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Q.1) 'Net metering' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of promoting the

- a) Use of piped natural gas in the kitchens of households
- b) Installation of CNG kits in motor-cars
- c) Installation of water meters in urban households
- d) Production and use of solar energy by the households/consumers

Q.1) Solution (d)

Net metering allows consumers who generate some or all of their own electricity to use that electricity anytime, instead of when it is generated. This is particularly important with renewable energy sources like wind and solar, which are non-dispatchable.

Q.2) 'Project Tsang-da' is associated with

- a) Snow Leopard
- b) Waste management
- c) Road Connectivity
- d) Interlining of rivers

Q.2) Solution (b)

Project Tsang-da, initiated by the district administration, aims at sustainable waste management in rural areas of Leh district and city.

For the first time, the project turned the waste into revenue-generating goods, such as curtains, toys and cushion covers.

Wine or beer bottles and other broken glasses were also reused in construction of roads and buildings by local construction companies.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/leh-makes-short-work-of-a-mountain-of-waste/article25828860.ece>

Q.3) 'Florianopolis Declaration' is associated with

- a) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
- b) Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia
- c) International Whaling Commission

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- d) Greek government-debt crisis

Q.3) Solution (c)

On 13 September 2018, IWC members gathered in Florianopolis, Brazil, where they discussed and rejected a proposal by Japan to renew commercial whaling. Through the "Florianopolis Declaration", it was concluded that the purpose of the IWC is the conservation of whales and that they would now safeguard the marine mammals in perpetuity and would allow the recovery of all whale populations to pre-industrial whaling levels.

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Hongyun project'

1. It is led by China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp. (CASIC)
2. It aims to provide broadband internet connectivity to users around the world

Select the correct statements

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

Q.4) Solution (c)

Inaugurated in 2016, the project is led by China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp. (CASIC) with a vision to build a space-based communications network that is able to offer broadband internet connectivity to users around the world, especially in remote and underserved regions. The network will constitute some 150 communication satellites, situated in earth's lower orbit (at an altitude of 160 to 2,000 km) with each of them transmitting 500 megabytes of data per second. It is expected to become operational by 2022.

Once completed Hongyun will cover the whole world and offer round-the-clock communication services to users in Polar Regions, who now have difficulties accessing telecommunication and internet services, even from on board an aircraft or a ship or in a remote area.

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Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/china-launches-first-satellite-for-space-based-broadband-project/article25806057.ece>

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Paika Rebellion'

1. It was not supported by the tribals
2. It was led by Baxi Jagandhu Bidyadhara

Select the correct statements

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

Q.5) Solution (b)

Pre-dating what has been popularly regarded as the first war of independence in 1857, the Paika Bidroha (Paika Rebellion) of 1817 in Odisha briefly shook the foundations of British rule in the eastern part of India. Paikas were essentially the peasant militias of the Gajapati rulers of Odisha who rendered military service to the king during times of war while taking up cultivation during times of peace. They unfurled the banner of rebellion against the British under the leadership of Baxi Jagandhu Bidyadhara as early as 1817 to throw off the British yoke.

The tribals of Ghumusar (part of present day Ganjam and Kandhmal Districts) and other sections of the population actively took part in it. In fact, the Paika Bidroha got the opportune moment to spread when 400 tribals of Ghumsar entered Khurda protesting against the British rule. The Paikas were supported by the rajas of Kanika, Kujang, Nayagarh and Ghumusar and zamindars, village heads and ordinary peasants.