>    | Covered mostly alhagi shrub, saxaul   | Crossed by caravans following silk route  |
| <i>Parts of the</i>  | 559,000 km <sup>2</sup>    | by extensive tree, sedges, thick  |   |

*Middle East and  
Southwestern  
Russia*

stretches of ground cover  
sand dunes.

from China in  
Europe in ancient  
desert tortoise, times.

gazelle, gerbil, saiga  
antelope

The great city of  
Samarkand, once a  
cultural and religious  
center of central  
Asia, was located  
here.

Q.38) solution (d)

### **Nuclear Winter**

Nuclear winter is the severe and prolonged global climatic cooling effect hypothesized to occur after widespread firestorms following a nuclear war. The hypothesis is based on the fact that such fires can inject soot into the stratosphere, where it can block some direct sunlight from reaching the surface of the Earth.

Q.39) Solution (a)

### **Anti-cyclone**

An anti-cyclone -- also known as a high pressure area -- is a large atmospheric circulation system with the wind flowing clockwise around it in the Northern Hemisphere, and counter-clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

Anticyclones form from air masses cooling more than their surroundings, which causes the air to contract slightly making the air more dense. Since dense air weighs more, the weight of the atmosphere overlying a location increases, causing increased surface air pressure.

Anti cyclone are associated with lack of rainfall and clear weather.

Q.40) Solution (c)

### **Cirrus clouds**



Cirrus clouds are the highest clouds which are found above 9 km. They look wispy and white. They are made of ice crystals. During dusk and dawn they catch the sun's lateral rays and display vibrant colours.

**Q.41) Solution (b)**

The Inter State Council is a non permanent constitutional body setup by a presidential order on the basis of provisions in Article 263 of the Constitution of India. The body was formed by a Presidential Order dated 28 May 1990 on recommendation of Sarkaria Commission. The Council is formed to discussing or investigating policies, subjects of common interest, and disputes, among states.

**Composition**

The Inter State Council composes of the following members:

- Prime Minister, Chairman.
- Chief Ministers of all states.
- Chief ministers of UTs have legislative assemblies.
- Administrators of union territories not having legislative assemblies.
- Six central cabinet ministers, including home minister, to be nominated by prime minister.
- Governors of states under president's rule.

**STANDING COMMITTEE**

- Home minister
- 5 members of Cabinet rank
- 9 members Chief Ministers of state

**Q.42) Solution (a)**

The term is used in Article 102 (1)(a) of the Indian Constitution which bars a member of the Indian Parliament from holding an office that would give its occupant the opportunity to gain a financial advantage or benefit. It refers to a post under central/state government which yields salaries, perks and other benefits. The actual amount of profit gained during the violation has no bearing on its classification. India had the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1950, 1951, and 1953 exempting certain posts from being recorded as offices of profit. All these Acts were replaced by the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959. By virtue of section 3 of the said Act, certain offices did not

disqualify their holders from being members of Parliament. The law was again amended in 2006.

The representatives cannot hold an office of profit under section 9 of the Representation of People Act and Article 191 (1)(a) of the Constitution also.

**Note:** Office of profit is not defined in Constitution. This is the reason why the topic has always been a point of controversy.

### **Instances**

In 2006, Indian National Congress President and a Member of Parliament Sonia Gandhi resigned several posts under pressure from the political opposition who asserted that the posts were 'offices of profit' and thus unlawful.

Jaya Bachchan was disqualified from the Rajya Sabha, while she was also chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh Film Development Federation.

Two Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly members, Bajrang Bahadur Singh and Uma Shankar Singh, were disqualified in January 2015 due to holding government contracts.

**January 19, 2018:** President Ram Nath Kovind accepted the Election Commission's recommendation to disqualify 20 MLAs of Delhi's ruling Aam Aadmi Party for holding offices of profit.

### **Q.43) Solution (b)**

**Article 35A** of the constitution empowers J&K legislature to define state's "permanent residents" and their special rights and privileges. It was added to the constitution through a presidential order of 1954 with the then J&K government's concurrence

Article 370 guarantees special status to J&K, restricting Union's legislative powers over three areas: defence, foreign affairs and communications. However, under the 1952 Delhi Agreement between Abdullah and Nehru, several provisions of the Constitution were extended to J&K via presidential order in 1954. Article 35A was inserted then.

Permanent residents law prohibits non-permanent residents from permanent settlement in the state, acquiring immovable property, govt jobs, scholarships and aid.

\* It was also interpreted as discriminatory against J&K women. It disqualified them from their state subject rights if they married non-permanent residents. But, in a landmark judgment in October 2002, J&K high court held that women married to non-permanent residents will not lose their rights. The children of such women don't have succession rights.

**Note:** Right to property is a Fundamental Right in Kashmir Constitution.

Q.44) Solution (a)

**Gram Nyayalayas Act 2008**

Gram Nyayalayas Act 2008 had into force on October 2, 2009. The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 has been enacted to provide for the establishment of the Gram Nyayalayas at the grass roots level for the purpose of providing access to justice to the citizens at their door steps.

- Objective is to provide inexpensive justice to people in rural areas.
- Each Gram Nyayalaya is a court of Judicial Magistrate of the first class and its presiding officer (Nyayadhikari) is appointed by the State Government in consultation with the High Court.
- A Gram Nyayalaya is established for every Panchayat at intermediate level or a group of contiguous Panchayats at intermediate level in a district.
- Seat of the Gram Nyayalaya is located at the headquarters of the intermediate Panchayat, they go to villages, work there and dispose of the cases.
- The judges who preside the Grama Nyayalaya are strictly judicial officers. They draw the same salary, deriving the same powers as First Class Magistrates working under High Courts.
- A Grama Nyayalaya is a mobile court and exercises the powers of both Criminal and Civil Courts.
- Gram Nyayalaya try criminal cases, civil suits, claims or disputes which are specified in the First Schedule and the Second Schedule to the Act. These are summarized as below:
  - Offences not punishable with death, imprisonment for life or imprisonment for a term exceeding two years.
  - Theft as well as receiving or retaining stolen property, where the value of the property stolen does not exceed rupees twenty thousand
  - Offences related to central acts such as payment of wages, minimum wages, Protection of civil rights, Bonded labour, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act etc.
  - Offences under states acts which are notified by each state government.
  - Civil and Property suits such as use of common pasture, water channels, farms, right to draw water from a well or tube well etc.
- *The first schedule and second schedule of the Gram Nyayalaya act can be amended by both the central and state governments.*
- Each Gram Nyayalaya exercises the power of a Civil Court with some modification such as special procedure as mentioned in the act.

- The primary focus of the Gram Nyayalaya is to bring about conciliation between the parties.
- The judgment and order passed by the Gram Nyayalaya is deemed to be a decree.

Q.45) Solution (d)

### **Foreign Contribution (Regulating) Act, 2010**

The Foreign Contribution Regulations Act or FCRA is a law enacted by Parliament to regulate foreign contribution (especially monetary donation) provided by certain individuals or associations to NGOs and others within India. The act, in its consolidating form, was originally passed in 1976 and majorly modified in 2010.

The government has used the act over the years to freeze bank accounts of certain NGOs who it found were affecting India's national interest for wrong purposes.

Q.46) Solution (c)

- Haryana is about to be set up a Science City in **Sonepat**.
- Thematic galleries on climate change, biodiversity, cutting-edge science and technology, nanoscience, biotechnology and robotics will be created.
- It will also have a fun science gallery explaining various aspects of science and technology, interactive demonstrations, Laser Show, 3D/4D/5D science-show facilities, virtual reality exhibits, simulator, space theatre etc.

Q.47) Solution (b)

**Union Government has announced Rs.1.4 lakh-crore Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahaabhiyan (KUSUM)** scheme for promoting solar farming i.e. decentralised solar power production of up to 28,250 MW to help farmers.

The scheme has been launched by Ministry of New and renewable energy.

Budget 2018-19 has allocated Rs. 48,000 crore for the scheme for 10 year period.

### **Key Facts**

- KUSUM scheme will start with building 10,000 MW solar plants on barren lands and providing 1.75 million off-grid agricultural solar pumps.

- It will provide extra income to farmers, by giving them an option to sell additional power to grid through solar power projects set up on their barren lands.
- The surplus electricity generated by farmers will be bought by state electricity distribution companies (discoms).

Q.48) Solution (a)

The income tax department has notified the Centralized Communication Scheme 2018 aimed at eliminating the physical interface between taxpayers and the department.

**Centralized Communication Scheme 2018:-**

- The IT department issues notices to persons under Section 133C only to seek information. However the task of visiting the tax office to comply with the notices causes considerable stress and anxiety to the recipient of such notices.
- It will facilitate electronic issuance of notices to taxpayers, requiring them to furnish information or documents for the purpose of verification in a prescribed format.
- No person shall be required to appear personally or through authorized representative before the designated authority in connection with any proceedings.
- It will also set up call centres to address taxpayer queries and a grievance redressal system.

Q.49) Solution (a)

**Core banking solution (CBS)-**

- It is a back-end system that processes daily banking transactions and posts updates to accounts and other financial records.
- It allows customers to manage their accounts and use various banking facilities from any part of the world.
- In simple term, there is no need to visit your own branch to do banking transactions.
- e-Kuber is the CBS of Reserve Bank of India.
- It provides the provision of a single current account for each bank across the country, with decentralized access to this account from anywhere-anytime using portal based services in a safe manner.

Q.50) Solution (d)

**Farmer Producer Companies (FPC)**

It is a hybrid between cooperative societies and private limited companies which provides for sharing of profits/benefits among the members.

**The important features include:-**

- It is formed by a group of producers for either farm or non-farm activities;
- It is a registered body and a legal entity (under Companies Act, 1956);
- Producers are shareholders in the organization;
- It deals with business activities related to the primary produce/product;
- A part of the profit is shared amongst the producers and rest of the surplus is added to its owned funds for business expansion.
- To strengthen their capital base, SFAC has launched a new Central Sector Scheme "Equity Grant and Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Farmers Producer Companies"

**Q.51) Solution (c)**

Doldrums is a belt around the Earth extending approximately five degrees north and south of the equator.

The doldrums are also noted for calm periods when the winds disappear altogether, trapping sailing ships for periods of days or weeks. The term appears to have arisen in the eighteenth century, when trans-equator sailing voyages became more common. Since this zone is where two trade winds meet, it is also called the Intertropical Convergence Zone. They roughly lie between latitudes 5° north and south.

The Roaring Forties are strong westerly winds found in the Southern Hemisphere, generally between the latitudes of 40 and 50 degrees. The strong west-to-east air currents are caused by the combination of air being displaced from the Equator towards the South Pole and the Earth's rotation, and there are few landmasses to serve as windbreaks.

**Do you know?**

The Roaring Forties in the Northern Hemisphere don't pack the same punch that they do in the Southern Hemisphere. This is because the large land masses of North America, Europe, and Asia obstruct the airstream, whereas, in the southern hemisphere, there is less land to break the wind in South America, Australia, and New Zealand.

While the Roaring Forties may be fierce, 10 degrees south are even stronger gale-force winds called the Furious Fifties. And 10 degrees south of the Furious Fifties lie the Screaming Sixties!



**Q.52) Solution (d)**

The main features deposited by wind are sand dunes, barchan dune, Seif or longitudinal dunes and loess.

Wadis are landform feature formed due to water action in Deserts and not by wind deposition.

A wadi is a freshwater ecosystem and a type of fluvial landform, which is considered any type of geological feature that is related to rivers or streams. The term wadi comes from both the Arabic and Hebrew languages. Specifically, it refers to a dry riverbed that contains water during rainy seasons and is located in a valley-like area of the desert.

Refer: Chapter 7 G C Leong

**Q.53) Solution (a)**

Warm Winds include: Foehn or Fohn, Chinook, Zonda, Loo and Sirocco

Cold Winds include: Pampero, Bora, Mistral, Gregale and Tramontane

**PURGA/BURAN:** The Buran in Russian is a wind which blows across Iran, eastern Asia, specifically Xinjiang, Siberia, and Kazakhstan. Over the tundra, it is also known as Purga.

It is a wind of cold air, sometimes very strong, characteristic of the steppes of the Sarmatic plain, to the west of the Urals.

The buran takes two forms: in summer, it is a hot, dry wind, whipping up sandstorms; in winter, it is bitterly cold and often accompanied by blizzards. Winter buran winds are strong and full of ice and snow. The sky is often laden with snow, which swirls about and reduces the visibility to near zero at times. In Alaska this severe northeasterly wind is known as burga and brings snow and ice pellets.

**BORA:** Extremely cold and dry north-easterly wind which blows along the shore of the Adriatic sea. The average wind velocity is 160 km/hr. It is more effective in Italy.

**MISTRAL:** It is cold wind which blows in Spain and France from north-west to south-east direction. Average velocity is 56-64 km/ hr.

**BLIZZARD:** violent stormy cold and powdery polar wind laden with dry snow and prevalent in north and south polar regions. e.g. Siberia, Canada, USA. Velocity is 80 to 96 km./hr.

Local name known as Norther in southern USA and Burran in Siberia.

Q.54) Solution (a)

The troposphere is the lowermost layer of the atmosphere. Its average height is 13 km and extends roughly to a height of 8 km near the poles and about 18 km at the equator.

The zone separating the troposphere from stratosphere is known as the *tropopause*. The air temperature at the tropopause is about minus 80 degree C over the equator and about minus 45°C over the poles. The temperature here is nearly constant, and hence, it is called the tropopause. *The stratosphere* is found above the tropopause and extends up to a height of 50 km.

Q.55) Solution (d)

The Nilgiri Mountains which is also called as Blue Mountains forms part of the Western Ghats in western Tamil Nadu of Southern India.

Kotas are an ethnic group who are indigenous to the Nilgiris mountain range in Tamil Nadu, India. They are one of the many tribal peoples indigenous to the region. Others are the Todas, Irulas and Kurumbas.

Gonds are Adivasi who speak Dravidian language, spread over the states of Madhya Pradesh, eastern Maharashtra (Vidarbha), Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Western Odisha.

The Gondi language is closely related to the Telugu, belonging to the Dravidian family of languages. About half of Gonds speak Gondi languages while the rest speak Indo-Aryan languages including Hindi.

Lambadas are a community usually described as nomadic people from the northwestern belt of the Indian subcontinent (from Afghanistan to the state of Rajasthan) but now found in other areas of India also. Many settled in Andhra Pradesh and they are the largest tribe in this state.

Jarawas are an indigenous people of the Andaman Islands in India. They live in parts of South Andaman and Middle Andaman Islands, and their present numbers are estimated at between 250–400 individuals.

Q.56) Solution (a)

The Padshahnama ('Book of Emperors') is a contemporary chronicle commissioned by Mughal Emperor Shah-Jahan as a propagandist celebration of his reign and dynasty. Written by the court historian Abd al-Hamid of Lahore, the objective of the text was to proclaim the political and ideological legitimacy of the Emperor's rule. This manuscript in the Royal Collection is unique, being the only contemporary illustrated imperial Padshahnama volume to survive. It contains only the first of the three volumes which make up the text. Following a long introduction recounting the Mughal imperial genealogy from Timur to Shah-Jahan, the greater part of the manuscript is a discourse on the first decade of the emperor's rule (1628–38) and ends with an epilogue listing in order of hierarchy the nobles, officials and religious figures who feature in the narrative.

**Q.57) Solution (b)**

The old trading routes between the East and West came under Turkish control after Ottoman conquest of Asia Minor and the Capture of Constantiople in 1453. They monopolized the trade between Europe and Asia and refused to let the new nation state of westerns Europe , particularly Spain and Portugal, have any share in the trade through these old routes. The demand for spices was pressing and the profits to be made in their trade inviting. The West Europeans states and merchants therefore began to search for new and safer sea routes to India and the Spice Islands of Indonesia, then known as the East Indies.

**Q.58) Solution (a)**

Indian Nationalists had for many years declared the Constitutional reforms of 1919 as inadequate and had been clamoring for an early reconsideration of the constitutional question, but the government had been adamant that the declared period of ten years but lapse before fresh proposals were considered.

In 1927, however, the Conservative government of Britain faced with the prospect of electoral defeat at the hands of the Labor Party, suddenly decided that it could not leave an issue which concerned the future of the British empire in the irresponsible hands of an inexperienced Labor Government and it was thus that the indian Statutory Commission was appointed.

**Q.59) Solution (b)**

**Argument put forward to the safety valve theory:**

A O Hume and other British thought that the educated Indians may become leaders of the Indian public and organize a rebellion against the government. So if the Government itself provides them a platform to raise their voice, it may be possible to stop such nuisance.

**Was It a Safety Valve?**

There is a theory that Hume formed the Congress with the idea that it would prove to be a 'safety valve' for releasing the growing discontent of the Indians. To this end, he convinced Lord Dufferin not to obstruct the formation of the Congress. Modern Indian historians, however, dispute the idea of 'safety valve'. In their opinion the Indian National Congress represented the urge of the politically conscious Indians to set up a national body to express the political and economic demands of the Indians. If the Indians had convened such a body on their own, there would have been unsurmountable opposition from the officials; such an organisation would not have been allowed to form. In the circumstances, as Bipin Chandra observes, the early Congress leaders used Hume as a 'lightning conductor' i.e., as a catalyst to bring together the nationalistic forces even if under the guise of a 'safety valve'.

**Q.60) Solution (d)**

Through the nineteenth century, peasants in various parts of India rose in revolt against moneylenders and grain dealers. One such revolt occurred in 1875 in the Deccan. The movement began at Supa, a large village in Poona district. It was a market centre where many shopkeepers and moneylenders lived. In 1875, ryots from surrounding rural areas gathered and attacked the shopkeepers, demanding their account books and debt bonds. They burnt account books, looted grain shops, and in some cases set fire to the houses of sahuikars (persons who acted as both a moneylender and a trader). From Poona the revolt spread to Ahmednagar. Then over the next two months it spread even further, over an area of 6,500 square km. More than thirty villages were affected.

When the revolt spread in the Deccan, the Government of Bombay was initially unwilling to see it as anything serious. But the Government of India, worried by the memory of 1857, pressurised the Government of Bombay to set up a commission of enquiry to investigate into the causes of the riots. The commission produced a report that was presented to the British Parliament in 1878.

**Q.61) Solution (c)**

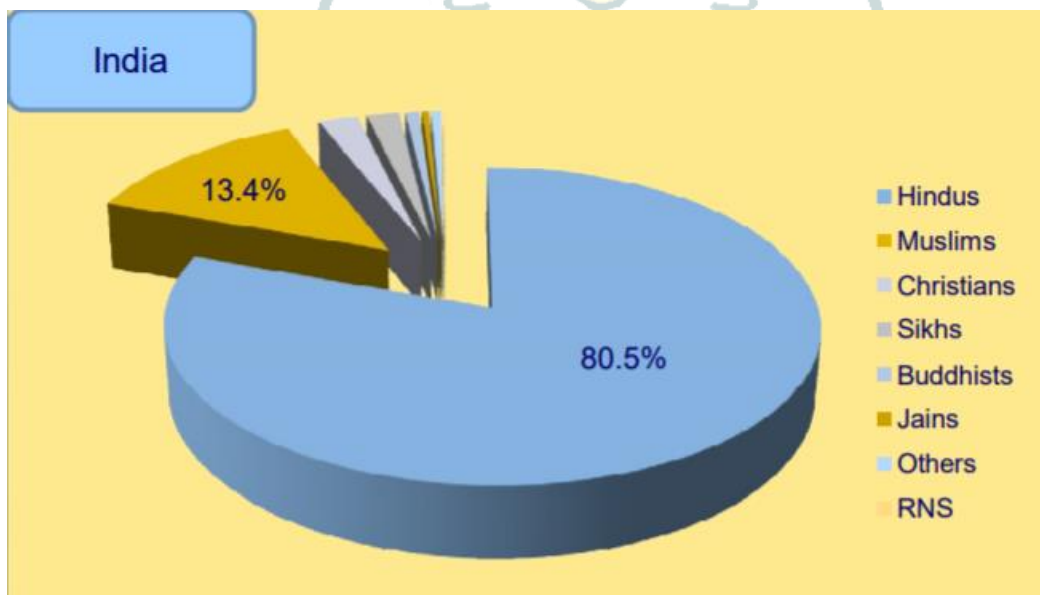
According to Census 2011, Uttar Pradesh is the most populous and Lakshadweep is the least populous of the country.

| Top Populous of the Country |                       |              |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1                           | <b>Uttar Pradesh</b>  | 19,98,12,341 |
| 2                           | <b>Maharashtra</b>    | 11,23,74,333 |
| 3                           | <b>Bihar</b>          | 10,40,99,452 |
| 4                           | <b>West Bengal</b>    | 9,12,76,115  |
| 5                           | <b>Andhra Pradesh</b> | 8,45,80,777  |

Q.62) Solution (c)

According to Census 2011,

Hindu > Muslims > Christians > Sikhs > Buddhists > Jains > Others



Q.63) Solution (b)

Capital Account comprises of Foreign loans, Foreign Direct Investment and Portfolio Investment. It does not include remittances.

Capital Account is the net result of public and private international investments flowing in and out of a country. Portfolio investment is the buying of shares and bonds. FDI is the investments by foreigners in a country or the citizens investing in foreign countries.

The three main components of Balance of Payments (BoP):

- Current Account
- Capital Account
- Official Reserve Transactions

The current account includes all the transactions related to export and import of goods and services, investment income, and unilateral transfers (remittances, gifts, grants etc.). The capital account includes all international asset transactions (FDI, FPI etc.). The official reserve transactions are conducted by central banks like RBI whenever there is BoP deficit or BoP surplus. These transactions are conducted in the form of international reserve assets, such as gold and major international currencies.

Q.64) Solution (c)

Many distinguished thinkers contributed to the formulation of our five year plans. Among them, the name of the statistician, Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, stands out.

Planning, in the real sense of the term, began with the Second Five Year Plan. The Second Plan, a landmark contribution to development planning in general, laid down the basic ideas regarding goals of Indian planning; this plan was based on the ideas of Mahalanobis. In that sense, he can be regarded as the architect of Indian planning.

Mahalanobis was born in 1893 in Calcutta. He was educated at the Presidency College in Calcutta and at Cambridge University in England. His contributions to the subject of statistics brought him international fame. In 1946 he was made a Fellow (member) of Britain's Royal Society, one of the most prestigious organisations of scientists; only the most outstanding scientists are made members of this Society.

Mahalanobis established the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Calcutta and started a journal, Sankhya, which still serves as a respected forum for statisticians to discuss their ideas. Both, the ISI and Sankhya, are highly regarded by statisticians and economists all over the world to this day.

Q.65) Solution (a)



This scheme came into existence following a MoU between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Government of India (GoI) with the primary aim of aiding the sterilization operations of the RBI.

Under this scheme, the GoI borrows from the RBI (such borrowing being additional to its normal borrowing requirements) and issues Treasury-Bills/Dated Securities that are utilized for absorbing excess liquidity from the market. Therefore, the MSS constitutes an arrangement aiding in liquidity absorption, in keeping with the overall monetary policy stance of the RBI, alongside tools like the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) and Open Market Operations (OMO).

The amount raised under the MSS does not get credited to the Government Account but is maintained in a separate cash account with the RBI and are used only for the purpose of redemption/buy back of Treasury-Bills/ Dated Securities issued under the scheme.

#### Q.66) Solution (b)

A barometer is a scientific instrument used in meteorology to measure atmospheric pressure.

A simple barometer consists of a long glass tube (closed at one end, open at the other) filled with mercury and turned upside down into a container of mercury. The barometer works by balancing the mercury in the glass tube against the outside air pressure, just like a set of scales. As air pressure increases—that is, as the air becomes heavier—it pushes more of the mercury up into the tube. As air pressure decreases, more of the mercury drains from the tube. So the level of mercury in the tube provides a precise measure of air pressure.

#### Q.67) Solution (d)

Sound is a kind of energy created when something vibrates. When this vibration reaches an ear, it is translated into what we recognize as a sound. Sound vibration must travel through matter. This is typically air.

Sound can also travel through other matter. Sound waves usually travel through air or water, but they can also travel through solids too, like walls or furniture. Sound waves use the matter to move the vibrations.

However, sound cannot travel through a vacuum. A vacuum is an area without any air, like space. So sound cannot travel through space because there is no matter for the vibrations to work in.

Q.68) Solution (c)

Among the above, Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (Andhra Pradesh) is the largest tiger reserve of India in terms of area of the core/critical tiger habitat.

Reference link: [http://wiienviis.nic.in/Database/trd\\_8222.aspx](http://wiienviis.nic.in/Database/trd_8222.aspx)

**Do you know?**

There are 50 tiger reserves in India which are governed by Project Tiger which is administrated by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

India is home to 70 percent of tigers in the world. In 2006, there were 1,411 tigers which increased to 1,706 in 2011 and 2,226 in 2014.

Bor became smallest tiger reserve in India with four tigers. Bor Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the valley of the Wardha river in the Wardha district of Maharashtra has been given the status of a tiger reserve, making it the smallest such reserve in the country.

Q.69) Solution (b)

A pearl is a hard glistening object produced within the soft tissue (specifically the mantle) of a living shelled mollusk or another animal, such as a conulariid. Just like the shell of a mollusk, a pearl is composed of calcium carbonate (mainly aragonite or a mixture of aragonite and calcite) in minute crystalline form, which has been deposited in concentric layers.

Natural pearls are nearly 100% calcium carbonate and conchiolin.

Q.70) Solution (d)

Carbon sequestration may be carried out by pumping carbon into carbon sinks of two types:

1. Natural sinks: ocean, forest, soil etc.
2. Artificial sinks: depleted oil reserve, unminable mines.

Deep saline formations or deep saltwater reservoirs are rocks with porous spaces that are filled with brine. They exist nearly world wide and have great potential for CO<sub>2</sub> storage.

**Q.71) Solution (b)**

The Constituent Assembly met for the first time in New Delhi on 9th December, 1946 in the Constitution Hall which is now known as the Central Hall of Parliament House.

As to its composition, members were chosen by indirect election by the members of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies, according to the scheme recommended by the Cabinet Mission :-

- The Constituent Assembly consisted of 389 members, of which 292 were elected by the elected members of the provincial Legislative Assemblies while 93 members were nominated by the Princely States. To these were to be added a representative each from the four chief Commissioners provinces of Delhi, Ajmer-Marwar, Coorg and British Baluchistan.
- Each Province and each Indian state or Group of States were allotted the total number of seats proportional to their respective population roughly in the ratio of one to a million.
- Seats allocated to each British Province were to be decided among among the three principal communities - Muslims, Sikhs and General in proportion to their population.

The Elections to the Constituent Assembly (for 296 seats allocated to the British Indian Provinces were held in July-August 1946). The results were as :

- Indian National Congress - 208 Seats
- Muslim League - 73 Seats
- Small Group and Independents - 15 Seats
- Princely States - Election for 93 Seats was to be done but the seats were not filled as they decided to stay away from the Constituent Assembly.

Interesting Point: The Assembly included all the important personalities of India at that time, with the exception of Mahatma Gandhi and M.A. Jinnah.

(Babu Jagjivan Ram went to convince Mahatma Gandhi to join Constituent Assembly as his guidance was required. This was when Gandhi ji gave him what is popularly known as Gandhi ji's Talisman.)

The Constituent Assembly elected for undivided India which had met for the first time on 9th December 1946 was convened to meet on 14th August 1947 and it became the Sovereign Constituent Assembly for the Dominion of India.

The Muslim League had joined the Interim Government but abstained from sending its representatives to the Constituent Assembly which was an integral part of the Cabinet Plan.

**Q.72) Solution (d)**

Note: 'Incorrect' options have been asked.

The American Constitution was the first to begin with a Preamble. Many countries, including India, followed this practice. The term 'preamble' refers to the introduction or preface to the

Constitution. It contains the summary or essence of the Constitution. N A Palkhivala, an eminent jurist and constitutional expert, called the Preamble as the 'identity card of the Constitution.'

The Preamble to the Indian Constitution is based on the 'Objectives Resolution', drafted and moved by Pandit Nehru, and adopted by the Constituent Assembly<sup>1</sup>. It has been amended by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act (1976), which added three new words—socialist, secular and integrity.

**Q.73) Solution (b)**

Unlike in other federations, the states in India have no right to territorial integrity. The Parliament can by unilateral action change the area, boundaries or name of any state. Moreover, it requires only a simple majority and not a special majority. Hence, the Indian Federation is "an indestructible Union of destructible states". The American Federation, on the other hand, is described as "an indestructible Union of indestructible states".

The states are given representation in the Rajya Sabha on the basis of population. Hence, the membership varies from 1 to 31. In US, on the other hand, the principle of equality of representation of states in the Upper House is fully recognised. Thus, the American Senate has 100 members, two from each state. This principle is regarded as a safeguard for smaller states.

**Q.74) Solution (a)**

The President is elected not directly by the people but by members of electoral college consisting of:

1. the elected members of both the Houses of Parliament;
2. the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states; and

3. the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry.

Thus, the nominated members of both of Houses of Parliament, the nominated members of the state legislative assemblies, the members (both elected and nominated) of the state legislative councils (in case of the bicameral legislature) and the nominated members of the Legislative Assemblies of Delhi and Puducherry do not participate in the election of the President. Where an assembly is dissolved, the members cease to be qualified to vote in presidential election, even if fresh elections to the dissolved assembly are not held before the presidential election.

#### Q.75) Solution (b)

The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is the question hour. During this time, the members ask questions and the ministers usually give answers. The questions are of three kinds, namely, starred, unstarred and short notice.

- A starred question (distinguished by an asterisk) requires an oral answer and hence supplementary questions can follow.
- An unstarred question, on the other hand, requires a written answer and hence, supplementary questions cannot follow.
- A short notice question is one that is asked by giving a notice of less than ten days. It is answered orally.

Unlike the question hour, the zero hour is not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure. Thus it is an informal device available to the members of the Parliament to raise matters without any prior notice.

The zero hour starts immediately after the question hour and lasts until the agenda for the day (ie, regular business of the House) is taken up. In other words, the time gap between the question hour and the agenda is known as zero hour. It is an Indian innovation in the field of parliamentary procedures and has been in existence since 1962.

#### Q.76) Solution (b)

The Van Dhan Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED. It was launched on 14th April, 2018 and seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products.

The scheme will be implemented through Ministry of Tribal Affairs as Nodal Department at the Central Level and TRIFED as Nodal Agency at the National Level. At State level, the State Nodal Agency for MFPs and the District collectors are envisaged to play a pivot role in scheme implementation at grassroot level. Locally the Kendras are proposed to be managed by a Managing Committee (an SHG) consisting of representatives of Van Dhan SHGs in the cluster.

Q.77) Solution (b)

To attain self-sufficiency in bulk drugs and reduce dependence on China, the government had set up a committee headed by V.M. Katoch.

Q.78) Solution (a)

The first phase of "Shaala Darpan Project" to cover all the 1099 Kendriya Vidyalayas was launched on 05.06.2015. The same is presently under implementation through National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICSI). The objective of this project is to provide services based on School Management Systems to Students, Parents and Communities. The School Information Services includes School Profile Management, Student Profile Management, Employee Information, Student Attendance, Leave Management, Report Cards, Curriculum Tracking Custom, SMS Alerts for Parents / Administrators on student & teacher attendance.

Ministry of HRD.

Q.79) Solution (a)

The Gender Parity Index (GPI) is a socioeconomic index usually designed to measure the relative access to education of males and females. This index is released by UNESCO.

Q.80) Solution (d)

The scheme has the benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year. The target beneficiaries of the scheme will be more than 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population based on SECC database.

AB-NHPM will subsume the on-going centrally sponsored schemes –Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS)



AB-NHPM will have major impact on reduction of Out Of Pocket (OOP) expenditure on ground of:

- Increased benefit cover to nearly 40% of the population, (the poorest & the vulnerable)
- Covering almost all secondary and many tertiary hospitalizations (except a negative list)
- Coverage of 5 lakh for each family, (no restriction of family size)

Q.81) Solution (a)



Q.82) Solution (c)

The declaration of National Emergency has effects both on the rights of individuals and the autonomy of the states in the following manner:

The most significant effect is that the federal form of the Constitution changes into unitary. The authority of the Centre increases and the Parliament assumes the power to make laws for the entire country or any part thereof, even in respect of subjects mentioned in the State List.

The President of India can issue directions to the states as to the manner in which the executive power of the states is to be exercised.

During period, the Lok Sabha can extend tenure by a period of 1 year at a time. But the same cant be extended beyond 6 months after the proclamation ceases to operate. The tenure of State Assemblies can also be extended in the same manner.

During emergency, the President is empowered to modify the provisions regarding distribution of revenues between the Union and the States.

The Fundamental Rights under Article 19 are automatically suspended and this suspension continues till the end of the emergency.

But according to the 44th Amendment, Freedoms listed in Article 19 can be suspended only in case of proclamation on the ground of war or external aggression.

Q.83) Solution (d)

The sliding filament theory explains the mechanism of muscle contraction based on muscle proteins that slide past each other to generate movement.

Q.84) Solution (b)

A pyranometer is a type of actinometer used for measuring solar irradiance on a planar surface and it is designed to measure the solar radiation flux density ( $W/m^2$ ) from the hemisphere above within a wavelength range  $0.3 \mu m$  to  $3 \mu m$ .

Q.85) Solution (a)

The Attorney General of India is the Indian government's chief legal advisor, and is primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India. He can be said to be the lawyer from government's side. He is appointed by the President of India under Article 76(1) of the Constitution and holds office during the pleasure of the President. He must be a person qualified to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court, also must have been a judge of some high court for five years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the President and must be a citizen of India.

Unlike the Attorney General of the United States, the Attorney General for India does not have any executive authority. Those functions are performed by the Law Minister of India. Also the AG is not a government servant and is not debarred from private legal practice.

Q.86) Solution (c)

#### **Kurnool Circular**

- Quit India Movement spread to all the states and provinces across the country. In Andhra the Provincial Congress Committee had issued a circular popularly known as the 'Kurnool Circular' – drafted by Kala Venkat Rao

- 'Kurnool Circular' intended to paralyze all means of communications and machinery of administration.
- The 'Kurnool Circular' envisaged a programme of defying prohibitory orders, lawyers to give up practice, students to leave colleges, picketing salt and foreign trade and industry, cutting of communications, cutting of toddy yielding trees, travelling without tickets, pulling chains to stop trains and blow up bridges to disrupt communications and retard the movement of Army personnel: the cutting of telegraph and telephone wires, non-payment of taxes excepting municipal taxes, and hoisting of national flags on all Government buildings as a sign of independence.

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

Q.87) Solution (a)

Thumrī is a common genre of semi-classical Indian music. The term "thumri" is derived from the Hindi verb thumakna, which means "to walk with dancing steps so as to make the ankle-bells tinkle." The form is, thus, connected with dance, dramatic gestures, mild eroticism, evocative love poetry and folk songs of Uttar Pradesh, though there are regional variations.

The Thumris of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah are known for their simple language and the emotions that they convey. Thumri, which is a semi classical form of Hindustani music, flourished under the regime of Wajid Ali Shah and bandish ki thumri (or Band bol ki thumri) became popular. One of his compositions "Neer Bharan kaise jaaun" has been beautifully arranged and presented in the movie "Khuda ke liye".

Q.88) Solution (a)

Tholu Bommalata is the shadow puppet theatre tradition of Andhra Pradesh. Its performers the part of a group of wandering entertainers and peddlers who pass through villages during the course of a year and offer to sing ballads, tell fortunes, sell amulets, perform acrobatics, charm snakes, weave fishnets, tattoo local people and mend pots. This ancient custom, which for centuries before radio, movies, and television provided knowledge of Hindu epics and local folk tales, not to mention news, spread to the most remote corners of the subcontinent. Tholu Bommalata literally means "the dance of leather puppets" (tholu – leather and bommalata – puppet dance).

The puppeteers make up some of the various entertainers who perform all night and usually re-enact various stories from Hindu epics such as the Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Q.89) Solution (b)

The Mahamastakabhisheka refers to the abhiṣheka (anointment) of the Jain images when held on a large scale. The most famous of such consecrations is the anointment of the Bahubali Gommateshwara Statue located at Shravanabelagola in Karnataka, India. It is an important Jain festival held once in every 12 years. It is an integral part of the ancient and composite Jain tradition.

Q.90) Solution (c)

It is known that the Kalabhras patronised Buddhism and Jainism. The late Kalabhras appear to have been Shaivite and Vaishnavite. Scholar F. E. Hardy traced the palace ceremony to a Vishnu or Mayon temple to the rule of the Kalabhras. They are known for patronising the Hindu god, Skanda or Subramanya. They imprinted his image on their 5th-century coins, especially those of the Kaveripumpattinam rulers. King Achyuta worshipped Vaishnava Tirumal.

The rule of the Kalabhras of South India was ended by the counter-invasions of Pandyas, Chalukyas and Pallavas. There are other references to the Kalabhras in Pallava and Chalukya inscriptions. They were conquered by Pallava, Simhavishnu and Pandya, Kadungon.

Q.91) Solution (c)

CSC SPV, in Collaboration with NPCI, launched its Aadhaar Enabled Payment service 'Digi Pay' to address need for financial services of rural people. Now on August 22, 2017,

It enables citizens to deposit cash in their Aadhaar seeded account of any bank.

Q.92) Solution (c)

NITI Aayog suggested 'Price Deficiency Payment' system to address the gaps in Minimum Support Price (MSP) based procurement of crops.

Under Price Deficiency Payment, farmers are proposed to be compensated for the difference between the government-announced MSPs for select crops and their actual market prices. For crops such as rice and wheat where it is effective now, MSP announcements will continue. For other targeted crops, price deficiency payments will be

made. However, it has to be noted that there may be a cap on the extent to which the Centre will bridge the gap between MSP and market price.

The key benefit from the price deficiency payment is that it will reduce the need for the government to actually procure food crops, transport and store them and then dispose of them under PDS. The difference between the support and market prices can instead simply be paid in cash to the farmer. Price deficiency payment can also keep India's bill on food subsidies under check.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/all-you-wanted-to-know-about-price-deficiency-payment/article9872658.ece>

Q.93) Solution (c)

### **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)**

- It is a very old subsidiary of RBI which provides insurance to all the banks registered under the guidelines of the RBI Act.
- The aim of the DICGC Act, 1961 is to provide for the establishment of a corporation for the purpose of insurance of deposits and guaranteeing of credit facilities and various other matters which are incidental to any event occurring DICGC Act.
- No insured banks can withdraw themselves from the DICGC coverage. The deposit insurance scheme is mandatory for all the banks.
- All commercial banks including branches of foreign banks functioning in India, nationalized/local banks and RRB's are insured by the DICGC.
- At present all the co-operative banks other than those from the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Lakshadweep, the State of Meghalaya and Dadra and Nagar Haveli are covered by the DICGC.
- Primary cooperative societies are also not insured by the DICGC. Deposit insurance premium is borne entirely by all the insured banks, respectively.

### **What comes under DICGC insurance?**

- It is important to know that the DICGC insures all the deposits such as savings, current, fixed, recurring, etc.
- Deposits which are not covered are deposits of the foreign governments, deposits of the central or the state governments, deposits of the state land development banks with the state co-operative banks, various inter-bank deposits, any amount due on account of and deposit received outside India and any amount, which has been specifically exempted by the corporation with the previous approval of RBI.

### **Maximum amount of deposit insured under DICGC**

- Each of the depositor, who has an account in a bank, is insured up to a maximum of Rs 1 lakh for both principal and interest amount held by them as on the date of cancellation or liquidation of bank's license or the date on which the scheme of amalgamation/merger/reconstruction takes place.

**DICGC liable to pay the insurance amount**

- When a bank goes into liquidation then in such a case the DICGC is liable to pay to each depositor through the liquidator, the amount of his deposit up to Rs 1 lakh within two months from the date of claim list from the liquidator.
- If a bank is reconstructed or amalgamated or merged with another bank then in such a case the DICGC pays to the bank concerned.

**Q.94) Solution (b)**

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is an international financial institution founded in 1991. As a multilateral developmental investment bank, the EBRD uses investment as a tool to build market economies. Initially focused on the countries of the former Eastern Bloc it expanded to support development in more than 30 countries from central Europe to central Asia. Similar to other multilateral development banks, the EBRD has members from all over the world (North America, Africa, Asia and Australia, see below), with the biggest shareholder being the United States, but only lends regionally in its countries of operations. Headquartered in London, the EBRD is owned by 65 countries and two EU institutions. Despite its public sector shareholders, it invests in private enterprises, together with commercial partners.

**Q.95) Solution (c)**

The Zangger Committee, also known as the Nuclear Exporters Committee, sprang from Article III.2 of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) which entered into force on March 5, 1970. Under the terms of Article III.2 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards must be applied to nuclear exports.

India is not a member.

**Q.96) Solution (b)****LIST OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES:**

- Cold Desert, Himachal Pradesh



- Nanda Devi, Uttrakhand
- Khangchendzonga, Sikkim
- Dehang-Debang, Arunachal Pradesh
- Manas, Assam
- Dibru-Saikhowa, Assam
- Nokrek, Meghalaya
- Panna, Madhya Pradesh
- Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh
- Achanakmar-Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh-Chhattisgarh
- Kachchh, Gujarat
- Similipal, Odisha
- Sundarban, West Bengal
- Seshachalam, Andhra Pradesh
- Agasthyamala, Karnataka-Tamil Nadu-Kerala
- Nilgiri, Tamil Nadu-Kerala
- Gulf of Mannar, Tamil Nadu
- Great Nicobar, Andaman & Nicobar Island

Q.97) Solution (b)

Reciprocal Logistic Support Agreement is the major strategic outcome of recent visit by French President to India.

It is a reciprocal logistics support deal between the respective armed forces of India and France to use of each other's military facilities.

The deal will facilitate the French and Indian armed forces to receive logistical support, supplies and services from each other.

Q.98) Solution (b)

Red Panda is a mammal native to the eastern Himalayas and southwestern China.



The red panda has been classified as endangered by the IUCN, because its wild population is estimated at less than 10,000 mature individuals and continues to decline due to habitat loss and fragmentation, poaching, and inbreeding depression, although red pandas are protected by national laws in their range countries.

Red pandas are excellent climbers, and forage largely in trees. They eat mostly bamboo, and may eat small mammals, birds, eggs, flowers, and berries.

Q.99) Solution (a)

The Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Q.100) Solution (a)

The Climate Parliament is an international cross-party network of legislators, dedicated to preventing climate change and promoting renewable energy. It supports parliamentarians to undertake initiatives at national and regional levels to help accelerate the global renewable switch at the speed and scale required.

It is a UK registered charity.

