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Q.1) Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2017 was released by

1. NITI Aayog
2. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)
3. World Bank

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 2 and 3

Q.1) Solution (d)

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in partnership with the World Bank Group, released the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2017 for implementation by States/UTs.

The BRAP includes 405 recommendations for reforms on regulatory processes, policies, practices and procedures spread across 12 reform areas, that is, labour regulation enablers; contract enforcement; registering property; inspection reform enablers; single window system; land availability and allotment; construction permit enablers; environmental registration enablers; obtaining utility permits; paying taxes; access to information and transparency enablers and sector specific reforms spanning the lifecycle of a typical business.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180491>

Q.2) 'River Krishna' flows through

1. Maharashtra
2. Telangana
3. Andhra Pradesh
4. Karnataka

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 3 Only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 Only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 Only

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- d) All of the above

Q.2) Solution (d)

The Krishna river's source is at Mahabaleswar near the Jor village in the extreme north of Wai Taluka, Satara District, Maharashtra in the west and empties into the Bay of Bengal at Hamasaladeevi (near Koduru) in Andhra Pradesh, on the east coast. It flows through the state of Karnataka before entering Telangana State. The delta of this river is one of the most fertile regions in India and was the home to ancient Satavahana and Ikshvaku Sun Dynasty kings. Vijayawada is the largest city on the River Krishna.

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tehangana/2018/jul/05/tehangana-krishna-river-management-board-to-amend-working-manual-at-states-request-1838384.html>

Q.3) 'Anti Profiteering Measures' is concerned with

- a) Goods and Service Tax
- b) Operation Clean Money
- c) Financial Action Task Force
- d) International Solar Alliance

Q.3) Solution (a)

GST has an Anti-profiteering clause that allows consumers to complain against companies not passing on the benefits of reduced rates or input tax credit.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/policy-trends/a-look-back-on-anti-profiteering-its-relevance-and-the-need-for-well-defined-norms/articleshow/64743244.cms>

Q.4) Consider the following statements about European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

1. It was founded during the dissolution of the Soviet Union
2. It focuses on Central and Eastern European countries only

Select the correct statements

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

Q.4) Solution (a)

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.

Source: <https://www.ebrd.com/news/2018/india-becomes-ebrds-newest-shareholder.html>

Q.5) Consider the following statements about 'Nilgiri Tahr'

1. It is widely distributed along the Western Ghats from Gujarat to Tamil Nadu
2. It is listed as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List

Select the correct statements

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

Q.5) Solution (d)

- IUCN Status: Endangered
- The present distribution of the Nilgiri Tahr is limited to approximately 5% of the Western Ghats in southern India, in Kerala and Tamil Nadu in southern India.
- It is found only in high altitudes in India's Western Ghats

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- The endangered wild goat could lose approximately 60% of its habitat, starting from the 2030s. (due to Climate change)
- Largest of the 3 Tahr species.
- State animal of Tamil Nadu.
- Threats - habitat loss, overgrazing, illegal hunting

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/climate-change-threatens-the-nilgiri-tahr/article24392414.ece>

