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**Q.1) Consider the following statements about 'Subglacial Antarctic Lakes Scientific Access (SALSA)'**

1. It is an integrative study of subglacial geobiology, water column and sedimentary organic carbon, and geological processes in Mercer Subglacial Lake
2. SALSA can serve as an on-Earth comparison for habitats deep inside Mars or on the ice-covered moons of Jupiter and Saturn.

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.1) Solution (c)**

The Subglacial Antarctic Lakes Scientific Access (SALSA) project is an integrative study of subglacial geobiology, water column and sedimentary organic carbon, and geological processes in Mercer Subglacial Lake, a hydrologically active subglacial lake beneath the Whillans and Mercer ice streams in West Antarctica. The project was funded in 2016 by the Antarctic Integrated System Science Program with the National Science Foundation's Office of Polar Programs. There are eleven principal investigators at eight different US institutions with additional US and international collaborators.

The expedition, known as SALSA (Subglacial Antarctic Lakes Scientific Access), hopes to shed light on what kind of life can survive in such remote regions and serve as an on-Earth comparison for habitats deep inside Mars or on the ice-covered moons of Jupiter and Saturn.

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/scientists-to-hunt-microbes-beneath-antarctic-ice-sheet-5524784/>

**Q.2) '70 point Performance Grading Index (PGI)' is associated with**

- a) MSMEs
- b) Education
- c) Adolescent Health
- d) Total Fertility Rate

### Q.2) Solution (b)

The government will use a 70 point Performance Grading Index (PGI) to assess areas of deficiency in each state's school education system.

Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/hrd-starts-70-point-grading-index-to-assess-state-school-edu-119010600004\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/hrd-starts-70-point-grading-index-to-assess-state-school-edu-119010600004_1.html)

### Q.3) 'Betla National Park' is located in

- a) Rayalseema
- b) Vidarbha
- c) Chhota Nagpur Plateau
- d) Mewar

### Q.3) Solution (c)

Betla National Park is a national park located on the Chhota Nagpur Plateau in the Latehar district of Jharkhand.

### Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. River Son originates near Ranchi in Jharkhand
2. [North Koel River](#) is a tributary of Son river

### Select the correct statements

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

### Q.4) Solution (b)

Son River (also spelt Sone); of central India is the second largest of the Ganges' southern tributaries after Yamuna River.

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The Son originates near Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh, just east of the headwater of the Narmada River, and flows north-northwest through Madhya Pradesh state before turning sharply eastward where it encounters the southwest-northeast-Kaimur Range.

### Tributaries

- Left - Ghaghar River, Johilla River
- Right - Gopad River, Rihand River, Kanhar River, North Koel River

**Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to '[National Investigation Agency \(NIA\)](#)'**

1. It came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act
2. It was created aftermath the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks

**Select the correct statements**

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

### **Q.5) Solution (c)**

National Investigation Agency (NIA) is a central agency established by the Indian Government to combat terror in India. It acts as the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency. The agency is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states. The Agency came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act 2008 by the Parliament of India on 31 December 2008.

NIA was created after the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks as need for a central agency to combat terrorism was realised. The conviction rate of this anti-terrorism agency is currently 95 per cent as it has managed to convict 167 accused in the 185 cases registered by it since its inception.