

Q.1) Consider the following statements about 'BRICS PartNIR'

1. It is aimed at deepening BRICS cooperation in digitalization, industrialization, innovation, inclusiveness, investment and addressing the challenges arising from the 4th Industrial Revolution.
2. It was established during the Xiamen Declaration at 9th BRICS Summit

Select the correct statement

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

Q.1) Solution (a)

Recalling the Johannesburg Summit's focus on the 4th Industrial Revolution and the outcomes of the BRICS Meetings of Science and Technology and Industry Ministers, the BRICS leaders commended the establishment of the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR).

The BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) aims to deepen BRICS cooperation in digitalisation, industrialisation, innovation, inclusiveness and investment and to maximise the opportunities and address the challenges arising from the 4th Industrial Revolution.

It should enhance comparative advantages, boost economic growth, promote economic transformation of BRICS countries, strengthen sustainable industrial production capacity, create networks of science parks and technology business incubators, and support small and medium-sized enterprises in technology intensive areas.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-big-five-at-10/article24555866.ece>

Q.2) Consider the following statements about 'Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF)'

1. It is under the aegis of Ministry of Finance
2. The share for each infrastructure areas and projects from the CRIF shall be finalised by a Committee headed by Ministry of Finance

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

News: Work related to the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) has been taken away from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and brought under the domain of the Finance Ministry

Highlights

- It will now be under the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Finance Ministry
- Budget 2018 amended the Central Road Fund Act, 2000, and renamed the Central Road Fund the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund.
- The objective of the amendment was to use proceeds of the road cess under CRIF to finance other infrastructure projects such as waterways, some portion of the railway infrastructure and even social infrastructure, including education institutions and medical colleges.
- The government recently constituted a ministerial panel headed by the finance minister to decide on fund allocation for infrastructure projects from the CRIF.
- The four-member committee would approve recommendations made by the sub-committee headed by the Economic Affairs secretary on the list of infrastructure projects to be financed from the CIRF.
- Other members of the committee include the Ministers of Road Transport and Highways, Railways and Human Resource Development.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/central-road-and-infrastructure-fund-crif-in-finance-ministry-domain-govt/articleshow/65195636.cms>

Q.3) 'PRASHAD Scheme' is associated with

- a) Tourism
- b) Textiles
- c) Skill Development
- d) Solar Pumps and Irrigation

Q.3) Solution (a)

National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)

It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Tourism.

Under the PRASHAD Scheme, 26 religious cities/sites in 19 States have been identified for development which inter-alia include Amaravati and Srisailem (Andhra Pradesh), Kamakhya (Assam), Patna and Gaya (Bihar), Dwarka and Somnath (Gujarat), Gurudwara Nada Sahib (Haryana), Hazratbal and Katra (Jammu & Kashmir), Deogarh (Jharkhand), Chamundeshwari Devi (Karnataka), Guruvayoor (Kerala), Una (Himachal Pradesh), Omkareshwar (Madhya Pradesh), Trimbakeshwar (Maharashtra), Puri (Odisha), Amritsar (Punjab), Ajmer (Rajasthan), Kanchipuram and Vellankani (Tamil Nadu), Varanasi and Mathura (Uttar Pradesh), Badrinath and Kedarnath (Uttarakhand) and Belur (West Bengal).

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181196>

Q.4) Dhangar Community is primarily found in which of the following regions?

- a) Marathwada
- b) Budelkhand
- c) Marwar
- d) Saurashtra

Q.4) Solution (a)

The Dhangars are a shepherd community who live mostly in Western Maharashtra and Marathwada, and make up about a crore of Maharashtra's roughly 11.25 crore population (9%).

Dhangars are currently on the list of Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes (VJNT) in Maharashtra. However, they have been demanding Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for the past several decades.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/who-are-dhangars-why-demand-for-st-status-is-a-challenge-for-maharashtra-5283820/>

Q.5) Consider the following statements about 'Additional Surveillance Measures (ASM)'

1. It is a surveillance method by SEBI in which exchanges impose trading curbs on excessively volatile stocks.

2. Once a stock is caught in the ASM net, it attracts a bunch of stricter exchange rules on intra-day price movements.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.5) Solution (c)

Both the statements are correct.

Read about ASM here -

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/slate/all-you-wanted-to-know-about/article24554931.ece>

Q.6) Consider the following statement with respect to Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

1. It can increase or decrease the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF)
2. The Governor of Reserve Bank of India is the chairperson ex officio of the committee

Select the correct statements

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

Q.6) Solution (c)

News: On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation at its meeting on 1st August, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to:

- Increase the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 6.5 per cent.
- Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 6.25 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.75 per cent.

About

- The Monetary Policy Committee of India is a committee of the Reserve Bank of India that is responsible for fixing the benchmark interest rate in India. The meetings of the Monetary Policy Committee are held at least 4 times a year and it publishes its decisions after each such meeting.
- The committee comprises six members - three officials of the Reserve Bank of India and three external members nominated by the Government of India. They need to observe a "silent period" seven days before and after the rate decision for "utmost confidentiality". The Governor of Reserve Bank of India is the chairperson ex officio of the committee. Decisions are taken by majority with the Governor having the casting vote in case of a tie. The current mandate of the committee is to maintain 4% annual inflation until March 31, 2021 with an upper tolerance of 6% and a lower tolerance of 2%.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/prudent-increase/article24575828.ece>

Q.7) Consider the following statements about 'Perform Achieve and Trade Scheme (PAT)'

1. It aims to improve energy efficiency in industries by trading in energy efficiency certificates in energy intensive sectors
2. It is a component of the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.7) Solution (c)

Perform Achieve and Trade Scheme (PAT) is a component of the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE) which is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). NMEEE aims to strengthen the market for energy efficiency by creating conducive regulatory and policy regime and has envisaged fostering innovative and sustainable business models to the energy efficiency sector.

PAT scheme is a regulatory instrument to reduce specific energy consumption in energy intensive industries, with an associated market based mechanism to enhance the cost effectiveness through certification of excess energy saving which can be traded.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181378>

Q.8) Consider the following statements about Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB)

1. It was established in pursuance of the recommendations of the Gajendragadkar Committee.
2. It is under the aegis of Ministry of Human Resource Development

Select the correct statements

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

Q.8) Solution (a)

The Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB) was established on 1 November 1973 as an independent recruitment agency in pursuance of the recommendations of the Gajendragadkar Committee.

The ASRB will now be a 4 Member body instead of 3 Members. It will have a Chairperson and 3 Members.

For the purpose of autonomy, secrecy, accountability and efficient functioning ASRB shall be delinked from ICAR and to be attached with Dept. of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) under Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/cabinet-approves-restructuring-of-agricultural-scientists-recruitment-board/articleshow/65238413.cms>

Q.9) Consider the following statements about NASA's 'TESS'

1. It is an all-sky survey mission that will discover thousands of exoplanets around nearby bright stars

2. TESS detected its first confirmed exoplanet, a super-Earth named HIP 116454b in 2014

Select the correct statements

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

Q.9) Solution (a)

The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) is the next step in the search for planets outside of our solar system, including those that could support life. The mission will find exoplanets that periodically block part of the light from their host stars, events called transits. TESS will survey 200,000 of the brightest stars near the sun to search for transiting exoplanets. TESS launched on April 18, 2018, aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

HIP 116454b was detected by K2 Mission.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/nasas-newest-planet-hunter-starts-operations/article24557394.ece>

Q.10) The debt service ratio in government finance measures

- a) Overall public debt liability of the Union Government
- b) Contribution of Service sector in debt management of the country
- c) Burden of external debt
- d) None of the above

Q.10) Solution (c)

Debt service ratio is measured by the proportion of total debt service payments (i.e. principal repayment plus interest payment) to current receipts (minus official transfers) of Balance of Payments (BoP). It indicates the claim that servicing of external debt makes on current receipts and is, therefore, a measure of strain on BoP due to servicing of debt service obligations.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-snippets-sharp-fall-in-indias-forex-reserves-from-424-billion-to-405-billion-in-four-months-5287274/>

Q.11) Consider the following statements about 'Fields Medal'

1. It is awarded to mathematicians and physicists
2. It is awarded annually at the International Congress of the International Mathematical Union (IMU)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.11) Solution (d)

The Fields Medal is a prize awarded to two, three, or four mathematicians under 40 years of age at the International Congress of the International Mathematical Union (IMU), a meeting that takes place every four years.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news-service/indian-origin-mathematician-wins-fields-medal/article24578348.ece>

Q.12) Consider the following statements about Advanced Air Defence (AAD)

1. It is a single stage solid rocket propelled guided missile
2. It can intercept incoming ballistic missile at altitudes of up to 30km

Select the correct statements

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

Q.12) Solution (c)

Advanced Air Defence (AAD) is an anti-ballistic missile designed to intercept incoming ballistic missiles in the endo-atmosphere at an altitude of 30 km (19 mi). AAD is a single-stage, solid-fuelled missile.

It is equipped with an inertial navigation system, advanced computer and an electro-mechanical activator.

The AAD has a length of 7.5m, diameter less than 0.5m and weight of around 1.2t. The missile can be launched from an 8 x 8 Tatra transporter-erector.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/supersonic-interceptor-missile-successfully-test-fired-118080201529_1.html

Q.13) Consider the following statements about 'Move Hack'

1. It is aimed at the future of transportation and mobility.
2. It is launched by NITI Aayog in partnership with Government of Singapore.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.13) Solution (c)

NITI Aayog has launched Move Hack, a global mobility hackathon to crowdsource solutions aimed at the future of mobility in India.

MoveHack aims to bring about innovative, dynamic and scalable solutions to problems pertaining to mobility. The hackathon has two-pronged campaign approach:

- a) "Just Code It": aimed at solutions through innovations in technology / product / software and data analysis, and
- b) "Just Solve It": innovative business ideas or sustainable solutions to transform mobility infrastructure through technology.

The hackathon is organized in partnership with Government of Singapore and is powered by Hacker Earth. PwC is the Knowledge Partner and NASSCOM is the Strategic Partner.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181379>

Q.14) Corruption Perceptions Index is released by

- a) Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) Association for Social Transparency, Rights and Action (ASTRA)
- d) Transparency International

Q.14) Solution (d)

The Berlin-based corruption watchdog Transparency International (TI) has put India at rank 81 in its latest Corruption Perception Index.

Source: <https://www.firstpost.com/india/indians-put-highest-level-of-effective-trust-in-army-followed-by-sc-govt-officials-and-political-parties-least-trusted-4731891.html>

Q.15) CLOUD Act enacted by United States is associated with

- a) Overseas Use of Data
- b) Guns Control
- c) Immigrants and Refugees
- d) Asylum Seekers

Q.15) Solution (a)

CLOUD Act seeks to de-monopolise control over data from U.S. authorities. The law will for the first time allow tech companies to share data directly with certain foreign governments. It requires an executive agreement between the U.S. and the foreign country certifying that the state has robust privacy protections, and respect for due process and the rule of law.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/data-localisation-is-not-enough/article24584698.ece>

Q.16) 'Portuguese man-of-war' was recently in news. What is it?

- a) A carnivorous marine organism with venomous tentacles
- b) Artificial Intelligence based Voice recognition system
- c) High-speed travel technology
- d) Blockchain Technology

Q.16) Solution (a)

Portuguese man-of-war is a jelly-like marine organism. It is commonly known as 'bluebottle' or 'floating terror'.

While most jellyfish stings are harmless to humans and cause only a mild irritation, species like the bluebottle are venomous and can cause harm on contact. Even a dead bluebottle washed up on shore can deliver a sting.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/portuguese-man-of-war-spotted-on-go-a-beach/article24604555.ece>

Q.17) Consider the following statements about 'Unified Payments Interface (UPI)'

1. It is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application
2. It is built over the IMPS infrastructure
3. It uses two-factor authentication

Select the correct statements

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

Q.17) Solution (d)

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an RBI regulated entity. UPI is built over the IMPS infrastructure and allows you to instantly transfer money between any two parties' bank accounts.

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any participating bank), merging several banking features, seamless fund routing & merchant payments into one hood. It also caters to the "Peer to Peer" collect request which can be scheduled and paid as per requirement and convenience.

It uses a Single Click 2 Factor Authentication.

Read More - <https://www.npci.org.in/product-overview/upi-product-overview>

Source: <https://premium.thehindubusinessline.com/portfolio/big-story/payment-apps-all-that-you-need-to-know/article24602321.ece>

Q.18) Which of the following countries do not border 'Kyrgyzstan'

- a) Kazakhstan
- b) Uzbekistan
- c) Tajikistan
- d) Turkmenistan

Q.18) Solution (d)

Kyrgyzstan is a landlocked country with mountainous terrain. It is bordered by Kazakhstan to the north, Uzbekistan to the west and southwest, Tajikistan to the southwest and China to the east.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/sushma-swaraj-meets-kyrgyzstan-counterpart-discusses-ways-to-boost-ties/article24604924.ece>

Q.19) Consider the following statements

1. Article 35A was added to the Constitution as a testimony of the special consideration the Indian government accorded to the 'permanent residents' of Jammu and Kashmir
2. Article 370 of the Indian Constitution is a 'temporary provision' which grants special autonomous status to Jammu & Kashmir

Select the correct statements

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

Q.19) Solution (c)

Article 35A

- Article 35A is a provision incorporated in the Constitution giving the Jammu and Kashmir Legislature a carte blanche to decide who all are 'permanent residents' of the State and confer on them special rights and privileges in public sector jobs, acquisition of property in the State, scholarships and other public aid and welfare. The provision mandates that no act of the legislature coming under it can be challenged for violating the Constitution or any other law of the land.
- Article 35A was incorporated into the Constitution in 1954 by an order of the then President Rajendra Prasad on the advice of the Jawaharlal Nehru Cabinet. The controversial Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order of 1954 followed the 1952 Delhi Agreement entered into between Nehru and the then Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Sheikh Abdullah, which extended Indian citizenship to the 'State subjects' of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Presidential Order was issued under Article 370 (1) (d) of the Constitution. This provision allows the President to make certain "exceptions and modifications" to the Constitution for the benefit of 'State subjects' of Jammu and Kashmir.

Article 370

- Article 370 of the Indian Constitution is a 'temporary provision' which grants special autonomous status to Jammu & Kashmir. Under Part XXI of the Constitution of India, which deals with "Temporary, Transitional and Special provisions", the state of Jammu & Kashmir has been accorded special status under Article 370. All the provisions of the Constitution which are applicable to other states are not applicable to J&K. For example, till 1965, J&K had a Sadr-e-Riyasat for governor and prime minister in place of chief minister.
- The provision was drafted in 1947 by Sheikh Abdullah, who had by then been appointed prime minister of Jammu & Kashmir by Maharaja Hari Singh and Jawahar Lal Nehru. Sheikh Abdullah had argued that Article 370 should not be placed under temporary provisions of the Constitution. He wanted 'iron clad autonomy' for the state, which Centre didn't comply with.
- According to this article, except for defence, foreign affairs, finance and communications, Parliament needs the state government's concurrence for applying all other laws. Thus the state's residents live under a separate set of laws, including those related to citizenship, ownership of property, and fundamental rights, as compared to other Indians. As a result of this provision, Indian citizens from other states cannot purchase land or property in Jammu & Kashmir. Under Article 370, the Centre has no power to declare financial emergency under Article 360 in the state. It can declare emergency in the state only in case of war or external aggression. The Union government can therefore not declare emergency on grounds of internal disturbance or imminent danger unless it is made at the request or with the concurrence of the state government.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/crucial-hearing-in-supreme-court-on-monday-on-article-35a/article24607987.ece>

Q.20) Katas Raj Temple was in news recently. Where is it located?

- a) Cambodia
- b) Nepal
- c) Pakistan
- d) Afghanistan

Q.20) Solution (c)

It is located in Pakistan (Chakwal district of Punjab province)

The Katas Raj temple is one of the Hindu community's most well-known places of worship. The name 'Katas' is derived from Kataksha, a Sanskrit word meaning 'tearful eyes'.

According to legend, the sacred pond was formed after Lord Shiva wept upon the death of his wife Sati.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/pak-sc-bars-cement-factories-near-katas-raj-temple-from-using-potable-water-118071000864_1.html

Q.21) Consider the following statements about recently launched 'SPARK initiative'.

1. It is aimed at skilling engineering graduates from IITs in Defence technology.
2. It was jointly launched by DRDO and the Defence Ministry

Select the correct statements

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

Q.21) Solution (d)

SPARK (Support for Prototype and Research Kickstart)

- It was launched by the Ministry of Defence.

- It will enable calling for proposals to address the technological needs of the ministry.
- Under the SPARK the ministry has invited applications from start up, individual innovators. They will be provided grants up to 1.5 crores under the framework.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/defence-ministry-throws-11-challenges-at-startups/article24604905.ece>

Q.22) An interim mechanism called the 'Peace Clause' is available for developing nations. It is concerned with

- a) World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- b) International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- c) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- d) UNFCC

Q.22) Solution (a)

According the 'Peace Clause' to which they cannot be challenged at the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) even if they breach the cap of the product-specific domestic support (10% of the value of production).

Read More - <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/all-you-wanted-to-know-about-peace-clause/article6280907.ece>

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Politics/SA97ynNnXzbLCRM6SgXlhN/India-updates-WTO-on-food-subsidies-for-2nd-time-in-3-months.html>

Q.23) Consider the following statements with respect to Organisation of American States (OAS)

1. It is a continental organization formed in the wake of 2008 Financial Crisis
2. India is an observer state of the OAS

Select the correct statements

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

Q.23) Solution (b)

The Organization of American States is a continental organization that was founded on 30 April 1948, for the purposes of regional solidarity and cooperation among its member states. Headquartered in the United States capital Washington, D.C. the OAS's members are the 35 independent states of the Americas.

Member of the OAS -

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Member_states_of_the_Organization_of_American_States

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/clarifying-asylum/article24609235.ece>

Q.24) 'Innocenti Declaration' is associated with

- a) Breastfeeding
- b) Differently abled
- c) Diplomatic Immunity
- d) Polio Eradication

Q.24) Solution (a)

World Breastfeeding Week (August 1-7) is celebrated every year to encourage breastfeeding and improve the health of babies around the world. It commemorates the Innocenti Declaration signed in August 1990 by government policymakers, the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF and other organisations to protect, promote and support breastfeeding.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/every-ounce-counts/article24604892.ece>

Q.25) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Cabotage'

1. It refers to the practice of imposing restrictions for movement of domestic cargo by foreign flag vessels.
2. The policy of cabotage restriction is governed as per the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.25) Solution (c)

Cabotage means reserving coastal trade for national flag vessels; in other words, it refers to the practice of imposing restrictions for movement of domestic cargo by foreign flag vessels.

Cabotage is applied in the coastal trade or the internal trade from one port to another in India, which is generally carried out by ships of lower draft/depth. Coastal movement require the use of smaller sized ships due to draft (depth), waterway width and navigational restrictions, as well as the availability of appropriate loading and handling facility at the port.

Cabotage is a sovereign right of the country.

Cabotage restrictions are applicable in most countries to protect the domestic shipping industry from foreign competition as well as for the purpose of national security. China and USA are known to impose absolute cabotage restrictions.

There is no absolute cabotage restriction in India. The policy of cabotage restriction for movement of domestic cargo by foreign flag vessels along the coast of India is governed as per Section 407 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, as amended from time to time.

Section 407 (2) of the Act enables granting of licence for such coastal trade in India to a foreign flag vessel for a specified period or voyage by the Director General of Shipping (DGS) subject to such conditions as it deems fit. However, the Act does not use the word cabotage.

Also, Section 407 (3) of the Act empowers the Central Government to relax cabotage restriction in respect of any part of the coastal trade of India subject to such conditions and restrictions as it deems fit.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/colombo-cuts-rates-after-india-eases-cabotage-rules/article24584932.ece>

Q.26) Joint military exercise 'Maitree' is held between India and

- a) Bhutan

- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Bangladesh
- d) Thailand

Q.26) Solution (d)

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181585>

Q.27) Consider the following statements about 'Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme'

1. It is initiated by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
2. It is aimed at enhancing the number of PhDs in Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) and IT/IT Enabled Services (IT/ITES) sectors in the country

Select the correct statements

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

Q.27) Solution (c)

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has initiated "Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme for Electronics and Information Technology (IT)" with an objective to enhance the number of PhDs in Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) and IT/IT Enabled Services (IT/ITES) sectors in the country and to give thrust to Research & Development, create an innovative ecosystem and enhance India's competitiveness in these knowledge intensive sectors.

The salient features of the scheme are as under:

- This Scheme provides 25% more fellowship amount than most of the other PhD Schemes.
- Part-time PhD candidates get one time incentive on completion of the PhD.
- Scheme also supports 200 Young Faculty Research Fellowships in the areas of ESDM and IT/ITES with the objective to retain and attract bright young faculty members in these sectors

The research by PhD candidates is being done in various emerging technologies areas in the domain of Electronics & IT/ITES such as Internet of Things, Cyber Security, VLSI Design, Wireless Communications, Cloud computing, Photovoltaic, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data etc.

Fellowship of Rs.31,500/- per month is paid to Full Time Ph.D candidates,(for I & II year); Rs. 35,0000/- (III to V year), a one time incentive of Rs. 2,50,000/- would be provided to Part Time Ph.D candidates on successful completion of Ph.D and a fellowship of Rs.20,000/- per month is paid to Young Faculty Research Fellows in addition to their regular income.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181572>

Q.28) 'Bhoomi Project', which looks into the 'Online Delivery of Land Records' is implemented by which of the following states?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Karnataka
- c) Gujarat
- d) Uttar Pradesh

Q.28) Solution (b)

Bhoomi project is an attempt made by Karnataka State Government for Computerization of Land Records. The project was designed to eliminate the long-standing problem of inefficiency and corruption in the maintenance of land records at dispersed and poorly supervised and audited block-level offices.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/RqVa2F89ZKwcFPdvYOUu3M/Opinion-The-need-for-digitizing-land-records-in-India.html>

Q.29) The '8888 Uprising' refers to

- a) The Burundian Civil War which began following the first multi-party elections in the country since independence from Belgium in 1962
- b) The conflict between the central Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army
- c) An armed conflict in Libya fought between forces loyal to Colonel Muammar Gaddafi and those seeking to oust his government.
- d) None of the above

Q.29) Solution (d)

August 8 marks the 30th anniversary of the people's uprising in Myanmar. The '8888' uprising (or the eighth day of August 1988) is one of Myanmar's most important historic days in the context of the pro-democracy movement.

'8888' was a people's movement that challenged the then ruling Burma Socialist Programme Party's grip on political, economic and social affairs which led the country into extreme poverty.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/thirty-years-after-the-8888-uprising/article24617719.ece>

Q.30) Which of the following correctly describes 'Psyche'?

- a) Saturn's biggest moon
- b) Largest metallic asteroid
- c) Kuiper belt object
- d) Rotavirus Vaccine

Q.30) Solution (b)

It is one of the ten most massive asteroids in the asteroid belt. It is over 200 km (120 mi) in diameter and contains a little less than 1% of the mass of the entire asteroid belt. It is thought to be the exposed iron core of a protoplanet. It is the most massive metallic M-type asteroid.

Q.31) Consider the following statements about Controller General of Accounts (CGA)

1. CGA is responsible for exchequer control and internal audits
2. CGA derives his/her mandate from Article 150 of the Constitution

Select the correct statements

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

Q.31) Solution (c)**CGA is**

- The Principal Advisor on Accounting matters to the Union Government
- Responsible for establishing and managing a technically sound Management Accounting System
- Responsible for preparation and submission of the accounts of the Union Government
- Responsible for exchequer control and internal audits

Controller General of Accounts derives his mandate from Article 150 of the Constitution. This statutory mandate as incorporated in the Allocation of Business Rules 1961 brings out the duties and responsibilities of CGA as below:

- 1) General principles of Government accounting relating to Union or State Governments and form of accounts, and framing or revision of rules and manuals relating thereto;
- 2) Reconciliation of cash balance of Union Government with Reserve Bank in general and, in particular, of Reserve Deposits pertaining to Civil Ministries or Departments;
- 3) Overseeing the maintenance of adequate standards of accounting by Central Civil Accounts Offices;
- 4) Consolidation of monthly accounts, preparation of review of trends of revenue realization and significant features of expenditure etc and preparation of annual accounts (including Summary, Civil Appropriation Accounts) showing under the respective heads, the annual receipts and disbursements for the purpose of the Union Government;
- 5) Administration of Central Treasury Rules and Central Government Account (Receipt and Payment Rules 1983);
- 6) Coordination and assistance in the introduction of management accounting system in Civil Ministries or Departments;
- 7) Cadre management of Group 'A' (Indian Civil Accounts Service) and Group 'B' Officers of the Central Civil Accounts Offices;
- 8) Matters relating to the Central Civil Accounts staff belonging to Group 'C' and 'D';
- 9) Disbursement of Pension through Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in respect of Central Civil Pensioners, Freedom Fighters, High Court Judges, Ex-M.P.s and Ex-Presidents.

DO YOU KNOW?

Public Financial Management System (PFMS) administered by the Department of Expenditure and implemented by the Controller General of Accounts, is an end-to-end solution for processing payments, tracking, monitoring, accounting, reconciliation and

reporting. It provides a unified platform for tracking releases and monitoring their last-mile utilisation.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/government-expects-to-save-around-rs-10000-crore-on-interest-payments/articleshow/65315891.cms>

Q.32) Global Nutrition Report is published by

- a) International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- b) United Nations Development Programme
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) World Bank

Q.32) Solution (a)

The Global Nutrition Report (GNR) is the only independent and comprehensive annual review of the state of the world's nutrition. It is published by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/science/biofortified-bajra-could-stem-the-harmful-effects-of-iron-deficiency-among-children-study/articleshow/65203032.cms>

Q.33) When you travel in certain parts of India, you will notice red soil. What is the main reason for this colour?

- a) Presence of ferric oxides
- b) Abundance of magnesium
- c) Accumulated humus
- d) Abundance of phosphates

Q.33) Solution (a)

Red soil is poor in poor in nitrogen, phosphorous and lime. Reddish colour of red soil is due to wide diffusion of iron. Red Soil has a rich content of iron and small Humus content.

Q.34) Kawad Bachana is a story telling tradition from

- a) Gujarat
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Uttar Pradesh

Q.34) Solution (b)

Read More - <http://www.thehindu.com/features/friday-review/history-and-culture/an-ancient-art-of-storytelling/article5371732.ece>

Q.35) The international crude oil price of Indian Basket is computed by

- a) Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC)
- b) Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP)
- c) Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)
- d) Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)

Q.35) Solution (a)

It computed/published today by Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Source: <https://www.financialexpress.com/market/commodities/indias-fuel-demand-jumps-8-6-in-june-what-led-to-this/1242328/>

Q.36) 'Naresh Chandra Committee' is associated with

- a) Corporate Governance
- b) Higher Education
- c) Digital Payments
- d) Cryptocurrency

Q.36) Solution (a)

CII set up a Task Force under Mr Naresh Chandra in February 2009 to recommend ways of further improving corporate governance standards and practices both in letter and spirit.

ALSO, Naresh Chandra Committee was constituted to review the defence management in the country and make suggestions for implementation of major defence projects.

Q.37) 'Global Slavery Index' is published by

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) International Labour Organisation
- d) None of the above

Q.37) Solution (d)

The Global Slavery Index is an annual study of world-wide slavery conditions by country published by the Walk Free Foundation.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/PSRVMkJFvSiF1pSJH60iJ/Opinion-The-antitrafficking-Bill-is-necessary.html>

Q.38) Which of the following countries is NOT a part of 'Borneo Island'?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Philippines
- c) Brunei
- d) Malaysia

Q.38) Solution (b)

It is the third-largest island in the world and the largest island in Asia.

The island is politically divided among three countries: Malaysia and Brunei in the north, and Indonesia to the south.

Q.39) Which of the following countries is/are members of New Agenda Coalition (NAC)?

- 1. Brazil
- 2. New Zealand
- 3. South Africa

Select the correct code:

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

Q.39) Solution (d)

The New Agenda Coalition (NAC), composed of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand and South Africa, is a geographically dispersed group of middle power countries seeking to build an international consensus to make progress on nuclear disarmament, as legally called for in the nuclear NPT.

Q.40) Peru is bordered by which of the following countries?

- 1. Ecuador
- 2. Chile
- 3. Brazil
- 4. Argentina
- 5. Bolivia

Select the correct code:

- a) 1, 3 and 5
- b) 1, 2, 3 and 5
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- d) 2, 3 and 5

Q.40) Solution (b)



Q.41) The 'ornate narrow-mouthed frog' is found in which of the following states?

1. Tamil Nadu
2. Maharashtra
3. Andhra Pradesh

Select the correct code:

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

Q.41) Solution (d)

The ornate narrow-mouthed frog is present only in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. However, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) currently classifies the species as "Least Concern" based on the outdated information that it is widespread.

The ornate narrow-mouthed frog — thought to be widely-distributed in Asia — is seen only in peninsular India and Sri Lanka.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/genetic-barcodes-reveal-three-frogs-unreported-in-india/article24667101.ece>

Q.42) India's financial assistance to which of the following SAARC countries has declined since 2013?

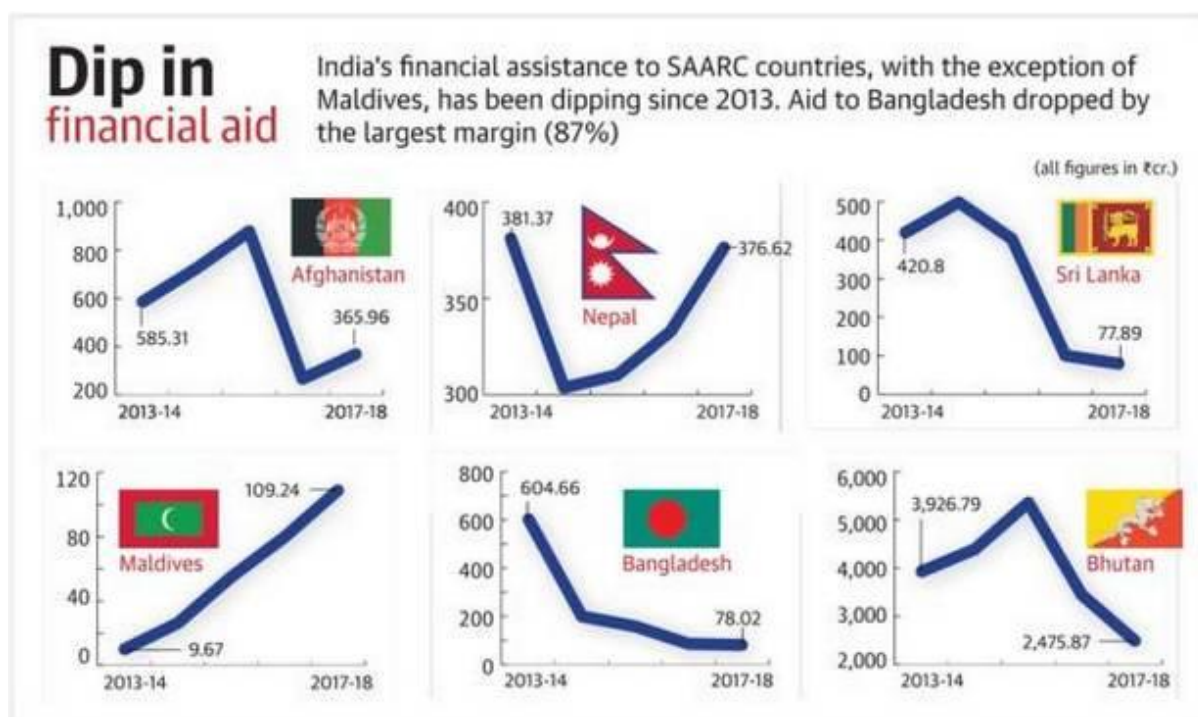
1. Maldives
2. Bangladesh
3. Bhutan

Select the correct code:

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

Q.42) Solution (b)

Going by government data, assistance fell from ₹5,928.6 crore for 2013-14 to ₹3,483.6 crore for 2017-18; but Maldives has been an outlier, despite the dip in ties.



Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tight-fisted-neighbour-indian-aid-to-saarc-nations-falls/article24667469.ece>

Q.43) Consider the following statements about 'Paraoxonase 1 (PON1)'

1. It is the primary defence in mammals against organophosphorus toxicity
2. Marine mammals is losing the ability to make PON1

Select the correct statements

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

Q.43) Solution (c)

As marine mammals evolved to make water their primary habitat, they lost the ability to make a protein that defends humans and other land-dwelling mammals from the neurotoxic effects of a popular man-made pesticide.

In humans and other terrestrial mammals, PON1 reduces cellular damage caused by unstable oxygen atoms. It also protects us from organophosphates, some of which are pesticides that kill insects—which lack PON1—by disrupting their neurological systems.

Source: <https://phys.org/news/2018-08-marine-mammals-lack-functional-gene.html>

Q.44) 'Camp Lemonnier' is

- a) US's only permanent military base in Africa
- b) China's first overseas military base
- c) India's first and only air base outside its territory
- d) India's naval base in Seychelles

Q.44) Solution (a)

Djibouti hosts the largest American permanent military base in Africa, Camp Lemonnier, which is home to more than 4,000 personnel - mostly part of the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/china-denies-laser-attack-on-us-pilots-at-djibouti-base-118050400871_1.html

Q.45) Brucellosis is

- a) a condition of not generating or breeding freely
- b) a knot formed upon or in the wood of trees by disease
- c) a chronic disease interfering with the normal functioning of the liver
- d) a disease that can cause abortions in livestock

Q.45) Solution (d)

Brucellosis is a highly contagious zoonosis caused by ingestion of unpasteurized milk or undercooked meat from infected animals, or close contact with their secretions.

B. abortus is the principal cause of brucellosis in cattle. The bacteria are shed from an infected animal at or around the time of calving or abortion. Once exposed, the likelihood of an animal becoming infected is variable, depending on age, pregnancy status, and other intrinsic factors of the animal, as well as the number of bacteria to which the animal was

exposed. The most common clinical signs of cattle infected with B. abortus are high incidences of abortions, arthritic joints, and retained placenta.

Source: <https://thechronicleindia.com/global-brucellosis-vaccines-market-to-observe-strong-development-by-2023/>

Q.46) Consider the following statements

1. Ischemic stroke occurs when a blood vessel carrying blood to the brain is blocked by a blood clot.
2. 'PEGylated Streptokinase' is CSIR's patented clot buster.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.46) Solution (c)

A new Clot buster, PEGylated Streptokinase - a Novel Biological Entity is developed CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH), Chandigarh.

It is set to revolutionize the treatment of ischemic strokes. Ischemic stroke is a condition caused by a dysfunction in the supply of blood to the brain due to emboli, thrombus or atherosclerosis occurring in cerebral arteries.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181847>

Q.47) Which of the following countries are members of the East African Community (EAC)?

1. Nigeria
2. Tanzania
3. Uganda
4. Rwanda

Select the correct code:

- a) 1, 2 and 3

- b) 2, 3 and 4
- c) 1, 3 and 4
- d) 1, 2 and 4

Q.47) Solution (b)

The East African Community (EAC) is a regional intergovernmental organisation of 6 Partner States: the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Republic of Uganda, with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/refocusing-on-africa-india-relations-strategy-modi-government-5303410/>

Q.48) Consider the following statements with respect to Asia–Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)

1. It was launched by India in partnership with the BRICS
2. It primarily focuses on Development Cooperation Projects, Quality Infrastructure and Institutional Connectivity, Enhancing Skills, and People-to-People Partnership

Select the correct statements

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

Q.48) Solution (b)

India and Japan institutionalised a dialogue on Africa in 2010. Since then, they have been exploring the possibilities of cooperation in Africa's socio- economic development. However, it was only during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan in November 2016 that the idea of the two countries promoting a growth corridor between Asia and Africa was crystallised.

During the Africa Development Bank meeting, India unveiled the Vision Document of the Asian Africa Growth Corridor.⁸ The vision document was prepared jointly by Indian and Japanese think tanks, i.e. Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries (RIS), Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), and Institute for Development

Economics - Japan External Trade Organisation (IDE-JETRO), in consultation with other think tanks in Asia and Africa.

The AAGC would consist of four main components: development and cooperation projects, quality infrastructure and institutional connectivity, capacity and skill enhancement and people-to-people partnerships. These four components as well as four elements or four pillars are complementary to promote growth and all round development in both the continents.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/refocusing-on-africa-india-relations-strategy-modi-government-5303410/>

Q.49) Which of the following operation were launched by Indian Army to rescue and provide relief operation in flood-hit Kerala?

1. Operation Madad
2. Operation Sahyog
3. Operation Raahat

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 Only
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 2 and 3

Q.49) Solution (b)

Indian Army has launched Operation Sahyog to rescue people in flood-hit Kerala.

Indian Navy has launched Operation Madad, major rescue and relief operation in flood-hit Kerala.

Operation Raahat was an operation of the Indian Armed Forces to evacuate Indian citizens and foreign nationals from Yemen during the 2015 military intervention by Saudi Arabia and its allies in that country during the Yemeni Crisis.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/operation-madad-and-sahyog-navy-army-turn-saviours-after-kerala-rains-floods/story-x6jfU15puCvGMWQ7ofBrM.html>

Q.50) The term 'Applications Supported by Blocked Amount' is associated with

- a) SIDBI
- b) RBI
- c) EXIM
- d) SEBI

Q.50) Solution (d)

ASBA (Applications Supported by Blocked Amount) is a process developed by the India's Stock Market Regulator SEBI for applying to IPO.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sebi-mulls-upi-based-payments-for-ipos-to-reduce-listing-period-to-3-days-118072501112_1.html

Q.51) 'Global Findex' is published by

- a) World Bank (WB)
- b) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- c) World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- d) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Q.51) Solution (a)

The Global Findex database is the world's most comprehensive data set on how adults save, borrow, make payments, and manage risk.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/la6eOYEPO9ShCurui3jPHN/Opinion-How-India-should-close-the-financial-gender-gap.html>

Q.52) 'Fateh Mobin, was in news recently. What is it?

- a) It is a short-range ballistic missile developed by Iran
- b) It is a joint naval exercise between UAE and Saudi Arabia
- c) It is a trilateral military alliance between UAE, Oman and Yemen
- d) It is a proposed waterway connecting Black Sea and Azov Sea

Q.52) Solution (a)

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/no-war-no-negotiations-with-the-us-says-khamenei/article24684008.ece>

Q.53) Which of the following are objectives of 'Swadesh Darshan Scheme'?

1. Promote cultural and heritage value of the country to generate livelihoods in the identified regions
2. To create employment through active involvement of local communities
3. Enhancing the tourist attractiveness in a sustainable manner by developing world class infrastructure in the circuit /destinations

Select the correct statements

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

Q.53) Solution (d)

Ministry of Tourism (MoT) launched the Swadesh Darshan Scheme (Central Sector Scheme) – for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country in 2014-15.

It is envisioned to synergise with other Government of India schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill India, Make in India etc. with the idea of positioning the tourism sector as a major engine for job creation, driving force for economic growth, building synergy with various sectors to enable tourism to realise its potential.

Objectives

- To position tourism as a major engine of economic growth and job creation;
- Develop circuits having tourist potential in a planned and prioritized manner;
- Promote cultural and heritage value of the country to generate livelihoods in the identified regions;
- Enhancing the tourist attractiveness in a sustainable manner by developing world class infrastructure in the circuit /destinations;
- Follow community based development and pro-poor tourism approach;

- Creating awareness among the local communities about the importance of tourism for them in terms of increased sources of income, improved living standards and overall development of the area:
- To create employment through active involvement of local communities;
- Harness tourism potential for its effects in employment generation and economic development.
- To make full use of the potential and advantages in terms of available infrastructure, national culture and characteristic strong points of each and every region throughout the country by development of theme based circuits.
- Development of tourist facilitation services to enhance visitor experience/satisfaction.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181868>

Q.54) 'Koshyari Committee' is related to

- a) Reservation of Other Backward Classes
- b) One Rank-One Pension (OROP)
- c) Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)
- d) m-Banking (mobile)

Q.54) Solution (b)

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/centre-opposes-in-sc-plea-on-orop/articleshow/65169167.cms>

Q.55) Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan was an organisation in

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Uttar Pradesh

Q.55) Solution (a)

Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan

- The Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (Association for the Empowerment of Workers and Peasants) is an Indian social movement and grassroots organisation best known for its successful struggle and demand for the Right to Information Act (RTI) which grew out of the demand for minimum wages for workers.
- It is one of the forefront civil rights movements in India, and can cite legislation of the RTI as its major achievement.
- It was formed in 1990, working in rural Rajasthan. Its objective was to use modes of struggle and constructive action for changing the lives of its primary constituents — the rural poor.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/right-to-peaceful-protest-is-a-cherished-one-mkss/article24536075.ece>

Q.56) 'Sagarmala project' is

- a) A highway network connecting many of the major industrial, agricultural and cultural centres of India
- b) A port-led development programme
- c) Counter to China's String of Pearls
- d) A defence capability enhancement project of Indian Navy

Q.56) Solution (b)

Sagarmala project is a port-led development programme of Ministry of Shipping.

Objectives –

- Augmenting operational efficiency of ports (more terminals for loading and unloading cargo)
- Optimizing logistics (rails, roads and inland waterways).
- Identify capacity additions (more ports wherever viable).
- Modernize India's Ports so that port-led development can be augmented.

Source: <https://www.financialexpress.com/infrastructure/why-fy19-is-critical-for-modi-governments-ambitious-sagarmala-success/1262520/>

Q.57) 'Sulawesi Island' is a part of

- a) Indonesia

- b) Philippines
- c) Laos
- d) Papua New Guinea

Q.57) Solution (a)

Sulawesi, formerly known as Celebes, is an island in Indonesia. One of the four Greater Sunda Islands, and the world's eleventh-largest island, it is situated between Borneo and the Maluku Islands. Within Indonesia, only Sumatra, Borneo and Papua are larger in territory, and only Java and Sumatra have larger populations.

Q.58) Which of the following are known as 'Bretton woods twins'?

- a) World Bank and IMF
- b) World Bank and UN
- c) UN and IMF
- d) World Bank and WEF

Q.58) Solution (a)

Bretton woods twins mean the organizations i.e. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) set up along with the World Bank after the Second World War to assist in the reconstruction of war-ravaged countries. Leaders felt that financial stability was best achieved when countries worked in an environment of interdependence.

The two organizations were agreed to be set up at a conference in Bretton Woods in the US. Hence, they are known as the Bretton Woods twins. The Bretton Woods Conference, formally known as the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference was the gathering of 730 delegates from all 44 Allied nations at the Mount Washington Hotel, situated in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States, to regulate the international monetary and financial order after the conclusion of World War II. The conference was held from the 1st to 22nd of July, 1944. Agreements were executed that later established the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD, which is part of today's (World Bank Group) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/aiib-is-as-much-a-chinese-bank-as-wb-is-american/articleshow/64725282.cms>

Q.59) Dual economies are countries

- a) with double capital and labour
- b) that specialize in labour-intensive products more than capital-intensive products
- c) with foreign-owned and domestically-owned capital
- d) with a modern manufacturing sector as well as traditional agriculture sector

Q.59) Solution (d)

A dual economy refers to the existence of two distinct types of economic segments within an economy. This involves:

- A capitalist based manufacturing sector (geared towards global markets)
- Labour intensive agricultural sector (low productivity, geared towards subsistence farming or local markets)

Q.60) Turkey is encircled by which of the following seas?

1. Aegean Sea
2. Black Sea
3. Mediterranean Sea

Select the correct statements

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

Q.60) Solution (d)



Q.61) 'Caspian Sea' is bordered by which of the following countries?

1. Georgia
2. Kazakhstan
3. Azerbaijan
4. Armenia

Select the correct code:

- a) 1, 2 and 4
- b) 2 and 3 Only
- c) 2, 3 and 4
- d) 2 and 4 Only

Q.61) Solution (b)

It is bounded by Kazakhstan to the northeast, Russia to the northwest, Azerbaijan to the west, Iran to the south, and Turkmenistan to the southeast.



Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/five-caspian-sea-states-sign-landmark-convention-118081200415_1.html

Q.62) 'Hulaki Rajmarg' connects which of the following cities?

- a) Patna and Kathmandu
- b) Thimpu and Gangtok
- c) Biratnagar and Gangtok
- d) None of the above

Q.62) Solution (d)

Postal Highway also called Hulaki Rajmarg runs across the Terai region of Nepal, from Bhadrapur in the east to Dodhara in the west, cutting across the entire width of the country.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/india-releases-additional-funds-for-nepal-s-postal-highway-118081501222_1.html

Q.63) Which of the following statements with respect to 'Aerogel' is/are correct?

1. They are hygroscopic
2. They are good thermal insulators
3. Both (a) and (b)
4. Neither (a) nor (b)

Q.63) Solution (c)

Aerogel is a synthetic porous ultralight material derived from a gel, in which the liquid component for the gel has been replaced with a gas. The result is a solid with extremely low density and low thermal conductivity.

Aerogels are good thermal insulators because they almost nullify two of the three methods of heat transfer – conduction (they are mostly composed of insulating gas) and convection (the microstructure prevents net gas movement). They are good conductive insulators because they are composed almost entirely of gases, which are very poor heat conductors.

Owing to its hygroscopic nature, aerogel feels dry and acts as a strong desiccant.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/super-insulating-gel-could-help-build-mars-habitats-5307025/>

Q.64) Gowari tribe is primarily found in

- a) Vidarbha
- b) Marathwada
- c) Budelkhand
- d) Mewar

Q.64) Solution (a)

Gowari is an Indian caste of cattle herdsman, predominantly living in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

The maximum concentration of their population is in the districts of Nagpur, Chandrapur, Wardha, Gadchiroli, Bhandara ,and Gondia.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/gowaris-are-independent-tribe-hc/articleshow/65407423.cms>

Q.65) Consider the following statements about Doctrine of 'parens patriae'

1. It applies to those cases where the State steps in to protect those who cannot protect themselves.
2. It is a doctrine by which a government has standing to prosecute a lawsuit on behalf of a citizen, especially on behalf of someone who is under a legal disability to prosecute the suit.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.65) Solution (c)

The Uttarakhand High Court on Monday invoked the doctrine of 'parens patriae' to become the legal guardian of cows and other stray cattle, thereby giving a slew of "mandatory directions" towards cow protection. "The Court by invoking the 'parens patriae' doctrine issues mandatory directions...in the welfare of the cows and other stray cattle.

'Parens patriae', which translates from Latin into "parent of his or her country" is the power that could be invoked by a state regarded as a sovereign to provide protection to those who are unable to take care of themselves.

A Doctrine by which a government has standing to prosecute a lawsuit on behalf of a citizen, especially on behalf of someone who is under a legal disability to prosecute the suit. The State ordinarily has no standing to sue on behalf of its citizens, unless a separate, sovereign interest will be served by the suit.

It is stated that parens patriae is the inherent power and authority of a State to provide protection to the person and property of persons non Sui juris, such as minor, insane, and incompetent persons. Today, this term is used to designate the State referring to its sovereign power of guardianship over persons under disability.

Read More - <http://www.desikanoon.co.in/2014/06/constitutional-law-doctrine-of-parens-patriae.html>

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/uttarakhand-hc-declares-itself-legal-guardian-of-cows-bans-cow-slaughter-5305152/>

Q.66) Consider the following statements about 'Kaziranga National Park'

1. It has the largest population of the Wild water buffalo
2. It has been identified as an Important Bird Area by Birdlife International
3. It is a World Heritage Site

Select the correct statements

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

Q.66) Solution (d)

It is a national park in the Golaghat and Nagaon districts of Assam. The sanctuary, which hosts two-thirds of the world's great one-horned rhinoceroses, is a World Heritage Site.

Kaziranga is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for conservation of avifaunal species.

Kaziranga has the largest population of the Wild water buffalo anywhere accounting for about 57% of the world population.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/in-rhino-country-a-division-to-boost-conservation-efficiency/article24727172.ece>

Q.67) Consider the following statements about 'Gol Gumbaz'

1. It is the mausoleum of Muhammad Adil Shah
2. Its architecture style suggests Timurid and Persian styles

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only

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

Q.67) Solution (c)

Gumbad is situated in Bijapur in the Bijapur District of Karnataka. It is the mausoleum of Muhammad Adil Shah (1626–1656) the seventh Sultan of the Adil Shahi Dynasty of Bijapur (1489–1686). Built by the ruler himself it is a striking edifice in spite of being unfinished. The tomb is a complex of buildings such as a gateway, a Naqqar Khana, a mosque and a sarai located within a large-walled garden.

Gol Gumbad is a fine convergence of many styles located in medieval India. Monumentality, majesty and grandeur, integral aspects of the architectural experience in India, are associated with buildings of Bijapur. While its structural particularities of dome, arches, geometric proportions and load bearing techniques suggest Timurid and Persian styles, it is made of local material and is decorated with surface embellishments popular in the Deccan. Four towers at the corners are reminiscent of turrets attached to mosques such as Qila-i Kuhna Masjid and the Purana Qila in Delhi.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/columns/shock-and-awe-in-a-mausoleum/article24726821.ece>

Q.68) 'Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary' is located in which of the following states?

- a) Mizoram
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Manipur
- d) Nagaland

Q.68) Solution (b)

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/meghalayan-farms-are-also-bird-habitats/article24725751.ece>

Q.69) 'Parkinson's disease' is a

- a) Condition wherein the blood vessel connecting the pulmonary artery to the proximal descending aorta fails to close after birth
- b) Birth defect where there is incomplete closing of the backbone and membranes around the spinal cord
- c) Birth defect in which the individual has more than the usual number of limbs
- d) None of the above

Q.69) Solution (d)

Parkinson's disease is a progressive nervous system disorder that affects movement. Symptoms start gradually, sometimes starting with a barely noticeable tremor in just one hand. Tremors are common, but the disorder also commonly causes stiffness or slowing of movement.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/an-eye-out-for-parkinsons/article24727539.ece>

Q.70) TROPEX is a defence exercise between

- a) India and Nepal
- b) Nepal and Bhutan
- c) India and Sri Lanka
- d) None of the above

Q.70) Solution (d)

Theatre Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX) is an annual inter-service exercise.

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2018/feb/07/encore-navy-exercise-called-off-1769915.html>

Q.71) 'Kasturirangan Committee Report' and 'Gadgil Committee Report' are concerned with

- a) Labour Reforms
- b) Interlinking Rivers
- c) Protection of Western Ghats
- d) Ganga Action Plan

Q.71) Solution (c)

Gadgil Committee

- Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) headed by Madhav Gadgil was formed by MoEF in 2010 to study the impact of population pressure, climate change and development activities on the Western Ghats.
- It defined the boundaries of the Western Ghats for the purposes of ecological management
- It proposed that this entire area be designated as ecologically sensitive area (ESA)
- Within this area, smaller regions were to be identified as ecologically sensitive zones (ESZ) I, II or III based on their existing condition and nature of threat
- It proposed to divide the area into about 2,200 grids, each approximately 9 km × 9 km, of which 75 per cent would fall under ESZ I or II or under already existing protected areas such as wildlife sanctuaries or natural parks

Kasturirangan Committee

- It was tasked with finding a “holistic” way of protecting the biodiversity of the Ghats and addressing the “rightful aspirations for inclusive growth and sustainable development” of the “indigenous residents”.
- It broadened the definition of Western Ghats and included a total of 1,64,280 square km in it
- It then classified it as comprising cultural landscape and natural landscape. It said nearly 60% of the Western Ghats was cultural landscape, where human settlements, agriculture and plantations existed
- The remaining was the natural landscape, of which the “biologically rich” area was only 37% or about 60,000 sq km
- Only this part needed to be classified as an ecologically sensitive area (ESA)

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/kerala-floods-the-prescriptions-for-the-western-ghats-5316449/>

Q.72) Consider the following statements about ‘International Nitrogen Initiative’

1. It is an international program, set up in 2003 under sponsorship of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) and from the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP).

2. It is aimed at optimizing nitrogen's beneficial role in sustainable food production, and minimizing nitrogen's negative effects on human health and the environment resulting from food and energy production.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.72) Solution (c)

News: Indian scientist-academician, N Raghuram, has been elected Chair of the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI)

The International Nitrogen Initiative (INI) is an international program, set up in 2003 under sponsorship of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) and from the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP). The key aims of the INI are to:

- optimize nitrogen's beneficial role in sustainable food production, and
- minimize nitrogen's negative effects on human health and the environment resulting from food and energy production.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/n-raghuram-elected-chair-of-international-nitrogen-initiative/article24677903.ece>

Q.73) 'Panini Language Laboratory' was recently opened in

- a) Maldives
- b) Mauritius
- c) Fiji
- d) Japan

Q.73) Solution (b)

Panini language laboratory was recently inaugurated at Mahatma Gandhi institute in Mauritius to promote reading and writing Hindi amongst young and its further development.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/sushma-swaraj-inaugurates-panini-language-lab-in-mauritius-118081900721_1.html

Q.74) Teesta River flows through which of the following states?

1. West Bengal
2. Sikkim
3. Assam
4. Tripura

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 1, 3 and 4
- c) 1, 2 and 4
- d) All of the above

Q.74) Solution (a)

It flows through West Bengal and Sikkim, before going to Bay of Bengal through Bangladesh. It carves out from the verdant Himalayas in temperate and tropical river valleys and forms the border between Sikkim and West Bengal. It flows through the cities of Rangpo, Jalpaiguri and Kalimpong and joins the Jamuna (Brahmaputra) in Bangladesh.

Q.75) Cyprus is located in

- a) Southwestern Pacific Ocean
- b) Melanesia
- c) Mediterranean Sea
- d) Bismarck Sea

Q.75) Solution (c)

Cyprus is an island country in the Eastern Mediterranean and the third largest and third most populous island in the Mediterranean. It is located south of Turkey, west of Syria and Lebanon, northwest of Israel and Palestine, north of Egypt, and southeast of Greece.

Q.76) Consider the following statements about 'Extended Reality'

1. It is a term referring to all real-and-virtual combined environments and human-machine interactions generated by computer technology and wearables.
2. It includes augmented reality (AR), augmented virtuality (AV) and virtual reality (VR).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.76) Solution (c)

Extended reality is a superset which includes the entire spectrum from "the complete real" to "the complete virtual" in the concept of reality–virtuality continuum introduced by Paul Milgram. Still, its connotation lies in the extension of human experiences especially relating to the senses of existence (represented by VR) and the acquisition of cognition (represented by AR). With the continuous development in human–computer interactions, this connotation is still evolving.

Extended reality (XR or Cross Reality) is a term referring to all real-and-virtual combined environments and human-machine interactions generated by computer technology and wearables. It includes representative forms such as augmented reality (AR), augmented virtuality (AV) and virtual reality (VR) and the areas interpolated among them. The levels of virtuality range from partially sensory inputs to immersive virtuality, also called VR.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/city-startups-soar-with-boeing/article24732515.ece>

Q.77) Consider the following statements about 'Basking Sharks'

1. They occur in temperate and boreal oceans
2. They hibernate during winters
3. It is a plankton-eating shark species

Select the correct statements

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

- d) All of the above

Q.77) Solution (c)

The basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) is the second-largest living shark, after the whale shark, and one of three plankton-eating shark species, along with the whale shark and megamouth shark.

The basking shark is a cosmopolitan migratory species, found in all the world's temperate oceans. The basking shark is a coastal-pelagic shark found worldwide in boreal to warm-temperate waters around the continental shelves, and entering into brackish waters on occasion.

Basking sharks do not hibernate, and are active year-round. In winter, basking sharks often move to deeper depths, even down to 900 m (3,000 ft) and have been tracked making vertical movements consistent with feeding on overwintering zooplankton

IUCN Status – VN

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/mysterious-ocean-giant-sighted/article24731784.ece>

Q.78) Amnesty International is

- a) An agency of the United Nations to help refugees of civil wars
- b) A global Human Rights Movement
- c) A non-governmental voluntary organization to help very poor people
- d) An inter-governmental agency to cater to medical emergencies in war-ravaged regions

Q.78) Solution (b)

Amnesty International is a London-based non-governmental organization focused on human rights. The organization claims to have over 7 million members and supporters around the world.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/department-of-revenue-receives-reference-to-probe-groups-linked-to-amnesty-uk/article24720599.ece>

Q.79) Which of the following statements correctly defines the practice of 'Intercropping'?

- a) Different crops are grown in the same field in different rows
- b) Different crops are grown successively on the same field in different seasons.
- c) Growing a crop and rearing of animals in the same field.
- d) Alternate growth of crops and leaving the land fallow.

Q.79) Solution (a)

Intercropping: Different crops are grown in the same field in different rows and at different times to avoid exposing the bare land to water or wind.

Crop Rotation: It is a practice of growing different crops in systematic succession. This helps in maintaining the level of nutrients in the soil and also pest control.

Source: <https://www.financialexpress.com/market/commodities/area-under-soybean-up-10-percent-this-year/1286774/>

Q.80) Meiteis are majority ethnic group of

- a) Manipur
- b) Mizoram
- c) Assam
- d) Nagaland

Q.80) Solution (a)

The Meitei people are the majority ethnic group of Manipur and because of this they are sometimes referred to as Manipuris. Generally speaking, Meitei is an endonym and Manipuri is an exonym. The Meitei people are made up of seven clans, who trace their written history back to 33 AD.

The Meitei people speak the Meitei language, a Tibeto-Burman language. Meiteis believe that the ancestor of one of their clans manifested himself as Pakhangba, a mythical dragon.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/young-and-passionate-about-theatre-craft/article24581990.ece>

Q.81) Consider the following statements about 'Chandrayaan-1'

1. It is a remote sensing lunar satellite
2. It had a mass of 1,380 kg at launch
3. Presence of frozen water deposits on the Moon's Polar Regions was confirmed by NASA using data collected from 'Chandrayaan -1'

Select the correct statements

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

Q.81) Solution (d)

It was India's first lunar probe. It was launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation in October 2008, and operated until August 2009. The mission included a lunar orbiter and an impactor. India launched the spacecraft using a PSLV-XL rocket, serial number C11.

The remote sensing lunar satellite had a mass of 1,380 kg (3,040 lb) at launch and 675 kg (1,488 lb) in lunar orbit.

NASA Scientists have confirmed the presence of frozen water deposits in the darkest and coldest parts of the Moon's Polar Regions using data from the Chandrayaan-I spacecraft that was launched by India 10 years ago

The ice deposits are patchily distributed and could possibly be ancient, according to the study published in the journal PNAS.

At the southern pole, most of the ice is concentrated at lunar craters, while the northern pole's ice is more widely, but sparsely spread.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/chandrayaan-1-data-confirms-presence-of-ice-on-moon/article24742929.ece>

Q.82) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Blast Fishing'

1. It is the practice of using explosives to stun or kill schools of fish
2. It destroys the calcium carbonate coral skeletons and is one of the continual disruptions of coral reefs

Select the correct statements

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

Q.82) Solution (c)

Blast fishing or dynamite fishing is the practice of using explosives to stun or kill schools of fish for easy collection. This often illegal practice can be extremely destructive to the surrounding ecosystem, as the explosion often destroys the underlying habitat (such as coral reefs) that supports the fish.

Researchers believe that destructive fishing practices like blast fishing are one of the biggest threats to the coral reef ecosystems. Blown up coral reefs are no more than rubble fields. The long-term impact associated with blast tanks is that there is no natural recovery of the reefs. Coral reefs are less likely to recover from constant disturbance such as blast fishing than from small disturbance that does not change the physical environment. Blast fishing destroys the calcium carbonate coral skeletons and is one of the continual disruptions of coral reefs. In the Indo-Pacific, the practice of blast fishing is a main cause of coral reef degradation. As a result, weakened rubble fields are formed and fish habitat is reduced.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-life/blast-fishing-thrives-in-libyas-chaos/article24740673.ece>

Q.83) '#MeToo Movement' is against

- a) Sexual harassment
- b) Data Privacy
- c) Global Inequality
- d) Global Hunger

Q.83) Solution (a)

The Me Too Movement (or #MeToo Movement) with many local/international alternatives is a movement against sexual harassment and assault.

#MeToo spread virally in October 2017 as a hashtag used on social media in an attempt to demonstrate the widespread prevalence of sexual assault and harassment, especially in the workplace

Q.84) RBI is looking to set up a 'Public Credit Registry (PCR)'—an information repository that collates all loan information of individuals and corporate borrowers. Consider the following statements wrt. PCR.

1. A High Level Task Force headed by Y.M. Deosthalee recommended the setting up of PCR by RBI in a phased and modular manner
2. RBI Act does not empower the central bank to regulate the PCR

Select the correct statements

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

Q.84) Solution (c)

PCR aims to be an extensive database of credit information that is accessible to all stakeholders. From the point of origination of credit to its termination, the PCR will capture all lender-borrower accounts at one place. A high-level task force was set up under the chairmanship of Y.M. Deosthalee, which recommended the setting up of PCR by RBI in a phased and modular manner.

A credit repository will help banks distinguish between a bad and a good borrower and accordingly offer attractive interest rates to good borrowers and higher interest rates to bad borrowers.

The public credit repository will address information asymmetry, improve access to credit and strengthen the credit culture among consumers. It can also go a long way in addressing the bad loans problem facing the banking system, as corporate borrowers will be unable to lend from multiple banks without disclosing their existing debt.

The RBI Act does not empower the central bank to regulate the registry as it does not fall within the definition of a financial institution. Besides, PCR being a "consent-based architecture" will require consent from different sources for sharing information. This will entail amending legislations separately, allowing an exemption to sharing of information.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/credit-registry-rbi-act-may-need-tweak/article24738910.ece>

Q.85) 'Ngari' was in news recently. It is located in

- a) Patagonia
- b) Eastern Africa
- c) Central Asia
- d) None of the above

Q.85) Solution (d)

Ngari Prefecture is a prefecture of Tibet Autonomous Region

Q.86) Which of the following statements is/are correct wrt. 'Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)'?

- 1. It is an office within the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- 2. It is the nodal agency to deal with cyber security threats like hacking and phishing.

Select the correct code:

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

Q.86) Solution (c)

CERT-In

- The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is an office within the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- It is the nodal agency to deal with cyber security threats like hacking and phishing. It strengthens security-related defence of the Indian Internet domain.
- According to the provisions of the Information Technology Amendment Act 2008, CERT-In is responsible for overseeing administration of the Act.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/35-of-cyber-attacks-on-indian-sites-from-china-official-report/>

Q.87) Consider the following statements about 'ICOMOS'

1. It is a global non-governmental organization
2. Its mission is to promote the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of monuments, building complexes and sites
3. It is an Advisory Body of the World Heritage Committee for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention of UNESCO

Select the correct statements

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

Q.87) Solution (d)

ICOMOS, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, is a global non-governmental organization associated with UNESCO. Its mission is to promote the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of monuments, building complexes and sites. It participates in the development of doctrine and the evolution and distribution of ideas, and conducts advocacy. ICOMOS is an Advisory Body of the World Heritage Committee for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention of UNESCO. As such, it reviews the nominations of cultural world heritage and ensures the conservation status of properties.

Its creation in 1965 is the logical outcome of initial conversations between architects, historians and international experts that began in the early twentieth century and that materialized in the adoption of the Venice Charter in 1964. It is headquartered in Paris

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/icomos-launches-initiative-to-save-cultural-heritage-damaged-in-flood-hit-kerala-118082200433_1.html

Q.88) Consider the following statements about 'Bondi Bond'

1. It is world's first blockchain bond
2. It was launched by Germany

Select the correct statements

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

Q.88) Solution (a)

The World Bank has priced the world's first public bond created and managed using only blockchain in a A\$100 million (\$73.16 million) deal designed to test how the technology might improve decades-old bond sales practices.

The prototype deal, dubbed a "Bondi" bond - standing for Blockchain Operated New Debt Instrument as well as a reference to Australia's most famous beach — is being viewed as an initial step in moving bond sales away from manual processes towards faster and cheaper automation.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Money/W1skKyHsraJNnYKJ6IPvJI/World-Bank-launches-worldfirst-blockchain-bond.html>

Q.89) Consider the following statements with regard to Bharat stage emission standards (BSES)

1. The standards and the timeline for implementation are set by Central Pollution Control Board
2. India will be skipping BS-V and directly move to BS-VI from BS-IV

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Q.89) Solution (c)

Bharat stage emission standards are emission standards instituted by the Government of India to regulate the output of air pollutants from internal combustion engine equipment, including motor vehicles.

The standards and the timeline for implementation are set by the Central Pollution Control Board under the Ministry of Environment & Forests and climate change.

The Bharat Stage norms are based on European regulations.

Source: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/technology/auto/auto-wrap-govt-allows-electrification-of-cars-car-makers-raise-prices-2856871.html>

Q.90) Which of the following statements about 'Copernicus Programme' is correct?

- a) It is the European Union's Earth Observation Programme
- b) It is India's Satellite Navigation Programme by ISRO
- c) It is a Mars Exploration Program by NASA
- d) It is a programme proposed by SpaceX to develop a Mars transportation infrastructure in order to facilitate the eventual colonization of Mars

Q.90) Solution (a)

Copernicus is the world's largest single earth observation programme and is directed by the European Commission in partnership with the European Space Agency (ESA).

Q.91) Consider the following statements about 'Rhesus Macaque'

- 1. It is found through most of Southern Asia
- 2. It is diurnal and omnivorous
- 3. It is listed as 'Endangered' under IUCN Red List

Select the correct statements

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

Q.91) Solution (a)

The rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) is one of the best-known species of Old World monkeys. It is listed as Least Concern in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in view of its wide distribution, presumed large population, and its tolerance of a broad range of

habitats. Native to South, Central, and Southeast Asia, rhesus macaque have the widest geographic ranges of any nonhuman primate, occupying a great diversity of altitudes and a great variety of habitats, from grasslands to arid and forested areas, but also close to human settlements.

This species is diurnal and omnivorous, and alternatively arboreal and terrestrial.

IUCN Status – Least Concern

Q.92) 'INS Vikramaditya' is a/an

- a) Aircraft carrier
- b) Frigate
- c) Submarine
- d) Corvette

Q.92) Solution (a)

It is a modified Kiev-class aircraft carrier which entered into service with the Indian Navy in 2013. She has been renamed in honour of Vikramaditya, a legendary emperor of Ujjain, India.

It will be fitted with marine hydraulic system to boost the air operations of the ship. It will be fitted with two marine hydraulic systems whose technical terms go by "GS-1MF" and "GS-3".

The GS-1MF and GS-3 marine hydraulic systems are used for refuelling, cleaning and pressurization of hydraulic systems of aircraft and helicopters which form part of the air-capable wing of INS Vikramaditya.

GS-1MF hydraulic system is used for helicopters while GS-3 are used for aircraft.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/ins-vikramaditya-to-be-have-marine-hydraulic-systems/story-aLawApoGnsZaZ9mewK7EOI.html>

Q.93) Consider the following statements about 'Indian Ocean Conference (IOC)'

1. The inaugural IOC will be held in Vietnam.
2. It is organised by Indian Foundation along with the partners from Singapore, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.93) Solution (b)

With successive two years in its bag, the third edition of Indian Ocean Conference is set to begin on August 27 at Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam. The theme of the two- day conference will focus on 'Building Regional Architectures', particularly with regards to trade and commerce, security and governance.

Earlier, the conference was held in Singapore and Sri Lanka in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Organised by Indian Foundation along with the partners from Singapore, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka this is an initiative to bring the state leaders, diplomats and bureaucrats from across the region under one roof to strengthen the understanding among each other.

Source: <https://www.financialexpress.com/world-news/vietnam-to-host-indian-ocean-conference-on-august-27-28/1292461/>

Q.94) OSIRIS-Rex is a NASA study and sample return mission of which of the following asteroid?

- a) Florence
- b) Phobos & Deimos
- c) Bennu
- d) Ceres

Q.94) Solution (c)

The Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) is a NASA asteroid study and sample return mission.

Its mission is to study asteroid 101955 Bennu, a carbonaceous asteroid, and return a sample to Earth in 2023 for detailed analysis.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/nasa-spacecraft-approaches-asteroid-bennu-snaps-first-pic/article24784236.ece>

Q.95) In, India, markets in agricultural products are regulated under the

- a) Food Products Order, 1956 and Meat and Food Products Order, 1973
- b) Essential Commodities Act, 1955
- c) Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937
- d) None

Q.95) Solution (d)

Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act enacted by States

An agricultural produce market committee (APMC) is a marketing board established by a state government in India.

APMC operate on two principles:

- Ensure that farmers are not exploited by intermediaries (or money lenders) who compel farmers to sell their produce at the farm gate for an extremely low price.
- All food produce should first be brought to a market yard and then sold through auction.

Traders require a license to operate within a mandi. Wholesale and retail traders (e.g. shopping mall owners) and food processing companies cannot buy produce directly from a farmer.

Q.96) Consider the following statements 'CAT Bonds'

1. It is a high-yield debt instrument that is usually insurance-linked and meant to raise money in case of a catastrophe
2. The primary investors in these bonds are long-term bond investors such as life insurers, and primary pension fund managers

Select the correct statements

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

Q.96) Solution (c)

A catastrophe bond (CAT) is a high-yield debt instrument that is usually insurance-linked and meant to raise money in case of a catastrophe such as a hurricane or earthquake. It has a special condition that states if the issuer, such as the insurance or reinsurance company, suffers a loss from a particular predefined catastrophe, then its obligation to pay interest and/or repay the principal is either deferred or completely forgiven.

Catastrophe bonds are used by property/casualty insurers and reinsurers to transfer risk to investors. This lowers their reinsurance costs and frees up money for the company to invest, including potentially underwriting more insurance. The structure of the CAT bond provides for a payout to the insurance company if a defined event occurs, such as a certain magnitude earthquake or a total insurance loss greater than a particular amount.

There are advantages of CAT bonds for investors. These are generally not closely linked with the stock market or economic conditions. The bonds also typically offer a competitive yield compared to their risk, including relative to alternative investments. The low correlation with equities and corporate bonds with insurance risk securitization means the bonds provide diversification benefits.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/time-for-catastrophe-bonds/article24786618.ece>

Q.97) Which of the following are properties of 'Carbon Fibre'?

1. High chemical resistance
2. High temperature tolerance
3. Low thermal expansion

Select the correct code:

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

Q.97) Solution (d)

Properties - high stiffness, high tensile strength, low weight, high chemical resistance, high temperature tolerance and low thermal expansion.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/isro-awaits-advanced-materials/article24754393.ece>

Q.98) 'Rights of Passage', recently in news is a study associated with

- a) Elephants
- b) Cargo Ships
- c) Global Oil Checkpoints
- d) NAFTA

Q.98) Solution (a)

It is authored by experts and published by the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) in collaboration with Project Elephant and the U.K.-based NGO Elephant Family.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/loco-pilots-turn-saviours-as-jumbos-able-across-track/article24786930.ece>

Q.99) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

Biosphere Reserve	State
1. Nokrek	Mizoram
2. Seshachalam	Karnataka
3. Cold Desert	Himachal Pradesh

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 3 Only
- d) 1 and 3

Q.99) Solution (c)

Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve is a biosphere reserve located in the western Himalayas region, within Himachal Pradesh state in North India.

The 'Seshachalam Hills are hilly ranges part of the Eastern Ghats in southern Andhra Pradesh state, in southeastern India.

Nokrek National Park, or Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, is a national park located approximately 2 km from Tura Peak in West Garo Hills district of Meghalaya, India. UNESCO added this National park to its list of Biosphere Reserves in May 2009. Along with Balphakram national park, Nokrek is a hotspot of biodiversity in Meghalaya.

Q.100) List of "Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories" (NCCTs) is prepared by

- a) Financial Action Task Force
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) World Bank
- d) None of the above

Q.100) Solution (a)

The FATF blacklist was the common shorthand description for the Financial Action Task Force list of "Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories" (NCCTs) issued since 2000, which it perceived to be non-cooperative in the global fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

Q.101) 'Project Swarn' is concerned with

- a) Enhanced passenger experience
- b) Railway Safety
- c) Installation of Rooftop Solar Panels on Trains
- d) Freight Transport

Q.101) Solution (a)

'Project Swarn' was launched with the objective of significantly improving the passenger experience across 9 dimensions which include coach interiors, toilets, on-board cleanliness, staff behaviour, catering, linen, punctuality, security, on-board entertainment. Real time feedback will also be taken as part of Project Swarn.

Project Swarn has been launched with the objective of improving the condition of Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178376>

Q.102) Consider the following statements about 'Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana'

1. It has been launched to plug gaps of Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) & Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS)
2. It provides LED bulbs to domestic consumers with a target to replace 77 crore incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs

Select the correct statements

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

Q.102) Solution (a)

SAuBHaGYa: Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana

- To achieve universal household electrification in the country
- To provide last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all households in rural and urban areas.
- Free of cost electricity connections to all remaining un-electrified households with at least one deprivation on the basis of SECC data in rural areas and economically poor households in urban areas would be given.
- Others would be charged a sum of Rs. 500 per household in ten equal instalments with the bill.
- The households located in remote and inaccessible areas would be provided with Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) based standalone systems with LED lights, fan, power plug etc.
- The beneficiaries will be identified on the basis of socio economic conditions using SECC 2011 data.
- Target - universal household electrification in the country by 31st March 2019
- Saubhagya has been launched to plug gaps of DDUGJY & IPDS and comprehensively address the issues of entry barrier, last mile connectivity and release of electricity connections to all un-electrified households in rural and urban areas.

Q.103) The term, 'Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR)' is associated with

- a) Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)

- b) Interconnection Usage Charge (IUC)
- c) Goods and Services Tax (GST)
- d) Open Skies Treaty

Q.103) Solution (c)

The term revenue neutral rate (RNR) refers to that single rate, which preserves revenue at desired (current) levels. Most of the discussions in the run-up to the GST are centred on the size of the tax base, and its implications for the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR).

Q.104) Which of the following statements with respect to 'PRAGATI' is/are correct?

- a) It is aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments
- b) It involves Digital data management, video-conferencing and geo-spatial technology
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Q.104) Solution (c)**PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation)**

- It is an ICT-based multi-modal platform for monthly interaction by the PM with top officials of the states via video-conferencing.
- The platform is aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.
- The PRAGATI platform uniquely bundles three latest technologies: Digital data management, video-conferencing and geo-spatial technology. It also offers a unique combination in the direction of cooperative federalism since it brings on one stage the Secretaries of Government of India and the Chief Secretaries of the States.

Q.105) Consider the following statements about 'SAMEEP'

1. It is an outreach mission that aims to take Indian foreign policy and its global engagements to students across country

2. It is a mandatory programme for MEA officials of ranks undersecretary and above to go back to any school or college in their hometown or to their alma mater

Select the correct statements

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

Q.105) Solution (a)

Students and MEA Engagement Program

- It is an outreach mission that aims to take Indian foreign policy and its global engagements to students across country and also to look at diplomacy as a career option.
- The objective of outreach program is to familiarise school and college students in India about functioning of the MEA
- It also seeks to introduce them to key elements of India's foreign policy and its success stories.
- It is a voluntary programme for MEA officials, undersecretary and above with option of going back to any school or college in their hometown or to their alma mater.
- The officers will convey how MEA works, India's foreign policy, how they do diplomacy so that student consider about this as a career option.

Q.106) Consider the following statements about 'Pacific Ridley turtles'

- 1. They have a circumtropical distribution, living in tropical and warm waters of the Pacific and Indian Oceans
- 2. The Coast of Odisha is one of the largest mass nesting site for these turtles

Select the correct statements

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

Q.106) Solution (c)

The olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), also known as the Pacific ridley sea turtle, are the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world; this species of sea turtle is found in warm and tropical waters, primarily in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. They can also be found in the warm waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

The olive ridley turtle has a circumtropical distribution, living in tropical and warm waters of the Pacific and Indian Oceans from India, Arabia, Japan, and Micronesia south to southern Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. In the Atlantic Ocean, it has been observed off the western coast of Africa and the coasts of northern Brazil, Suriname, Guyana, French Guiana, and Venezuela.

The coast of Odisha in India is the largest mass nesting site for the olive ridley, followed by the coasts of Mexico and Costa Rica.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/300-endangered-turtles-found-dead-on-mexico-beach/article24821102.ece>

Q.107) Consider the following statements about 'ICESat-2'

1. It is part of NASA's Earth Observing System
2. It will measure vegetation canopy height as a basis for estimating large-scale biomass and biomass change

Select the correct statements

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

Q.107) Solution (c)

ICESat-2 (Ice, Cloud, and land Elevation Satellite 2), part of NASA's Earth Observing System, is a planned satellite mission for measuring ice sheet elevation and sea ice freeboard, as well as land topography and vegetation characteristics.

ICESat-2 has four science objectives:

- Quantify polar ice-sheet contributions to current and recent sea-level change and the linkages to climate conditions;

- Quantify regional signatures of ice-sheet changes to assess mechanisms driving those change and improve predictive ice sheet models; this includes quantifying the regional evolution of ice sheet change, such as how changes at outlet glacier termini propagate inward;
- Estimate sea-ice thickness to examine ice/ocean/atmosphere exchanges of energy, mass and moisture;
- Measure vegetation canopy height as a basis for estimating large-scale biomass and biomass change

In addition, ICESat-2 will take measurements of the height of oceans, inland water bodies like reservoirs and lakes, cities, and ground movements after events like earthquakes or landslides.

NASA's airborne mission Operation IceBridge is collecting data to bridge the gap between ICESat and ICESat-2.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/nasa-set-to-launch-space-laser-to-track-earths-melting-ice/article24821872.ece>

Q.108) Consider the following statements

1. The non-attainment cities are those that have fallen short of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for over five years.
2. These cities as part of the National Clean Air Campaign (NCAP) need to implement measures aimed at mitigating air pollution.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.108) Solution (c)

Non-attainment cities are those cities marked by Central Pollution Control Board that have fallen short of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM 10 and NO₂ over 5 years. These cities were asked as part of the National Clean Air Campaign (NCAP) to implement measures aimed at mitigating air pollution. The measures include control and mitigation measures related to vehicular emissions, re-suspension of road dust and other

fugitive emissions, bio-mass, municipal solid waste burning, and industrial pollution, and construction and demolition activities.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/indias-most-polluted-30-have-no-clean-up-plan/article24804409.ece>

Q.109) 'Wolbachia' was in news recently. What is it?

- a) It is a genus of Gram-negative bacteria
- b) It is a navigation satellite program being developed by the European Union
- c) It is a drug being developed under the 'Horizon 2020'
- d) It is a new moth species

Q.109) Solution (a)

Wolbachia is a genus of Gram-negative bacteria that infects arthropod species, including a high proportion of insects, but also some nematodes. It is one of the world's most common parasitic microbes and is possibly the most common reproductive parasite in the biosphere. Its interactions with its hosts are often complex, and in some cases have evolved to be mutualistic rather than parasitic.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Vijayawada/govt-relies-on-wolbachia-to-control-dengue/article24742129.ece>

Q.110) Which of the following countries does NOT have Adriatic Sea as a boundary?

- a) Macedonia
- b) Albania
- c) Montenegro
- d) Croatia

Q.110) Solution (a)

The countries with coasts on the Adriatic are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia.

