

**Q.1) The '+1' in 'P5+1 Countries' refers to**

- a) Germany
- b) Japan
- c) Canada
- d) Australia

**Q.1) Solution (a)**

The P5+1 refers to the UN Security Council's five permanent members (the P5); namely China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States; plus Germany. The P5+1 is often referred to as the E3+3 by European countries. It is a group of six world powers which, in 2006, joined together in diplomatic efforts with Iran with regard to its nuclear program.

**Q.2) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. Article 86 confers a right on the President to address either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled together, and for that purpose require the attendance of members
2. Article 87 deals with Special Address by the President and provides that the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together at the commencement of the first session after each general election to the Lok Sabha and at the commencement of the first session of each year and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.2) Solution (c)**

Articles 86 and 87 of the Constitution deal with the Address by the President. Article 86 confers a right on the President to address either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled together, and for that purpose require the attendance of members. However, since the commencement of the Constitution, the President has not so far addressed a House or Houses together under this provision.

Article 87 deals with Special Address by the President and provides that the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together at the commencement of the first session after each general election to the Lok Sabha and at the commencement of the first session of each year and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons.<sup>1</sup> Article 87(1) originally required the President to address both Houses of Parliament at the commencement of every session. The Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951, amended this provision.

As article 87 makes it clear, the Address is to be to both Houses of Parliament assembled together. In other words, it means that if at the time of commencement of the first session of the year, the Lok Sabha has been dissolved and the Rajya Sabha has to meet, then the Rajya Sabha can have its session without the President's Address. During the dissolution of the Lok Sabha in 1977 and 1991, the Rajya Sabha had its sessions on 1 February 1977 and 3 June 1991, respectively without the President's Address.

**Read More -** <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-when-does-the-president-address-both-houses-of-parliament-5563110/>

### **Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Polar Vortex'**

1. They are weakest during summer and strongest during winter
2. They rotate counter-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere

**Select the correct statements**

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

### **Q.3) Solution (c)**

A polar vortex is an upper level low-pressure area lying near the Earth's pole. There are two polar vortices in the Earth's atmosphere, which overlie the North, and South Poles. Each polar vortex is a persistent, large-scale, low pressure zone that rotates counter-clockwise at the North Pole (called a cyclone), and clockwise at the South Pole.[discuss] The bases of the two polar vortices are located in the middle and upper troposphere and extend into the stratosphere. Beneath that lies a large mass of cold, dense arctic air. The vortices weaken and strengthen from year to year. When the vortex of the arctic is strong it is well defined, there is a single vortex and the arctic air is well contained; when weaker, which it generally is, it will break into two or more vortices; when very weak, the flow of arctic air becomes more disorganized and masses of cold arctic air can push equatorward, bringing with it a

rapid and sharp temperature drop. The interface between the cold dry air mass of the pole and the warm moist air mass further south defines the location of the polar front. The polar front is centered, roughly at 60° latitude. A polar vortex strengthens in the winter and weakens in the summer due to its dependence on the temperature difference between the equator and the poles. The vortices span less than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) in diameter within which they rotate counter-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere, and in a clockwise fashion in the Southern Hemisphere. As with other cyclones, their rotation is driven by the Coriolis effect.

Polar cyclones are low pressure zones embedded within the polar air masses, and exist year-round. The stratospheric polar vortex develops at latitudes above the subtropical jet stream. Horizontally, most polar vortices have a radius of less than 1,000 kilometres (620 mi). Since polar vortices exist from the stratosphere downward into the mid-troposphere, a variety of heights/pressure levels are used to mark its position. The 50 millibars pressure surface is most often used to identify its stratospheric location.

Polar vortices are weakest during summer and strongest during winter. Extratropical cyclones that migrate into higher latitudes when the polar vortex is weak can disrupt the single vortex creating smaller vortices (cold-core lows) within the polar air mass. Those individual vortices can persist for more than a month.

**Watch -** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/the-hindu-explains-what-is-the-polar-vortex/article26140605.ece>

**Q.4) Who was the first to make a 'periodic table of chemical elements' similar to the one used today?**

- a) Ernest Rutherford
- b) Dmitri Mendeleev
- c) Glenn Seaborg
- d) William Ramsay

**Q.4) Solution (b)**

The Russian chemist Dmitri Mendeleev was the first scientist to make a periodic table similar to the one used today. Mendeleev arranged the elements by atomic mass, corresponding to relative molar mass.

**Read More -** <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/unesco-celebrates-150-years-of-chemistrys-periodic-table-5561030/>

**Q.5) What is the protein found in human hair and finger nails, as well as in hooves, horns, wool, claws, bird beaks, and spider webs?**

- a) Collagen
- b) Keratin
- c) Cellulose
- d) Glycogen

**Q.5) Solution (b)**

Keratin is also found in bird and reptile scales. Collagen is found in skin, tendons, and ligaments. Glycogen is a carbohydrate. Cellulite is "cottage-cheese" skin.

**Q.6) 'Rakhigarhi' was in news recently in the context of**

- a) Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO-India)
- b) Mining in the Aravalli mountain range
- c) Harappan Civilisation
- d) Nuclear Power Plant

**Q.6) Solution (c)**

It is the site of a pre-Indus Valley Civilisation settlement going back to about 6500 BCE. Later, it was also part of the mature Indus Valley Civilisation, dating to 2600-1900 BCE. The site is located in the Ghaggar-Hakra river plain, some 27 km from the seasonal Ghaggar river.

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/love-actually-rakhigarhi-skeleton-man-woman-indus-valley-civilisation-culture-bond-5532704/>

**Q.7) Consider the following statements about 'Leptospirosis'**

1. It affects both humans and animals
2. It is a viral disease
3. The most common animals that spread the disease are rodents

**Select the correct statements**

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

- d) All of the above

**Q.7) Solution (c)**

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that affects humans and animals. It is caused by bacteria of the genus *Leptospira*.

Leptospirosis is an infection in rodents and other wild and domesticated species. Rodents are implicated most often in human cases. The infection in man is contracted through skin abrasions and the mucosa of the nose, mouth and eyes. Exposure through water contaminated by urine from infected animals is the most common route of infection. Human-to-human transmission is rare.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/tackling-leptospirosis/article25942846.ece>

**Q.8) Consider the following statements with respect to 'vote on account'**

1. A vote on account is the process by which an incumbent government obtains votes from Parliament to draw money from the Consolidated Fund of India
2. A 'vote-on- account' only deals with the expenditure in Government's budget, while an "interim budget" includes both expenditure and receipts

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.8) Solution (c)**

**Both the statements are correct**

**Read More**

- 1) <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/slate/all-you-wanted-to-know-about-vote-on-account/article25933608.ece>
- 2) <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/what-is-a-vote-on-account/articleshow/431273.cms>

**Q.9) Which of the following statements correctly explains the term 'Oligopoly'?**

- a) A market condition where only one firm dominates the market.
- b) A state of limited competition, in which a market is shared by a small number of producers or sellers.
- c) A state of ideal completion with a number of firms with similar production capacity.
- d) A market where firms have made a group to control the prices.

## **Q.9) Solution (b)**

Oligopoly is a market structure in which a small number of firms has the large majority of market share. An oligopoly is similar to a monopoly, except that rather than one firm, two or more firms dominate the market.

## **Q.10) One of the methods of Money Laundering is 'Round Tripping'. Which of the following statements regarding 'Round Tripping' are correct?**

- 1. Round Tripping refers to a practice of selling an unused asset to another company while agreeing to buy back the same asset for about the same price.
- 2. Round-trip trading artificially inflates volume and revenues, and adds to large profits.

**Select the code from the following:**

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

## **Q.10) Solution (a)**

Round-trip trading is an action that attempts to inflate transaction volumes through the continuous and frequent purchase and sale of a particular security, commodity or asset. Round-trip trading can be used to refer to the practice of a business selling an unused asset to another company while agreeing to buy back the same asset for about the same price. This type of market manipulation has been seen in the energy and telecom business.

This is a market-manipulation practice used to misrepresent the number of transactions occurring on any given day. Round-trip trading artificially inflates volume and revenues, but in reality adds no profit. Enron was a company that engaged in round-trip trading, and, by doing so, was able to increase revenues (and expenses) without changing its net income.

## **Q.11) 'Seleka Rebels' are associated with which of the following countries?**

- a) Nigeria
- b) Central African Republic
- c) Ivory Coast
- d) Congo

## **Q.11) Solution (b)**

Séléka CPSK-CPJP-UFDR is an alliance of rebel militia groups that subjugated the Central African Republic (CAR) on March 24, 2013. After its official dissolution in September 2013, the remaining rebel groups became known as Ex-Séléka. Séléka leader Michel Djotodia became the nation's president from March 2013 until his resignation in January 2014. Members of Séléka are almost entirely Muslim.

Source: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=UNSC-adopts-resolution-to-extend-sanctions-against-CAR-for-another-year&id=358996>

## **Q.12) 'Anti-balaka' militants is associated with**

- a) Yemen
- b) Syria
- c) Djibouti
- d) Central African Republic

## **Q.12) Solution (d)**

The Anti-balaka is an alliance of militia groups based in the Central African Republic said to be composed primarily of Christians.

### **THINK!**

- United Nations Security Council resolution 2454

Source: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=UNSC-adopts-resolution-to-extend-sanctions-against-CAR-for-another-year&id=358996>

## **Q.13) The term 'Customer Acceptance Test' was in news recently in the context of**

- a) Mirage 2000 aircraft
- b) PM-KISAN
- c) E-Vehicles
- d) Train – 18

**Q.13) Solution (a)**

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/hal-draws-flak-on-social-media-following-mirage-crash/article26164849.ece>

**Q.14) Consider the following statements with respect to the term 'Brumation'**

1. It is a dormant period when cold-blooded reptiles temporarily shut down all activity to conserve energy.
2. It is an innate behaviour for reptiles, regardless of the environment.

**Select the correct statements:**

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

**Q.14) Solution (c)**

Brumation, which is essentially the reptilian equivalent of hibernation, is a dormant period when cold-blooded reptiles temporarily shut down all activity to conserve energy.

Brumation is an innate behavior for reptiles, meaning that their bodies tell them to do it naturally, regardless of environment.

Unlike hibernation in mammals, brumation is not a sleeping period for reptiles. Reptiles in brumation still need to drink water and may wake for several days at a time before returning to brumation.

Different reptiles brumate in different ways. Some tortoises burrow themselves as deep as 6 feet into the ground to wait out seasons. Garter snakes huddle into groups to brumate, using their combined body heat to help each other survive.

Amphibians that aren't very skilled at burrowing, like tree frogs, can sometimes be frozen solid during colder winters. Incredibly, these cold-blooded frogs will even stop the beating of their hearts and production of their lungs until warmer weather returns.

Source: <https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/heres-why-alligators-are-purposefully-freezing-themselves-in-north-carolina-swamps/70007255>

**Q.15) Consider the following statements with respect to 'microbial fuel cell (MFC)'**

1. It harnesses the power of respiring microbes to convert organic substrates directly into electrical energy
2. It transforms chemical energy into electricity using oxidation reduction reactions

**Select the correct statement**

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

**Q.15) Solution (c)**

A microbial fuel cell (MFC) is a bio-electrochemical device that harnesses the power of respiring microbes to convert organic substrates directly into electrical energy. At its core, the MFC is a fuel cell, which transforms chemical energy into electricity using oxidation reduction reactions. The key difference of course is in the name, microbial fuel cells rely on living biocatalysts to facilitate the movement of electrons throughout their systems instead of the traditional chemically catalyzed oxidation of a fuel at the anode and reduction at the cathode.

Microbial fuel cells work by allowing bacteria to do what they do best, oxidize and reduce organic molecules. Bacterial respiration is basically one big redox reaction in which electrons are being moved around. Whenever you have moving electrons, the potential exists for harnessing an electromotive force to perform useful work. A MFC consists of an anode and a cathode separated by a cation specific membrane. Microbes at the anode oxidize the organic fuel generating protons which pass through the membrane to the cathode, and electrons which pass through the anode to an external circuit to generate a current. The trick of course is collecting the electrons released by bacteria as they respire. This leads to two types of MFCs: mediator and mediatorless.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/microbial-fuel-cell-treats-textile-wastewater/article26161637.ece>

**Q.16) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Black softshell turtle'**

1. It is a species of freshwater turtle found in Assam
2. It is listed as 'Critically Endangered' under the IUCN Red List

**Select the correct statements**

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

## **Q.16) Solution (a)**

The black softshell turtle or Bostami turtle (*Nilssonia nigricans*, previously placed in genus *Aspideretes*) is a species of freshwater turtle found in India (Assam) and Bangladesh (Chittagong and Sylhet). It was long believed to be inbred individuals of the Ganges softshell turtle (*A. gangeticus* or *N. gangeticus*) or the Indian peacock softshell turtle (*A. hurum* or *N. hurum*), but while it is a close relative of the latter, it is a distinct species.

The black softshell turtle (*Nilssonia nigricans*) figures in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List as "extinct in the wild".

### **THINK!**

- Haduk Beel (wetland) of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/in-assam-temples-stave-off-extinction-of-turtles/article26163446.ece>

## **Q.17) 'Arikamedu' was recently in news. Where is it located?**

- a) Goa
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Puducherry
- d) Kerala

## **Q.17) Solution (c)**

It is the ancient Roman trade centre. It is situated in the south of Puducherry on the right bank of Ariyankuppam River.

### **THINK!**

Garibpet - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/when-romans-wore-garibpet-garnets/article22758145.ece>

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/finding-an-amphora-in-arikamedu/article26148454.ece>

**Q.18) 'Nilavembu kudineer' was recently in news. It is associated with**

- a) Petroglyphs
- b) Dengue
- c) Night Frog
- d) Invasive Plant Species

**Q.18) Solution (b)**

Tamil Nadu government has distributed nilavembu kudineer (a Siddha medicine) concoction to treat people infected with dengue during the outbreak.

Under in vitro conditions, nilavembu kudineer (a Siddha medicine) was found to provide protection against chikungunya virus while it was effective as a treatment during acute phase of dengue infection.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/nilavembu-kudineer-kills-dengue-virus-protects-from-chikungunya/article26161732.ece>

**Q.19) Consider the following statements with respect to 'The Strategic Framework on Accessible Elections'**

1. It aims to build on sensitization through education and training, community involvement of different sections of society, effective partnership with institutions and originations and creation of facilities to cater to the specific needs of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) with a view to increasing their participation.
2. It is a compilation of guidelines issued by Election Commission of India along with the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.19) Solution (c)**

The Strategic Framework on Accessible Elections are a compilation of guidelines issued by Election Commission of India and the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment, Government of India. It aims to build on sensitization through education and training, community involvement of different

sections of society, effective partnership with institutions and originations and creation of facilities to cater to the specific needs of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) with a view to increasing their participation. The Election Commission of India is committed to building an equal access framework for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) supported by the fundamentals of responsiveness, respect and dignity to enhance elector confidence among them; and support initiatives for improved service offerings to enhance their electoral participation.

**Read More -** <http://ecisveep.nic.in/news/election-commission-of-india-unveils-strategic-framework-on-accessible-elections-r3/>

**Q.20) 'Hoveizeh cruise missile' is developed by**

- a) Iran
- b) Pakistan
- c) Russia
- d) Israel

**Q.20) Solution (a)**

**Source:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/middle-east/iran-in-successful-test-of-new-cruise-missile-on-revolution-anniversary/articleshow/67815478.cms>

**Q.21) Which is the first State to set up a price monitoring and research unit (PMRU)?**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Kerala
- c) Bihar
- d) Rajasthan

**Q.21) Solution (b)**

Kerala has become the first State to set up a price monitoring and research unit (PMRU). It is to track violation of prices of essential drugs and medical devices under the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO).

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/kerala-sets-up-drug-price-monitor/article26164821.ece>

**Q.22) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Asian Infrastructure Finance 2019 report'**

1. I was published by [Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank](#) (AIIB)
2. It notes that the trade frictions and market volatility have increased uncertainty around project pipelines
3. It highlights that rising geopolitical tensions and a busy election cycle will increase investor caution

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.22) Solution (d)**

**The Asian Infrastructure Finance report identifies significant infrastructure opportunities that can bring about trade and development that supports income growth:**

- Increased regional rail connectivity in Central Asia has the potential to bring about more Europe-China trade and integrate Central Asia with other regions.
- Falling renewable energy generation cost, coupled with greater awareness on climate change issues, will lead to increased investments but must be complemented by infrastructure to enhance cross-border renewable energy trade.
- Information and communications technology is a key enabler to facilitate trade and integration, but some countries will require greater support from the international community.

**Stakeholders in the infrastructure sector will face a very difficult situation in the next few years:**

- Interest rate hikes due to central banks' policy normalization will drive a flight to quality.
- Trade frictions and market volatility have increased uncertainty around project pipelines.
- Rising geopolitical tensions and a busy election cycle will increase investor caution.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/indias-infra-financing-cost-likely-to-increase-aiib/article26122741.ece>

**Q.23) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Hindu Kush' Range**

1. Tirich Mir is the highest mountain of the Hindu Kush range
2. It stretches from central Afghanistan to northern Pakistan

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.23) Solution (c)**

The Hindu Kush is an 800-kilometre-long (500 mi) mountain range that stretches near the Afghan-Pakistan border, from central Afghanistan to northern Pakistan.

It forms the western section of the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region (HKH). It divides the valley of the Amu Darya (the ancient Oxus) to the north from the Indus River valley to the south.

The Hindu Kush range has numerous high snow-capped peaks, with the highest point in the Hindu Kush being Tirich Mir or Terichmir at 7,708 metres (25,289 ft) in the Chitral District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/study-warns-a-third-of-hindu-kush-himalaya-glaciers-will-melt-by-2100-5569164/>

**Q.24) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Mahila Samridhi Yojana’**

1. It is implemented through National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC)
2. Under this scheme Government provides microfinance to women entrepreneur belonging to the backward classes

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.24) Solution (c)**

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Department of Government of India has introduced Mahila Samridhi Yojana for providing loan to women entrepreneur. Under this scheme Government provides microfinance to women entrepreneur belonging to the target group (backward classes).

In order to cater the Micro Finance needs of small entrepreneurs belonging to the target group, the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) provides loans through self help groups (SHGs) by State Channelising Agency (SCA) under Micro Finance Scheme.

Loans under MSY are provided through State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Nationalized Banks to the target group (backward classes).

MSY loan is provided to Safai Karamchari and Scavenger and their dependants for projects with a maximum project cost up to Rs.60000 for small and petty business and sundry income generating activities.

Loan will be provided up to 95% and balance 5% provided by the State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) or Beneficiary contribution. Utilization Period is 4 months from the date of disbursement of the loan.

Eligibility for Mahila Samridhi Yojana

- Women entrepreneur belonging to backward classes only can apply for this scheme.
- Age of the woman should be 18 years
- Members of Backward Classes living below double the poverty line are eligible.
- Annual income of the women should be less than Rs.3 Lakhs per annum

**Note:** The SCAs/Banks will release up to 50% of total funding to women with annual income up to Rs.1.50 Lakh.

Mahila Samridhi Yojana is implemented through National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) wherein skill development training is imparted to group of women in women friendly trades. Training period is of maximum six months and raw material cost of upto Rs.1,500/- per trainee and stipend @ Rs.1000/- per trainee is provided.

**Q.25) 'Bhagoria Haat Festival' is celebrated in which state?**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Odisha
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Uttarakhand

## **Q.25) Solution (c)**

Bhagoria Fest is a festival celebrated by the tribal people of the Indian state Madhya Pradesh (originally known as 'Malwa'). Also known as Bhagoria Haat Festival, during this festival, young boys and girls are allowed to elope after choosing their partners. The Bhagoria Haat Festival belongs to the local tribes called Bhils and Bhilalas.

## **Q.26) The '[World Investment Report](#)' is published by**

- a) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- b) World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- c) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- d) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

## **Q.26) Solution (c)**

The World Investment Report has been published annually since 1991.

The World Investment Report focuses on trends in foreign direct investment (FDI) worldwide, at the regional and country levels and emerging measures to improve its contribution to development.

## **Q.27) 'India Rural Development Report (IRDR)' is published by**

- a) IDFC Rural Development Network
- b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- c) Small Industries Development Bank of India
- d) NITI Aayog

## **Q.27) Solution (a)**

The India Rural Development Report (IRDR) is the flagship report of the IDFC Rural Development Network, supported by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).

## **Q.28) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Know India Programme'**

1. It is a flagship initiative for diaspora engagement which familiarizes Indian-origin youth with their Indian roots and contemporary India

2. It is organised by the Ministry of Culture

**Select the correct statements:**

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

### **Q.28) Solution (a)**

Know India Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs is a three-week orientation programme for diaspora youth conducted with a view to promote awareness on different facets of life in India and the progress made by the country in various fields e.g. economic, industrial, education, science & technology, communication & information Technology, culture.

Know India Programme (KIP) is a flagship initiative for Diaspora engagement which familiarizes Indian-origin youth (18-30 years) with their Indian roots and contemporary India

KIP provide a unique forum for students & young professionals of Indian origin to visit India, share their views, expectations & experiences and to develop closer bonds with the contemporary India.

Source: <https://kip.gov.in/home/guidelines>

### **Q.29) Which of the following is classified as 'Girmitiya countries'?**

- 1. Mauritius
- 2. Fiji
- 3. Suriname

**Select the correct code:**

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

### **Q.29) Solution (d)**

Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica

Source: <https://kip.gov.in/home/guidelines>

**Q.30) 'Spratly Islands' is located in which of the following**

- a) Danube River
- b) South China Sea
- c) Gulf of Maine
- d) Pacific Ocean

**Q.30) Solution (b)**

The Spratlys are one of the major archipelagos in the South China Sea which complicate governance and economics in this part of Southeast Asia due to their location in strategic shipping lanes. The islands have no indigenous inhabitants, but offer rich fishing grounds and may contain significant oil and natural gas reserves and as such are important to the claimants in their attempts to establish international boundaries. Some of the islands have civilian settlements, but of the approximately 45 islands, cays, reefs and shoals that are occupied, all contain structures that are occupied by military forces from Malaysia, Taiwan (ROC), China (PRC), the Philippines and Vietnam. Additionally, Brunei has claimed an exclusive economic zone in the south-eastern part of the Spratlys, which includes the Louisa Reef.

**Q.31) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund (AMIF)'**

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

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Q.32) Which of the following are examples of Indo-Saracenic Architecture?**

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

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.32) Solution (d)**

All are examples of Indo Saracenic Architectural Structures

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

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

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

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

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

**Q.33) '[Washington Treaty](#)' is associated with**

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

**Q.33) Solution (a)**

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

**Q.34) Consider the following statements [about 'National Tiger Conservation Authority \(NTCA\)'](#)**

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

**Select the correct statements**

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

### **Q.34) Solution (c)**

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

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

### **Objective of the NTCA**

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

### **Powers and Functions of the NTCA**

- to approve the tiger conservation plan prepared by the State Government under sub-section (3) of section 38V of this Act;

- evaluate and assess various aspects of sustainable ecology and disallow any ecologically unsustainable land use such as, mining, industry and other projects within the tiger reserves;
- lay down normative standards for tourism activities and guidelines for project tiger from time to time for tiger conservation in the buffer and core area of tiger reserves and ensure their due compliance;
- provide for management focus and measures for addressing conflicts of men and wild animal and to emphasize on co-existence in forest areas outside the National Parks, sanctuaries or tiger reserve, in the working plan code;
- provide information on protection measures including future conservation plan, estimation of population of tiger and its natural prey species, status of habitats, disease surveillance, mortality survey, patrolling, reports on untoward happenings and such other management aspects as it may deem fit including future plan conservation;
- approve, co-ordinate research and monitoring on tiger, co-predators, prey habitat, related ecological and socio-economic parameters and their evaluation;
- ensure that the tiger reserves and areas linking one protected area or tiger reserve with another protected area or tiger reserve are not diverted for ecologically unsustainable uses, except in public interest and with the approval of the National Board for Wild Life and on the advice of the Tiger Conservation Authority;
- facilitate and support the tiger reserve management in the State for biodiversity conservation initiatives through eco-development and people's participation as per approved management plans and to support similar initiatives in adjoining areas consistent with the Central and State laws;
- ensure critical support including scientific, information technology and legal support for better implementation of the tiger conservation plan;
- facilitate ongoing capacity building programme for skill development of officers and staff of tiger reserves, and
- perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act with regard to conservation of tigers and their habitat.

**Q.35) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Republic of Macedonia'**

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

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

## **Q.35) Solution (d)**

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

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

## **Q.36) Consider the following statements with respect to 'GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP)'**

1. It provides financial and technical support to communities and Civil Society Organizations to meet the overall objective of global environmental benefits secured through community-based initiatives and actions.
2. It was established in the year of the Rio Earth Summit 1992.

**Select the correct statements**

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

## **Q.36) Solution (c)**

Established in 1992, the year of the Rio Earth Summit, the GEF Small Grants Programme embodies the very essence of sustainable development by "thinking globally acting locally". By providing financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods, SGP demonstrates that community action can maintain the fine balance between human needs and environmental imperatives.

The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) provides financial and technical support to communities and Civil Society Organizations to meet the overall objective of global environmental benefits secured through community-based initiatives and actions.

**Read More -** <https://www.thegef.org/topics/gefsgp>

**Q.37) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Ratoon cropping'**

1. It refers to a multiple-harvest system in which regenerating stubbles of the established crop in the field are managed for subsequent production.
2. It saves cost on preparatory tillage and planting material.

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.37) Solution (c)**

Ratooning is a practice of growing a crop from the stubbles of previous crop.

**Importance of Ratoon:**

- Ratoon saves cost on preparatory tillage and planting material.
- It gets benefit of residual manure and moisture.
- Ratoon crop matures earlier and gives more or less same yield as of suru cane.

Only one ratoon should be taken because incidence of pests and diseases increases and deterioration of soil takes place.

**Q.38) 'Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary' is located in**

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

**Q.38) Solution (b)**

Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary is a bird sanctuary located in Jamnagar district of Gujarat.

The sanctuary is unique having both fresh water lakes, salt and freshwater marshlands.

**Q.39) Consider the following statements with respect to 'XPoSAt'**

1. It is a joint project by NASA and ESA.
2. It provides support to research projects in a wide range of topics in space technology, space science and applications to universities/ institutions.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.39) Solution (d)**

XPoSat is a 5-year Mission satellite of ISRO which will be used to learn more about cosmic radiation.

**Q.40) 'Operation Morthor' is associated with?**

- a) Cryptocurrency
- b) Computer Malware
- c) Zika Virus
- d) None of the above

**Q.40) Solution (d)**

Congo Crisis - Course of The Crisis - UN Launches Operation Morthor -

[http://www.liquisearch.com/congo\\_crisis/course\\_of\\_the\\_crisis/un\\_launches\\_operation\\_morthor](http://www.liquisearch.com/congo_crisis/course_of_the_crisis/un_launches_operation_morthor)

United Nations Operation in The Congo - Operation Morthor -

[http://www.liquisearch.com/united\\_nations\\_operation\\_in\\_the\\_congo/operation\\_morthor](http://www.liquisearch.com/united_nations_operation_in_the_congo/operation_morthor)

**Q.41) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Stromatolites'**

1. Stromatolites are created by 'blue-green algae'.
2. They are only found in Antarctica

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only

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

#### Q.41) Solution (a)

They are layered mounds, columns, and sheet-like sedimentary rocks that were originally formed by the growth of layer upon layer of cyanobacteria, a single-celled photosynthesizing microbe. Cyanobacteria, which are prokaryotes, are also called "blue-green algae". Fossilized stromatolites provide records of ancient life on Earth. Lichen stromatolites are a proposed mechanism of formation of some kinds of layered rock structure that are formed above water, where rock meets air, by repeated colonization of the rock by endolithic lichens.

Modern stromatolites are mostly found in hypersaline lakes and marine lagoons where extreme conditions due to high saline levels prevent animal grazing. One such location is Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve, Shark Bay in Western Australia where excellent specimens are observed today, Pampa del Tamarugal National Reserve in Chile and another is Lagoa Salgada ("Salty Lake"), in the state of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil, where modern stromatolites can be observed as bioherm (domal type) and beds. Inland stromatolites can also be found in saline waters in Cuatro Ciénegas, a unique ecosystem in the Mexican desert, and in Lake Alchichica, a maar lake in Mexico's Oriental Basin. The only open marine environment where modern stromatolites are known to prosper is the Exuma Cays in the Bahamas.

In 2010, a fifth type of Chlorophyll, namely Chlorophyll f was discovered by Dr. Min Chen from stromatolites in Shark Bay.

#### Q.42) 'Formosa Strait' is located in

- a) Mediterranean Sea
- b) West Asia
- c) Scandinavia
- d) South China Sea

#### Q.42) Solution (d)

The Taiwan Strait, or Formosa Strait, is a 180-kilometre (110 mi)-wide strait separating the island of Taiwan from mainland China. The strait is part of the South China Sea and connects to the East China Sea to the north.

**Q.43) 'Bagamoyo Port' which is being funded by China, is located in**

- a) Ethiopia
- b) Djibouti
- c) Senegal
- d) Tanzania

**Q.43) Solution (d)**

The Bagamoyo Port is being constructed in Bagamoyo, Tanzania. Work started in 2018. It is planned to be one of the largest government infrastructure projects in the country.

It will be built in association with the state-owned China Merchants Port, it will include a special economic zone. The US\$ 10bn project is backed by an Omani sovereign wealth fund.

The project is to cost \$US 11 billion and is mostly funded by a Chinese government owned construction firm. The project is a tri-government venture between Tanzania, China and Oman. The port is to handle twice the amount of cargo than Dar es Salaam Port and will help reduce the congestion at the port. The project also involves in the construction of a Special economic zone adjacent to the port.

**Q.44) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bhaona'**

- 1. It is primarily associated with Maharashtra
- 2. It is always with religious messages

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.44) Solution (d)**

Bhaona is a traditional form of entertainment, always with religious messages, prevalent in Assam, India. It is a creation of Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankardeva, written in the early sixteenth century. He created the form to convey religious messages to villagers through entertainment. Later Srimanta Madhavdeva also wrote some plays.

The plays of bhaona are popularly known as Ankiya Nats and their staging is known as bhaona. Bhaona is generally staged at xatras and namghars in Assam. There are some special characteristics of Bhaona like the plays, dialogues, costumes, ornaments, entry and foot-steps of the characters. These characteristics helps to differentiate Bhaona from other plays.

The bhaonas are written in the Assamese and Brajavali languages.

**Q.45) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Shark Bay'**

1. It is a World Heritage Site
2. It is located in Yucatán Peninsula
3. It is known for large population of dugongs

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.45) Solution (c)**

Shark Bay is a World Heritage Site in the Gascoyne region of Western Australia. It is located approximately 800 kilometres (500 mi) north of Perth, on the westernmost point of the Australian continent. UNESCO's official listing of Shark Bay as a World Heritage Site reads:

Shark Bay's waters, islands and peninsulas....have a number of exceptional natural features, including one of the largest and most diverse seagrass beds in the world. However it is for its stromatolites (colonies of microbial mats that form hard, dome-shaped deposits which are said to be the oldest life forms on earth), that the property is most renowned. The property is also famous for its rich marine life including a large population of dugongs, and provides a refuge for a number of other globally threatened species

**Q.46) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Swachh Shakti'**

1. It aims to bring in to focus the leadership role played by rural women in [Swachh Bharat Mission](#)
2. Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in association with the Govt. of Haryana is organizing the Swachh Shakti-2019

**Select the correct statements**

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

## **Q.46) Solution (c)**

Swachh Shakti-2019 is a national event which aims to bring in to focus the leadership role played by rural women in Swachh Bharat Mission.

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in association with the Govt. of Haryana is organizing the Swachh Shakti-2019.

**Read More -** <https://www.narendramodi.in/swachh-shakti-2019-rural-women-champions-for-swachh-bharat-543482>

## **Q.47) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)'**

1. It is an initiative by the World Customs Organization (WCO)
2. It supports countries in building tax audit capacity

**Select the correct statements**

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

## **Q.47) Solution (b)**

Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) is a joint initiative of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supporting countries in building tax audit capacity. TIWB Programmes complement the broader efforts of the international community to strengthen co-operation on tax matters and contribute to the domestic resource mobilisation efforts of developing countries.

**Read More -** <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/news/2018/strengthening-the-ability-of-developing-countries-to-effectively.html>

**Q.48) 'Pusa Vivek QPM 9' which was in news, is a hybrid**

- a) Wheat
- b) Rice
- c) Maize
- d) Mustard

**Q.48) Solution (c)**

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) here has bred a hybrid maize — Pusa Vivek QPM 9 Improved — that is claimed to be the world's first ever rich in lysine and tryptophan as well as pro-vitamin A.

It has been mainly developed for J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the North-East states.

**Read More -** <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/iari-breeds-nutrient-rich-hybrid-maize-5406575/>

**Q.49) Where is 'Ghost of Cassiopeia' located?**

- a) Atlantic Ocean
- b) Arctic Ocean
- c) South China Sea
- d) None of the above

**Q.49) Solution (d)**

About 550 light years away in the constellation of Cassiopeia lies IC 63, a stunning and slightly eerie nebula. Also known as the ghost of Cassiopeia, IC 63 is being shaped by radiation from a nearby unpredictably variable star, Gamma Cassiopeiae, which is slowly eroding away a cloud of dust and gas. The Gamma Cassiopeiae is a blue-white subgiant that is surrounded by a gaseous disc, which is 19 times more massive and 65,000 times brighter than our sun. It also rotates at the incredible speed of 1.6 million km per hour — more than 200 times faster than our parent star and releases radiation. The radiation of Gamma Cassiopeiae is so powerful that it even affects IC 63 and bestows an eerie appearance that gives it its ghostly aura.

**Read More -** <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/10/181025113153.htm>

**Q.50) '[Palamau Tiger Reserve](#)' is located in which of the following states?**

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Odisha
- d) Karnataka

**Q.50) Solution (b)**

The Palamu Tiger Reserve is one of the nine original tiger reserves in India and the only one in the state of Jharkhand. It forms part of Betla National Park and Palamu Wildlife Sanctuary.

**Q.51) 'Cobra Gold' is a military exercise between**

- a) USA and Russia
- b) Japan and Russia
- c) Russia and China
- d) None of the above

**Q.51) Solution (d)**

Cobra Gold is an Asia-Pacific military exercise held in Thailand every year. It is the largest Asia-Pacific military exercise held each year, and is among the largest multinational military exercise in which the United States participates.

This is a Thai-American initiative with an aim to improve coordination between the armed forces.

India joined this exercise for the first time in 2016 while China was admitted for the first time in 2015 but was only allowed to participate in humanitarian assistance training.

**Q.52) Consider the following statements with respect to '[National Productivity Council \(NPC\)](#)'**

1. It is under the administrative control of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
2. It is a constituent of the Tokyo-based Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), of which India is a founder member

**Select the correct statements**

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

## **Q.52) Solution (c)**

National Productivity Council (NPC) is a national level autonomous organization under the administrative control of the Department to promote productivity culture in India. Established as a registered society in 1958 by the Government of India, it is a tri-partite non-profit organization with equal representation from the government, employers and workers' organizations, apart from technical and professional institutions including members from local productivity councils and chamber of commerce on its Governing Body. Besides providing training, consultancy and undertaking research in the area of productivity, NPC also implements the productivity promotion schemes of the Government and carry out the programmes of the Tokyo based Asian Productivity Organization (APO), an inter-governmental body of which the Government of India is a founder member.

## **Q.53) 'CUTLASS EXPRESS' naval exercise is associated with**

- a) Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
- b) Shanghai Cooperation Organization
- c) North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- d) None of the above

## **Q.53) Solution (d)**

Cutlass Express is an exercise sponsored by U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM), and conducted by Naval Forces Africa (NAVAF) to assess and improve maritime law enforcement capacity, promote national and regional security in eastern Africa, inform planning and operations, and shape security force assistance (SFA) efforts.

**Read More -** <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188260>

## **Q.54) As part of the 100th Anniversary, ILO is implementing seven centenary initiatives. Which of the following are among those initiatives?**

1. The Governance Initiative
2. The Future of Work Initiative

3. The Women at Work Initiative

Select the correct code:

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

**Q.54) Solution (d)**

- The future of work initiative
- The end to poverty initiative
- The women at work initiative
- The green initiative
- The standards initiative
- The enterprises initiative
- The governance initiative

Read More - <https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/history/centenary/lang--en/index.htm>

**Q.55) 'Sela Pass' is located in**

- a) Jammu and Kashmir
- b) Sikkim
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Himachal Pradesh

**Q.55) Solution (c)**

The Sela Pass (more appropriately called Se La, as La means Pass) is a high-altitude mountain pass located on the border between the Tawang and West Kameng Districts of Arunachal Pradesh state in India.

**Q.56) 'Mysticellus franki', which was recently in news is a**

- a) Frog
- b) Butterfly
- c) Wader
- d) Seaweed

**Q.56) Solution (a)**

It is a mysterious narrow-mouthed frog that was spotted in the seasonal roadside puddles in Kerala's Wayanad district. It is a new species and belongs to a completely new genus, *Mysticellus*.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/blink-and-miss-keralas-mystery-frog/article26261273.ece>

**Q.57) 'Gross Domestic Knowledge Product (GDKP)' is based on which of the following pillars?**

1. Country's Knowledge Producing Matrix
2. Country's Knowledge User Matrix
3. Cost of Individual Learning

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.57) Solution (d)**

The Gross Domestic Knowledge Product (GDKP) takes a different approach to measuring a nation's growth and future. GDKP addresses all of the Commission's criticisms of GDP by establishing a new form of measurement:

- GDKP provides a fundamental measure of growth by including a wide range of factors that involve the creation and accumulation of knowledge – the key international factors measuring wealth in the digital era.
- GDKP creates a comparable measure of the production of individual wealth based on knowledge, which counts not only for evaluating the future wealth of individuals but also their contribution to the wealth of their country.
- GDKP creates an optimal capital investment measure for private companies in knowledge rather than in other forms of capital investments.

**GDKP is based on four basic pillars:**

- Knowledge items (Ki)
- Country's Knowledge Producing Matrix (CKPM)
- Country's Knowledge User Matrix (CKUM)

- Cost of Individual Learning, compared to the Cost of Living

**The GDKP measures:**

- The values of objects that are considered standard knowledge items available in the world, that are also produced in that country. These Standard Knowledge Items include production of newspapers, schools, patents, teaching, and a wide range of digital items.
- The value of specific knowledge items related to national culture produced in a specific country, and how these items change over time. In India, for examples, these specific knowledge items include the proliferation of cultural and religious teaching (yoga, Veda, and dance schools), religious festivals, and harvest festivals.
- The diffusion of knowledge items within the total population as a tool to evaluate future growth.
- The multiple effects of digital knowledge distributors on the population over time over time (fiber optic cable, learning platforms, satellites, and other digital educational tools).
- Comparison of knowledge produced by government, private institutions, and households as a differentiated way to impact on the GDP to elaborate on the country's knowledge producing matrix.
- The value of knowledge bought by individuals as a measure of individuals perception of modern way to produce wealth.
- The value of knowledge acquired by private companies as a way to measure their modernization efforts, which is reflected in the Country Knowledge User Matrix.
- The cost of learning for individuals as a political reference for government budgeting decisions to support young citizens.
- The cost of investing in knowledge for sectors of the economy as a government budgeting decision to favor fiscal policy to modernize a country.

**Q.58) 'Nord Stream' passes through**

1. Russia
2. Germany
3. Belarus

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 1 and 3
- c) All of the above
- d) None of the above

### Q.58) Solution (a)

It is an offshore natural gas pipeline from Vyborg in the Russian Federation to Greifswald in Germany that is owned and operated by Nord Stream AG, whose majority shareholder is the Russian state company Gazprom.

#### WHAT IS NORD STREAM 2?

Nord Stream 2 is an expansion of Russia's existing Nord Stream gas pipeline to Germany across the Baltic Sea. It's expected to carry 110 billion cubic meters of natural gas per year to Europe, where demand is set to rise

#### WHY THE U.S. IS WORRIED

The US says the new pipeline, and the resultant increase in Russian gas supply to Europe, would increase Moscow's leverage over European countries. It would also make Russia richer, and as a result, more aggressive, US argues

#### WOULD IT BENEFIT EUROPE?

Europe's natural gas demand is expected to spike in coming years, meaning its dependence on Russia will continue

Also, gas production in EU countries is projected to decline by **43 per cent** in the next 12 years, thanks to a mostly depleted resource base. Thus, gas supply from Russia is vital

#### WHY IS UKRAINE ANXIOUS?

Ukraine is concerned as Nord Stream II and the planned Turkstream connection would eliminate Russian energy's need to cross its territory – potentially exposing the war-torn country to further military incursions by Moscow

#### WHY GERMANY IS FOR IT

Dozens of German businesses have invested heavily in the project and former Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder is running the it



### Q.59) Consider the following statements with respect to '[National Board for Wildlife \(NBWL\)](#)'

1. It is a statutory Board constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

2. It is chaired by the Prime Minister

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.59) Solution (c)**

National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is a statutory Board constituted on 22nd September 2003 under Section 5 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The NBWL is chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. The NBWL has 47 members including the Chairman.

Hon'ble MEF chairs the Standing Committee of NBWL and the Director, Wildlife Preservation (Addl. DGF (WL) is the Member Secretary of both NBWL and its Standing Committee.

**Q.60) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Wildlife Crime Control Bureau'**

- 1. It is mandated to establish a centralized wildlife crime data bank
- 2. It is created under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972
- 3. It assists and advises the Customs authorities in inspection of the consignments of flora & fauna as per the provisions of Wild Life Protection Act, CITES and EXIM Policy governing such an item

**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)**

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is a statutory multi-disciplinary body established by the Government of India under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, to combat organized wildlife crime in the country. The Bureau has its headquarter in New Delhi and five regional offices at Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Jabalpur; three sub-regional offices at Guwahati, Amritsar and Cochin; and five border units at Ramanathapuram, Gorakhpur, Motihari, Nathula and Moreh. Under Section 38 (Z) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, it

is mandated to collect and collate intelligence related to organized wildlife crime activities and to disseminate the same to State and other enforcement agencies for immediate action so as to apprehend the criminals; to establish a centralized wildlife crime data bank; co-ordinate actions by various agencies in connection with the enforcement of the provisions of the Act; assist foreign authorities and international organization concerned to facilitate co-ordination and universal action for wildlife crime control; capacity building of the wildlife crime enforcement agencies for scientific and professional investigation into wildlife crimes and assist State Governments to ensure success in prosecutions related to wildlife crimes; and advise the Government of India on issues relating to wildlife crimes having national and international ramifications, relevant policy and laws. It also assists and advises the Customs authorities in inspection of the consignments of flora & fauna as per the provisions of Wild Life Protection Act, CITES and EXIM Policy governing such an item.

**Q.61) 'Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary' is located in**

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Karnataka
- c) Telangana
- d) Kerala

**Q.61) Solution (c)**

Kawal Tiger Reserve is located at Jannaram mandal of Mancherial District (Old Adilabad district) in Telangana state of India. Govt of India declared Kawal wildlife sanctuary as Tiger Reserve in 2012. The reserve is the oldest sanctuary in the northern Telangana region of the state.

This sanctuary is catchment for the rivers Godavari and Kadam, which flow towards the south of the sanctuary.

**Q.62) 'Make Listening Safe' Initiative is associated with**

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) WHO
- c) UNEP
- d) WEF

**Q.62) Solution (b)**

Make Listening Safe: A WHO initiative to promote safe listening practices

- WHO-ITU Global standard for safe listening devices and systems. ...
- Communication campaign for safe listening. ...
- Develop a regulatory framework for control of exposure to sound in entertainment venues.

Read More - <https://www.who.int/deafness/make-listening-safe/en/>

**Q.63) Consider the following statements with respect to 'RIPE Project'**

1. It is a translational research project that is genetically engineering plants to photosynthesize more efficiently to increase crop yields
2. It is led by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.63) Solution (a)**

Realizing Increased Photosynthetic Efficiency (RIPE) is a translational research project that is genetically engineering plants to photosynthesize more efficiently to increase crop yields. RIPE aims to increase agricultural production worldwide, particularly to help reduce hunger and poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia by sustainably improving the yield of key food crops including soybeans, rice, cassava and cowpeas. The RIPE project began in 2012, funded by a five-year, \$25-million dollar grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

**Q.64) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Department of Management, Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC)'**

1. It aims to provide strategic policy leadership in all areas of management through a clear, integrated global management strategy and policy framework.
2. It will represent the Secretary-General in the relevant intergovernmental/interagency bodies and staff-management mechanisms.

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1 Only

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

**Q.64) Solution (c)**

DMSPC will provide strategic policy leadership in all areas of management through a clear, integrated global management strategy and policy framework. It will champion, drive and support a results-oriented and risk-aware culture of continuous learning and accountability and promote innovation in business models throughout the Secretariat, with a strong focus on the field. The Department will work closely with the Department of Operational Support (DOS), across the entire Secretariat, to implement the Secretary-General's vision for a new management paradigm.

The Department will represent the Secretary-General in the relevant intergovernmental/interagency bodies and staff-management mechanisms. Budgetary and financial reporting, as well as human resources policy and strategy, including conduct and discipline, will be consolidated in DMSPC. The new department will provide a feedback loop to Secretariat entities for their continuous improvement.

**Read More -** <https://www.un.int/news/management-reforms-introducing-dmspc>

**Q.65) Consider the following and choose the correct statement(s)**

1. Farasan Islands is located in Red Sea
2. Bab-el-Mandeb connects Gulf of Aqaba and Red Sea

**Choose the appropriate option**

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

**Q.65) Solution (a)**



Q.66) 'Mount Soputan' is located in

- a) Sumatra
- b) Java
- c) Sulawesi
- d) Papua New Guinea

Q.66) Solution (c)

Soputan is a stratovolcano that rises to an elevation of 1,784m (5,853 ft), and is located on the northern arm of Sulawesi Island in Indonesia. The geologically young and mostly unvegetated cone is primarily constructed of andesite and basalt rock. It sits on the southern rim of the Tondano caldera, which formed in the Quaternary period. The volcano is one of Sulawesi's most active, with 39 confirmed eruptions in the last 600 years. Eruptive activity at Soputan typically consists of pyroclastic flows, lava flows, lava domes and Strombolian-style explosions.

**Q.67) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Liancourt Rocks'**

1. They are a group of small islets in the Sea of Japan
2. It is disputed between South Korea, Japan, Russia and China

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.67) Solution (a)**

The Liancourt Rocks are a group of small islets in the Sea of Japan. While South Korea controls the islets, its sovereignty over them is contested by Japan.

**Q.68) 'Addu Atoll' was in news recently. Where is it located?**

- a) Seychelles
- b) Maldives
- c) Micronesia
- d) Lakshadweep

**Q.68) Solution (b)**

Addu Atoll, also known as Seenu Atoll, is the southernmost atoll of the Maldives.

**Q.69) 'Project 75' was recently seen in news. It refers to**

- a) India's Military Space Programs (ISRO's Vision 2021)

- b) Large-scale civil engineering project that aims to link Indian rivers by a network of reservoirs and canals
- c) An initiative to digitize and archive cultural works by the 75th year of Indian Independence
- d) India's Scorpene submarine programme

**Q.69) Solution (b)**

Project 75 deals with construction of Indian Navy's Scorpene class stealth submarines.

Under Project 75 India will construct 6 next generation diesel submarines with Air Independent Propulsion System (AIP) technology for the Indian Navy by 2022. The project is undertaken in partnership with French DCNS.

**Q.70) In which of the following states is the 'Wangala' Harvest festival celebrated?**

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

**Q.70) Solution (d)**

Garo tribals People of Meghalaya celebrated the harvest festival of Wangala to marks the end of a period of toil for farmers wanting a good output from their fields.

On the first day of the festival, the people offer their agriculture produce to the Sun God, while on the second day or Kakkat, they will dance Wangala

**Q.71) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Great white shark'**

1. The IUCN lists the great white shark as a vulnerable species
2. It is found only in the Pacific Ocean

**Select the correct code:**

1. 1 Only
2. 2 Only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

## Q.71) Solution (a)

IUCN Status – Vulnerable

Great white sharks live in almost all coastal and offshore waters which have water temperature between 12 and 24 °C (54 and 75 °F), with greater concentrations in the United States (Northeast and California), South Africa, Japan, Oceania, Chile, and the Mediterranean including Sea of Marmara and Bosphorus. One of the densest known populations is found around Dyer Island, South Africa.

## Q.72) Consider the following statements with respect to '[National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture \(NICRA\)](#)'

1. It is under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment and Forests
2. It was formed under the Environment Protection Act, 1986

Select the correct statements

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

## Q.72) Solution (d)

National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) is a network project of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched in February, 2011. The project aims to enhance resilience of Indian agriculture to climate change and climate vulnerability through strategic research and technology demonstration. The research on adaptation and mitigation covers crops, livestock, fisheries and natural resource management. The project consists of four components viz. Strategic Research, Technology Demonstration, Capacity Building and Sponsored/Competitive Grants.

## Q.73) '[National Investment and Infrastructure Fund \(NIIF\)](#)' manages which of the following funds?

1. Master Fund
2. Fund of Funds
3. Strategic Fund

Select the correct code:

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

## **Q.73) Solution (d)**

NIIF manages three funds: Master Fund, Fund of Funds and Strategic Fund. The funds were set up to make infrastructure investments in India by raising capital from domestic and international institutional investors.

### **Master Fund**

The Master Fund is an infrastructure fund with the objective of primarily investing in operating assets in the core infrastructure sectors such as roads, ports, airports, power etc.

### **Fund of Funds**

Fund of Funds anchor and/or invest in funds managed by fund managers who have good track records in infrastructure and associated sectors in India. Some of the sectors of focus include Green Infrastructure, Mid-Income & Affordable Housing, Infrastructure services and allied sectors.

### **Strategic Investment Fund**

Strategic Investment Fund is registered as an Alternative Investment Fund II under SEBI in India.

## **Q.74) Consider the following statements with respect to '[National Investment and Infrastructure Fund \(NIIF\)](#)'**

1. The funds managed by the NIIF are registered as Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
2. The Indian government has 49 per cent stake in NIIF

### **Select the correct statements**

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

## **Q.74) Solution (c)**

NIIF manage three funds with distinctive investment mandates. The funds are registered as Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and are currently raising capital from domestic and international institutional investors.

The Indian government has 49 per cent stake in NIIF with the rest held by marquee foreign and domestic investors such as Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Temasek and HDFC Group. With the Centre's significant stake, NIIF is considered India's quasi sovereign wealth fund.

**Q.75) 'Wagon tragedy' is associated with**

- a) Chauri Chaura Incident
- b) Jallianwala Bagh Massacre
- c) Tebhaga movement
- d) Mappila Rebellion

**Q.75) Solution (d)**

The wagon tragedy was the death of 67 prisoners on 20 November 1921 in the Malabar region of Kerala state of India. The prisoners had been taken into custody following the Mappila Rebellion against British Colonial rule and Hindu landlords. Their deaths through apparent negligence discredited the British Raj and generated sympathy for the Indian independence movement.

**Q.76) Consider the following statements with respect to '[Quality Council of India \(QCI\)](#)'**

- 1. Ministry of Commerce & Industry is the nodal ministry for QCI.
- 2. All the boards of the QCI operate under the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.76) Solution (a)**

Quality Council of India (QCI) was set up in 1997 jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry represented by the three premier industry associations i.e. Associated

Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), to establish and operate national accreditation structure and promote quality through National Quality Campaign. The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is the nodal ministry for QCI.

QCI operations are carried out by its constituent boards namely, National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB), National Accreditation Board for Education and Training (NABET), National Accreditation Board for Hospitals Healthcare Providers (NABH), National Board for Quality Promotion (NBQP) and National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL). Currently NABL operates under Department of Science and Technology.

**Q.77) 'Charlevoix Blueprint' is associated with**

- a) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
- b) Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles
- c) Non Proliferation Treaty
- d) Healthy oceans and seas

**Q.77) Solution (d)**

Charlevoix Blueprint For Healthy Oceans, Seas And Resilient Coastal Communities.

The leaders of the Group of 7 (G7) agreed on the 'Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Communities' at the G7 Summit in Charlevoix, Canada. In addition, the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the UK and the European Union (EU) agreed to tackle ocean plastic in the 'Ocean Plastics Charter.'

**Q.78) 'Ocean Plastics Charter' is led by**

- a) Germany
- b) Canada
- c) Italy
- d) United Kingdom

**Q.78) Solution (b)**

It is led by Canada.

In the 'Ocean Plastics Charter,' the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the UK and the EU commit to move towards a more resource-efficient and sustainable approach to the management of plastics.

**Q.79) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Friends of Yemen'**

1. It was established in 2019 to help bolster international political support for Yemen and to assist Yemeni-led efforts to tackle the underlying causes of instability.
2. India is one of the members of the group

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.79) Solution (b)**

The Friends of Yemen was established in January 2010 at a meeting of ministers in London to help bolster international political support for Yemen and to assist Yemeni-led efforts to tackle the underlying causes of instability.

The Friends of Yemen is co-chaired by the United Kingdom, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Yemen.

There are 39 countries and international organisations in the Friends of Yemen:

Countries: Algeria, Japan, Turkey, Australia, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Bahrain, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, Brazil, State of Kuwait, United States of America, People's Republic of China, Malaysia, Republic of Yemen, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Denmark, Sultanate of Oman, Egypt, State of Qatar, France, Russian Federation, Germany, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, India, Spain, Indonesia, Switzerland, Italy, Tunisia.

International organisations: League of Arab States, Delegation of the European Union, Gulf Cooperation Council Secretariat, Islamic Development Bank, International Monetary Fund, Organisation for Islamic Cooperation, World Bank, United Nations.

**Q.80) Ancient port of '[Muziris](#)' was located in the present day**

- a) Goa

- b) Kerala
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Tamil Nadu

**Q.80) Solution (b)**

Muziris (Muchiri, roughly identified with medieval Muyirikode, or Mahodaya/Makotai Puram) was an ancient harbour – possible seaport and urban center - on the Malabar Coast (modern-day Indian state of Kerala) that dates from at least the 1st century BC, if not earlier.

Muziris, or Muchiri, found mention in the bardic Tamil poems and a number of classical sources.

**Q.81) The term 'Allograft' is associated with**

- a) Algorithm Trading
- b) Blockchain Technology
- c) Rafale Aircraft
- d) Organ Transplants

**Q.81) Solution (d)**

An allograft is a bone or tissue that is transplanted from one person to another. They typically come from a donor, or cadaver bone.

**Q.82) ['Gumti Wildlife Sanctuary'](#) is located in**

- a) West Bengal
- b) Tripura
- c) Nagaland
- d) Meghalaya

**Q.82) Solution (b)**

Gumti Wildlife Sanctuary is a Wildlife Sanctuary in Tripura

**Q.83) 'World Employment and Social Outlook – Trends' report is published by**

- a) International Labour Organization
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) United Nations Development Programme
- d) None of the above

**Q.83) Solution (a)**

It is released by ILO.

**Q.84) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Dampa Tiger Reserve'**

- 1. It is located on the Rajasthan-Gujarat border
- 2. Slow Loris is found in this reserve

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.84) Solution (b)**

It is located in Mizoram

Dampa Tiger Reserve is the natural home of leopards, Malayan sun bear, Indian bison, barking deer, sloth bear, gibbons, langurs, slow loris, rhesus macaque, Indian Python (Python Molurus Molurus), wild boar and a variety of birds.

Slow lorises are a group of several species of nocturnal strepsirrhine primates that make up the genus Nycticebus. Found in Southeast Asia and bordering areas, they range from Bangladesh and Northeast India in the west to the Sulu Archipelago in the Philippines in the east, and from Yunnan province in China in the north to the island of Java in the south.

**Q.85) Which of the following statements with respect to 'Guardafui Channel' is correct?**

- a) It connects the Gulf of Aden with the Somali Sea
- b) It divides the Tyrrhenian Sea and the western Mediterranean Sea, from the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

- c) It is a strait in the Pwani Region of Tanzania
- d) It is a narrow passage between the Sinai and Arabian peninsulas which separate the Gulf of Aqaba from the Red Sea proper

**Q.85) Solution (a)**

The Guardafui Channel is an oceanic strait off the tip of the Horn of Africa that lies between Somalia and Socotra. It connects the Gulf of Aden to the north with the Somali sea to the south. Its namesake is Cape Guardafui, the very tip of the Horn of Africa. Notable places of interest include the Alula Lagoon

**Q.86) 'Sonowal Kacharis' primarily live in the state of**

- a) Odisha
- b) Assam
- c) Jharkhand
- d) West Bengal

**Q.86) Solution (b)**

The Sonowal Kacharis are one of the Indigenous peoples, Assamese people of Northeast India. They belong to the Sino-Tibetan languages family and are closely associated with other Ethnic group of people of Assam which are commonly referred as Kirata, Kirati people or Kachari people.

They practised the task of procuring, washing and activities related to gold jewellery.

Due to distinct customs and dress and hymns and chants of Bihu as well as religious ceremonies and folklores we can clearly see how they are a part of Kachari (tribe) Community in Assam.

They are predominantly inhabitants of Dhemaji district, Lakhimpur district, Tinsukia and Dibrugarh districts of Assam.

**Q.87) 'Repurpose Cooking Oil (RUCO) initiative' is launched by the**

- a) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- d) None of the above

**Q.87) Solution (a)**

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched the Repurpose Cooking Oil (RUCO) initiative to collect and convert used cooking oil into bio-fuel.

**Q.88) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Terminalia Arjuna'**

1. It usually grows along river banks
2. It is one of the species whose leaves are fed on by the *Antheraea paphia* moth which produces the tassar silk

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.88) Solution (c)**

The arjuna is about 20–25 metres tall; usually has a buttressed trunk, and forms a wide canopy at the crown, from which branches drop downwards. It has oblong, conical leaves which are green on the top and brown below; smooth, grey bark; it has pale yellow flowers.

The arjuna is usually found growing on river banks or near dry river beds in Bangladesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and south and central India.

The arjuna is one of the species whose leaves are fed on by the *Antheraea paphia* moth which produces the tassar silk, a wild silk of commercial importance.

In Theravada Buddhism, Arjuna is said to have been used as the tree for achieved enlightenment, or Bodhi by the tenth Buddha (title) called "Anomadassi Buddha".

**Q.89) The 'Indian Housing Project' is a housing reconstruction project funded by the Government of India in which of the following countries?**

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Maldives
- d) Kenya

## **Q.89) Solution (b)**

The Indian Housing Project is a housing reconstruction project funded by the Government of India and implemented through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL). Four Implementing Agencies (IAs) have been selected for this project, which is being executed in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. UN-Habitat is one of the IAs together with the International Federation for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in partnership with Sri Lanka Red Cross, the National Housing Development Authority (NHDA) of the Government of Sri Lanka and Habitat for Humanity.

## **Q.90) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)'**

1. It has permanent delegations to the United Nations and the European Union
2. India is one of the founding members of the OIC

**Select the correct statements**

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

## **Q.90) Solution (a)**

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation is an international organization founded in 1969, consisting of 57 member states, with a collective population of over 1.8 billion as of 2015 with 40 countries being Muslim Majority countries.

The organisation states that it is "the collective voice of the Muslim world" and works to "safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony".

The OIC has permanent delegations to the United Nations and the European Union. The official languages of the OIC are Arabic, English, and French.

## **Q.91) 'Bagru hand-block printing' is practiced in**

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Maharashtra
- c) West Bengal

d) Uttar Pradesh

**Q.91) Solution (a)**

Bagru printing is one of the traditional techniques of printing with natural colour followed by the chippas of Rajasthan. The Bagru hand-block printing has a history of over 1000 years.

**Q.92) Consider the following statements with respect to 'United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)'**

1. It establishes general obligations for safeguarding the marine environment and protecting freedom of scientific research on the high seas
2. It creates a legal regime for controlling mineral resource exploitation in deep seabed areas beyond national jurisdiction

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.92) Solution (c)**

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), also called the Law of the Sea Convention or the Law of the Sea treaty, is the international agreement that resulted from the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III), which took place between 1973 and 1982. The Law of the Sea Convention defines the rights and responsibilities of nations with respect to their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources. The Convention, concluded in 1982, replaced four 1958 treaties. UNCLOS came into force in 1994, a year after Guyana became the 60th nation to ratify the treaty.

The convention establishes general obligations for safeguarding the marine environment and protecting freedom of scientific research on the high seas, and also creates an innovative legal regime for controlling mineral resource exploitation in deep seabed areas beyond national jurisdiction, through an International Seabed Authority and the Common heritage of mankind principle

**Q.93) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bengal Florican'**

1. It is a bustard species
2. It is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.93) Solution (c)**

The Bengal florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*), also called Bengal bustard, is a bustard species native to the Indian subcontinent, Cambodia and Vietnam. It is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List because fewer than 1,000 individuals were estimated to be alive as of 2017. It is the only member of the genus *Houbaropsis*.

**Q.94) Consider the following statements with respect to [‘Earth Overshoot Day’](#)**

1. It marks the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year
2. It is calculated by the United Nations Environment Programme

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.94) Solution (a)**

Earth Overshoot Day (EOD), previously known as Ecological Debt Day (EDD), is the calculated illustrative calendar date on which humanity's resource consumption for the year exceeds Earth's capacity to regenerate those resources that year. Earth Overshoot Day is calculated by dividing the world biocapacity (the amount of natural resources generated by Earth that year), by the world ecological footprint (humanity's consumption of Earth's natural resources for that year), and multiplying by 365, the number of days in one Gregorian common calendar year

Earth Overshoot Day is calculated by Global Footprint Network.

**Q.95) Recently '[Kyasanur Forest Disease](#)' was in the news. Consider the following with respect to it**

1. It is a viral disease also known as Rodent fever
2. Kyasanur forests are located in Andhra Pradesh

**Select the correct code**

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

**Q.95) Solution (d)**

It is known as Monkey Fever. Kyasanur Forests are located in Karnataka.

**Q.96) Which of the following is located in Cambodia?**

1. Angkor Thom
2. Bayon Temple
3. Angkor Wat

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.96) Solution (d)**

Angkor Wat is a temple complex in Cambodia and one of the largest religious monuments in the world. Originally constructed as a Hindu temple dedicated to the god Vishnu for the Khmer Empire, it was gradually transformed into a Buddhist temple towards the end of the 12th century. It was built by the Khmer King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century in Yaśodharapura, the capital of the Khmer Empire, as his state temple and eventual mausoleum. Breaking from the Shaiva tradition of previous kings, Angkor Wat was instead dedicated to Vishnu.

Angkor Thom located in present-day Cambodia, was the last and most enduring capital city of the Khmer empire. It was established in the late twelfth century by King Jayavarman VII.

The Bayon is a richly decorated Khmer temple at Angkor in Cambodia. Built in the late 12th or early 13th century as the state temple of the Mahayana Buddhist King Jayavarman VII, the Bayon stands at the centre of Jayavarman's capital, Angkor Thom. Following Jayavarman's death, it was modified and augmented by later Hindu and Theravada Buddhist kings in accordance with their own religious preferences.

**Q.97) 'Sampriti' is a joint Military exercise between India and**

- a) Sri Lanka
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Myanmar
- d) Nepal

**Q.97) Solution (b)**

Sampriti - 2019 is an India-Bangladesh joint Military exercise conducted in Bangladesh.

**Q.98) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Benchmarks for Training in Yoga'**

- 1. It is being developed by WHO as part of its Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014-2023
- 2. The development of this document is included in the Project Collaboration Agreement signed between the WHO and the Ministry of AYUSH

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.98) Solution (c)**

The development of this document is included in the Project Collaboration Agreement signed between the WHO and the Ministry of AYUSH on cooperation in the field of Traditional and Complementary Medicine under the WHO strategy covering the period 2014-2023.

**Read More -** <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1566334>

**Q.99) Recently, a new Zone of Indian Railways was announced. Which of the following is it?**

- a) South Coast Railway
- b) East Coast Railway
- c) South Eastern Railway
- d) South Central Railway

**Q.99) Solution (a)**

The new zone named “South Coast Railway (SCoR)”, will comprise of existing Guntakal, Guntur and Vijayawada divisions. Waltair division shall be split into two parts. One part of Waltair division will be incorporated in the new zone i.e. in South Coast Railway and will be merged with the neighbouring Vijaywada division. Remaining portion of Waltair division shall be converted into a new division with headquarter at Rayagada under East Coast Railway (ECoR). South Central Railway will comprise of Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Nanded divisions.

**Q.100) ‘National Security Guard (NSG)’ deals with**

- a) Combat Terrorism
- b) UN Peace Keeping
- c) Insurgency
- d) Communal Problems

**Q.100) Solution (a)**

The National Security Guard (NSG) is an Indian special forces unit under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). It was raised in 1984, following Operation Blue Star and the assassination of Indira Gandhi, "for combating terrorist activities with a view to protect states against internal disturbances".

**Q.101) The term, ‘Qualified institutional placement (QIP)’, sometimes appearing in news is used in relation to**

- a) Communication Networking
- b) Military Strategies
- c) Foreign Direct Investment
- d) None of the above

**Q.101) Solution (d)**

Qualified institutional placement (QIP) is a capital-raising tool, primarily used in India and other parts of southern Asia, whereby a listed company can issue equity shares, fully and partly convertible debentures, or any securities other than warrants which are convertible to equity shares to a qualified institutional buyer (QIB).

**Q.102) Consider the following statements about 'Applications Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA)'**

1. It does away with the whole process related to refund of money to investors in instances wherein the issue is oversubscribed
2. It is a process developed by RBI for applying to IPO

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.102) Solution (a)****ASBA (Applications Supported by Blocked Amount)**

- It is a process developed by the India's Stock Market Regulator SEBI for applying to IPO.
- It refers to an online mechanism wherein the application money is kept blocked in the applicant's account and is debited only at the time of allotment.
- This effectively does away with the whole process related to refund of money to investors in instances wherein the issue is oversubscribed.
- In ASBA, an IPO applicant's account doesn't get debited until shares are allotted to them.

**Q.103) Ebony and Rosewood are the tree species found in –**

- a) Tropical rain forests
- b) Tropical dry deciduous forests
- c) Prairies
- d) Desert vegetation

## **Q.103) Solution (a)**

Ebony and rosewood are grown in tropical rainforests.

These species have a very heavy and hard wood. They require a yearlong rainy season and more than 200cm of rainfall. Sometimes the wood is so heavy that it does not float on water.

## **Q.104) 'Cochrane Collaboration' is concerned with**

- a) Agriculture
- b) Healthcare
- c) Artificial Intelligence
- d) Solar Energy

## **Q.104) Solution (b)**

Cochrane is a non-profit, non-governmental organization formed to organize medical research findings so as to facilitate evidence-based choices about health interventions faced by health professionals, patients, and policy makers

## **Q.105) 'Swiss formula' has been designed for**

- a) Measuring carbon footprint of industries
- b) Harmonization of tariffs in international trade
- c) Determining currency weights in SDR basket
- d) Calculating capital to risk weighted assets ratio under Basel Accords

## **Q.105) Solution (b)**

### **The Swiss Formula**

- It is a mathematical formula designed to cut and harmonize tariff rates in international trade.
- It belongs to the classification of formulas known as having harmonising impact. Since such a formula prescribes a higher/steeper cut on higher tariffs and lower cuts on lower tariffs it is seen to harmonise the rates by bringing the final rates becoming closer and bridging the gap.

- The formula was proposed by Switzerland in the Tokyo round negotiations of GATT (1973–79).
- Several countries are pushing for its use in World Trade Organization trade negotiations.