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**Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Mycorrhiza'**

1. In a mycorrhizal association, the bacteria colonizes the host plant's root tissues
2. It makes the plant less susceptible to soil-borne pathogens

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

Mycorrhizal fungi have existed since the first plants appeared on dry land more than 450 million years ago. They form a close symbiotic relationship with plant roots. They are called mycorrhizae from the Greek "mukés", meaning fungus, and "rhiza," meaning roots.

Mycorrhizae form a network of filaments that associate with plant roots and draw nutrients from the soil that the root system would not be able to access otherwise. This fungus-plant alliance stimulates plant growth and accelerates root development.

One kilometre of hyphae (fine filaments) may be associated with a plant growing in a one-litre pot and it can access water and nutrients in the smallest pores in the soil. It also makes the plant less susceptible to soil-borne pathogens and to other environmental stresses such as drought and salinity. In return the plant provides carbohydrates and other nutrients to the fungi. They utilize these carbohydrates for their growth and to synthesize and excrete molecules like glomalin (glycoprotein). The release of glomalin in the soil environment results in better soil structure and higher organic matter content.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/toxic-air-is-causing-malnutrition-in-trees/article24255567.ece>

**Q.2) 'Global Environment Facility' serves as financial mechanism for which of the following?**

1. Minamata Convention on Mercury
2. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
3. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

**Select the correct code:**

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

### Q.2) Solution (d)

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. Today, the GEF is an international partnership of 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector that addresses global environmental issues.

The GEF is

A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP of 18 agencies — including United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, national entities and international NGOs — working with 183 countries to address the world's most challenging environmental issues. The GEF has a large network of civil society organizations, works closely with the private sector around the world, and receives continuous inputs from an independent evaluation office and a world-class scientific panel.

A FINANCIAL MECHANISM for 5 major international environmental conventions: the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Source: <https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/india-increases-grants-to-15-million-to-handle-global-environment-crises/1220528/>

### Q.3) Which of the following statements about United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is/are correct?

- a) It was formed aftermath of 1948 Arab Israel conflict
- b) It is the only agency dedicated to helping refugees from a specific region or conflict
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

### Q.3) Solution (c)

### United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

- Following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict, UNRWA was established by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 to carry out direct relief and works programmes for Palestine refugees. The Agency began operations on 1 May 1950.
- In the absence of a solution to the Palestine refugee problem, the General Assembly has repeatedly renewed UNRWA's mandate, most recently extending it until 30 June 2017.
- The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions from UN Member States.
- UNRWA also receives some funding from the Regular Budget of the United Nations, which is used mostly for international staffing costs.
- The Agency's services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance, including in times of armed conflict.
- Aid is provided in five areas of operation: Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; aid for Palestinian refugees outside these five areas is provided by UNHCR.

### UNRWA & UNHCR

- UNRWA is the only agency dedicated to helping refugees from a specific region or conflict and is separate from UNHCR.
- Formed in 1950, UNHCR is the main UN refugee agency, which is responsible for aiding other refugees all over the world.
- Unlike UNRWA, UNHCR has a specific mandate to aid its refugees to eliminate their refugee status by local integration in current country, resettlement in a third country or repatriation when possible.
- Both UNRWA and UNHCR allow refugee status to be inherited by descendants.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-pledges-5-million-for-palestinian-refugees/articleshow/64746306.cms>

### Q.4) 'Rohingyas' are

- a) Muslim refugees from eastern Sri Lanka settled in Tamil Nadu
- b) An anti-communist political group in Syria
- c) Muslim refugees migrating from Myanmar to Bangladesh
- d) A political group fighting for autonomy in Catalonia

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### Q.4) Solution (c)

The Rohingyas are a minority ethnic Muslim group based in Buddhist-dominated country of Myanmar or Burma.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/hyderabad-a-model-for-supporting-refugees-unhcr-mission-chief/article24242497.ece>

### Q.5) Consider the following statements about 'Sampark Portal'

1. It is under the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
2. It is a network for nurturing entrepreneurship and creating business models for low cost products and services in order to empower women

### Select the correct statements

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

### Q.5) Solution (a)

#### Sampark portal

- A digital platform to connect five lakh job seekers with recruiters
- It will be useful in creating a skill pool of workers and connecting trained youth with job opportunities
- It is under the Ministry of MSME.
- It will act as a bridge between the talent pool and those enterprises seeking trained man power

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180210>