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**Q.1) 'Ottawa Declaration' is associated with**

- a) Arctic Council
- b) Eurasian Economic Union
- c) NAFTA
- d) EFTA

**Q.1) Solution (a)**

The Arctic Council is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic. This article contains a backgrounder on the Arctic Council and its work.

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The Ottawa Declaration lists the following countries as Members of the Arctic Council: Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States.

**Source:** <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/arctic-sea-route-not-possible-even-if-it-is-ice-free-finnish-official/article24069146.ece>

**Q.2) Consider the following g statements about 'Blue Flag Certification'**

1. It is a certification by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) that a beach, marina or sustainable boating tourism operator meets its stringent standards
2. Chandrabhaga beach of Odisha is the first in Asia to get the Blue Flag certification

**Select the correct statements**

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

### Q.2) Solution (c)

#### Blue Flag

- The Blue Flag is a certification by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) that a beach, marina or sustainable boating tourism operator meets its stringent standards.
- FEE's Blue Flag criteria include standards for water quality, safety, environmental education and information, the provision of services and general environmental management criteria.
- The Blue Flag is sought for beaches, marinas and sustainable boating tourism operators as an indication of their high environmental and quality standards.

The Chandrabhaga beach on the Konark coast of Odisha will be the first in Asia to get the Blue Flag certification — the tag given to environment-friendly and clean beaches, equipped with amenities of international standards for tourists.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/odisha-beach-is-asias-first-to-get-blue-flag-tag/article24073494.ece>

### Q.3) Consider the following statements about 'Dutch disease'

1. It refers to the negative consequences arising from large increases in the value of a country's currency
2. The origin of the term can be traced to the Dutch economic crisis of the 1960s following the discovery of North Sea natural gas

#### Select the correct statements

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

### Q.3) Solution (c)

Dutch disease is an economic term that refers to the negative consequences arising from large increases in the value of a country's currency. It is primarily associated with a natural resource discovery but can result from any large influx of foreign currency into a country, including foreign direct investment, foreign aid or a substantial increase in natural resource prices.

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As an economic phenomenon, Dutch disease has two main effects: a decrease in the price competitiveness of exports of the affected country's manufactured goods and an increase in the quantity of imports. Both result from a higher local currency. In the long run, these factors can contribute to higher unemployment because manufacturing jobs are moved to lower-cost countries. The result is that nonresource industries suffer because of the increased wealth generated by the resource-based industries.

The term Dutch disease was coined by The Economist magazine in 1977. The magazine was analyzing a crisis that occurred in the Netherlands following discoveries of vast natural gas deposits in the North Sea in 1959. The newfound wealth and massive exports of oil caused the value of the Dutch guilder to rise sharply making exports of all nonoil products less competitive on the world market. Unemployment rose from 1.1% to 5.1%, and capital investment in the country dropped.

Dutch disease became widely used in economics to describe the paradoxical situation where seemingly good news, such as the discovery of large oil reserves, has a negative impact on a country's broader economy.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/pZzvKe7p1YaidTM2VIFnsl/Has-the-Indian-economy-caught-the-Dutch-disease.html>

**Q.4) Which of the following statements about 'Fragile Five' is/are correct?**

1. It is a term coined to represent emerging market economies that have become too dependent on unreliable foreign investment to finance their growth ambitions
2. Fragile Five refers to BRICS countries

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.4) Solution (a)**

**Fragile Five**

- It is a term coined to represent emerging market economies that have become too dependent on unreliable foreign investment to finance their growth ambitions.
- India, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia and Turkey

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- As capital flows out of emerging markets to developed markets, many of their currencies experienced significant weakness and made it difficult to finance current account deficits.
- The lack of new investment also made it impossible to finance many growth projects, which contributed to a slowdown in their respective economies. This created a potential issue for certain vulnerable economies.

**Q.5) Consider the following statements about General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

1. It is designed by International Telecommunications Union (ITU)
2. It has been designed to protect the personal data of E.U. residents.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.5) Solution (b)**

European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has been designed to protect the personal data of E.U. residents.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/open-data-open-government/article24130636.ece>

