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Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to 'External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)'

1. ECBs can be raised as Loans and Capital Market Instruments
2. ECBs cannot be used for investment in stock market
3. DEA (Department of Economic Affairs) along with RBI (Reserve Bank of India), monitors and regulates ECB guidelines and policies.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.1) Solution (d)

External commercial borrowing (ECBs) are loans in India made by non-resident lenders in foreign currency to Indian borrowers. They are used widely in India to facilitate access to foreign money by Indian corporations and PSUs (public sector undertakings). ECBs include commercial bank loans, buyers' credit, suppliers' credit, securitised instruments such as floating rate notes and fixed rate bonds etc., credit from official export credit agencies and commercial borrowings from the private sector window of multilateral financial Institutions such as International Finance Corporation (Washington), ADB, AFIC, CDC, etc. ECBs cannot be used for investment in stock market or speculation in real estate. The DEA (Department of Economic Affairs), Ministry of Finance, Government of India along with Reserve Bank of India, monitors and regulates ECB guidelines and policies.

Q.2) 'The Beyond Fake News project' was launched by

- a) Reuters
- b) British Broadcasting Corporation
- c) Cable News Network
- d) Al Jazeera

Q.2) Solution (b)

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has devised a new campaign that is aimed at fighting back against disinformation and fake news.

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Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/bbc-launches-fake-news-fight-back-with-global-campaign/article25450930.ece>

Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities (GITC)'

1. GITC 2018 is organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD).
2. GITC 2018 is organised in collaboration with Government of Japan.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.3) Solution (a)

Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities, 2018" is being organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment here during 9-11 November, 2018.

This year, India is hosting the event in collaboration with Government of Korea and Rehabilitation International (RI).

The Global IT Challenge for disability is a capacity building project that helps youth with disabilities to overcome their limitations and challenges for a better future through access to ICT.

It will alleviate the digital divide and expand participation of youth with disabilities in the society. It propagates implementation of United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) - Article 21 relates to access to information.

GITC is being held every year in Asia- Pacific region and such events were held in the past in countries like Korea, China, Thailand, Vietnam etc.

Q.4) 'Palau' was in news recently. Where is it located?

- a) South China Sea

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- b) Timor Sea
- c) Solomon Sea
- d) None of the above

Q.4) Solution (d)

Palau is an island country located in the western Pacific Ocean. The country contains approximately 340 islands, forming the western chain of the Caroline Islands in Micronesia.

The most populous island is Koror. The capital Ngerulmud is located on the nearby island of Babeldaob, in Melekeok State. Palau shares maritime boundaries with the Philippines, Indonesia, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Palau has become the first country to ban many kinds of sunscreen, in a move to protect its coral reefs from chemicals that scientists say cause significant damage.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-miscellaneous/tp-others/palau-becomes-first-country-to-ban-sunscreen-to-save-coral-reefs/article25416833.ece>

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Belmont Forum'

1. It is an international partnership that mobilizes funding of environmental change research
2. Ministry of Earth Science (MoES), represents India in the Belmont Forum

Select the correct statements

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

Q.5) Solution (c)

The Belmont Forum is an international partnership that mobilizes funding of environmental change research and accelerates its delivery to remove critical barriers to sustainability.

India is a member of Belmont Forum, besides Australia, Brazil, Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Netherland, South Africa, UK and USA etc. Ministry of Earth Science (MoES), represents India in the Belmont Forum since 2012.