

IASBABA'S DAILY QUIZ COMPILATION

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Q.1) Consider the following statements about 'Western Disturbances'

1. They originate in the Mediterranean Sea as extra-tropical cyclones
2. Their effect is maximum during the monsoon months in India
3. They are the principle rain producing systems along the western coast of India

Select the correct statements

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

Q.1) Solution (a)

A Western Disturbance is an extratropical storm originating in the Mediterranean region that brings sudden winter rain to the north-western parts of the Indian subcontinent. It is a non-monsoonal precipitation pattern driven by the westerlies. The moisture in these storms usually originates over the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/monsoon-covers-country-fortnight-early-weather-rain-imd-5239453/>

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

1. It is a policy-making body which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms for combating money laundering
2. It was established especially to combat terror financing

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (a)

FATF is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money laundering. In 2001 its mandate expanded to include terrorism financing.

The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. The FATF is therefore a “policy-making body” which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/funding-watchdogs-grey-listing-nothing-new-says-pakistan/article24294527.ece>

Q.3) Consider the following statements about Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC)

1. It is controlled by the Ministry of Commerce
2. It provides Overseas Investment Insurance to Indian companies investing in joint ventures abroad in the form of equity or loan and advances
3. It contributes in the international stage as a member of management committee of Berne Union

Select the correct statements

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

Q.3) Solution (d)

Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC)

- It is a company wholly owned by the Government of India based in Mumbai
- It provides export credit insurance support to Indian exporters and is controlled by the Ministry of Commerce. Government of India had initially set up Export Risks Insurance Corporation (ERIC) in July 1957.
- It was transformed into Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation Limited (ECGC) in 1964 and to Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India in 1983.

Functions

- Provides a range of credit risk insurance covers to exporters against loss in export of goods and services as well.
- Offers guarantees to banks and financial institutions to enable exporters to obtain better facilities from them.
- Provides Overseas Investment Insurance to Indian companies investing in joint ventures abroad in the form of equity or loan and advances
- ECGC represents India in the BRICS ECAs forum and in the G-12 meetings.
- Discussions in the International Working Group (IWG) forum are also supported by the relevant inputs from ECGC, gained from other international fora on export credit, insurance and guarantee.
- ECGC also contributes in the international stage as a member of management committee of Berne Union

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1536689>

Q.4) Consider the following statements about 'Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai'

1. It inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list
2. It is a collection of 19th century 'Gothic Revival' buildings

Select the correct statements

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

Q.4) Solution (c)

The Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai is a collection of 19th century Victorian Neo Gothic public buildings and 20th century Art Deco buildings in the Fort area of Mumbai.

This ensemble of Victorian Gothic and Art Deco buildings was added to the list of World Heritage Sites on 30th June 2018 during 42nd session of World Heritage Committee at Manama, Bahrain.

The feat makes Mumbai the second city in India after Ahmedabad to be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

This latest inscription gives Mumbai the distinction of having three Unesco World Heritage Sites (Elephanta, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus and the Victorian & Art Deco Ensembles).

Gothic Revival (also referred to as Victorian Gothic or neo-Gothic) is an architectural movement that began in the late 1740s in England. Its popularity grew rapidly in the early 19th century, when increasingly serious and learned admirers of neo-Gothic styles sought to revive medieval Gothic architecture, in contrast to the neoclassical styles prevalent at the time. Gothic Revival draws features from the original Gothic style, including decorative patterns, finials, lancet windows, hood moulds and label stops.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/mumbais-victorian-and-art-deco-ensembles-inscribed-as-unesco-world-heritage-site/articleshow/64804480.cms>

Q.5) Croatia is not bordered by

- a) Italy
- b) Slovenia
- c) Hungary
- d) Serbia

Q.5) Solution (a)

Croatia is located in Central and Southeast Europe, bordering Hungary to the northeast, Serbia to the east, Bosnia and Herzegovina to the southeast, Montenegro to the southeast, the Adriatic Sea to the southwest and Slovenia to the northwest.



Q.6) Project Sashakt' is associated with

- a) Non-performing assets (NPAs)

- b) Horticulture
- c) Anti-retroviral therapy
- d) Tuberculosis

Q.6) Solution (a)

Finance Minister unveiled 'Project Sashakt', a five-prong strategy to deal with non-performing assets.

It aims to strengthen the credit capacity, credit culture and credit portfolio of public sector banks.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Industry/RKRG3I6tNVBWYYrmuFomcM/Govt-accepts-5point-plan-to-resolve-NPAs-rules-out-bad-ban.html>

Q.7) Consider the following statements about 'Ramanujacharya'

1. His philosophical foundation was theistic dualism
2. He accepted that the Vedas are a reliable source of knowledge

Select the correct statements

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

Q.7) Solution (b)

Rāmānuja's philosophical foundation was qualified monism, and is called Vishishtadvaita in the Hindu tradition.

His Vishishtadvaita (qualified monism) philosophy has competed with the Dvaita (theistic dualism) philosophy of Madhvāchārya, and Advaita (monism) philosophy of Ādi Shankara.

Rāmānuja accepted that the Vedas are a reliable source of knowledge, then critiqued other schools of Hindu philosophy, including Advaita Vedānta, as having failed in interpreting all of the Vedic texts.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/a-216-foot-tall-celebration-of-ramanuja/article24306087.ece>

Q.8) Consider the following statements about 'SVEEP'

1. It is a programme of multi interventions to educate citizens, electors and voters about the electoral process in order to increase their awareness and participation in the electoral processes
2. It is designed according to the socio-economic, cultural and demographic profile of the state

Select the correct statements

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

Q.8) Solution (c)

Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)

- It is a programme of multi interventions through different modes and media designed to educate citizens, electors and voters about the electoral process in order to increase their awareness and participation in the electoral processes.
- SVEEP is designed according to the socio-economic, cultural and demographic profile of the state as well as history of electoral participation in previous rounds of elections and learning thereof.

SVEEP is designed to address gaps in two phases:

- the pre-poll phase (registration of voters) and
- the poll phase (turnout of voters to cast their vote)

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180341>

Q.9) Recently Interpol has issued a Red Notice against an Indian Diamond trader. Red Notice is concerned with which of the following statements?

- a) To seek the location and arrest of wanted persons with a view to extradition or similar lawful action
- b) To provide warnings and intelligence about persons who have committed criminal offences and are likely to repeat these crimes in other countries

- c) To collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a crime
- d) To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals

Q.9) Solution (a)

Types of Notice

	Red Notice To seek the location and arrest of wanted persons with a view to extradition or similar lawful action.		Yellow Notice To help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.
	Blue Notice To collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a crime.		Black Notice To seek information on unidentified bodies.
	Green Notice To provide warnings and intelligence about persons who have committed criminal offences and are likely to repeat these crimes in other countries.		Orange Notice To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.
	INTERPOL–United Nations Security Council Special Notice Issued for groups and individuals who are the targets of UN Security Council Sanctions Committees.		Purple Notice To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/interpol-issues-red-notice-against-nirav-modi/article24309184.ece>

Q.10) 'Aichi Targets' is associated with

- a) Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
- b) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- c) International Solar Alliance
- d) Convention on Biological Diversity

Q.10) Solution (d)

The 'Aichi Target' was adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at its Nagoya conference.

In the COP-10 meeting, the parties agreed that previous biodiversity protection targets are not achieved, so they need to do come up with new plans and targets. The short term plan provides a set of 20 ambitious yet achievable targets, collectively known as the Aichi Targets.

Read More - <https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/india-bats-for-technology-finance-to-achieve-climate-goals/articleshow/64775020.cms>

Q.11) The Global Gender Gap Report released by the

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Trade Organisation
- c) United Nations Development Programme
- d) UN Women

Q.11) Solution (a)

The Global Gender Gap Report was first published in 2006 by the World Economic Forum. The 2017 report covers 144 major and emerging economies. The Global Gender Gap Index is an index designed to measure gender equality. The report's Gender Gap Index ranks countries according to calculated gender gap between women and men in four key areas: health, education, economy and politics to gauge the state of gender equality in a country.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/V3DIsV4QctPf3qz31Y8rXK/The-marriage-penalty-on-women-in-India.html>

Q.12) Consider the following statements about 'Behdienkhlam Festival'

1. It is one of the most popular festivals of the Jaintia tribe
2. It celebrated after sowing is done seeking a good harvest and to drive away plague and diseases.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.12) Solution (c)

Behdienkhlam is a traditional festival of the Pnars celebrated after sowing is done seeking a good harvest and to drive away plague and diseases. The Pnar, also known as Jaintia, are a tribal group in Meghalaya.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1537514>

Q.13) Consider the following statements about "cVIGIL" Mobile App

1. It will allow to report violations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC)
2. It will be operational only where elections are announced

Select the correct statements

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

Q.13) Solution (c)

"cVIGIL" will allow anyone in the election-bound state to report violations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) that comes into effect from the date of announcement of elections and goes on till a day after the polls. By using this app, citizens can immediately report on incidents of misconduct within minutes of having witnessed them and without having to rush to the office of the returning officer to lodge a complaint.

cVIGIL app will be operational only in election-bound states where dates of polling have been announced.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180358>

Q.14) Consider the following statements

1. Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is a composite indicator expressed in terms of an index number which measures the short term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products during a given period with respect to the base period
2. The Eight Core Industries comprise more than 60% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.14) Solution (a)

Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- IIP measures the quantum of changes in the industrial production in an economy and captures the general level of industrial activity in the country.
- It is a composite indicator expressed in terms of an index number which measures the short term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products during a given period with respect to the base period.
- The current base year for the IIP series in India is 2011-12.

The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 % of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

Industry	% Weightage in IIP
Electricity	19.85%
Steel (Alloy + Non-alloy)	17.92 %
Refinery Products	28.04%
Crude Oil	8.98 %
Coal	10.33 %
Cement	5.37%
Natural Gas	6.88 %
Fertilizers	2.63 %

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/eight-core-industries-grow-at-3-6-in-may-vs-4-6-in-april/articleshow/64828094.cms>

Q.15) Axumite Empire is associated with present day

- a) Egypt
- b) Ethiopia
- c) Oman
- d) Indonesia

Q.15) Solution (b)

Axumite Empire

- Located in northern Ethiopia and Eritrea, Aksum was deeply involved in the trade network between India and the Mediterranean.
- The Kingdom of Aksum benefited from a major transformation of the maritime trading system that linked the Roman Empire and India.
- The Empire of Aksum at its height extended across portions of present-day Eritrea, northern Ethiopia, Yemen, and southern Saudi Arabia, northern Djibouti, and northern Sudan.

Q.16) Consider the following statements about WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT)

1. It is a special agreement under the Berne Convention
2. It has provisions to extend the protection of copyrights contained therein to the digital environment
3. It grants the right of distribution and the right of rental

Select the correct statements

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

Q.16) Solution (d)

WIPO Copyright Treaty came in force on March 6, 2002 and has been adopted by 96 contracting parties till date and is A Special agreement under Berne Convention (for protection of literary and artistic works). It has provisions to extend the protection of copyrights contained therein to the digital environment. Further it recognises the rights specific to digital environment, of making work available, to address "on-demand" and other interactive modes of access,

As to the rights granted to authors, apart from the rights recognized by the Berne Convention, the Treaty also grants: (i) the right of distribution; (ii) the right of rental; and (iii) a broader right of communication to the public.

Read More - http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/wct/summary_wct.html

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180389>

Q.17) Consider the following statement about 'Beijing Treaty on Audio-visual Performances'

1. It is a multilateral treaty which regulates copyright for audio-visual performances and expands the performers' rights.
2. India has recently ratified the treaty

Select the correct statements

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

Q.17) Solution (a)

The Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances is a multilateral treaty which regulates copyright for audiovisual performances and expands the performers' rights. It was adopted on 26 June 2012 by the Diplomatic Conference on the Protection of Audiovisual Performances of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Read More - http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/beijing/summary_beijing.html

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180389>

Q.18) Consider the following statements about 'Stree Swabhiman' initiative

1. It is under the aegis of Ministry of Health
2. Under the initiative, sanitary napkin micro manufacturing units are being set up at Common Services Centres (CSCs) across India, particularly those operated by women entrepreneurs

Select the correct statements

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

Q.18) Solution (b)

Stree Swabhiman

- Concerned Ministry - Ministry of Electronics & IT
- It aims to create a sustainable model for providing adolescent girls and women an access to affordable sanitary products by leveraging CSCs.
- An initiative by CSC on women's health and hygiene
- Under the 'Stree Swabhiman' project, sanitary napkin micro manufacturing units are being set up at CSCs across India, particularly those operated by women entrepreneurs.
- Besides promoting women's health and hygiene, the initiative will also provide employment opportunities to women in rural communities as each facility will employ 8-10 women.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180404>

Q.19) Which of the following statements about 'Khan Prahari' App is/are correct?

1. It is a tool for reporting any illegal coal mining incident
2. It is done through geotagged photographs as well as textual information by any individual

Select the correct statements

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

Q.19) Solution (c)

Coal Mine Surveillance & Management System (CMSMS) uses information provided by responsible citizens using smartphones using the mobile application “Khan Prahari”. Khan Prahari is a tool for reporting any activity taking place related to illegal coal mining like rat hole mining, pilferage etc. One can upload geo-tagged photographs of the incident along with textual information directly to the system. Hence, both satellite data and human information will be used to capture information on the unauthorised mining activities.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180416>

Q.20) Consider the following statements

1. ‘DNA profiling’ is a forensic technique used to identify individuals by characteristics of their DNA
2. Short tandem repeats (or STRs) are regions of non-coding DNA that contain repeats of the same nucleotide sequence

Select the correct statements

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

Q.20) Solution (c)

DNA profiling is a forensic technique used to identify individuals by characteristics of their DNA. A DNA profile is a small set of DNA variations that is very likely to be different in all unrelated individuals, thereby being as unique to individuals as are fingerprints (hence the alternate name for the technique).

One of the current techniques for DNA profiling uses polymorphisms called short tandem repeats.

Short tandem repeats (or STRs) are regions of non-coding DNA that contain repeats of the same nucleotide sequence.

For example, GATAGATAGATAGATAGATA is an STR where the nucleotide sequence GATA is repeated six times.

STRs are found at different places or genetic loci in a person's DNA.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/union-cabinet-clears-dna-profiling-bill/article24333036.ece>

Q.21) Mekedatu dispute is concerned with

- a) Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh
- b) Karnataka and Tamil Nadu
- c) Karnataka and Goa
- d) Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

Q.21) Solution (b)

Karnataka intends to build a reservoir across river Cauvery near Mekedatu in Kanakapura taluk. It was first proposed along with Shivanasamudra hydro power project at Shimsa in 2003 with an intention to use the water for a hydro power station and supply drinking water to Bengaluru.

However, Tamil Nadu objected saying Karnataka had not sought prior permission for the project. Its argument was that the project would affect the flow of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

Read More - http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/what-is-the-mekedatu-project-115041800544_1.html

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/with-focus-on-big-water-projects-sustainability-gets-a-miss-in-karnataka-budget/articleshow/64878603.cms>

Q.22) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant'

1. It has a pressurized heavy-water reactor (PHWR) type of nuclear reactor
2. It is the first in the world to have post-Fukushima safety enhancement requirements implemented and operated successfully

Select the correct statements

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

Q.22) Solution (b)

The Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) is the first in the world to have post-Fukushima safety enhancement requirements implemented and operated successfully.

There are a number of advanced active and passive safety systems which ensure unprecedented design-level nuclear and ecological safety of the plant

Double localising and protective containment, passive heat removal system from reactor plant automatically, core catcher, and closed industrial water intake are some of the safety features incorporated.

The reactor is protected from the impact of any earthquake, tsunami, tornado and hurricane.

Given that a large amount of seawater is drawn in to cool the reactors, measures have been taken to preserve the biological diversity of the Mannar Bay adjacent to Kudankulam.

Seawater is supplied from the so-called “bucket” constructed in the sea into the special facilities and systems which ensure that fish and plankton return to sea.

It is the single largest nuclear power station in India, situated in Koodankulam in the Tirunelveli district of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

KKNPP is scheduled to have six VVER-1000 reactors built in collaboration with Atomstroyexport, the Russian state company and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), with an installed capacity of 6,000 MW of electricity.

The main distinguishing features of the VVER compared to other PWRs are:

- Horizontal steam generators
- Hexagonal fuel assemblies
- No bottom penetrations in the pressure vessel
- High-capacity pressurisers providing a large reactor coolant inventory

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/sc-rejects-plea-to-shut-kudankulam-power-plant/article24316213.ece>

Q.23) Consider the following statements about National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)

1. It acts as a Non-Statutory body of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
2. The Chairman and the Members of the Commission are appointed by the President

Select the correct statements

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

Q.23) Solution (a)

The Chairman and the Members of the Commission are appointed by the Central Government (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment).

The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) is a statutory body that looks into matters concerning the Safai Karamcharis' welfare and makes recommendations to the government. For the first time, NCSK was constituted as a statutory body under the NCSK ACT, 1993. This commission continued till February 2004, when the relevant Act expired. Thereafter, the tenure of the commission has been extended from time to time, as a non-statutory body, the last such extension being up to 31 March 2016.

National Commission for Safai Karamcharis is a temporary non-statutory body which is given extension, usually of three years, from time to time.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180377>

Q.24) Consider the following statements with regard to Bharat stage emission standards (BSES)

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

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Q.24) Solution (c)

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

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

The Bharat Stage norms are based on European regulations.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180429>

Q.25) Uruguay is bordered by

1. Brazil
2. Paraguay
3. Argentina

Select the correct statements

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

Q.25) Solution (c)



Q.26) Which of the following countries shares its borders with Caspian Sea?

1. Russia
2. Azerbaijan

3. Georgia

Select the correct code:

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

Q.26) Solution (a)

The coastlines of the Caspian are shared by Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Turkmenistan.



Q.27) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) focuses on

- 1. Disaster management
- 2. Democratic governance

3. Climate resilience

Select the correct code:

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

Q.27) Solution (c)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the United Nations' global development network.

Headquartered in New York City, UNDP advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. It provides expert advice, training and grants support to developing countries, with increasing emphasis on assistance to the least developed countries. The status of UNDP is that of an executive board within the United Nations General Assembly.

UNDP focuses on helping countries build and share solutions in three main areas:

- Sustainable development
- Democratic governance and peacebuilding
- Climate and disaster resilience

Q.28) Consider the following statements about 'Washington Convention'

- 1. It is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals
- 2. India is a party to the convention
- 3. It is legally binding on the Parties

Select the correct statements

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

Q.28) Solution (d)

CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) also known as the Washington Convention is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and

plants does not threaten their survival. It was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

CITES is an international agreement to which States and regional economic integration organizations adhere voluntarily. States that have agreed to be bound by the Convention ('joined' CITES) are known as Parties. Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties – in other words they have to implement the Convention – it does not take the place of national laws. Rather it provides a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/mumbai-a-transit-hub-for-trafficking-of-protected-animals-says-report/story-4oEhUsp2VHiGnudClO0i2K.html>

Q.29) An interim mechanism called the 'Peace Clause' is available for developing nations. It is concerned with

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

Q.29) Solution (b)

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

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

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Politics/KVv4iAN9DwZw7UBe36K1ZK/India-may-face-greater-scrutiny-at-WTO-after-13-MSP-hike-fo.html>

Q.30) Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) is often in news in the context of India and

- a) Israel
- b) Japan
- c) France
- d) USA

Q.30) Solution (d)

The DTTI aims to:

- Transform the bilateral defence relationship into one that is limited only by independent strategic decisions, rather than bureaucratic obstacles or inefficient procedures
- Strengthen India's defence industrial base by moving away from the traditional "buyer-seller" dynamic toward a more collaborative approach
- Explore new areas of technological collaboration from science and technology cooperation through co-development and co-production
- Expand U.S.-Indian business ties

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-us-military-ties-take-a-hit-after-american-sanctions-against-russia/story-rVmKaCMQViX5J2nu4XqF2M.html>

Q.31) 'Basavanna' is associated with which of the following?

- a) Vaisheshika
- b) Mimamsa
- c) Nyaya
- d) None of the above

Q.31) Solution (d)

Basavanna was a saint devoted to Shiva and was the chief founder of the reformist Virashaiva or Lingayat Community.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/strive-for-alleviating-inequalities-in-mutts-lingayat-groups-advised/article24376560.ece>

Q.32) Consider the following statements about National Testing Agency (NTA)

1. The idea of NTA was first recommended in the national education policy 1986
2. It replaced the CBSE examination conducting units

Select the correct statements

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

Q.32) Solution (c)

It is created as a Society registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860, and as an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions.

Starting December, NTA would be taking over the examinations which were till now conducted by CBSE and AICTE (All India Council of Technical Education). This includes UGC NET, JEE Main, National Eligibility cum Entrance Test – NEET, Common Management Admission Test – CMAT and Graduate Pharmacy Aptitude Test – GPAT.

Constitution

- NTA will be chaired by an eminent educationist appointed by MHRD.
- The CEO will be the Director General to be appointed by the Government.
- There will be a Board of Governors comprising members from user institutions.
- The Director General will be assisted by 9 verticals headed by academicians/ experts.

The idea of NTA was recommended in the national education policy 1986 but it was never implemented by previous governments.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/from-2019-students-can-appear-for-jee-neet-tests-twice-in-a-year/articleshow/64901708.cms>

Q.33) Consider the following statements about European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

1. It was established to help build a new, post-Cold War era in Central and Eastern Europe
2. Only the members of European Union can be members of the EBRD

Select the correct statements

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

Q.33) Solution (a)

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is an international financial institution founded in 1991. As a multilateral developmental investment bank, the EBRD uses investment as a tool to build market economies. Initially focused on the countries of the former Eastern Bloc it expanded to support development in more than 30 countries

from central Europe to central Asia. Besides Europe, member countries of the EBRD are from five continents (North America, Africa, Asia and Australia, see below), with the biggest shareholder being the United States, so the name is somewhat of a misnomer.

Headquartered in London, the EBRD is owned by 65 countries and two EU institutions.

Despite its public sector shareholders, it invests mainly in private enterprises, together with commercial partners.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) was established to help build a new, post-Cold War era in Central and Eastern Europe. It has since played a historic role and gained unique expertise in fostering change in the region - and beyond.

The Agreement Establishing the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development was signed in Paris on 29 May 1990.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/indias-ebrd-membership-opens-opportunities-for-its-businesses/article24255777.ece>

Q.34) Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code is concerned with

- a) Adultery
- b) Criminal Breach of Contracts of Service
- c) Defamation
- d) Offences affecting the Human Body

Q.34) Solution (a)

Section 497 in the Indian Penal Code

Adultery—Whoever has sexual intercourse with a person who is and whom he knows or has reason to believe to be the wife of another man, without the consent or connivance of that man, such sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape, is guilty of the offence of adultery, and shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, or with fine, or with both. In such case the wife shall not be punishable as an abettor.

Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/5-judge-constitution-bench-of-supreme-court-to-hear-plea-on-gay-sex-law-1879322>

Q.35) Which of the following statements about 'Iberian Peninsula' is/are correct?

- a) Gibraltar is a British Overseas Territory located on the southern end of the Iberian Peninsula
- b) It is the largest European Peninsula
- c) Both (a) nor (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Q.35) Solution (a)

The Iberian Peninsula is located in the southwest corner of Europe. The peninsula is principally divided between Portugal and Spain, comprising most of their territory. It also includes Andorra and a small part of France along the peninsula's north-eastern edge, as well as Gibraltar on its south coast, a small peninsula which forms an overseas territory of the United Kingdom. With an area of approximately 582,000 km² (225,000 sq mi), it is the second largest European peninsula, after the Scandinavian.

The Gibraltar Arc is a geological region corresponding to an arcuate orogen surrounding the Alboran Sea, between the Iberian Peninsula and Africa. It consists of the Betic Cordillera (south Spain), and the Rif (North Morocco). The Gibraltar Arc is located at the western end of the Mediterranean Alpine belt and formed during the Neogene due to convergence of the Eurasian and African plates.



Q.36) 'Price Stabilization Fund' scheme is administered by which of the following Ministries?

- a) Food Processing Industries

- b) Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- c) Finance
- d) Agriculture

Q.36) Solution (b)

Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) refers to any fund constituted for the purpose of containing extreme volatility in prices of selected commodities. The amount in the fund is generally utilised for activities aimed at bringing down/up the high/low prices say for instance, procurement of such products and distribution of the same as and when required, so that prices remain in a range.

India first created a price stabilisation fund for some export oriented plantation crops in 2003, and this ceased to exist in 2013. Another fund was created in 2015 for perishable agricultural and horticultural commodities, but initially limited to support potato and onion prices only.

Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) was shifted to Consumer Affairs Ministry from Agriculture Ministry for effective control of price rise in essential commodities and provide relief to the consumers.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/nGMpB2Yz5sltLJQuRabY9J/Higher-MSPs-do-not-truly-benefit-farmers.html>

Q.37) Panmunjom Declaration is associated with

- a) Korean Peninsula
- b) Iberian Peninsula
- c) Yucatan Peninsula
- d) Scandinavian Peninsula

Q.37) Solution (a)

The Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula was adopted between leaders of North Korea and South Korea on April 27, 2018, during the 2018 inter-Korean Summit.

Source: <https://www.firstpost.com/india/narendra-modi-and-moon-jae-in-talks-leaders-make-right-noises-but-not-enough-meat-in-pacts-to-elevate-bilateral-ties-4709091.html>

Q.38) Consider the following statements

1. Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code criminalises homosexuality
2. Suresh Kumar Koushal vs. Naz Foundation Judgement is associated with Section 377 of the IPC

Select the correct statements

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

Q.38) Solution (c)

Section 377 of the IPC states: "Whoever voluntarily has carnal inter-course against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal, shall be punished with 1[imprisonment for life], or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine." This archaic British law dates back to 1861 and criminalises sexual activities against the order of nature and the ambit of this law extends to any sexual union involving penile insertion.

Suresh Kumar Koushal and another v NAZ Foundation and others is a 2013 case by the Supreme Court of India which overturned the Delhi High Court case Naz Foundation v. Govt. of NCT of Delhi and reinstated Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code.

In January 2018, a three-member SC bench heard a petition filed by five people asking the SC to revisit the Naz Foundation judgment. The case was referred to a larger bench and help was sought from the Union government. On 10 July 2018, a five-member constitutional bench of the SC commenced hearing of the pleas challenging the constitutionality of section 377.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/section-377-partner-can-be-from-the-same-sex-says-justice-chandrachud/article24382220.ece>

Q.39) UMANG app is associated with

- a) Filing RTI online
- b) Access to the pan-India e-Gov services from the Central, State, Local Bodies, and Agencies of government
- c) Tourism
- d) Citizen engagement platform for direct citizen participation in governance

Q.39) Solution (b)

UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) is envisaged to make e-governance 'mobile first'. It is developed by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD).

The UMANG app is a platform designed for Indians with an aim to offer them access to the pan India e-Gov services. It includes the central, state, local bodies, and agencies of government on app, web, SMS, as well as IVR channels.

Key Features

- **Unified Platform:** It brings together all government departments and their services on a single platform to provide better and easier services to citizens.
- **Mobile First Strategy:** It aligns all government services with the mobile first strategy to leverage mobile adoption trends.
- **Integration with Digital India Services:** It provides seamless integration with other Digital India Services like Aadhaar, DigiLocker, and PayGov. Any new such service will automatically be integrated with the platform.
- **Uniform Experience:** It is designed to enable citizens to discover, download, access, and use all government services easily.
- **Secure and Scalable:** It supports Aadhaar-based and other authentication mechanisms for service access. The sensitive profile data is saved in an encrypted format and no one can view this information.

Key Services

- UMANG provides easy access to a plethora of Indian government services ranging from – Healthcare, Finance, Education, Housing, Energy, Agriculture, Transport to even Utility and Employment and Skills.

Key Benefits for Citizens

- **Single-Point Ubiquitous Access:** All government services are available for citizens on a unified platform for easy access through multiple online and offline channels (SMS, email, app, and web).
- **More for Less:** Only a single mobile app needs to be installed instead of each app of each department.
- **Convenience:** Citizens do not even need to install or update the app again to avail government services if more services are added to the platform.
- **Saving of Time and Money:** Citizens can anytime and anywhere avail these services through their mobile phones, desktops, and laptops without any need for visiting the department office and standing in queues.

- Uniform Experience: All the government services including payment-based transactions provide secure and uniform experience.

Source: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/trends/current-affairs-trends/centres-umang-mobile-app-launched-in-tamil-nadu-2666161.html>

Q.40) Consider the following statements about Bitcoin regulations in India

1. It is considered as a commodity derivative
2. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the regulatory body for cryptocurrencies

Select the correct statements

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

Q.40) Solution (d)

RBI said, "The creation, trading or usage of VCs including Bitcoins, as a medium for payment are not authorised by any central bank or monetary authority. No regulatory approvals, registration or authorisation is stated to have been obtained by the entities concerned for carrying on such activities."

Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/business/dealing-in-bitcoins-other-cryptocurrencies-turns-illegal-as-rbi-deadline-ends-today-1878392>

Q.41) Consider the following statements about United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

1. It has 100 members elected for three-year terms through direct and secret ballot.
2. The Council's Membership is based on equitable geographical distribution.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.41) Solution (b)

The Council is made of 47 Member States, which are elected by the majority of members of the General Assembly of the United Nations through direct and secret ballot. The General Assembly takes into account the candidate States' contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments in this regard.

The Council's Membership is based on equitable geographical distribution. Seats are distributed as follows:

- African States: 13 seats
- Asia-Pacific States: 13 seats
- Latin American and Caribbean States: 8 seats
- Western European and other States: 7 seats
- Eastern European States: 6 seats

Members of the Council serve for a period of three years and are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/rhetoric-and-reality-on-the-unhrc-and-human-rights/article24382547.ece>

Q.42) 'Eighth Schedule' in the Constitution of India contains

- a) Provisions as to the Administration of Tribal Areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram
- b) Powers, authority and responsibilities of Panchayats
- c) Provisions as to disqualification on ground of defection
- d) List of recognized languages

Q.42) Solution (d)

The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India lists the official languages of the Republic of India. Per Articles 344(1) and 351 of the Indian Constitution, the eighth schedule includes the recognition of 22 languages.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rajya-sabha-members-can-use-all-22-scheduled-languages/article24382941.ece>

Q.43) 'UN Resolution 2427', which was in news recently, is associated with

- a) Children and armed conflict
- b) International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals
- c) Maintenance of international peace and security
- d) Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Q.43) Solution (a)

The Security Council, acting unanimously, adopted a resolution aimed at further crystalizing the protection of children in armed conflicts, including by combating their recruitment by non-State armed groups and treating formerly recruited children primarily as victims.

Source: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13412.doc.htm>

Q.44) 'Global Innovation Index (GII)' is published by

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) World Intellectual Property Organization
- d) World Trade Organisation

Q.44) Solution (c)

The Global Innovation Index (GII) is an annual ranking of countries by their capacity for, and success in, innovation. It is published by Cornell University, INSEAD, and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-maintains-position-as-top-it-exporter-lags-in-ease-of-doing-business/articleshow/64935501.cms>

Q.45) The 'Horn of Africa' is bordered with which of the following water bodies?

- 1. Red Sea
- 2. Gulf of Guinea
- 3. Gulf of Aden

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)



Q.46) Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2017 was released by

1. NITI Aayog
2. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)
3. World Bank

Select the correct statements

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

Q.46) Solution (d)

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in partnership with the World Bank Group, released the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2017 for implementation by States/UTs.

The BRAP includes 405 recommendations for reforms on regulatory processes, policies, practices and procedures spread across 12 reform areas, that is, labour regulation enablers; contract enforcement; registering property; inspection reform enablers; single window system; land availability and allotment; construction permit enablers; environmental registration enablers; obtaining utility permits; paying taxes; access to information and transparency enablers and sector specific reforms spanning the lifecycle of a typical business.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180491>

Q.47) 'River Krishna' flows through

1. Maharashtra
2. Telangana
3. Andhra Pradesh
4. Telangana

Select the correct code:

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

Q.47) Solution (d)

The Krishna river's source is at Mahabaleswar near the Jor village in the extreme north of Wai Taluka, Satara District, Maharashtra in the west and empties into the Bay of Bengal at Hamasaladeevi (near Koduru) in Andhra Pradesh, on the east coast. It flows through the state of Karnataka before entering Telangana State. The delta of this river is one of the most fertile regions in India and was the home to ancient Satavahana and Ikshvaku Sun Dynasty kings. Vijayawada is the largest city on the River Krishna.

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/teelangana/2018/jul/05/teelangana-krishna-river-management-board-to-amend-working-manual-at-states-request-1838384.html>

Q.48) 'Anti Profiteering Measures' is concerned with

- a) Goods and Service Tax
- b) Operation Clean Money

- c) Financial Action Task Force
- d) International Solar Alliance

Q.48) Solution (a)

GST has an Anti-profiteering clause that allows consumers to complain against companies not passing on the benefits of reduced rates or input tax credit.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/policy-trends/a-look-back-on-anti-profiteering-its-relevance-and-the-need-for-well-defined-norms/articleshow/64743244.cms>

Q.49) Consider the following statements about European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

1. It was founded during the dissolution of the Soviet Union
2. It focuses on Central and Eastern European countries only

Select the correct statements

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

Q.49) Solution (a)

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is an international financial institution founded in 1991. As a multilateral developmental investment bank, the EBRD uses investment as a tool to build market economies. Initially focused on the countries of the former Eastern Bloc it expanded to support development in more than 30 countries from central Europe to central Asia. Similar to other multilateral development banks, the EBRD has members from all over the world (North America, Africa, Asia and Australia, see below), with the biggest shareholder being the United States, but only lends regionally in its countries of operations. Headquartered in London, the EBRD is owned by 65 countries and two EU institutions. Despite its public sector shareholders, it invests in private enterprises, together with commercial partners.

Source: <https://www.ebrd.com/news/2018/india-becomes-ebrds-newest-shareholder.html>

Q.50) Consider the following statements about 'Nilgiri Tahr'

1. It is widely distributed along the Western Ghats from Gujarat to Tamil Nadu
2. It is listed as Critically Endangered in 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.50) Solution (d)

- IUCN Status: Endangered
- The present distribution of the Nilgiri Tahr is limited to approximately 5% of the Western Ghats in southern India, in Kerala and Tamil Nadu in southern India.
- It is found only in high altitudes in India's Western Ghats
- The endangered wild goat could lose approximately 60% of its habitat, starting from the 2030s. (due to Climate change)
- Largest of the 3 Tahr species.
- State animal of Tamil Nadu.
- Threats - habitat loss, overgrazing, illegal hunting

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/climate-change-threatens-the-nilgiri-tahr/article24392414.ece>

Q.51) 'Pulikali' is a recreational folk art from which of the following states?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Odisha
- d) West Bengal

Q.51) Solution (b)

It is a recreational folk art from the state of Kerala. It is performed by trained artists to entertain people on the occasion of Onam, an annual harvest festival.

On the fourth day of Onam celebrations (Nalaam Onam), performers painted like tigers and hunters in bright yellow, red, and black dance to the beats of instruments like Udukku and

Thakil. Literal meaning of Pulikkali is the 'play of the tigers' hence the performance revolve around the theme of tiger hunting.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/endangered-pulikali-needs-a-boost/article24420584.ece>

Q.52) 'Rakhine State' of Myanmar is bordered which of the following states?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Manipur
- c) Mizoram
- d) None of the above

Q.52) Solution (d)

Rakhine is a state in Myanmar. It does not border India.



Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/india-to-help-repatriate-rohingya/article24423639.ece>

Q.53) 'Thiourea' is/can be used in which of the following?

- 1. Insect Growth Regulator
- 2. Antifungal Activity
- 3. Minimise negative effect of salt stress

Select the correct code:

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.53) Solution (d)

Thioureas have versatile application in field of agriculture. These are used as to control the growth of insects, effect plant growth and seed germination, as fungicide and herbicide.

Thiourea is used to minimise bad effects of salt stress. Thiourea is a good redox stabiliser as it scavenges multiple reactive oxygen species including hydrogen peroxide.

It is structurally similar to urea, except that the oxygen atom is replaced by a sulfur atom, but the properties of urea and thiourea differ significantly.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/scientists-decode-how-mustard-plants-tolerate-salt/article24420309.ece>

Q.54) 'TPOXX' was in news recently. It is concerned with

- a) Quantum Computing
- b) Small Pox
- c) Origami 3D Printing
- d) Machine Learning

Q.54) Solution (b)

TPOXX (tecovirimat) is a small-molecule antiviral treatment for smallpox.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/health/fda-okays-first-drug-tpox-to-treat-smallpox-in-case-of-terror-attack-118071400105_1.html

Q.55) Afzal Amanullah Committee was tasked with

- a) Education Policy
- b) Haj Policy
- c) Triple Talaq
- d) Uniform Civil Code

Q.55) Solution (b)

Afzal Amanullah Committee

- To study the ways to improve India's Haj policy and look into the issue of subsidy to the pilgrimage in light of a 2012 Supreme Court order on gradually reducing and abolishing it by 2022.
- A new Haj policy, formulated by a committee headed by former bureaucrat Afzal Amanullah had also suggested that women Hajis be allowed to perform the pilgrimage without male escort, or mehram.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/website-app-to-make-haj-pilgrimage-easier-this-year/article24427765.ece>

Q.56) Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) is an economic cooperation between all the governments of African countries and which of the following countries?

1. India
2. China
3. Japan

Select the correct code:

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

Q.56) Solution (c)

Asia Africa Growth Corridor is a joint initiative of India and Japan. It was launched in May 2017. Its detailed roadmap has been prepared by three agencies viz. Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) New Delhi, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) Jakarta, and Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO) of Tokyo.

The basic endeavour of this project is to rediscover ancient sea routes and creating new sea corridors which link African continent with India and countries of South Asia and South-East Asia. The prime focus of this project is on four areas as follows:

- Development and cooperation projects
- Quality infrastructure and institutional connectivity
- Capacity and skill enhancement
- People-to-people partnerships

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/NHkV318RpGwL49EyicmZHN/Countering-China-in-the-IndoPacific.html>

Q.57) 'Honduras' borders which of the following countries?

1. Mexico
2. Nicaragua
3. Belize
4. El Salvador

Select the correct code:

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

Q.57) Solution (d)

Honduras is bordered to the west by Guatemala, to the southwest by El Salvador, to the southeast by Nicaragua, to the south by the Pacific Ocean at the Gulf of Fonseca, and to the north by the Gulf of Honduras, a large inlet of the Caribbean Sea.



Q.58) 'Operation Basalt' is

- a) A UN Peacekeeping Operation in South Sudan
- b) A military operation in Democratic Republic of Congo by France

- c) A military operation launched by the Syrian Army and its allies against the rebels in South Syria
- d) Defence co-operation agreement associated with Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)

Q.58) Solution (c)

The 2018 Southern Syria offensive, code-named Operation Basalt is a military operation launched by the Syrian Army and its allies against the rebels in South Syria.

The fighting started with a surprise attack on rebel-held areas in the eastern part of the Daraa Governorate in an attempt to fracture rebel-held lines and weaken morale, ahead of their offensive in the greater southern Syria region.

Q.59) Consider the following statements

1. Pir Panjal Range is situated principally in Arunachal Pradesh
2. Nathu La connects Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region
3. Dongkha La is a tri-junction of India-China and Afghanistan border

Select the correct code:

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

Q.59) Solution (d)

Pir Panjal Range is a group of mountains in the Inner Himalayan region, running from east-southeast (ESE) to west-northwest (WNW) across the Indian states of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Nathu La is a mountain pass in the Himalayas in East Sikkim district. It connects the Indian state of Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region. The pass forms a part of an offshoot of the ancient Silk Road.

Dongkha la or Donkia Pass is a high mountain pass in the Himalaya connecting Sikkim in India with Tibet.

Q.60) 'Reciprocal Logistic Support' was in news recently associated with India and which of the following countries/organisations?

- a) United States of America
- b) France
- c) Russia
- d) South Korea

Q.60) Solution (b)

It is a reciprocal logistics support deal between the respective armed forces of India and France to use of each other's military facilities.

The deal will facilitate the French and Indian armed forces to receive logistical support, supplies and services from each other.

Q.61) Consider the following statement about 'Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)'

- 1. It was constituted in the wake of the 9/11 World Trade Centre Attack
- 2. It is under the aegis of Ministry of Civil Aviation
- 3. It lays down Aviation Security Standards in accordance to Chicago Convention of International civil aviation organization (ICAO)

Select the correct code:

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

Q.61) Solution (b)

The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security was initially set up as a Cell in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in January 1978 on the recommendation of the Pande Committee constituted in the wake of the hijacking of the Indian Airlines flight on 10th September, 1976. The role of the Cell was to coordinate, monitor, inspect and train personnel in Civil Aviation Security matters.

The BCAS was reorganized into an independent department on 1st April, 1987 under the Ministry of Civil Aviation as a sequel to the Kanishka Tragedy in June 1985. The main responsibility of BCAS are lay down standards and measures in respect of security of civil flights at International and domestic airports in India.

Functions

- Laying down Aviation Security Standards in accordance with Annex 17 to Chicago Convention of ICAO for airport operators, airlines operators, and their security agencies responsible for implementing AVSEC measures.
- Monitoring the implementation of security rules and regulations and carrying out survey of security needs.
- Ensure that the persons implementing security controls are appropriately trained and possess all competencies required to perform their duties.
- Planning and coordination of Aviation security matters.
- Conducting –
 - Surprise/Dummy checks to test professional efficiency and alertness of security staff.
 - Mock exercise to test efficacy of Contingency Plans and operational preparedness of the various agencies.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/counter-drone-strategy-for-airports-ready/article24445819.ece>

Q.62) Consider the following statements about 'EV30@30 Campaign'

1. It sets a collective aspirational goal to reach 30% sales share for electric vehicles by 2030
2. NITI Aayog has put together this campaign to promote 'FAME India Scheme'

Select the correct statements

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

Q.62) Solution (a)

The EV30@30 Campaign aims to support the market for electric passenger cars, light commercial vans, buses, and trucks (including battery-electric, plug-in hybrid, and fuel cell vehicles), in accordance with each country's respective priorities and programs.

It was launched by the Electric Vehicles Initiative (EVI)

EVI is a multi-government policy forum dedicated to accelerating the introduction and adoption of electric vehicles worldwide.

The EV30@30 Campaign sets a collective aspirational goal to reach 30% sales share for electric vehicles by 2030.

This will also be the benchmark against which progress achieved in all members of the Electric Vehicle Initiative will be measured (e.g. total electric vehicle sales in all EVI countries / total vehicle sales in all EVI countries). It can be met through actions that differ across modes and jurisdictions.

Endorsing governments will show leadership by establishing policies to help this goal become a reality, and will direct their ministries to engage through EVI to report progress and share best practices.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/whkkrznjgZ7O2sAwRUPgcO/EVs-have-the-potential-to-fuel-Indias-growth.html>

Q.63) Consider the following statements about World Customs Organization (WCO)

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation based in Geneva
2. The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System is developed and maintained by the WCO

Select the correct statements

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

Q.63) Solution (b)

The World Customs Organization (WCO) is an intergovernmental organization headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. The WCO is noted for its work in areas covering the development of international conventions, instruments, and tools on topics such as commodity classification, valuation, rules of origin, collection of customs revenue, supply chain security, international trade facilitation, customs enforcement activities, combating counterfeiting in support of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), drugs enforcement, illegal weapons trading, integrity promotion, and delivering sustainable capacity building to assist with customs reforms and modernization. The WCO maintains the international Harmonized System (HS) goods nomenclature, and administers the technical aspects of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements on Customs Valuation and Rules of Origin.

The Harmonized System (HS) nomenclature was developed by the WCO and entered into force on 1 January 1988 through a Convention. Although Article II of the GATT (Schedules of Concessions) does not establish a specific nomenclature to be used by Members in this respect, and despite the fact that other nomenclatures such as the BTN and CCCN were used in the past, the HS has become the de facto standard for Members in this respect. The HS has also been used by WTO Members as a tool to define the products which are covered by certain agreements, the most important of which is probably Annex 1 of the Agreement on Agriculture. This Annex defines, in terms of Chapters, headings and subheadings of the 1992 version of the HS, which are the agricultural products. Therefore, changes in the HS have important legal implications for WTO Members, in particular with respect to their schedules.

The Harmonized System Committee of the WCO undertakes a periodic review of the HS to take account of changes in technology and patterns in international trade, and recommends amendments to the HS.

Read More - https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/coherence/wto_wco_e.htm

<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/about-us/what-is-the-wco.aspx>

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180591>

Q.64) Consider the following statements about Hague Abduction Convention

1. It is a multilateral treaty developed by the UN that provides an expeditious method to return a child internationally abducted by a parent from one member country to another
2. The Convention applies only to children under the age of 16

Select the correct statements

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

Q.64) Solution (b)

Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction or Hague Abduction Convention

- It is a multilateral treaty developed by the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH)

- It provides an expeditious method to return a child internationally abducted by a parent from one member country to another.
- The primary intention of the Convention is to preserve whatever status quo child custody arrangement existed immediately before an alleged wrongful removal or retention thereby deterring a parent from crossing international boundaries in search of a more sympathetic court.
- The Convention applies only to children under the age of 16.
- The Convention does not alter any substantive rights.
- The Convention requires that a court in which a Hague Convention action is filed should not consider the merits of any underlying child custody dispute, but should determine only that country in which those issues should be heard.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1538891>

Q.65) Consider the following statements about Gulf of Aden

1. It is located between Yemen and Somalia
2. Bab-el-Mandeb connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden

Select the correct statements

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

Q.65) Solution (c)

The Bab-el-Mandeb or Mandeb Strait is a strait located between Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula, and Djibouti and Eritrea in the Horn of Africa. It connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.

Gulf of Aden is a gulf located in the Arabian Sea between Yemen, on the south coast of the Arabian Peninsula, and Somalia in the Horn of Africa.



Q.66) Consider the following statements

1. According to National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2015-16 nearly 27% girls were married off before they turned 18.
2. According to the NFHS 2015-16, nearly 8% girls in the 15-19 age group had already become mothers or pregnant.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.66) Solution (c)

Both the statements are correct.

The legal age for marriage in India is 18 for a woman and 21 for a man.

According to a study based on Census 2011, there are 2.3 crore child brides in the country.

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2015-16 also showed that 26.8 per cent women were married off before they turned 18.

According to the NFHS 2015-16, nearly eight per cent girls in the 15-19 age group had already become mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/wcd-ministry-set-to-move-cabinet-to-make-child-marriages-invalid/article24450436.ece>

Q.67) Consider the following statements

- a) A Bail-in occurs when outside investors, rescue a borrower by injecting money to help make debt payments.
- b) A bail-out occurs when the borrower's creditors are forced to bear some of the burden by having a portion of their debt written off.
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Q.67) Solution (d)

A bail-in is the rescue of a financial institution that is on the brink of failure whereby creditors and depositors take a loss on their holdings. A bail-in is the opposite of a bailout, which involves the rescue of a financial institution by external parties, typically governments that use taxpayers money. Bailouts have been far more common than bail-ins. However, in recent years, and following massive bailouts, some governments now require the investors and depositors of a bank to take a loss before taxpayers.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/bail-in-clause-govt-to-drop-frdi-bill-to-calm-depositors/articleshow/65047997.cms>

Q.68) Consider the following statements about Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP)

- 1. It does not distinguish between shallow water fields and deep/ultra-deep water fields
- 2. The producer price of gas is fixed administratively by the Government

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only

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

Q.68) Solution (d)**HELP**

- A concessional royalty regime will be implemented for deep water (5%) and ultra-deep water (2%) areas.
- In shallow water areas, the royalty rates shall be reduced from 10% to 7.5%
- It gives the investors the freedom in pricing and marketing for crude oil and natural gas

How the exploration policies differ		
Parameter	HELP	NELP
Fiscal model	Revenue sharing	Profit sharing
Cost recovery	Not applicable	Yes
Cost efficiency	Encouraged	Neutral
Royalty	Low rates for offshore	Standard rates
Exploration period	On land and shallow water – 7 years Deepwater – 8 years	On land and shallow water – 8 years Deepwater and ultra deepwater – 10 years
Management committee	More focus on reservoir monitoring; no micro management	Technical & financials examination
Revenue to government	On production	After cost recovery, that is, from profit petroleum
Exploration in mining lease areas	Allowed	Not allowed
E&P activity for all hydrocarbons	Allowed	Not allowed

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/cabinet-relaxes-nelp-pre-nelp-pact-rules/article24454109.ece>

Q.69) Global Entry Programme expedites the screening and processing of low-risk, international travellers entering the

- a) European Union
- b) Scandinavia
- c) United States of America
- d) ASEAN

Q.69) Solution (c)

Global Entry is a US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) program that allows speedy clearance for low-risk travellers upon their arrival in the US. On landing at the selected

airports in the United States, the approved applicants can make their way ahead through automatic kiosks instead of standing in the immigration lines.

Global Entry is open to U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents of the U.S., UK citizens, Indian citizens, Swiss citizens, Dutch citizens, South Korean citizens, Panamanian citizens, Singaporean citizens, Colombian citizens, German citizens, Argentinian citizens, and Mexican nationals.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-us-to-enhance-cooperation-in-aviation-security-counter-terror-5265386/>

Q.70) The Cotonou Agreement is a treaty between

- a) European Union and ASEAN
- b) Japan and Russia
- c) MERCOSUR and European Union
- d) None of the above

Q.70) Solution (d)

The Cotonou Agreement is a treaty between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States ("ACP countries").

Economic Partnership Agreements are a scheme to create a free trade area (FTA) between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP). They are a response to continuing criticism that the non-reciprocal and discriminating preferential trade agreements offered by the EU are incompatible with WTO rules. The EPAs date back to the signing of the Cotonou Agreement. The EPAs with the different regions are at different states of play. In 2016, EPAs with three African Regional Economic Communities (East African Community, Economic Community of West African States and Southern African Development Community) were to be signed but faced challenges.

Source: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-4526_en.htm

Q.71) Consider the following statements about 'Madhubani Paintings'

1. It is practised by people in Bihar and is done using twigs, fingers, brushes and even matchsticks.
2. It was given the coveted GI (Geographical Indication) status in 2006

Select the correct statements

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

Q.71) Solution (c)

Madhubani art (or Mithila painting) is practiced in the Mithila region of Bihar in India and Nepal. Painting is done with fingers, twigs, brushes, nib-pens, and matchsticks, using natural dyes and pigments, and is characterised by eye-catching geometrical patterns.

Madhubani painting being accorded the coveted GI (Geographical Indication) status

Madhubani art has five distinctive styles, namely, Bharni, Katchni, Tantrik, godna and kohbar.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-life/trains-to-get-madhubani-makeover/article24466446.ece>

Q.72) Consider the following statements about 'Dhole'

1. High populations of Dholes are found in the Western Ghats and central Indian forests
2. They are listed as 'Least Concern' under the IUCN Red List

Select the correct code:

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

Q.72) Solution (a)

Dholes occur in several regions of India, and India undoubtedly contains the largest numbers of Dholes. Dholes have disappeared from 60% of their historic range in India during the past 100 years. Relatively high populations of Dholes are still found in the Western Ghats and central Indian forests, due to high prey numbers and extent of protected forests, whereas lower numbers of Dholes are found in the Eastern Ghats. Dholes are also found in the north-eastern states, although numbers are low and decreasing in this region due to a decreasing prey base and retaliatory killings from livestock predation. Dholes are found in some areas of Terai region in northern India, although their exact distribution there is unknown. In the

Himalayan region, Dholes were recently reported from Sikkim, and in 2008 near Tso Kar in Ladakh, thus they may occur in other areas of Ladakh as well.

IUCN Status – Endangered

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/wildlife-scientists-satellite-collar-a-dhole/article24464757.ece>

Q.73) “Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan” was launched in which of the following states?

1. Odisha
2. Jharkhand
3. West Bengal

Select the correct code:

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

Q.73) Solution (b)

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is running “Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan” in five main stem Ganga basin states – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180726>

Q.74) The term ‘Frankenfixation’ refers to

- a) Technology to fix carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the soil
- b) Tool used to identify tumours
- c) Use of neem-coated urea
- d) Recapitalisation of Public Sector Banks

Q.74) Solution (a)

‘Frankenfixation’ refers to the use of genetic modification to fix carbon dioxide into the soil.

Q.75) SAFAR System is concerned with

- a) Connecting tier 2 & tier 3 cities through airways
- b) Tourism
- c) Air Quality
- d) Mines Allocation

Q.75) Solution (c)

System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research

- SAFAR was introduced by Union Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) for greater metropolitan cities of India to provide location specific information on air quality in near real time.
- It was developed by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune along with India Meteorological Department (IMD) and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF).
- The main objective of SAFAR project is to increase awareness among general public regarding the air quality.
- The purpose awareness for general public is to take appropriate mitigation measures and systematic action for betterment of air quality and related health issues.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/deciphering-smog/article24437745.ece>

Q.76) Rule of Law Index is released by

- a) International Development Law Organization
- b) World Justice Project
- c) International Bar Association
- d) International Criminal Court

Q.76) Solution (b)

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/up-front/story/20180723-the-risk-from-authoritarian-impulses-1285093-2018-07-15>

Q.77) The term 'Secular Stagnation' was coined by

- a) Angus Deaton

- b) Jean Drèze
- c) Amartya Sen
- d) Alvin Hansen

Q.77) Solution (d)

The secular stagnation theory was originally put forth by Alvin Hansen in 1938 to "describe what he feared was the fate of the American economy following the Great Depression of the early 1930s: a check to economic progress as investment opportunities were stunted by the closing of the frontier and the collapse of immigration".

Secular stagnation refers to "a condition of negligible or no economic growth in a market-based economy". In this context, the term secular is used in contrast to cyclical or short-term, and suggests a change of fundamental dynamics which would play out only in its own time.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/GTCvL2bAOAih8bwHEHO2UI/Trump-may-kill-the-global-recovery.html>

Q.78) Consider the following statements about The Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA)

1. It gives police the right to arrest, without a warrant, anybody violating the Act's provisions
2. Its execution rests entirely on the discretion of the State government

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Q.78) Solution (c)

The Essential Services Maintenance Act (Esma) was enacted in 1968, to (as its name indicates) maintain "certain essential services and the normal life of the community." The Act includes a long list of "essential services" in its charter -- ranging from post and telegraph, through railway, airport and port operations -- and it prohibits the key employees in these services from striking.

But the Act also allows states to choose the essential services on which to enforce Esma. (Jammu and Kashmir, incidentally, is exempt from Esma.)

Esma gives police the right to arrest, without a warrant, anybody violating the Act's provisions.

Although it is a very powerful law, its execution rests entirely on the discretion of the State government. Each state in the union of India, hence has a separate state Essential Services Maintenance Act with slight variations from the central law in its provisions

The Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1968 - <https://indiankanoon.org/doc/902835/>

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/esma-imposed-in-4-himachal-districts-in-view-of-strike-by-employees-of-ambulance-services-118062900040_1.html

Q.79) Teesta River flows through which of the following states?

1. West Bengal
2. Sikkim
3. Assam

Select the correct code:

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

Q.79) Solution (a)

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

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/teesta-water-no-longer-a-hurdle-in-india-bangladesh-ties-says-sheikh-hasinas-advisor/article24361818.ece>

Q.80) Test and Treat Policy is associated with which of the following diseases?

- a) HIVAIDS

- b) Tuberculosis
- c) Leprosy
- d) Malaria and Dengue

Q.80) Solution (a)

Health Ministry launched 'Test and Treat Policy for HIV'.

Anybody who is tested and found positive will get ART irrespective of CD count or clinical stage.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/maharashtra-as-part-of-test-and-treat-policy-23000-more-hiv-persons-put-on-antiretroviral-therapy-5225001/>

Q.81) Consider the following statements about Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)

1. It is the partner of BirdLife International in India.
2. It is selected as an ENVIS Centre for avian ecology and inland wetlands.

Select the correct statement

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

Q.81) Solution (c)

BNHS is a pan-India wildlife research organization, has been promoting the cause of nature conservation for the past 133 years, since 1883.

BNHS ENVIS Centre on Avian Ecology is established under Environmental Information System (ENVIS) programme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests Govt. of India in the area of Avian Ecology.

The focus of ENVIS since its inception has been on providing environmental information to decision makers, policy planners, scientists and engineers, research workers, etc. all over the country. Since environment is a broad-ranging, multi-disciplinary subject, a comprehensive information system on environment would necessarily involve effective participation of concerned institutions/ organizations in the country that are actively engaged in work relating to different subject areas of environment. ENVIS has, therefore,

developed itself with a network of such participating institutions/organizations for the programme to be meaningful.

The Focal Point of the present 76 ENVIS centres in India is at the Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi. This ENVIS Focal Point is acting as a regional service centre to INFOTERRA (International Information System on Environment) set up by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to cater to environmental information needs in the South Asian Region, since 1985. As mentioned earlier, the Centre at the BNHS has been assigned the responsibility of being the focal point for information on 'Avian Ecology'.

BNHS is the partner of BirdLife International in India. It has been designated as a 'Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation' by the Department of Science and Technology.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/turn-on-the-lights-and-study-the-national-moth-week-is-here/article24485011.ece>

Q.82) Consider the following statements about 'Pinjore Gardens'

1. It is an example of the Mughal Gardens architectural style
2. It came under the territory ruled by the Maharajas of Patiala before independence

Select the correct code:

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

Q.82) Solution (c)

Yadavindra Gardens, formerly Pinjore Gardens, is a historic 17th century garden located in Pinjore city of Panchkula district of Haryana. It is an example of the Mughal Gardens architectural style, which was renovated by the Patiala Dynasty Jat Sikh Rulers.

It came under the territory ruled by the Maharaja of Patiala during the 19th century British Raj, who used the garden terraces to grow roses for making Ittar perfume for the maharaja. The Maharaja Yadavindra Singh (1914-74) of the princely state of Patiala restored the garden to its former splendour.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/columns/an-evening-in-pinjore-gardens/article24484332.ece>

Q.83) Consider the following statements about 'Green fluorescent protein (GPF)'

1. It traditionally refers to the protein first isolated from the jellyfish
2. 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded for discovery and development of the green fluorescent protein

Select the correct statements

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

Q.83) Solution (a)

The green fluorescent protein (GFP) is a protein composed of 238 amino acid residues that exhibits bright green fluorescence when exposed to light in the blue to ultraviolet range. Although many other marine organisms have similar green fluorescent proteins, GFP traditionally refers to the protein first isolated from the jellyfish *Aequorea victoria*.

Scientists Roger Y. Tsien, Osamu Shimomura, and Martin Chalfie were awarded the 2008 Nobel Prize in Chemistry on 10 October 2008 for their discovery and development of the green fluorescent protein.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/mouse-brain-allows-neuronal-patchwork-to-succeed/article24483394.ece>

Q.84) Consider the following statements about 'Cortisol'

1. It is called as "stress hormone" because of its connection to the stress response
2. It is made within the pituitary gland

Select the correct statements

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

Q.84) Solution (a)

Cortisol is often called the "stress hormone" because of its connection to the stress response, however, cortisol is much more than just a hormone released during stress.

Understanding cortisol and its affect on the body will help you balance your hormones and achieve good health.

Cortisol is one of the steroid hormones and is made in the adrenal glands. Most cells within the body have cortisol receptors. Secretion of the hormone is controlled by the hypothalamus, the pituitary gland, and the adrenal gland, a combination glands often referred to as the HPA axis.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/a-patch-to-measure-cortisol/article24484795.ece>

Q.85) Consider the following statements about Voltage fade

1. It reduces the energy density of a battery
2. Lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries are immune from voltage fade

Select the correct statements

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

Q.85) Solution (a)

Voltage Fade is the bane of batteries, including phone batteries, and is said to be a key reason for lowering their performance. Voltage fade reduces the energy density of a battery which in turn limits the practical applications of these materials despite their high energy density in the initial charge-discharge cycles. Voltage fade is of concern now as it affects a promising class of cathode materials called Lithium-rich NMC (nickel magnesium cobalt) layered oxides. These cathode materials have drawn attention to their potential as components for better rechargeable batteries for electric vehicles.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/demystifying-science-july-22-2018/article24484659.ece>

Q.86) Consider the following statements about 'Parker Solar Probe Mission'

1. It is a joint mission by NASA and Space X
2. It will trace the flow of energy that heats and accelerates the solar corona and solar wind

3. It is launched by Falcon Heavy

Select the correct statements

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

Q.86) Solution (b)

PARKER SOLAR PROBE

A NASA Mission to Touch the Sun

Launch Window: July 31 – August 19, 2018

NASA's Parker Solar Probe mission, which is scheduled to launch in July 2018, will come within 3.9 million miles (6.2 million kilometers) of the sun – seven times closer than any other spacecraft ever has.

The specially shielded Parker Solar Probe will have to endure temperatures up to 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit (1,370 degrees Celsius) and solar radiation intensities 475 times higher than we're used to here on Earth.

SCIENCE OBJECTIVES

- Trace the flow of energy that heats and accelerates the solar corona and solar wind.
- Determine the structure and dynamics of the plasma and magnetic fields at the sources of the solar wind.
- Explore mechanisms that accelerate and transport energetic particles.

THE CORONA

The third layer of the sun's atmosphere is the corona. It can only be seen during a total solar eclipse. It appears as white streamers or plumes of ionized gas that flow outward into space. Temperatures in the sun's corona can get as high as 3.5 million degrees Fahrenheit (2 million degrees Celsius). As the gases cool, they become the solar wind.

TRAJECTORY DESIGN

• 24 Orbits
• 7 Venus gravity assist flybys

SPACECRAFT

Anti-Ram Facing View

Ram Facing View

Primary Science (11 days)

PERIHELION
35Rs–9.5Rs

Cruise/Downlink (158-77 days)

APHELION
1.02AU–0.73AU
(45° slew 1.02AU to 0.82AU)

SPACE

Credit: NASA

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/nasa-to-launch-probe-into-suns-scorching-atmosphere/article24483909.ece>

Q.87) 'Project Loon' was recently in news. It is related to

- a) Waste management technology
- b) Solar power production technology
- c) Water conservation technology
- d) Wireless communication technology

Q.87) Solution (d)

Project Loon is a research and development project developed by X (formerly Google X) with the mission of providing Internet access to rural and remote areas. The project uses high-altitude balloons placed in the stratosphere at an altitude of about 18 km (11 mi) to create an aerial wireless network with up to 4G-LTE speeds.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-kenya-alphabet/alphabet-to-deploy-balloon-internet-in-kenya-with-telkom-in-2019-idUSKBN1K90SV>

Q.88) Consider the following statements

1. India has a military base in Djibouti
2. Djibouti is a landlocked country enclosed by Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia

Select the correct statements

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

Q.88) Solution (d)

It is bordered by Eritrea in the north, Ethiopia in the west and south, and Somalia in the southeast. The remainder of the border is formed by the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden at the east.

China has a military base in Djibouti, not India.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/xi-visits-africa-as-china-seeks-to-deepen-economic-relations/article24484126.ece>

Q.89) Consider the following statements about 'Hamas'

1. It is a secular organisation which recognises Israel and wants to build a state on 1967 borders
2. It was formed in the wake of Arab Spring, 2010.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.89) Solution (d)

Hamas

- It was formed in 1987
- **Ideology:** Islamist
- **Strategy towards Israel:** Armed resistance
- **Objectives:** Does not recognise Israel, but accepts a Palestinian state on 1967 borders

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/hamas-announce-ceasefire-in-gaza/article24483826.ece>

Q.90) Which of the following was known in ancient times as 'Constantinople'?

- a) Jordan
- b) Libya
- c) Istanbul
- d) Egypt

Q.90) Solution (c)

It has been referred to by many names in its history, most notably Byzantium, Constantinople, and now Istanbul. After the creation of the Republic of Turkey in 1923, the various alternative names besides Istanbul became obsolete.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/istanbul-one-city-many-cultures/article24274825.ece>

Q.91) 'FDI Confidence Index' is published by

- a) Boston Consulting Group
- b) AT Kearney
- c) McKinsey
- d) Goldman Sachs

Q.91) Solution (b)

It is compiled by AT Kearney, an American global management consulting firm. India was ranked 11th in 2018 index.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/india-drops-three-ranks-in-at-kearney-fdi-confidence-index/article24497785.ece>

Q.92) Consider the following statements about 'Pangolins'

- 1. Their bodies are covered in hard, keratin scales.
- 2. They are now extinct in India
- 3. They are nocturnal in nature

Select the correct statements

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

Q.92) Solution (c)

Pangolins have large, protective keratin scales covering their skin; they are the only known mammals with this feature. They live in hollow trees or burrows, depending on the species. Pangolins are nocturnal, and their diet consists of mainly ants and termites, which they capture using their long tongues.

Indian Pangolin is native to India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/odisha-police-launches-drive-to-bust-pangolin-smuggling-racket-118072200230_1.html

Q.93) Consider the following statements about Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

1. It is an intergovernmental initiative aimed at providing anyone, anywhere, open access to data about all types of life on Earth.
2. India is a voting participant in the GBIF

Select the correct statements

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

Q.93) Solution (a)

GBIF is an intergovernmental initiative, and its members—formally known as ‘Participants’—consist of countries, economies and international organizations collaborating to advance free and open access to biodiversity data.

India is not a voting participant, but an associate country participant. -

<https://www.gbif.org/the-gbif-network>

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/gaps-in-indias-digital-accessible-information-on-bird-occurrence/article24483263.ece>

Q.94) ‘K9 VAJRA-T’, which was recently in news is a

- a) Reusable Launch Vehicle
- b) Artillery Gun from South Korea
- c) Newly Commissioned Frigate by Indian Navy
- d) Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile

Q.94) Solution (b)

It is 155mm/52 calibre self-propelled artillery gun system which is developed by Larsen and Toubro (L&T) Defence & Aerospace division and a South Korea based Defence Company.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/army-to-get-artillery-guns-from-september/article24488972.ece>

Q.95) 'Laos' borders with which of the following countries?

1. Myanmar
2. Thailand
3. Cambodia
4. China

Select the correct statements

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

Q.95) Solution (c)



Q.96) Consider the following statements about 'Privilege Motion'

1. It is a notice moved in the form of a motion against those being held guilty of breach of privilege by a Minister Only
2. It can be moved in Lok Sabha Only

Select the correct statements

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

Q.96) Solution (d)

What is a privilege motion? Who can move it? How?

- Parliamentary privileges are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by members of Parliament, individually and collectively, so that they can “effectively discharge their functions”.
- When any of these rights and immunities are disregarded, the offence is called a breach of privilege and is punishable under law of Parliament.
- A notice is moved in the form of a motion by any member of either House against those being held guilty of breach of privilege.
- Each House also claims the right to punish as contempt actions which, while not breach of any specific privilege, are offences against its authority and dignity.

What are the rules governing privilege?

- Rule No 222 in Chapter 20 of the Lok Sabha Rule Book and correspondingly Rule 187 in Chapter 16 of the Rajya Sabha rulebook governs privilege.
- It says that a member may, with the consent of the Speaker or the Chairperson, raise a question involving a breach of privilege either of a member or of the House or of a committee thereof.
- The rules however mandate that any notice should be relating to an incident of recent occurrence and should need the intervention of the House. Notices have to be given before 10 am to the Speaker or the Chairperson.

What is the role of the Speaker/Rajya Sabha Chair?

- The Speaker/RS chairperson is the first level of scrutiny of a privilege motion.
- The Speaker/Chair can decide on the privilege motion himself or herself or refer it to the privileges committee of Parliament. If the Speaker/Chair gives consent under Rule 222, the member concerned is given an opportunity to make a short statement.

What is the privileges committee?

- In the Lok Sabha, the Speaker nominates a committee of privileges consisting of 15 members as per respective party strengths.
- A report is then presented to the House for its consideration. The Speaker may permit a half-hour debate while considering the report.
- The Speaker may then pass final orders or direct that the report be tabled before the House. A resolution may then be moved relating to the breach of privilege that has to be unanimously passed.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/congress-privilege-motion-under-speaker-sumitra-mahajans-lens/articleshow/65142094.cms>

Q.97) 'National Achievement Survey (NAS)' is conducted by

- a) NCERT
- b) Pratham NGO
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) None of the above

Q.97) Solution (a)

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181119>

Q.98) Consider the following statements about 'Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme'

1. It is under the aegis of Ministry of Women and Child Development
2. It is aimed at empowering rural women through community participation

Select the correct statements

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

Q.98) Solution (c)

Mahila Shakti Kendra to empower rural women through community participation. The scheme is envisaged to work at various levels, and at the National level (domain based knowledge support) and State level (State Resource Centre for Women) technical support to the respective governments on issues related to women is provided.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/govt-approves-new-scheme-to-empower-rural-women/articleshow/65153291.cms>

Q.99) Consider the following statements about 'Banka Unnayan programme'

1. It is an interactive online and offline study method
2. The Banka Unnayan experiment is replicated in schools across as many villages in the country under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)

Select the correct code:

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

Q.99) Solution (c)

The Banka Unnayan experiment of offline and online education through interactive concept videos, real-time doubt-clearing, examination and digital report card generation will be implemented for classes IX to XII in about 5,000 schools across as many villages in the country under Central government's flagship scheme, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA).

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/banka-unnayan-among-three-finalists-in-commonwealth-awards-in-innovation-category-5276444/>

Q.100) ATMA Scheme is concerned with

- a) Agriculture
- b) Textiles
- c) Primary Education
- d) Rescuing Missing Children

Q.100) Solution (a)

What is ATMA?

- In order to address the key constraints faced by extension system in the country with respect to reducing capacity of public extension services, its lack of decentralized and demand driven focus, the Innovations in Technology Dissemination component of National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) was implemented in seven States

in the country namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Maharashtra and Punjab through four project districts in each State.

- This component aimed at pilot testing new institutional arrangements for technology dissemination at district level and below in order to move towards an integrated extension delivery.
- The project process involved adopting bottom up planning procedures for setting the research and extension agency in order to make the technology dissemination farmer driven and farmer accountable.
- The extension delivery was oriented towards group approach catering to the location specific requirement of the farmers.
- Gender concerns have been given adequate emphasis under the project. It functions as a registered society at District level and serves as a focal point for integrating research and extension activities and helps in decentralizing the management of agricultural technology transfer.

The objectives of ATMA are

- To strengthen research – extension – farmer linkages
- To provide an effective mechanism for co-ordination and management of activities of different agencies involved in technology adaption / validation and dissemination at the district level and below.
- To increase the quality and type of technologies being disseminated.
- To move towards shared ownership of the agricultural technology system by key shareholders.
- To develop new partnerships with the private institutions including NGOs.

Salient Features of ATMA:

- Creating Farmer Advisory Committee to improve feedback.
- Using NGOs to organize farmers.
- Encouraging private sector involvement in technology transfer.
- Validation and refining technologies through research units in the district.
- Bottom up planning procedure.
- Increased use of Information Technology
- In-service training to increase staff competence.
- Developing new Public-Private partnerships.
- Formation and strengthening of farmer's interest group

Q.101) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Lunar Eclipse'

1. During a lunar eclipse, the Earth comes between the Sun and the Moon

2. The moon appears to be red, because the light which makes its way around the earth is of higher wavelengths

Select the correct statements

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

Q.101) Solution (c)

Sunlight is made of different colours, from violet and blue (low wavelength) to red and orange (high wavelength). When sunlight enters the Earth's atmosphere, these colours get scattered in different directions. During a lunar eclipse, the Earth comes between the Sun and the Moon, which means that it blocks light from getting between them. Any sunlight that does reach the Moon, therefore, has to make its way around the Earth. The light that manages to do so is that with the higher wavelengths, towards the red end of the spectrum. When this light hits the surface of the Moon, it gives it the reddish-orange glow that characterise a total lunar eclipse.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/this-word-means-blood-moon-lunar-eclipse-5282170/>

Q.102) Consider the following statements about 'Robert Bruce Foote'

1. He is called as "Father of Indian Prehistory"
2. Belum Caves, which is believed to be occupied by Jain and Buddhist monks' centuries ago, were discovered by him in 1884

Select the correct statements

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

Q.102) Solution (c)

Both the statements are correct.

Read More –

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Bruce_Foote
- <https://www.livemint.com/Sundayapp/BylFK4qyhE0Pw0P8VzkpgJ/Robert-Bruce-Foote-The-father-of-Indias-prehistory.html>

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/kolkata-museum-celebrates-early-tool-makers-of-tn-ap/article24542282.ece>

Q.103) Consider the following statements about 'Minke Whale'

1. It is found only in North Atlantic Ocean
2. It is listed as 'Critically Endangered' by IUCN

Select the correct statements

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

Q.103) Solution (d)

The Common Minke Whale is a cosmopolitan species found in all oceans and in virtually all latitudes, from 65°S to 80°N. In parts of its range it is very abundant, in other parts much less so. Its migration patterns are poorly known. It occurs in the North Atlantic, the North Pacific, and the Southern Hemisphere, but is not known from the northern Indian Ocean.

IUCN Status – Least Concern

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/minke-whale-hunting-ends-in-iceland-as-industry-shuts/article24542253.ece>

Q.104) 'Eusociality' is observed in

1. Ants
2. Bees
3. Termites
4. Wasps

Select the correct statements

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

- d) All of the above

Q.104) Solution (d)

It is the highest level of organization of animal sociality, is defined by the following characteristics: cooperative brood care (including care of offspring from other individuals), overlapping generations within a colony of adults, and a division of labour into reproductive and non-reproductive groups. The division of labour creates specialized behavioural groups within an animal society which are sometimes called castes. Eusociality is distinguished from all other social systems because individuals of at least one caste usually lose the ability to perform at least one behaviour characteristic of individuals in another caste.

Eusociality exists in certain insects, crustaceans and mammals. It is mostly observed and studied in the Hymenoptera (ants, bees, and wasps) and in the termites.

Source: <https://www.pressreader.com/india/the-hindu/20180729/282166471984181>

Q.105) The term, 'CRISPR-Cas9' is often in news. What is 'Cas9'?

- a) Antibody
- b) Enzyme
- c) Gene
- d) Antigen

Q.105) Solution (b)

Cas9 is an enzyme that can edit DNA allowing the alteration of genetic patterns through genome modification. CRISPR (clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats) is a collection of DNA sequences that lets scientists to selectively edit genome parts and replace them with new DNA stretches.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/how-safe-is-crispr/article24542728.ece>

Q.106) Consider the following statements about 'National Register of Citizens (NRC)'

1. It is being updated to weed out illegal immigration from Bangladesh and neighbouring regions
2. It is the list of Indian citizens of all the North Eastern States

Select the correct statements

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

Q.106) Solution (a)**What is the NRC?**

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is the list of Indian citizens of Assam. It was prepared in 1951, following the census of 1951. For a person's name to be included in the updated NRC list of 2018, he/ she will have to furnish:

- Existence of name in the legacy data: The legacy data is the collective list of the NRC data of 1951 and the electoral rolls up to midnight of 24 March 1971.
- Proving linkage with the person whose name appears in the legacy data.

How did NRC verification begin in Assam?

- The process of NRC update was taken up in Assam as per a Supreme Court order in 2013.
- In order to wean out cases of illegal migration from Bangladesh and other adjoining areas, NRC updation was carried out under The Citizenship Act, 1955, and according to rules framed in the Assam Accord.

Who all have been left out?

- Out of the 40.07 lakh applicants who have been left out of the final draft NRC, 2.48 lakh applicants have been kept on hold including the D-Voters (doubtful voters who have been disenfranchised on account of failure to prove citizenship), descendants of D-voters and persons whose cases are pending before the foreigners tribunal. The state however, has not revealed the reason for keeping others on hold.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/over-40-lakh-people-left-out-in-new-draft-nrc/article24550576.ece>

Q.107) Consider the following statements about 'International Seabed Authority'

1. It is an autonomous international organization established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
2. It has its headquarters in Kingston, Jamaica

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only

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

Q.107) Solution (c)

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is an intergovernmental body based in Kingston, Jamaica, that was established to organize, regulate and control all mineral-related activities in the international seabed area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, an area underlying most of the world's oceans. It is an organization established by the Law of the Sea Convention.

The Authority, which has its headquarters in Kingston, Jamaica, came into existence on 16 November 1994, upon the entry into force of the 1982 Convention. The Authority became fully operational as an autonomous international organization in June 1996, when it took over the premises and facilities in Kingston, Jamaica previously used by the United Nations Kingston Office for the Law of the Sea.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/govt-plans-isro-like-ocean-mission/article24547834.ece>

Q.108) 'e-participation index (EPI)' is released by

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) United Nations
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) International Monetary Fund

Q.108) Solution (b)

The e-participation index (EPI) is derived as a supplementary index to the UN E-Government Survey. It extends the dimension of the Survey by focusing on the use of online services to facilitate provision of information by governments to citizens ("e-information sharing"), interaction with stakeholders ("e-consultation"), and engagement in decision-making processes ("e-decision making").

India moved up 12 places in the E-Participation Index, from 27 in 2016 to 15 in 2018

THINK!

- United Nation's E-Government Development Index

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/columns/government-mukt-governance/article24542415.ece>

Q.109) 'India Stack' is concerned with

- a) Defence Manufacturing
- b) Industrial corridors
- c) National Waterways
- d) Application programming interface

Q.109) Solution (d)

IndiaStack is a set of APIs that allows governments, businesses, startups and developers to utilise a unique digital Infrastructure to solve India's hard problems towards presence-less, paperless and cashless service delivery.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/columns/government-mukt-governance/article24542415.ece>

Q.110) Consider the following statements about 'Madhuca longifolia'

- 1. It is used to produce local alcoholic drink
- 2. It found largely in the central and north Indian plains and forests

Select the correct statements

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

Q.110) Solution (c)

Mahua longifolia is an Indian tropical tree found largely in the central and north Indian plains and forests. It is commonly known as mahuwa, mahua, mahwa, mohulo, or Iluppai or vippa chettu. It is a fast-growing tree that grows to approximately 20 meters in height, possesses evergreen or semi-evergreen foliage, and belongs to the family Sapotaceae. It is adaptable to arid environments, being a prominent tree in tropical mixed deciduous forests in India in the states of West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Gujarat, Odisha and Tamil Nadu.

The mahua flower is edible and is a food item for tribals. They are used to make syrup for medicinal purposes.

They are also fermented to produce the alcoholic drink mahua, a country liquor. Tribals of Bastar in Chhattisgarh and peoples of Orissa, Santhals of Santhal Paraganas (Jharkhand), Koya tribals of North-East Andhra Pradesh and tribals of North Maharashtra consider the tree and the mahua drink as part of their cultural heritage. Mahua is an essential drink for tribal men and women during celebrations. The main ingredients used for making it are chhowa gud (granular molasses) and dried mahua flowers.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/govt-mulls-selling-mahua-in-bottles-118072900452_1.html