

**Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Himalayan Griffon'**

1. It is an Old World vulture in the family Accipitridae
2. It is extinct in India

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

The Himalayan vulture or Himalayan griffon vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*) is an Old World vulture in the family Accipitridae. Closely related to the European griffon vulture (*G. fulvus*) and once considered a subspecies of it, this species is found along the Himalayas and the adjoining Tibetan Plateau. It is one of the two largest Old World vultures and true raptors.

It was recently spotted in Telangana.

**Geographical Distribution**

**Extant (resident)**

- Afghanistan; Bhutan; China; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Mongolia; Nepal; Pakistan; Tajikistan; Uzbekistan

**Extant (non-breeding)**

- Bangladesh; Malaysia; Myanmar; Thailand

**Extant**

- India

**IUCN – Near Threatened**

**Q.2) 'Shailesh Nayak Committee' is concerned with**

- a) Coastal Zone Regulations
- b) Rate Hole Mining
- c) Merchandise Exports from India
- d) Non-Performing Assets

**Q.2) Solution (a)**

The Sailesh Nayak committee report was commissioned in June 2014 after states expressed dissatisfaction regarding the limitations set by the CRZ notification of 2011. The report was submitted in January 2015 after rounds of stakeholder meetings with representatives from coastal states.

The committee, which was headed by the former secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, recommended several relaxations in the terms set by the 2011 notification. It also endorsed dilution of regulatory powers held by the central government in coastal areas. The recommendations have been put forth with the objective of giving a boost to tourism, port construction and real estate.

**Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to [‘K2-236b’](#)**

1. It has a mass of about 27 Earth Mass and size of 6 Earth Radii
2. It was discovered by India

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

A Team of scientists and engineers led by Prof. Abhijit Chakraborty of Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, discovered a sub-Saturn or super-neptune size planet (mass of about 27 Earth Mass and size of 6 Earth Radii) around a Sun-like star. The planet will be known as EPIC 211945201b or K2-236b. With this discovery, India has joined a handful of countries, which have discovered planets around stars beyond our solar system. Further, PARAS is the first of its kind spectrograph in Asia, which can measure the mass of a planet going around a star. Very few spectrographs exist around the world that can do such precise measurements.

PRL Advanced Radial-velocity All-sky Search, abbreviated PARAS, is a ground-based extrasolar planet search device. Based at 1.2m telescope is located at Mt. Abu, India. The project is funded by Physical Research Laboratory, India. The spectrograph works at a

resolution of 67000. With the help of simultaneous calibration technique, PARAS has achieved an RV accuracy of 1.3 m/s for the bright sun like quiet stars. Thorium-Argon lamp is used for calibration. New calibration techniques are also being explored by the project team. PARAS can detect planet in the habitable zone around M-type stars.

**Q.4) 'Clearing-House Mechanism' is associated with**

- a) Convention on Biological Diversity
- b) CITES
- c) International Solar Alliance
- d) Brasilia Declaration

**Q.4) Solution (a)**

The Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) of the Convention on Biological Diversity has been established further to Article 18.3 of the Convention.

Expertise in managing information and technology varies enormously from country to country. For this reason, the Convention on Biological Diversity has established a "Clearing-House Mechanism" (CHM) to ensure that all governments have access to the information and technologies they need for their work on biodiversity.

The term "clearing-house" originally referred to a financial establishment where checks and bills were exchanged among member banks so that only the net balances need to be settled in cash. Today, its meaning has been extended to include any agency that brings together seekers and providers of goods, services or information, thus matching demand with supply.

**A Clearing-House Mechanism serves to:**

- Promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation within and between countries;
- Develop a global mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on biodiversity; and
- Develop a human and technological network.

**The mechanism's key characteristics are:**

- Compatibility with different levels of national capacity
- Needs-driven
- Structurally decentralized
- Provides access to information

- Supports decision-making
- Has no vested interest in controlling the expertise or information
- Created for the mutual benefit of all participants

India has submitted its Sixth National Report (NR6) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). India is among the first five countries in the world, the first in Asia and the first among the biodiversity rich megadiverse countries to have submitted NR6 to the CBD Secretariat.

Submission of national reports is a mandatory obligation on Parties to international treaties, including CBD.

The NR6 provides an update of progress in achievement of 12 National Biodiversity Targets (NBT) developed under the Convention process in line with the 20 global Aichi biodiversity targets. Briefly, the Report highlights that while India has exceeded/overachieved two NBTs, it is on track to achieve eight NBTs and in respect of the remaining two NBTs also, India is striving to meet the targets by the stipulated time of 2020.

### **Q.5) Consider the following terms**

1. ENCORE-18
2. XPL-18
3. SHIKSHA-18

### **It is associated with**

- a) Medicines developed by AYUSH
- b) GM Crops developed by Punjab University
- c) Missiles developed by DRDO
- d) None of the above

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

In order to remain combat ready at all the time IN conducted Command level operational exercises ENCORE-18 (Eastern Naval Command), XPL-18 (Western Naval Command) and SHIKSHA-18 (Operational level war gaming exercise). These exercises also saw participation from the Army, Air Force and Coast Guard. The exercises facilitate refining of IN war plans, address Op Logistics issues and provide platform for smooth transition from peace to conflict.

**Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Equatorial Electrojet'**

1. It is a naturally occurring flow of current approximately 100 kilometers above the Earth's surface.
2. The westward movement of the electrons constitutes an eastward electric current which is called the Equatorial Electrojet.

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

In the dayside ionosphere, the neutral winds set up a polarization electric field which usually points into the eastward direction. At the magnetic dip equator, where the magnetic field is exactly horizontal, this electric field has an interesting effect: The resulting upward  $E \times B$  drift of the electrons generates a negative charge at the top and a positive charge at the bottom of the ionospheric E-region (about 90 to 130 km altitude). The resulting electric field prevents the further upward drift of electrons. Instead, they are now propelled westward by the eastward electric field. This westward movement of the electrons constitutes an eastward electric current which is called the Equatorial Electrojet. The motion of the ions is largely inhibited at this altitude, due to their collisions with the neutral gas.

A new study shows it amplifies the effects of space weather near the equator, putting power grids at risk in regions previously thought to be less prone to space weather than high-latitude regions.

It runs directly above the magnetic equator, affecting worldwide radio communication.

**Source (IMPORTANT):** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/on-the-cosmic-ray-trail-in-tirunelveli/article25858219.ece>

**Q.7) 'SRPHi' was launched by**

- a) RBI
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) CIPAM
- d) AISHE

## Q.7) Solution (a)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will capture payment habits of individuals in six cities, including four metropolitan towns.

For the purpose, the central bank has launched a 'Survey on Retail Payment Habits of Individuals (SRPHI)'.

The survey will cover a sample of 6,000 individuals from various socio-economic backgrounds across six cities -- Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru and Guwahati.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Industry/QEnxJa1DZ8TPzMigM31fWI/RBI-launches-survey-to-capture-retail-payment-habits-in-6-ci.html>

## Q.8) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. [Masala Bonds](#) are rupee-denominated borrowings issued by Indian entities in overseas markets.
2. A Panda bond is a Chinese renminbi-denominated bond from a non-Chinese issuer, sold in the People's Republic of China.

Select the correct code:

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

## Q.8) Solution (c)

Masala bonds are bonds issued outside India but denominated in Indian Rupees, rather than the local currency.

A Panda bond is a Chinese renminbi-denominated bond from a non-Chinese issuer, sold in the People's Republic of China. The first two Panda bonds were issued in October 2005 on the same day by the International Finance Corporation and the Asian Development Bank.

Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/pakistan-cabinet-approves-issuance-of-panda-bonds-in-chinese-currency-118122800361\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/pakistan-cabinet-approves-issuance-of-panda-bonds-in-chinese-currency-118122800361_1.html)

Q.9) Government announces [minimum support prices \(MSPs\)](#) for

1. Copra
2. Groundnut
3. Jute
4. Wheat

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.9) Solution (d)**

Read More - <http://vikaspedia.in/agriculture/market-information/minimum-support-price>

**Q.10) With reference to India's decision to [levy an equalization tax](#) of 6% on online advertisement services offered by non – resident entities, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. It is introduced as a part of the Income Tax Act.
2. Non-resident entities that offer advertisement services in India can claim a tax credit in their home country under the "Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements."

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Q.10) Solution (d)**

Both the statements are wrong.

Instead of a straight tax on digital advertising platforms, the government has come up with what it calls an "equalisation levy" of 6% on the fees that advertisers pay.

The 'equalisation' happens because the government is supposedly levelling the playing field and making companies such as Google and Facebook pay for the money they make from local advertisers.



**Q.11) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Rastriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram Scheme'**

1. It aims to develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation building activities.
2. It is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.11) Solution (c)**



The Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram Scheme is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and has been continuing since 12th Five Year Plan. The Scheme aims to develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation building activities.

During 12th FYP period, in rationalization exercise undertaken in consultation with Ministry of Finance and NITI Aayog, the eight schemes were brought under the umbrella scheme of Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram as sub-schemes. This has helped in achieving better synergies between the Schemes and thereby, improves their effectiveness and help in achieving better outcomes with the available resources. The Scheme beneficiaries are the youth in the age-group of 15-29 years, in line with the definition of 'youth' in the National Youth Policy, 2014. In case of programme components specifically meant for the adolescents, the age-group is 10-19 years.

Following are eight sub-schemes under Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram:

- Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan(NYKS);
- National Youth Corps (NYC);
- National Programme for Youth & Adolescent Development (NPYAD);
- International Cooperation;
- Youth Hostels (YH);
- Assistance to Scouting & Guiding Organizations;
- National Discipline Scheme (NDS); and
- National Young Leaders Programme (NYLP).

**Q.12) Consider the following statements with respect to “Green – Ag: Transforming Indian Agriculture for global environment benefits and the conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes”**

1. It is assisted by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)
2. It is launched in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.12) Solution (c)**

The government has launched a Global Environment Facility (GEF) assisted project namely, “Green – Ag: Transforming Indian Agriculture for global environment benefits and the conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes” in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) during September, 2018 in high-conservation-value landscapes of five States namely (i) Madhya Pradesh : Chambal Landscape, (ii) Mizoram: Dampa Landscape, (iii) Odisha: Similipal Landscape, (iv) Rajasthan: Desert National Park Landscape and v) Uttarakhand: Corbett-Rajaji Landscape.

The project seeks to mainstream biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management objectives and practices into Indian agriculture.

The overall objective of the project is to catalyze transformative change of India's agricultural sector to support achievement of national and global environmental benefits and conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes.

The project will support harmonization between India's agricultural and environmental sector priorities and investments so that the achievement of national and global environmental benefits can be fully realized without compromising India's ability to strengthen rural livelihoods and meet its food and nutrition security.

**Q.13) ‘World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report’ is published by**

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) World Trade Organisation
- d) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

**Q.13) Solution (d)**

The report is a joint product of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the five United Nations regional commissions (Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)).

**Q.14) Consider the following statements with respect to [‘FATCA’](#)**

1. It is aimed at ensuring that US persons with financial assets outside of the USA pay USA tax
2. India has entered into information sharing agreement with the USA under FATCA

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

FATCA is an acronym for the United States Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act. FATCA is aimed at ensuring that US persons with financial assets outside of the US pay US tax. The new rules require foreign financial institutions (FFI's) to provide the (IRS) Internal Revenue Service with information on certain investments of US persons invested in accounts outside of the US and for certain non-US entities to provide information about any US owners.

FATCA allows automatic exchange of financial information between India and the US. India had entered into an agreement with the United States for implementation of the Foreign Accounts Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) with effect from August 31, 2015. Under the arrangement, the financial institutions need to obtain self-certifications and carry out due diligence in respect of all individual and entity accounts opened from July 1, 2014, to August 31, 2015.

**Q.15) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Yarn Bank Scheme'**

1. It is one of the components of [PowerTex India](#)
2. It enables power loom weavers to purchase yarn at wholesale rate and give the yarn at reasonable price to the small weavers
3. It also has a component of free electricity to small weavers

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.15) Solution (a)**

To avoid fluctuation in yarn price, government has launched a Yarn Bank Scheme as one of the component of PowerTex India with effect from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020. The Scheme provides interest free corpus fund up to Rs.2.00 crore to the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)/Consortium formed by powerloom weavers to enable them to purchase yarn at wholesale rate and give the yarn at reasonable price to the small weavers to avoid middleman and local supplier's brokerage charge on sales of yarn.

**Q.16) 'Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)' is published by**

- a) UNFCCC Secretariat
- b) UNEP
- c) Climate Vulnerable Forum
- d) Germanwatch

**Q.16) Solution (d)**

The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is an annual publication by Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute and Climate Action Network Europe. It evaluates the climate protection performance of 60 countries, responsible for over 90% of global energy-related CO2 emissions.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/morocco-ranks-high-in-climate-action/article25892724.ece>

**Q.17) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Black-striped mussel'**

1. It spreads primarily through the discharge of ballast waters of ships
2. It is native to the South and Central Americas

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

The black-striped mussel, native to the South and Central Americas, is an invasive species in most parts of the world and has been recorded from countries including Hong Kong, Australia and Japan. In India, it has been recorded from the ports of Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Vishakapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). It spreads primarily through the discharge of ballast waters of ships (seawater carried in the ballast tanks of ships to improve its stability and balance). The fast-growing species – which dwells in shallow water – can tolerate a wide variety of environmental conditions (salinity, water temperatures and oxygen levels; tests in the laboratory confirmed this again), which helps them thrive in the new areas they colonise.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/presence-of-invasive-mussel-confirmed-in-kochi-backwaters/article25881972.ece>

**Q.18) Which of the following statements is correct with respect to 'Swap Ratio'?**

- a) It is the amount by which the price of a convertible security exceeds the current market value of the common stock into which it may be converted
- b) It is the ratio at which an acquiring company will offer its own shares in exchange for the target company's shares during a merger or acquisition
- c) It is the number of common shares received at the time of conversion for each convertible security
- d) It is a financial ratio that expresses the leverage of a bond issuer

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

Swap ratio is the ratio at which an acquiring company will offer its own shares in exchange for the target company's shares during a merger or acquisition. To calculate the swap ratio, companies analyze financial ratios such as book value, earnings per share, profits after tax and dividends paid, as well as other factors, such as the reasons for the merger or acquisition. The current market prices of the target and acquiring company's stock are compared along with their respective financial situations. A ratio is then configured which states the rate at which the target company's shareholders will receive acquiring company shares of stock for every one share of target company stock they currently hold.

**Q.19) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. A private member cannot introduce a constitutional amendment bill.

2. A private members' bill can be introduced 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.19) Solution (d)**

A Member of the Parliament who is not a Minister (i.e. not a member of the Government) is regarded as a Private Member. A Bill introduced in either house of Parliament by any such Member of Parliament is called a Private Members' Bill; Bills introduced by Ministers are called Government Bills.

A private member can also introduce a constitutional amendment bill.

**Q.20) 'Manbij' is located in**

- a) Indonesia
- b) Syria
- c) Lebanon
- d) Palestine

**Q.20) Solution (b)**



**Q.21) The recently constituted 'UK Sinha Committee' is associated with**

- a) MSMEs
- b) Primary Education
- c) Non-Performing Assets
- d) Digital Payments

**Q.21) Solution (a)**

#### **UK Sinha Committee**

- The RBI has constituted an expert committee, which will review the current institutional framework in place to support MSMEs along with examining the factors affecting timely and adequate availability of finance to them.
- The new 8-member committee would be chaired by former Securities and Exchange Board of India chairman UK Sinha.
- The new committee will review the current institutional framework in place to support the MSME along with examining the factors affecting the timely and adequate availability of finance to the sector.
- The committee will also study the impact of the recent economic reforms on the sector and identify the structural problems affecting its growth.
- It will conduct a study about the best global practices with respect to MSMEs and recommend its adoption in India, wherever appropriate..

- Furthermore, the committee would also review the existing MSME focused policies and its impact on the sector and to propose measures for leveraging technology in accelerating the growth of the sector.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/uk-sinha-to-head-rbi-panel-on-msme-revival/article25892776.ece>

**Q.22) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Menstrual Hygiene Scheme'**

1. It encompasses provision of funds to ASHAs to hold monthly meeting with adolescents to discuss issues related to menstrual hygiene
2. Under the scheme, funds are provided to States/UTs through National Health Mission for decentralized procurement of sanitary napkins packs

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.22) Solution (c)**

Government of India is supporting the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme, under which, funds are provided to States/UTs through National Health Mission for decentralized procurement of sanitary napkins packs for provision primarily to rural adolescent girls at subsidized rates as per proposals received from the States and UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans.

**This scheme encompasses the following:**

- Increasing awareness among adolescent girls on Menstrual Hygiene
- Improving access to and use of high quality sanitary napkins by adolescent girls in rural areas.
- Ensuring safe disposal of Sanitary Napkins in an environmentally friendly manner.
- Provision of funds to ASHAs to hold monthly meeting with adolescents to discuss issues related to menstrual hygiene.

**Q.23) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary'**

1. It is a protected area in the Upper Gangetic plain in Uttar Pradesh



2. It is part of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.23) Solution (d)**

The Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary Kerala is spread over the southeast corner of the Western Ghats

This is the drainage basin for the Neyyar River and its tributaries - Mullayar and Kallar. The towering peak of Agasthyamalai at an elevation of 1868 meters is a very prominent landmark.

**THINK!**

- Agasthyarkoodam

**Source:**

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Agasthyarkoodam&oq=Agasthyarkoodam&aqs=chrome..69i57&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

**Q.24) 'Lkhon Khol' is associated with**

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

**Q.24) Solution (d)**

Lakhon Khol or Khmer masked drama dance is a dance drama genre that is performed in Cambodia.

Lakhon Khol was recently listed by UNESCO, the United Nations' cultural agency, as an intangible cultural heritage, along with neighbouring Thailand's version of the dance, known as Khon.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/masked-dance-tradition-rises-from-near-extinction/article25921042.ece>

**Q.25) Consider the following statements about contingent convertible capital instruments (CoCos)**

1. They are also known as Additional Tier 1 bonds
2. They are hybrid bonds that combine debt and equity elements

**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.25) Solution (c)**

The contingent convertible capital instruments (CoCos) also known as Additional Tier 1 bonds are hybrid bonds that combines debt and equity elements. Its defining characteristic is that it may be converted into shares if the CET1 capital ratio drops below a specific level.

A contingent convertible bond, also known as CoCo or Additional Tier 1 Capital (AT1) is a hybrid issue that combines debt (yielding interests for the investor) and capital (have the capacity to absorb losses) properties.

These instruments are perpetual (they have no set maturity date), although the issuer reserves the option to call the bond five years after the bond is issued. Coupon payments corresponding to this type of issues can be cancelled upon request by the issuer (coupon is noncumulative).

The main characteristic of this type of bond is that, if the specific trigger conditions indicated in the issue prospectus are met, they can be converted into shares. The most common trigger conditions include the CET1 (Common Equity Tier 1) ratio dropping below a specific value. Therefore, these issues are exclusively aimed at institutional investors.

**Q.26) Consider the following statements about 'Subglacial Antarctic Lakes Scientific Access (SALSA)'**

1. It is an integrative study of subglacial geobiology, water column and sedimentary organic carbon, and geological processes in Mercer Subglacial Lake
2. SALSA can serve as an on-Earth comparison for habitats deep inside Mars or on the ice-covered moons of Jupiter and Saturn.

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

The Subglacial Antarctic Lakes Scientific Access (SALSA) project is an integrative study of subglacial geobiology, water column and sedimentary organic carbon, and geological processes in Mercer Subglacial Lake, a hydrologically active subglacial lake beneath the Whillans and Mercer ice streams in West Antarctica. The project was funded in 2016 by the Antarctic Integrated System Science Program with the National Science Foundation's Office of Polar Programs. There are eleven principal investigators at eight different US institutions with additional US and international collaborators.

The expedition, known as SALSA (Subglacial Antarctic Lakes Scientific Access), hopes to shed light on what kind of life can survive in such remote regions and serve as an on-Earth comparison for habitats deep inside Mars or on the ice-covered moons of Jupiter and Saturn.

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/scientists-to-hunt-microbes-beneath-antarctic-ice-sheet-5524784/>

### **Q.27) '70 point Performance Grading Index (PGI)' is associated with**

- a) MSMEs
- b) Education
- c) Adolescent Health
- d) Total Fertility Rate

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

The government will use a 70 point Performance Grading Index (PGI) to assess areas of deficiency in each state's school education system.

Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/hrd-starts-70-point-grading-index-to-assess-state-school-edu-119010600004\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/hrd-starts-70-point-grading-index-to-assess-state-school-edu-119010600004_1.html)

**Q.28) 'Betla National Park' is located in**

- a) Rayalseema
- b) Vidarbha
- c) Chhota Nagpur Plateau
- d) Mewar

**Q.28) Solution (c)**

Betla National Park is a national park located on the Chhota Nagpur Plateau in the Latehar district of Jharkhand.

**Q.29) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- 1. River Son originates near Ranchi in Jharkhand
- 2. [North Koel River](#) is a tributary of Son river

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.29) Solution (b)**

Son River (also spelt Sone); of central India is the second largest of the Ganges' southern tributaries after Yamuna River.

The Son originates near Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh, just east of the headwater of the Narmada River, and flows north-northwest through Madhya Pradesh state before turning sharply eastward where it encounters the southwest-northeast-Kaimur Range.

## Tributaries

- Left - Ghaghar River, Johilla River
- Right - Gopad River, Rihand River, Kanhar River, North Koel River

**Q.30) Consider the following statements with respect to [‘National Investigation Agency \(NIA\)’](#)**

1. It came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act
2. It was created aftermath the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.30) Solution (c)**

National Investigation Agency (NIA) is a central agency established by the Indian Government to combat terror in India. It acts as the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency. The agency is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states. The Agency came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act 2008 by the Parliament of India on 31 December 2008.

NIA was created after the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks as need for a central agency to combat terrorism was realised. The conviction rate of this anti-terrorism agency is currently 95 per cent as it has managed to convict 167 accused in the 185 cases registered by it since its inception.

**Q.31) What is ‘VY Canis Majoris’, which was recently in news?**

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

**Q.31) Solution (d)**

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

**Q.32) Which of the following acts established the direct rule of British crown over India?**

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

**Q.32) Solution (a)**

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

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

**Q.33) Who of the following social reformers published a set of notes on "Infant Marriage and Enforced Widowhood."**

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

**Q.33) Solution (c)**

What propelled Malabari to prominence across India and prompted his first visit to Britain in 1890 was what reformers in Victorian England and India called 'the problem of Hindu women,' that is, his ardent advocacy for social reform with regards to child marriage and

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

**Q.34) Consider the following statements about priority sector lending certificates (PSLC).**

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

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

Priority Sector Lending Certificates (PSLCs) are tradable certificates issued against priority sector loans of banks so as to enable banks to achieve their specified target and sub-targets for priority sector lending through purchase of these instruments in the event of a shortfall and at the same time incentivizing the surplus banks to lend more to these sectors.

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

There would be four kinds of PSLCs:

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

**Q.35) 'Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund (UCCRTF)' is managed by**

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

**Q.35) Solution (b)**

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

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

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

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

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

**Q.36) '[Nikshay Poshan Yojana \(NPY\)](#)' is associated with**



- a) Tuberculosis
- b) Kala Azhar
- c) Malaria and Dengue
- d) Typhoid

### Q.36) Solution (a)

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW) has launched the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme for nutritional support to tuberculosis patients as Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY).

Under it, a financial incentive of Rs 500 per month is provided to each notified TB patient for the entire duration of his treatment.

### Q.37) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The funds for [Long Term Irrigation Fund](#) (LTIF) are raised by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) through issuance of bonds
2. LTIF is used for implementation of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) works

Select the correct code:

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

### Q.37) Solution (b)

#### LTIF

The funds will be raised by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) through the issuance of Bonds at 6 per cent per annum as per requirement.

These funds will be used for the implementation of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) works of 99 ongoing prioritised irrigation projects along with their command area development (CAD) works under the Prime Minister Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

Read More - <http://www.nabard.org/auth/writereaddata/File/LTIF-material%20for%20website.pdf>

**Q.38) Consider the following statements about 'Bt Brinjal'**

1. It has been developed jointly by the IARI and Punjab Agricultural University
2. It has been developed to give resistance against lepidopteron insects

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

The genetically modified brinjal is a suite of transgenic brinjals (also known as an eggplant or aubergine) created by inserting a crystal protein gene (Cry1Ac) from the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* into the genome of various brinjal cultivars. The insertion of the gene, along with other genetic elements such as promoters, terminators and an antibiotic resistance marker gene into the brinjal plant is accomplished using *Agrobacterium*-mediated genetic transformation. The Bt brinjal has been developed to give resistance against lepidopteron insects, in particular the Brinjal Fruit and Shoot Borer (*Leucinodes orbonalis*)(FSB).

BtBrinjal was developed by Mahyco (Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company) in collaboration with the Dharward University of Agricultural sciences and the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

**Q.39) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers Right Act'**

1. It provides for the establishment of an effective system for protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders, and to encourage the development and cultivation of new varieties of plants.
2. It provides mechanism for equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of traditional biological resources and knowledge.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.39) Solution (a)**

The Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers Right Act, 2001 (PPVFR Act) is an Act of the Parliament of India that was enacted to provide for the establishment of an effective system for protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders, and to encourage the development and cultivation of new varieties of plants.

The PPV&FR Act, 2001 was enacted to grant intellectual property rights to plant breeders, researchers and farmers who have developed any new or extant plant varieties. The Intellectual Property Right granted under PPV&FR Act, 2001 is a dual right – one is for the variety and the other is for the denomination assigned to it by the breeder. The rights granted under this Act are heritable and assignable and only registration of a plant variety confers the right. Essentially Derived Varieties (EDV) can also be registered under this Act and it may be new or extant. Farmers are entitled to save, use, sow, re-sow, exchange or sell their farm produce including seed of a registered variety in an unbranded manner. Farmers' varieties are eligible for registration and farmers are totally exempted from payment of any fee in any proceedings under this Act.

**Q.40) With reference to the religious practices in India, the “Sthanakvasi” sect belongs to**

- a) Buddhism
- b) Vaishnavism
- c) Shaivism
- d) Jainism

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

Sthanakvasi is a sect of Śvētāmbara Jainism founded by a merchant named Lavaji in 1653 AD. It believes that idol worship is not essential in the path of soul purification and attainment of Nirvana/Moksha.

**Q.41) Where is '[Lake Urmia](#)' located?**

- a) Russia
- b) Ukraine
- c) Poland
- d) Iran

**Q.41) Solution (d)**

It is an endorheic salt lake in Iran. The lake is located between the provinces of East Azerbaijan and West Azerbaijan in Iran, and west of the southern portion of the Caspian Sea.

**Q.42) '[Bhavishya](#)' Portal' is associated with**

- a) Pensions
- b) MSMEs
- c) Education Loans
- d) Skill Development

**Q.42) Solution (a)**

It is an online Pension Sanction and Payment Tracking System implemented by the Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare, Government of India. The system provides for on-line tracking of pension sanction and payment process.

**Q.43) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Global Solar Council (GSC)'**

1. It was launched at the COP 21 climate change meeting in Paris
2. It is international non-profit association of the national, regional and international associations in solar energy and the world's leading corporations

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

The Global Solar Council is international non-profit association of the national, regional and international associations in solar energy and the world's leading corporations. Founded in 2015, It offer programs in regulatory policy, trade policy, new market opening and jobs & skills training. It aims to enable solar energy to deliver on the promise of clean & distributed power, economic development and access to opportunity.

International Solar Energy Society (ISES) is a founding member of the Global Solar Council, launched at the COP 21 climate change meeting in Paris.

## **Q.44) '[Mudiyettu](#)' is a traditional ritual theatre and folk dance drama from**

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

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

Mudiyett or Mudiyettu is a traditional ritual theatre and folk dance drama from Kerala that enacts the mythological tale of a battle between the goddess Kali and the demon Darika. The ritual is a part of the bhagavathi or bhadrakali cult. The dance is performed in bhadrakali temples, the temples of the Mother Goddess, between February and May after the harvesting season. In 2010 Mudiyettu was inscribed in the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, becoming the second art form from Kerala after Koodiyattam.

## **Q.45) Which of the following represents the Rating systems for Green building certification in India?**

1. [GRIHA - Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment](#)
2. BEE - Bureau of Energy Efficiency
3. CASBEE - Comprehensive Assessment System for Built Environment Efficiency
4. IGBC - Indian Green Building Council

**Choose the correct option:**

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

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

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

Whether Green buildings are really green is to be decided against the predefined rating systems. There are three primary Rating systems in India.

- GRIHA
- IGBC
- BEE

Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) is India's own rating system jointly developed by TERI and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India. It is a green building design evaluation system where buildings are rated in a three-tier process. The process initiates with the online submission of documents as per the prescribed criteria followed by on site visit and evaluation of the building by a team of professionals and experts from GRIHA Secretariat. GRIHA rating system consists of 34 criteria categorised in four different sections. Some of them are – ( 1) Site selection and site planning, (2) Conservation and efficient utilization of resources, (3) Building operation and maintenance, and (4) Innovation

(CII) formed the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) in year 2001. IGBC is the non-profit research institution having its offices in CII-Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre, which is itself a LEED certified Green building. Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) has licensed the LEED Green Building Standard from the USGBC. IGBC facilitates Indian green structures to become one of the green buildings.

BEE developed its own rating system for the buildings based on a 1 to 5 star scale. More stars mean more energy efficiency. BEE has developed the Energy Performance Index (EPI). The unit of Kilo watt hours per square meter per year is considered for rating the building and especially targets air conditioned and non-air conditioned office buildings.

Comprehensive Assessment System for Built Environment Efficiency (CASBEE) is a method for evaluating and rating the environmental performance of buildings and the built environment. It is a system used by Japan.

**Q.46) 'One Family, One Job' scheme' was launched by which of the following states?**

- a) Odisha
- b) Jharkhand

- c) Sikkim
- d) Telangana

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

Sikkim launched 'One Family, One Job' scheme and it envisions employment to a member of every family which does not have a government job in the state.

**Q.47) Consider the following pairs:**

**Region often in news: Country**

- 1. Budapest : Hungary
- 2. Aleppo: Iraq
- 3. Mosul : Iran
- 4. Damascus : Syria

**Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?**

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

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

Aleppo – Syria; Mosul – Iraq

**Q.48) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Hungary'**

- 1. It is a landlocked country
- 2. River Danube flows through Hungary
- 3. The grassland biome found in Hungary is known as Puszta

**Choose the appropriate code**

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.48) Solution (d)**

Originating in Germany, the Danube flows southeast for 2,860 km (1,780 mi), passing through or touching the border of Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine before emptying into the Black Sea. Its drainage basin extends into nine more countries.

Prairie grasslands are found across the globe. They have a variety of names in other parts of the world: pampas in South America, veldt in South Africa and puszta in Hungary. These areas have deep, rich soils and are dominated by tall grasses; trees and shrubs are restricted to river valleys, wetlands and other areas with more moisture. Over the years the native grass species on the extensive areas of level ground have been ploughed and fields seeded. Many of these grasslands have been lost to cereal crops.

**The Grassland Biome -**

<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/glossary/gloss5/biome/grassland.html>

**Q.49) Which of the following statements regarding 'Intensive Subsistence Farming' are correct?**

1. It is done on large farms
2. A lot of mechanization and machinery is required.
3. It is practiced in developed countries

**Select the code from below:**

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

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

All of the above statements are incorrect.

This type of farming is practiced in highly populated areas.



It is a high labour intensive farming and yields are low. Usually the crops are grown for self-consumption. It is generally practiced in developing countries.

**Q.50) Which of the following countries is/are members of 'New Agenda Coalition (NAC)'?**

1. India
2. Japan
3. Australia

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.50) Solution (d)**

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

**Q.51) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal (CSAT)'**

1. The Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal was established and operates under a Statute agreed by Commonwealth governments in 1995.
2. The CSAT has a total of eight members, including its president and the members are picked up on the basis of regional representations.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.51) Solution (c)**

CSAT is London based tribunal constituted for resolving disputes involving Commonwealth international or intergovernmental organizations which agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the CSAT.

CSAT is meant to decide service disputes between the employees of the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Secretariat itself

The Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal (CSAT) was established and operates under a Statute agreed by Commonwealth governments in 1995.

The Commonwealth Secretariat, established in 1965, plays the role of an arbiter in case of disputes among its 53 member-countries.

The CSAT has a total of eight members, including its president. The members are picked up on the basis of regional representations. A CSAT member has a tenure of four years.

**Source:** <https://www.livemint.com/Politics/LQAv9kkylRjmoEEkBRbwsL/Justice-AK-Sikri-turns-down-govt-offer-to-nominate-him-to-Co.html>

**Q.52) Where is 'Seno Ballena Fjord' located?**

- a) Scandinavia
- b) Patagonia
- c) Far Eastern Federal District of Russia
- d) New Zealand

**Q.52) Solution (b)**

**News:** Researchers from Austral University of Chile are conducting a study at the Seno Ballena fjord, dubbed as an open-air lab to study effects of climate change.

Seno Ballena is a fjord in Chile, It is located in the province of Provincia de Magallanes and the region of Magallanes and the Antarctic Chilena.

The area around Seno Ballena consists mainly of grasslands. The area around Seno Ballena is almost uninhabited, with less than two inhabitants per square kilometer.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/an-open-air-lab-to-study-effects-of-climate-change/article25995027.ece>

**Q.53) 'Global Youth Development Index' is released by**

- a) Commonwealth Secretariat
- b) UNESCO
- c) International Labour Organization
- d) AIESEC

**Q.53) Solution (a)**

Global Youth Development Index is compiled by the Commonwealth Secretariat on the countries' prospects for young people in employment, education, health, civic and political spheres.

**Q.54) The terms 'Marginal Standing Facility Rate' and 'Net Demand and Time Liabilities', sometimes appearing in news, are used in relation to**

- a) Manufacturing industries
- b) Banking operations
- c) Demand and supply of agriculture products
- d) Service sector statistics

**Q.54) Solution (b)**

Marginal standing facility is an arrangement for the banks to borrow overnight from the RBI. Net Time and Demand liabilities means the savings and FDs that people have kept with the bank.

**Q.55) Which of the following statements regarding Scheduled Banks is NOT CORRECT?**

- a) They are listed under the 2nd Schedule of the RBI Act 1934
- b) They are eligible to get loans from the RBI at Bank rate
- c) They get automatic membership of the clearing house
- d) They cannot rediscount the First class Bill of Exchange

**Q.55) Solution (d)**

They are listed under the 2nd Schedule of the RBI Act 1934. They are eligible to get loans from the RBI at Bank rate. They get automatic membership of the clearing house. They can get their First class bill of exchange rediscounted from the RBI.

**Q.56) Invasive species are one of the reasons of extinction of endemic species. Consider the following statements regarding 'Invasive species'**

1. These species are first to colonise in a disrupted or new ecosystem, beginning a chain of succession.
2. These species are usually alien to an ecosystem and harmful to its endemic species.
3. Only plant species comes under the category of invasive species.

**Which of the above statements are INCORRECT with respect to 'invasive species'?**

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

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

Incorrect options are asked.

Invasive species are plants, animals, or pathogens that are non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause harm.

**Q.57) Which of the following are the necessary features of Parliamentary government?**

1. Collective Responsibility
2. Political Homogeneity
3. Double Membership
4. Secrecy
5. Majority Party Rule

**Select the correct codes:**

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

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

The features of Parliamentary government are

- Nominal and Real Executive
- Collective Responsibility
- Political Homogeneity
- Double Membership
- Secrecy
- Majority Party Rule
- Leadership of PM
- Dissolution of Lower House

**Q.58) Consider the following statements:**

1. The 'Landholders' Society' marked the beginning of an organised political activity and used the method of constitutional agitation for the redressal of grievances.
2. The 'Bengal British India Society' founded in 1843, was with the objective of stimulating the sense of nationalism amongst the people and of encouraging political education.

**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.58) Solution (a)**

In 1831, Dwarkanath Tagore had established the "Landholders Society" along with Prasanna Kumar Tagore, Radhakanta Deb, Ramkamal Sen and Bhabani Charan Mitra. The Landholders society was known as the first organization of Bengal with distinct political object. It was followed by British India Society in 1839.

British India Society was founded in 1839 in England with the efforts of William Adam, one of the friends of Raja Ram Mohan Roy. William Adam had come to India and got in touch with Raja Ram Mohan Roy and when he returned England, he took up India's cause along

with George Thompson, William Ednis, and Major General Briggs. The result was organizing meetings at several places and creating awareness about the conditions in India.

In 1842, Dwarkanath Tagore went to England along with Chandramohan Chatterjee and Paramananda Maitra. He returned from England with George Thomson. With the efforts of George Thomson, Bengal British India Society was founded on 20 April 1843. The idea was to secure the welfare, and advance the interests of all classes, in pure loyalty to the government of the reigning sovereign of the British dominions.

The object of Bengal British India Society was “the collection and dissemination of information relating to the actual condition of the people of British India and to employ such other means of peaceful and lawful character as may appear calculated to secure the welfare, extend the just rights and advance the interests of all classes of our fellow subjects”.

In 1851, both the Landholders' Society and the Bengal British India Society merged into a new one named the British Indian Association. The Indian League was founded by Sisir Kumar Ghose in 1875 with the object of “stimulating the sense of nationalism amongst the people” and of encouraging political education.

**Q.59) The balance of payments of a country is a systematic record of**

- a) Goods exported from a country during a year.
- b) Economic transaction between the Government of one country and another
- c) Capital movements from one country to another.
- d) All import and transactions of a country during a given period normally a year

**Q.59) Solution (d)**

The balance of payments (BoP) records the transactions in goods, services and assets between residents of a country with the rest of the world for a specified time period typically a year.

**Q.60) '[3D bio printing](#)' has made genetic engineering increasingly viable on 'Bio-materials'. Consider the following statements with reference to it:**

1. Stem-cell is a kind of bio-materials.
2. Bio-materials can only be synthesized artificially in the Laboratories.

**Which of the statement/s is/are correct?**

---

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

**Q.60) Solution (a)**

Biomaterials can be derived either from nature or synthesized in the laboratory using a variety of chemical approaches utilizing metallic components, polymers, ceramics or composite materials. A biomaterial is any matter, surface, or construct that interacts with living systems; therefore, Stem cells are part of Biomaterials.

**Q.61) 'Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav' is associated with which of the following ministries?**

- a) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- c) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
- d) Ministry of Renewable Energy

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

It is an annual flagship event of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

Source: <http://www.pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1560145>

**Q.62) Nodal Ministry for 'Government e-Marketplace' is**

- a) Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- c) Ministry of Finance
- d) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare

**Q.62) Solution (a)**

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is a one stop portal to facilitate online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Government Departments / Organizations / PSUs.

Read More - <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157610>

**Q.63) The '[Manu Smriti](#)' mainly deals with**

- a) Social order
- b) Economics
- c) State-Craft
- d) Laws

**Q.63) Solution (d)**

**Manu Smriti**

- It is an ancient legal text.
- It was one of the first Sanskrit texts translated during the British rule of India in 1794, by Sir William Jones and used to formulate the Hindu law by the colonial government.

**Q.64) Which of the following factors is/are evidence of [Sea floor spreading](#)?**

1. Eruptions of molten material
2. Magnetic stripes in the rock of the ocean floor
3. Ages of the rocks at mid ocean ridges

**Select the appropriate option**

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

**Q.64) Solution (d)**

All the statements are correct and an evidence of sea floor spreading.



**Q.65) Which of the following countries enjoy a permanent seat on the [Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank](#) (AIIB) board of directors?**

1. India
2. China
3. Japan

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

India is the only country apart from China to enjoy a permanent seat on the Bank's board of directors.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/hitting-its-stride/article26006692.ece>

**Q.66) 'Lothal' is one of the cities of the ancient [Indus Valley Civilization](#). Where is it located?**

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujarat
- c) Punjab
- d) Sindh

**Q.66) Solution (b)**

It is located in the Bhal region of the modern state of Gujarat.

According to the ASI, Lothal had the world's earliest known dock, which connected the city to an ancient course of the Sabarmati river on the trade route between Harappan cities in Sindh and the peninsula of Saurashtra when the surrounding Kutch desert of today was a part of the Arabian Sea.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/columns/in-one-of-indias-oldest-port-cities/article26038089.ece>

**Q.67) 'Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO)' was launched by**

- a) ISRO
- b) NASA
- c) ESA
- d) JAXA

**Q.67) Solution (b)**

The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) is a NASA robotic spacecraft currently orbiting the Moon in an eccentric polar mapping orbit.

Launched on June 18, 2009, in conjunction with the Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite (LCROSS), as the vanguard of NASA's Lunar Precursor Robotic Program, LRO was the first United States mission to the Moon in over ten years. LRO and LCROSS were launched as part of the United States's Vision for Space Exploration program.

**Q.68) Which of the following uses 'Electroreception'?**

- 1. Bats
- 2. Bees
- 3. Sharks

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

Electroreception or electroception is the biological ability to perceive natural electrical stimuli. It has been observed almost exclusively in aquatic or amphibious animals, because water is a much better conductor than air. The known exceptions are the monotremes

(echidnas and platypuses), cockroaches and bees. Electroreception is used in electrolocation (detecting objects) and for electrocommunication.

**Q.69) [‘Section 124-A’](#) of the ‘Indian Penal Code’ deals with**

- a) Offences against the State
- b) Cruelty by Husband or Relatives of Husband
- c) Offences Relating to Marriage
- d) Offences relating to Religion

**Q.69) Solution (a)**

As per section 124A of Indian Penal Code whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the Government established by law in India, shall be punished by imprisonment or fine.

**Q.70) Consider the following statements about [‘National Testing Agency \(NTA\)’](#)**

- 1. It is a Society registered under the Indian Society Registration Act, 1860
- 2. It is chaired by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.70) Solution (a)**

**NTA**

- It is chaired by an eminent educationist appointed by Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- 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.
- It is a Society registered under the Indian Society Registration Act, 1860.

**Q.71) 'Test and Treat Policy' is associated with which of the following diseases?**

- a) Tuberculosis
- b) Leprosy
- c) Malaria and Dengue
- d) HIV/AIDS

**Q.71) Solution (d)**

The Government has launched the 'Test and Treat Policy for HIV patients' in April 2017. As per this policy all people living with HIV (PLHIV) are to be treated with Antiretro Viral Therapy regardless of CD4 count, clinical stage, age or population.

**Q.72) Which of the following are cold currents?**

- 1. Kuroshio current
- 2. Aughulas current
- 3. Benguela current
- 4. Labrador current

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

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

**Q.72) Solution (c)**

**Labrador Current:** Cold current, Originates in Baffin bay drifts south eastwards between Baffin island and Greenland and merges with Gulf stream off New Foundland.

**Benguela Current:** Cold current, Flows northwards along the western coast of South Africa.

**Kuroshio or Japan Current:** Warm current, Flows from Taiwan to Bering Strait.

**Aughulas Current:** Warm current, Indian equatorial current flows westwards in the south India Ocean, bifurcates at Madagascar and flows as Mozambique and Aughulas current in the southern direction.

**Q.73) Solar energy has the potential to reduce the effects of Climate change but the efficiency and cost of solar cells are very high in comparison to other sources. In context of it, which of the following ways researchers are seeking to drive down the cost of solar photovoltaic cells?**

1. Using new thinner materials
2. Use of solar ink
3. Removing impurities in Silicon

**Choose the correct option**

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

**Q.73) Solution (a)**

Impurities in the silicon actually cause the free electron movement that creates electric current. But scientists are working on newer and thinner materials, even solar ink or paint. And numerous companies aim to lower transaction costs by enabling customers to design and order online.

**Q.74) A post-graduate degree holder working as a clerk in an office is an example of?**

- a) Structural Unemployment
- b) Underemployment
- c) Frictional Unemployment
- d) Disguised Unemployment

**Q.74) Solution (b)**

Underemployment is defined as a situation where people are working fewer hours than they wish.

Underemployment may also refer to the fact workers accept jobs that don't utilize their skills.

**Q.75) Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's work 'Anandmath', one of the most important novels in the history of Bengali and Indian literature, was set in the background of –**

- a) Ramosi Uprising
- b) Santhal Rebellion
- c) Sannyasi-Faqir Rebellion
- d) Sawantwadi Revolt

**Q.75) Solution (c)**

Anandamath is a Bengali novel, written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and published in 1882.

It is considered one of the most important novels in the history of Bengali and Indian literature whose work was set in background of the cause of Faqir-Sannyasis Rebellion

Its importance is heightened by the fact that it became synonymous with the struggle for Indian independence from the British Empire. The novel was banned by the British. The ban was lifted later by the Government of India after independence.

The national song of India, Vande Mataram, was first published in this novel.

**Q.76) In recent years, there has been a tendency for the sugar mills to shift and concentrate in the southern and western states of India. Which of the following statements correctly explains this shift?**

- a) The government policy is more favourable for sugar industries.
- b) Sugar consumption is more in Central and Southern India than in Northern India.
- c) Sugarcane is a yearly crop in North India, while it is a half yearly crop in South India.
- d) The cane produced in Southern India has higher sugar content than northern India.

**Q.76) Solution (d)**

Sugarcane needs frost free days and high temperature to have more sugar content.

In northern States like Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, the winter is very cold. Many plants die because of the frost formation. Also the sugar content developed in them is less.

In southern states, the temperature is moderate throughout the year. If proper irrigation is provided, than sugar content in these canes is much better, hence they give more sugar output per unit of weight of cane.

**Q.77) '[World Economic Outlook](#)' is released by**

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) World Bank
- d) None of the above

**Q.77) Solution (b)**

The World Economic Outlook is a survey conducted and published by the International Monetary Fund. It is published biannually and partly updated two times a year. It portrays the world economy in the near and medium context, with projections for up to four years into the future.

**Q.78) During monsoon season the '[inter tropical convergence zone](#)' shifts almost upto 25 degree North latitude over the Indian subcontinent while it rarely crosses 15 degree North latitude in other regions. This is because**

1. Vast landmass of Eurasia located to the North of the Equator.
2. Intense low pressure over the North-western region of Indian subcontinent and over the vast, high altitude Tibetan plateau pulls ITCZ Northwards.
3. Shifting of Westerly jet streams to the North of Tibetan plateau at the end of the month of May.

**Select the correct code**

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

### Q.78) Solution (d)

Inter tropical convergence zone is termed as a thermal equator and is the zone where the Northeast and Southeast trade winds meet. This ITCZ shifts Northwards up to 25 degree North latitude during the months of June-July. This is facilitated by all the above points mentioned.

Westerly jet streams: These shifts southward during winters because of the southern shift of entire pressure belts by some 10 degree latitudes which is in turn because of Southern shift of Sun towards Tropic of Capricorn during winters. These jet streams because of vast Tibetan plateau get bifurcated into 2 parts, with one part traversing south of Himalayan Mountains and the other to the north of Tibetan plateau. With the advent of summers and gradual shift of Sun towards Tropic of Cancer, the part of the jet streams to the South of Himalayas gets weakened. At the end of the month of May the Westerly jet streams completely shifts to the North of Himalayas and thus becomes stronger over the Central China and also Japan. This Northern shift facilitates the Northward shift of ITCZ.

### Q.79) Which of the following statements about 'Structural unemployment' is NOT CORRECT?

- Structural unemployment is a permanent level of unemployment that's caused by forces other than the business cycle.
- It occurs when an underlying shift in the economy makes it difficult for some groups to find jobs.
- One cause of structural unemployment is technological advances in an industry.
- Frictional unemployment is a result of Structural unemployment.

### Q.79) Solution (d)

#### Structural unemployment

- It is a permanent level of unemployment that's caused by forces other than the business cycle. It occurs when an underlying shift in the economy makes it difficult for some groups to find jobs. There is a mismatch between the jobs available and the skill levels of the unemployed. It is harder to correct than other types of unemployment.
- Structural unemployment can add to a high unemployment rate long after a recession is over.
- If ignored by policy-makers, it can then even lead to a higher natural unemployment rate.



## Two Causes of Structural Unemployment

- One cause of structural unemployment is technological advances in an industry. That happened in manufacturing. Robots have been replacing unskilled workers. These workers must get training in computer operations. They learn how to manage the robots in the same factories they worked in before.
- A second cause is trade agreements, such as NAFTA. When the agreement first lifted trade restrictions, many factories relocated to Mexico. They left their former employees without a place to work. For more, see Causes of Unemployment.

## Examples of Structural Unemployment

- Technological advances have created structural unemployment in the newspaper industry. Web-based advertising has taken over its source of revenue.
- That meant employees, such as journalists, printers, and newspaper delivery boys, were laid off. Their skills were focused on the paper's method of distributing news. They had to get new training before qualifying for a job in the same field.
- Farmers in emerging market economies are another example of structural unemployment.
- Free trade allowed global food corporations access to their markets. That put small-scale farmers out of business. They couldn't compete with the lower prices of the global firms. As a result, they headed to cities in search of work. This structural unemployment existed until they were retrained, perhaps in factory work.

### Q.80) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Aleppo: Syria
2. Kirkuk: Yemen
3. Mosul: Palestine

### Select the correct code:

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

### Q.80) Solution (d)

Aleppo - Syria

Kirkuk - Iraq

Mosul - Iraq

**Q.81) With regard to 'International Criminal Court (ICC)', consider the following statements**

1. It is an international non-governmental organization
2. The Roman Statute, 2002 serves as the ICC's foundational and governing document
3. It seeks to replace national courts of a country in crimes related to war and genocide

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q.81) Solution (b)**

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that sits in The Hague in the Netherlands. The ICC has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. The ICC is intended to complement existing national judicial systems and it may therefore only exercise its jurisdiction when certain conditions are met, such as when national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute criminals or when the United Nations Security Council or individual states refer investigations to the Court.

The ICC began functioning on 1 July 2002, the date that the Rome Statute entered into force. The Rome Statute is a multilateral treaty which serves as the ICC's foundational and governing document. States which become party to the Rome Statute, for example by ratifying it, become member states of the ICC. Currently, there are 124 states which are party to the Rome Statute and therefore members of the ICC. However, Burundi, South Africa, and Gambia have given formal notice that they will withdraw from the Rome Statute.

As a court of last resort, it seeks to complement, not replace, national Courts. Governed by an international treaty called the Rome Statute, the ICC is the world's first permanent international criminal court.

**Q.82) Consider the following statements about 'National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO)'**

1. It is the nodal agency for inspecting the mills and granting certificates on plant health for export purposes
2. A phytosanitary certificate for export is issued by NPPO

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.82) Solution (c)**

Phytosanitary certification is used to attest that consignments meet phytosanitary (regarding plants) import requirements and is undertaken by an NPPO (National Plant Protection Organization).

To export to nations, it is mandatory that Indian rice exporters are registered with NPPO, the Indian government agency for inspecting the mills and granting certificates on plant health for export purposes.

**Q.83) With reference to '[Sangai deer](#)', consider the following statements:**

1. It is found only in Dachigam National Park
2. It is listed as an 'endangered (EN)' species by the IUCN

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q.83) Solution (b)**

The deer is endemic to Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNP). It is listed as an endangered (Mentioned in Red pages and not the yellow pages) species by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

**Q.84) With reference to 'Biodiversity Heritage sites', consider the following statements:**

1. These are areas of rich biodiversity, which lie outside the protected area network under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 as amended.
2. They are notified by Central Government in consultation with State Government.
3. They are created under Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q.84) Solution (c)**

"Biodiversity Heritage Sites" (BHS) are well defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems - terrestrial, coastal and inland waters and, marine having rich biodiversity comprising of any one or more of the following components: richness of wild as well as domesticated species or intra-specific categories, high endemism, presence of rare and threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary significance, wild ancestors of domestic/cultivated species or their varieties, past pre-eminence of biological components represented by fossil beds and having significant cultural, ethical or aesthetic values and are important for the maintenance of cultural diversity, with or without a long history of human association with them.

Under Section 37 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (BDA) the State Government in consultation with local bodies may notify in the official gazette, areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS).

As far as possible those sites may be considered which are not covered under Protected Area network under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 as amended. But not a necessary condition.

**For more details, check**

<http://nbaindia.org/uploaded/ut/Final%20BHS%20guidelines%20approved%20in%20the%2019th%20Authority.pdf>

**Q.85) Consider the following statements about 'International Humanitarian Law'**

1. International humanitarian law applies to armed conflict, internal tensions or disturbances such as isolated acts of violence.
2. A major part of international humanitarian law is contained in the four Geneva Conventions of 1949
3. It protects those who do not take part in the fighting, such as civilians and medical and religious military personnel.

**Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.85) Solution (b)**

International humanitarian law is a set of rules which seek, for humanitarian reasons, to limit the effects of armed conflict. It protects persons who are not or are no longer participating in the hostilities and restricts the means and methods of warfare. International humanitarian law is also known as the law of war or the law of armed conflict.

A major part of international humanitarian law is contained in the four Geneva Conventions of 1949. Nearly every State in the world has agreed to be bound by them. The Conventions have been developed and supplemented by two further agreements: the Additional Protocols of 1977 relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts.

International humanitarian law applies only to armed conflict; it does not cover internal tensions or disturbances such as isolated acts of violence. The law applies only once a conflict has begun, and then equally to all sides regardless of who started the fighting.

International humanitarian law protects those who do not take part in the fighting, such as civilians and medical and religious military personnel. It also protects those who have ceased to take part, such as wounded, shipwrecked and sick combatants, and prisoners of war.

**Read More -** [https://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/what\\_is\\_ihl.pdf](https://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/what_is_ihl.pdf)

**Q.86) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs)'**

1. It provides vocational training to non-literate, neo-literate, as well as school drop outs by identifying skills as would have a market in the region of their establishment.
2. Government of India funds each JSS with 40 lakhs annually

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.86) Solution (a)**

Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) are established to provide vocational training to non-literate, neo-literate, as well as school drop outs by identifying skills as would have a market in the region of their establishment.

**The Scope of Work of Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) will include the following:**

- Develop/ Source appropriate curriculum and training modules covering vocational elements general awareness and life enrichment components.
- Wherever possible, JSS are encouraged to undertake
- Training equivalent to courses designed by the Directorate of Adult education, National Institute of Open Schooling and Director General Employment & Training.
- Provide training to a pool of resource persons and master trainers for conducting training as also availability of infrastructure and training – specific equipment.
- Administer simple tests and award certificates
- Network with employers and industries for trainees to get suitable placements

Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs), have been categorized into three categories, namely, Category 'A', Category 'B' and Category 'C'. Different quantum of assistance has been provided for each category.

**Read More -** <http://mhrd.gov.in/jss>

**Q.87) What is 'eROSITA'?**

- a) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- b) X-Ray Telescope

- c) A new type of gene found in humans
- d) Intercontinental Ballistic Missile

**Q.87) Solution (b)**

eROSITA is an X-ray telescope built by the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics (MPE) in Germany for launch by Roscosmos of Russia on board the Spektr-RG, which also carries the Russian telescope "ART-XC".

eROSITA will be the primary instrument on-board the Russian "Spectrum-Roentgen-Gamma" (SRG) satellite which will be launched from Baikonur in 2019 and placed in an L2 orbit. It will perform the first imaging all-sky survey in the medium energy X-ray range up to 10 keV with an unprecedented spectral and angular resolution.

**Q.88) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Sarus Crane'**

1. It is the tallest flying bird in the world
2. It is non-migratory bird

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

The sarus crane (*Antigone antigone*) is a large non-migratory crane found in parts of the Indian Subcontinent, Southeast Asia and Australia. The tallest of the flying birds, standing at a height of up to 1.8 m (5 ft 11 in), they are a conspicuous species of open wetlands in south Asia, seasonally-flooded Dipterocarp forests in south-east Asia, and Eucalyptus-dominated woodlands and grasslands in Australia. The sarus crane is easily distinguished from other cranes in the region by the overall grey colour and the contrasting red head and upper neck.

**Q.89) 'Al-Dawadmi' was recently in news. Where is it located?**

- a) Saudi Arabia

- b) Syria
- c) Libya
- d) Lebanon

**Q.89) Solution (a)**

It is a town in Riyadh Province, Saudi Arabia.

**Q.90) 'Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar' is associated with**

- a) Disaster Management
- b) Human Rights
- c) National Cadet Corps
- d) Naxalism

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

Government has instituted an annual award titled Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar. The award is to be announced every year on 23rd January on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

All Indian Citizens and organizations, who have excelled in areas of Disaster Management; like Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, Rescue, Response, Relief, Rehabilitation, Research/ Innovations or Early Warning are eligible for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar.

For the year 2019, 8th Battalion of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) located at Ghaziabad has been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar for its commendable work in Disaster Management. The Award recipient will receive a certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh.

**Q.91) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM)'**

1. It is being developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
2. It is being developed in collaboration with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)



**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.91) Solution (c)**

Both the statements are correct.

Read More - <https://www.airforce-technology.com/projects/medium-range-surface-to-air-missile-mrsam/>

**Q.92) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Yuva Swabhiman Yojana'**

- 1. It is a Central Sector Scheme
- 2. It guarantees 100 days of employment every year to the EWS youths

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.92) Solution (b)**

Madhya Pradesh government has announced the launch of a scheme to ensure temporary employment to the youths from the economically weaker sections (EWS) in the urban areas. It would guarantee 100 days of employment every year to the EWS youths. Youths would be given skills training of their choice, so that they can take benefits of the available job opportunities.

**Q.93) 'Sadyojata-Nandin' is associated with**

- a) Buddhism
- b) Jainism
- c) Sikhism

d) None of the above

**Q.93) Solution (d)**

It is one of the faces of Shiva.

Read More - [http://www.naturalmeditation.net/Design/five\\_faces.html#](http://www.naturalmeditation.net/Design/five_faces.html#)

**Q.94) There is a concern over the increase in harmful algal blooms in the seawater of India. What could be the causative factors for this phenomenon?**

1. Mixing of warm and cold water currents in oceans
2. Run-off from the land during the monsoon
3. Upwelling in the seas
4. Discharge of phosphorus-containing sewage in oceans
5. Increase of salt in sea

**Select the correct answer from the codes given below**

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

**Q.94) Solution (c)**

Eutrophication would increase nutrient supply resulting in growth of algal bloom

Phytoplankton (algae and blue-green bacteria) thrive on the excess nutrients and their population explosion covers almost entire surface layer. This condition is known as algal bloom.

Algal Blooms restrict the penetration of sunlight resulting in death of aquatic plants, and hence restricts the replenishment of oxygen.

Algae are referred to large seaweeds which grow in water with large nutrients added through different sources. When algal blooms block vital sunlight from reaching beneficial underwater plants that provide food and a place to live and grow for fish and other animals, the ecosystem can be negatively impacted. Further, algae when dead; their decay requires

large oxygen; thus increasing the Biological Oxygen Demand of water and killing many marine animals.

Algae become stressed and die when they deplete the nutrient supply or move from freshwater into saltier waters.

Eutrophication is the response to the addition of nutrients such as nitrates and phosphates naturally or artificially, fertilizing the aquatic ecosystem.

Algal blooms are the consequence of Eutrophication.

**Q.95) 'Laffer curve' is related to**

- a) Inflation
- b) Balance of Payment
- c) Taxation
- d) Employment

**Q.95) Solution (c)**

A supposed relationship between economic activity and the rate of taxation which suggests that there is an optimum tax rate which maximizes tax revenue

It illustrates the concept of taxable income elasticity—i.e., taxable income will change in response to changes in the rate of taxation. The Laffer curve is typically represented as a graph which starts at 0% tax with zero revenue, rises to a maximum rate of revenue at an intermediate rate of taxation, and then falls again to zero revenue at a 100% tax rate.

**Q.96) "Global Syndemic of Obesity, Undernutrition and Climate Change" was published by**

- a) World Health Organisation
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) Lancet
- d) United Nations Development Programme

**Q.96) Solution (c)**

The Global Syndemic of Obesity, Undernutrition, and Climate Change: The Lancet Commission report.

The Global Syndemic Commission is one of a series of initiatives on nutrition, including the EAT–Lancet Commission , led by The Lancet in 2019.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/editorials/india-needs-to-fight-the-syndemic-on-a-war-footing/story-VebkpkHlJffYX6ya5cA0yl.html>

**Q.97) Which of the following states has the largest number of elephants in captivity?**

- a) Kerala
- b) Assam
- c) Karnataka
- d) Tamil Nadu

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

There are 2,454 elephants in captivity, of which 560 are in possession with forest departments and 1,687 with private individuals. However, 664 of the total captive elephants in the country are without ownership certificate while there are 85 in zoos, 26 in circuses and 96 in temples.

Assam and Kerala account for more than half the nationwide total of 2,454.

Assam has 37% of these captive elephants and Kerala has 21%.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/captive-elephant-survey-assam-kerala-ministry-of-environment-5558564/>

Read More - <https://www.oneindia.com/infographics/first-captive-elephant-survey-out-this-is-where-your-state-stands-2844034.html>

**Q.98) Consider the following statement with respect to ‘The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC)’**

1. It assists the Conference of the Parties (COP) to [the UN Convention to Combat Desertification \(UNCCD\)](#)
2. It is an integral part of the Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS)
3. The 17th session of the CRIC is scheduled to take place in February 2019 in India

**Select the correct statements**

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

## **Q.98) Solution (a)**

The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) assists the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and is an integral part of the Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS). The 17th session of the CRIC is scheduled to take place in January 2019 in Guyana.

The CRIC was established by decision 1/COP 5, as subsidiary body to the COP to assist it in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention.

Parties at COP 9 adopted new Terms of Reference of the CRIC and decided that the CRIC will become a standing subsidiary body of the COP.

Parties decided at COP12 to make the next reporting exercise optional until revised reporting tools are made available to Parties due to the need to finalize the reporting process's methodological approach. Parties also decided that the intersessional sessions of the CRIC taking place after January 2018 will focus on reviewing the reporting and national voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality target-setting exercise.

## **Q.99) 'Corruption Perceptions Index' is published by**

- a) Transparency International
- b) Oxfam International
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) None of the above

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

The index, which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and businesspeople, uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. More than two-thirds of countries score below 50 on this year's CPI, with an average score of just 43.

It reveals that the continued failure of most countries to significantly control corruption is contributing to a crisis in democracy around the world. While there are exceptions, the data shows that despite some progress, most countries are failing to make serious inroads against corruption.

India moved to 78th position with a score of 41.

**Source:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-improves-a-notch-us-out-of-top-20-performers-in-global-corruption-index-report/story-X5QcjZW293kuEm7lZH2zyK.html>

**Q.100) 'Sulawesi Island' is a part of which of the following?**

- a) Indonesia
- b) Philippines
- c) Japan
- d) China

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

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

**Q.101) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. Issues related to internal trade is looked after by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs
2. The department of commerce deals with issues related to exports and free trade agreements

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.101) Solution (b)**

- The government Wednesday renamed the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) as the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- It also included four new categories of responsibilities the renamed body will be in charge of, including the promotion of internal trade (including retail trade), the welfare of traders and their employees, matters relating to facilitating Ease of Doing Business, and matters relating to start-ups.
- These are in addition to the previous responsibilities of the erstwhile DIPP relating to general industrial policy, administration of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, industrial management, productivity in industry, and matters related to e-commerce.
- The government's decision to bring internal and external trade under the commerce and industry ministry will ensure better coordination, and help in promoting growth of both segments of the trade
- Earlier issues related to internal trade was looked after by the consumer affairs ministry.
- Now, both the external and internal trade issues will be handled by one ministry
- The DIPP was so far framing policies only related to foreign direct investment.
- The department of commerce under the ministry deals with issues related to exports and free trade agreements.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/now-both-external-internal-trade-under-commerce-industry-ministry/articleshow/67762390.cms>

**Q.102) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to 'Pong Dam Lake'?**

1. It was created by an earth-fill embankment dam on the Beas River
2. It is a Ramsar site

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.102) Solution (c)**

Maharana Pratap Sagar, also known as Pong Reservoir or Pong Dam Lake was created in 1975, by building the highest earthfill dam in India on the Beas River in the wetland zone of the Siwalik Hills of the Kangra district of the state of Himachal Pradesh. Named in the honour of Maharana Pratap (1540–1597), the reservoir or the lake is a well-known wildlife sanctuary and one of the 26 international wetland sites declared in India by the Ramsar Convention

**Q.103) 'Airpocalypse III' is published by**

- a) United Nations Environment Programme
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) Greenpeace
- d) International Energy Agency

**Q.103) Solution (c)**

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2019/jan/29/139-cities-violating-air-quality-norms-not-included-in-ncap-airpocalypse-iii-report-1931603.html>

**Q.104) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Statistical Commission'**

- 1. It works under the aegis of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- 2. It was established in 2005 based on the recommendations of the Rangarajan Commission.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.104) Solution (c)**

The Government of India ordered setting up National Statistical Commission in 2005 on the recommendation of Rangarajan commission. The National Statistical Commission (NSC) of



India is an autonomous body which formed in July 2005. The NSC is headed by economists Prof TCA Anant (former Chief Statistician of India and Secretary of both NSC and Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation) and Dr. Radha Binod Burman (Chairman of NSC).

**Q.105) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Aber' Currency**

1. It was launched by the Gulf Cooperation Council
2. It will be used for financial settlements through Blockchains and Distributed Ledgers technologies

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

The central banks of the UAE and Saudi Arabia will launch a common digital currency called Aber. Aber will be used for financial settlements between the two countries through Blockchains and Distributed Ledgers technologies.

**Read More -** <https://gulfbusiness.com/uae-saudi-reveal-details-common-digital-currency-aber/>