

Q.1) What is 'VY Canis Majoris', which was recently in news?

- a) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- b) Computer Malware
- c) Night Frog
- d) Star

Q.1) Solution (d)

VY Canis Majoris (abbreviated to VY CMa) is an extreme oxygen-rich (O-rich) red hypergiant (RHG) or red supergiant (RSG) and pulsating variable star located at 1.2 kiloparsecs (3,900 ly) away from Earth in the constellation of Canis Major. It is one of the largest known stars by radius, and is also one of the most luminous and massive red supergiants, as well as one of the most luminous stars in the Milky Way.

Q.2) Which of the following acts established the direct rule of British crown over India?

- a) Government of India Act, 1858
- b) Pitts India Act
- c) Indian Councils Act 1813
- d) Indian Councils Act 1833

Q.2) Solution (a)

The revolt of 1857 gave a jolt to the British Government in India as well as in England. In England it was perceived as the failure of administration by the East India Company and law was passed in the British legislature to bring the government of India directly under the Crown's rule.

A new post of Secretary of State was established which was responsible for the Indian government. Also, the Governor General of India became the Viceroy of India.

Q.3) Who of the following social reformers published a set of notes on "Infant Marriage and Enforced Widowhood."

- a) Ishwarchand Vidyasagar
- b) Raja Rammohun Roy
- c) Bahramji Malabari

d) Swami Dayananada

Q.3) Solution (c)

What propelled Malabari to prominence across India and prompted his first visit to Britain in 1890 was what reformers in Victorian England and India called 'the problem of Hindu women,' that is, his ardent advocacy for social reform with regards to child marriage and the remarriage of widows. In August 1884, Malabari published a set of Notes on Infant Marriage and Enforced Widowhood, that he sent to 4,000 leading Englishmen and Hindus. In it, Malabari deplored the "social evil" of "baby marriage" and demanded legislature to prevent it. Similarly on the issue of remarriage for widows, Malabari criticised the Hindu practice of prohibiting it, and he placed the blame squarely with that religion's "priestly class" and the "social monopolists" (i.e. the Brahmin caste) for their "vulgar prejudices." Although acknowledging that many educated Hindus deplored the practice, he repeatedly argued that it was due to inaccurate interpretation of scripture by "the greedy priests" and base Hindu "superstition" that caused "a girl after ten [to be treated as] a serpent in the parents' house." His "notes" were the prelude to an emotionally charged discussion that occupied the press for over seven years and made Malabari "one of, if not the most influential" Indian social reformer of his time.

Q.4) Consider the following statements about priority sector lending certificates (PSLC).

1. PSLC is a short-term accounting instrument used by banks to cover shortfalls in meeting priority sector lending norms
2. The idea of issuing priority sector lending certificates first appeared in the Report of the Dr. Raghu Ram Rajan led Committee on Financial Sector Reforms – A Hundred Small Steps

Select the correct statements

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

Q.4) Solution (c)

Priority Sector Lending Certificates (PSLCs) are tradable certificates issued against priority sector loans of banks so as to enable banks to achieve their specified target and sub-targets

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for priority sector lending through purchase of these instruments in the event of a shortfall and at the same time incentivizing the surplus banks to lend more to these sectors.

The idea of issuing priority sector lending certificates first appeared in the Report of the Dr. Raghu Ram Rajan led Committee on Financial Sector Reforms – A Hundred Small Steps. The Committee proposed the PSLC scheme to allow a more efficient implementation of the priority sector lending mandate (with similar schemes extending to possible financial service mandates also).

There would be four kinds of PSLCs:

- **PSLC Agriculture:** Counting for achievement towards the total agriculture lending target.
- **PSLC SF/MF:** Counting for achievement towards the sub-target for lending to Small and Marginal Farmers.
- **PSLC Micro Enterprises:** Counting for achievement towards the sub target for lending to Micro Enterprises.
- **PSLC General:** Counting for achievement towards the overall priority sector target.

Q.5) 'Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund (UCCRTF)' is managed by

- a) World Bank
- b) Asian Development Bank
- c) European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- d) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Q.5) Solution (b)

The Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund (UCCRTF) was established in December 2013 under the Urban Financing Partnership Facility. It supports ADB's response to the huge unmet needs of the region for both basic and economic infrastructure, being a core business area of operations under the Strategy 2020.

The UCCRTF will help build resilience to the effects of climate variability and climate change within medium-sized cities in Asia, particularly to reduce the vulnerability of the urban poor.

The UCCRTF will use a systems-centered approach that supports making climate change a central element of city planning. This will be linked to the implementation of infrastructure and policy or institutional interventions, as well as strong knowledge, capacity building, and networking components.

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The eligible countries to receive support from the fund are Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Viet Nam.

The Rockefeller Foundation, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States support the fund.

