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Q.1) Consider the following statements about 'Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)'

1. It is an indicator of the economic health of the manufacturing sector
2. The PMI is based on new orders, inventory levels, production, supplier deliveries and the employment environment
3. A PMI of more than 50 represents contraction of the manufacturing sector when compared to the previous month

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Q.1) Solution (b)

The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an indicator of the economic health of the manufacturing sector. The PMI is based on five major indicators: new orders, inventory levels, production, supplier deliveries and the employment environment. The purpose of the PMI is to provide information about current business conditions to company decision makers, analysts and purchasing managers.

A PMI of more than 50 represents expansion of the manufacturing sector when compared to the previous month. A PMI reading under 50 represents a contraction, and a reading at 50 indicates no change.

Source:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/manufacturing-activity-strengthens-in-september-pmi-rises-to-52-2/articleshow/66023967.cms>

Q.2) 'Variable Infiltration Capacity Model' which was in news recently is associated with

- a) Ethanol Blending
- b) Reverse Osmosis
- c) Solar Energy
- d) Soil Moisture

Q.2) Solution (d)

IASbaba's Daily Quiz

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A joint exercise by IIT Gandhinagar and the India Meteorological Department (IMD), for the first time, provides a country-wide soil moisture forecast at seven and 30-day lead times.

Soil moisture is crucial for agriculture since it directly affects crop growth and how much irrigation is required for the area.

Professor at IIT Gandhinagar used the 'Variable Infiltration Capacity' model to provide the soil moisture prediction.

The product, termed 'Experimental Forecasts Land Surface Products', is available on the IMD website.

It has been developed using the hydrological model that takes into consideration soil, vegetation, land use and land cover among other parameters.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/how-wet-is-the-ground-after-rain-for-first-time-india-gets-soil-moisture-map-5383688/>

Q.3) Consider the following statements about 'Asian Development Bank (ADB)'

1. ADB raises funds through bond issues on the world's capital markets.
2. ADB is an official United Nations Observer.
3. ADB provides direct financial assistance to private sector companies, for projects that have clear social benefits beyond the financial rate of return.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.3) Solution (d)

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established in 1966, which is headquartered in the Ortigas Center located in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

The Asian Development Bank was conceived as a financial institution that would be Asian in character and foster economic growth and cooperation in one of the poorest regions in the world.

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ADB is an official United Nations Observer.

ADB provides direct financial assistance, in the form of debt, equity and mezzanine finance to private sector companies, for projects that have clear social benefits beyond the financial rate of return. ADB's participation is usually limited but it leverages a large amount of funds from commercial sources to finance these projects by holding no more than 25% of any given transaction.

ADB raises funds through bond issues on the world's capital markets. They also rely on our members' contributions, retained earnings from our lending operations, and the repayment of loans.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183878>

Q.4) Consider the following statements about 'Black Spotted Turtles'

1. It is classified as vulnerable by the IUCN Red List of threatened species.
2. It is native to South Asia

Select the correct code:

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

Q.4) Solution (c)

India accounts for 29% of black spotted turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*) seized from across seven countries in South Asia, states a recent report by TRAFFIC.

Classified as vulnerable by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of threatened species, the black spotted turtle or spotted pond turtle is native to South Asia, and a heavily trafficked chelonian. The medium-sized freshwater turtle has a black shell with yellow streaks. The species was once smuggled for its meat and is now sought after as an exotic pet.

The report titled 'Black Spotted Turtle Trade in Asia II: A Seizure Analysis' records seizures of 10,321 specimens in 53 instances across seven countries between April 2014 and March 2016.

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Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-sees-highest-seizure-of-black-spotted-turtles/article25083451.ece>

Q.5) 'Agricultural Marketing & Farm Friendly Reforms Index' is released by

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- c) NABARD
- d) The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN

Q.5) Solution (a)

NITI Aayog has launched an index to rank States and UTs that is based on implementation of seven provisions proposed under model APMC Act, joining eNAM initiative, special treatment to fruits and vegetables for marketing and level of taxes in mandis. These indicators reveal ease of doing agribusiness as well as opportunities for farmers to benefit from modern trade and commerce and have wider option for sale of her/his produce. These indicators also represent competitiveness, efficiency and transparency in agri markets. The second area of reforms included in the index is relaxation in restrictions related to lease in and lease out agricultural land and change in law to recognise tenant and safeguard land owners liberalisation. The third area included in the index represent freedom given to farmers for felling and transit of trees grown on private land. This represents opportunity to diversify farm business.

It has a score which can have minimum value "0" implying no reforms and maximum value "100" implying complete reforms in the selected areas. States and UTs have been ranked in terms of the score of the index.