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**Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund (AMIF)'**

1. It is to be created with NABARD.
2. It will provide subsidised loans to states and Union Territories for agricultural produce market committee (APMC) mandis and gram in agricultural markets (GrAMs).

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a corpus of `2,000 crore for Agri Market Infrastructure Fund (AMIF) to be created with Nabard for development and upgrade of agricultural marketing infrastructure in rural and regulated wholesale markets.

The fund will provide subsidised loans to states and Union Territories for 585 agricultural produce market committee (APMC) mandis and 10,000 gram in agricultural markets (GrAMs).

The state governments may also access AMIF for innovative integrated market infrastructure projects, including hub and spoke mode and in private-public-partnership mode. In these GrAMs, physical and basic infrastructure will be strengthened using MGNREGA and other government schemes

The scheme being demand-driven, progress will depend on demand from states.

**Q.2) Which of the following are examples of Indo-Saracenic Architecture?**

1. Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai
2. Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi
3. Madras High Court, Chennai

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3

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- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

### Q.2) Solution (d)

All are examples of Indo Saracenic Architectural Structures

Indo-Saracenic architecture in India came into prominence during the later parts of the nineteenth century. With the coming of this pattern, a majority of the patrons felt that there was requirement to be a part of a particular style which at times led to a highly inventive blending of Western and Oriental design.

In the later half of the 19th century the revivalists gained ground and there was also a good reason for it. Victorian Indo-Saracenic buildings were part of the British response to rising Indian nationalism. Paradoxically, they helped to foster it by reviving a cultural awareness of the rich and glorious past of India. They were sophisticated symbols of the Imperial presence. The outward camouflage may be Indian and Indian labour may have been used, but the designs, plans and overall control remained British, in much the same way as the British remained the power behind the princely states. This transmutation of a national Gothic image into Indo-Saracenic forms is an indication of how the Raj began to adapt its image to make itself more palatable to the rapidly rising middle class of India.

Examples of Indo-Saracenic architecture can be found all over India. A number of the 19th century palaces in the native states were designed in this style by accomplished practitioners, like Major Charles Mant at Kolhapur or Sir Samuel Swinton Jacob at Bikaner. One of the most prolific architects in this style was the versatile Robert Fellowes Chisholm, who designed the Presidency College and Senate House at Chennai (Madras) and the vast, rambling Laxmi Vilas Palace at Vadodara (Baroda). However, the greatest Indo-Saracenic building in Chennai is not by Chisholm but by his successor, W. Brasingham, and Henry Irwin, the architect of Viceregal Lodge, Shimla. The Madras Law Courts, constructed between 1888 and 1892, were one of the high points of Indo-Saracenic architecture in India; 'a Romantic confection of multi-coloured Mughal domes, Buddhist shapes, canopied balconies and arcaded verandahs, crowned by a bulbous domed minaret which forms a lighthouse'. Irwin also designed the exquisite Victoria Memorial Hall and Technical Institute, based on the great Buland Darwaza, the famous gateway of Akbar at Fatehpur Sikri.

The first Indo-Saracenic building is said to be the Chepauk Palace, located in the neighbourhood of Chepauk, in present-day Chennai (Madras). Chennai is said to possess many buildings of this architecture, some of which are the Victoria Public Hall, Madras High Court, Senate House of the University of Madras, Chennai Central station, etc.

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Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/maharashtra-govt-plans-to-beautify-gateway-of-india/article26202879.ece>

**Q.3) 'Washington Treaty' is associated with**

- a) NATO
- b) Arctic Council
- c) The Quad
- d) NAFTA

**Q.3) Solution (a)**

The North Atlantic Treaty, also referred to as the Washington Treaty, is the treaty that forms the legal basis of, and is implemented by, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The treaty was signed in Washington, D.C.

**Q.4) Consider the following statements about 'National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)'**

1. Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006 provides for creating the National Tiger Conservation Authority
2. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.4) Solution (c)**

The National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it under the said Act.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has been fulfilling its mandate within the ambit of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for strengthening tiger conservation in the country by retaining an oversight through advisories/normative guidelines, based on appraisal of tiger status, ongoing conservation initiatives and recommendations of specially constituted Committees. 'Project Tiger' is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Environment, Forests and Climate Change, providing funding support to tiger range States, for in-situ conservation of tigers in designated tiger reserves, and has put the endangered tiger on an assured path of recovery by saving it from extinction, as revealed by the recent findings of the All India tiger estimation using the refined methodology.

### Objective of the NTCA

- Providing statutory authority to Project Tiger so that compliance of its directives become legal.
- Fostering accountability of Center-State in management of Tiger Reserves, by providing a basis for MoU with States within our federal structure.
- Providing for an oversight by Parliament.
- Addressing livelihood interests of local people in areas surrounding Tiger Reserves

### Powers and Functions of the NTCA

- to approve the tiger conservation plan prepared by the State Government under sub-section (3) of section 38V of this Act;
- evaluate and assess various aspects of sustainable ecology and disallow any ecologically unsustainable land use such as, mining, industry and other projects within the tiger reserves;
- lay down normative standards for tourism activities and guidelines for project tiger from time to time for tiger conservation in the buffer and core area of tiger reserves and ensure their due compliance;
- provide for management focus and measures for addressing conflicts of men and wild animal and to emphasize on co-existence in forest areas outside the National Parks, sanctuaries or tiger reserve, in the working plan code;
- provide information on protection measures including future conservation plan, estimation of population of tiger and its natural prey species, status of habitats, disease surveillance, mortality survey, patrolling, reports on untoward happenings and such other management aspects as it may deem fit including future plan conservation;
- approve, co-ordinate research and monitoring on tiger, co-predators, prey habitat, related ecological and socio-economic parameters and their evaluation;
- ensure that the tiger reserves and areas linking one protected area or tiger reserve with another protected area or tiger reserve are not diverted for ecologically

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unsustainable uses, except in public interest and with the approval of the National Board for Wild Life and on the advice of the Tiger Conservation Authority;

- facilitate and support the tiger reserve management in the State for biodiversity conservation initiatives through eco-development and people's participation as per approved management plans and to support similar initiatives in adjoining areas consistent with the Central and State laws;
- ensure critical support including scientific, information technology and legal support for better implementation of the tiger conservation plan;
- facilitate ongoing capacity building programme for skill development of officers and staff of tiger reserves, and
- perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act with regard to conservation of tigers and their habitat.

**Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Republic of Macedonia'**

1. It is one of the successor states of the former Yugoslavia
2. It is a landlocked country
3. It borders Greece

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.5) Solution (d)**

Macedonia, officially the Republic of Macedonia (Republika Makedonija), is a country in the Balkan Peninsula in Southeast Europe. It is one of the successor states of the former Yugoslavia, from which it declared independence in 1991. As of February 2019, it is scheduled to be renamed to North Macedonia.

A landlocked country, the Republic of Macedonia has borders with Kosovo to the northwest, Serbia to the northeast, Bulgaria to the east, Greece to the south, and Albania to the west.