

Q.1) 'Oont Kadal' is located in middle of which of the following lakes?

- a) Dal
- b) Kolleru
- c) Chilika
- d) Lonar

Q.1) Solution (a)

The iconic 17th-century bridge, Oont Kadal, shaped like the hump of a camel is located in the middle of the picturesque Dal Lake.

It will be restored through a conservation project with the help of Germany.

Oont Kadal forms an important part of the public realm that constitutes the combined environ of the Dal Lake, the Zabbarwan Mountain range and the potential World Heritage Site of Nishat Bagh.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/mughal-era-bridge-to-live-on/article25085792.ece>

Q.2) Consider the following statements about 'Bhuli Bhatiyari ka Mahal'

1. It is a 14th century hunting lodge
2. It was built by Sultan Feroz Shah Tughlaq

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

It's one of the many hunting lodges built by Firoz Shah Tughlaq, who ruled Delhi between 1351 and 1388.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/dilapidated-monuments-get-new-lease-of-life/article25086331.ece>

Q.3) Consider the following statements about 'Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism' (CCIT)

1. It is proposed by India in 1996 and is now adopted by the UNGA
2. It addresses the issue of Pakistan's alleged support for cross-border terrorism in South Asia

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.3) Solution (b)

It is a draft proposed by India in 1996 that is yet to be adopted by the UNGA.

It addresses the issue of Pakistan's alleged support for cross-border terrorism in South Asia.

HITTING HURDLES



Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism is a draft proposed by India in 1996, that has yet to be adopted by the UN General assembly





Terror striking every day now -Turkey, Somalia, Afghanistan, Kenya & Bangladesh. Mere condemnation & commiseration @un won't do. Need CCIT
 – Syed Akbaruddin, India's ambassador to UN, on Twitter

What does it call for?

- ➔ **Universal definition of terrorism:** No good terrorist or bad terrorist
- ➔ Ban on all groups regardless of country of operation, cut off access to fund and safe havens
- ➔ Prosecution of all groups, including cross-border groups
- ➔ Amending domestic laws to make cross-border terror an extraditable offence

Why has CCIT been blocked?

- ➔ **US+allies:** Concerns over definitions of terrorism, including acts by US soldiers in international interventions without UN mandate
- ➔ **Latin American countries:** Concerns over international humanitarian laws and HR being ignored
- ➔ **OIC:** Concerns that convention will be used to target Pakistan, and restrict rights of self-determination groups in Palestine, Kashmir etc

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/swaraj-for-global-framework-on-terror/article25085623.ece>

Q.4) Global Hunger Index (GHI) is published by

- a) World Health Organisation
- b) Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)
- c) International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- d) None of the above

Q.4) Solution (c)

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a multidimensional statistical tool used to describe the state of countries' hunger situation. The GHI measures progress and failures in the global fight against hunger. The GHI is updated once a year.

The Index was adopted and further developed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and was first published in 2006 with the Welthungerhilfe, a German non-profit organization (NPO). Since 2007, the Irish NGO Concern Worldwide joined the group as co-publisher.

Q.5) SAFAR – India, an initiative of the Government of India, aims at

- a) Providing financial and technical assistance to young start-up entrepreneurs
- b) Disseminating information regarding air quality on real time
- c) Promoting the Self Help Groups in rural areas
- d) Financial inclusion scheme monitored by business correspondents (BC) in rural areas

Q.5) Solution (b)

The SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research) is a project of Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India having distinction to develop India's first ever Air Quality Forecasting system SAFAR for Metro cities.

SAFAR envisages a research based management system where strategies of air pollution mitigation go hand in hand with nation's economic development to target a win-win scenario.

Q.6) 'Middle East Strategic Alliance' is a brainchild of

- a) United States of America
- b) Gulf Cooperation Council
- c) Saudi Arabia
- d) United Arab Emirates

Q.6) Solution (a)

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/iran-india-relations-saudi-arabia-uae-bahrain-qatar-kuwait-oman-the-gulf-in-foreign-policy-5381738/>

Q.7) Consider the following statements about 'Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCFT)'

1. It is an international forum of 29 countries and the European Union with an overarching mission of reducing the vulnerability of people worldwide to terrorism by preventing, combating, and prosecuting terrorist acts and countering incitement and recruitment to terrorism.
2. India is one of the members of the GCFT

Select the correct statements

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

Q.7) Solution (c)

News: The United States and Morocco launched the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum's (GCTF) Terrorist Travel Initiative, which brings together stakeholders to share expertise on how to develop and implement effective counterterrorism watch listing and screening tools.

The Global Counterterrorism Forum is an informal, apolitical, multilateral counter-terrorism (CT) platform that was launched officially in New York in 2011.

The GCTF's goal is to strengthen capabilities in order to develop a strategic, long-term approach to counter terrorism and prevent the violent extremist ideologies that underpin it. The GCTF's mission is to diminish terrorist recruitment and increase countries' civilian capabilities for dealing with terrorist threats within their borders and regions.

Currently co-chaired by the Netherlands and Morocco, the GCTF has 30 founding members. India is one of the founding members.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/initiative-to-stop-terrorist-travel-launched-on-unga-sidelines-118092800882_1.html

Q.8) Recently, The Government has constituted a Competition Law Review Committee to review the Competition Act to ensure that the legislation is in sync with the changing business environment. It is chaired by

- a) Injeti Srinivas

- b) Uday Kotak
- c) Amitabh Kant
- d) Ratan Watal

Q.8) Solution (a)

In pursuance of its objective of ensuring that Legislation is in sync with the needs of strong economic fundamentals, the Government has constituted a Competition Law Review Committee to review the Competition Act.

The Competition Act was passed in the year 2002 and the Competition Commission of India was set up in pursuance of the same. The Commission started functioning in right earnest from 2009 and has contributed immensely towards the development of competition and fair play practices in the Indian market.

The Terms of References of the Committee are as follows:-

- To review the Competition Act/ Rules/ Regulations, in view of changing business environment and bring necessary changes, if required;
- To look into international best practices in the competition fields, especially anti-trust laws, merger guidelines and handling cross border competition issues;
- To study other regulatory regimes/ institutional mechanisms/ government policies which overlap with the Competition Act;
- Any other matters related to competition issue and considered necessary by the Committee.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/centre-constitutes-competition-law-review-committee-118093000663_1.html

Q.9) The report 'Reinvigorating Trade and Inclusive Growth' was released by the

1. International Monetary Fund
2. World Bank and
3. World Trade Organization

Select the correct code:

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

Q.9) Solution (d)

“Reinvigorating Trade and Inclusive Growth”, a joint publication released today by the World Bank Group, International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization reinforces the importance of trade in the global economy. The publication emphasizes that trade policies should aim to build greater, more durable openness and encourage countries to reinvest in open, rules-based global trade. In today’s world of fast-moving change in the global economy, there is a need more than ever to ensure that the rules, policies, and practices governing global trade are modernized.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/indias-story-compelling-evidence-that-openness-in-services-contributes-to-growth-report/articleshow/66017754.cms>

Q.10) ‘Goyna Bori’ is

- a) A basket that is traditionally used by the people of Kashmir to keep them warm by keeping burning charcoals in it
- b) It is a pictorial narrative painted on a cloth-based scroll
- c) It is an embroidery technique using beautiful designs of flowers on shawls, scarves, and saris
- d) A fine art of using lentil paste mix to create exquisite designs

Q.10) Solution (b)**Goyna Bori**

The fine art of using lentil paste mix to create exquisite designs, distinct in West Bengal’s Midnapore.

With distinct historical basis dating back several centuries of the Rajbari and also referred by Rabindranath Tagore in his works, ‘Goyna Bori’ is believed to have originated in Midnapore. Apart from being edible, Goyna Bori is actually more about unique pieces of fine art having great appeal to the eye.

Q.11) Consider the following statements about ‘Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI)’

1. It is an indicator of the economic health of the manufacturing sector

2. The PMI is based on new orders, inventory levels, production, supplier deliveries and the employment environment
3. A PMI of more than 50 represents contraction of the manufacturing sector when compared to the previous month

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Q.11) Solution (b)

The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an indicator of the economic health of the manufacturing sector. The PMI is based on five major indicators: new orders, inventory levels, production, supplier deliveries and the employment environment. The purpose of the PMI is to provide information about current business conditions to company decision makers, analysts and purchasing managers.

A PMI of more than 50 represents expansion of the manufacturing sector when compared to the previous month. A PMI reading under 50 represents a contraction, and a reading at 50 indicates no change.

Source:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/manufacturing-activity-strengthens-in-september-pmi-rises-to-52-2/articleshow/66023967.cms>

Q.12) 'Variable Infiltration Capacity Model' which was in news recently is associated with

- a) Ethanol Blending
- b) Reverse Osmosis
- c) Solar Energy
- d) Soil Moisture

Q.12) Solution (d)

A joint exercise by IIT Gandhinagar and the India Meteorological Department (IMD), for the first time, provides a country-wide soil moisture forecast at seven and 30-day lead times.

Soil moisture is crucial for agriculture since it directly affects crop growth and how much irrigation is required for the area.

Professor at IIT Gandhinagar used the 'Variable Infiltration Capacity' model to provide the soil moisture prediction.

The product, termed 'Experimental Forecasts Land Surface Products', is available on the IMD website.

It has been developed using the hydrological model that takes into consideration soil, vegetation, land use and land cover among other parameters.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/how-wet-is-the-ground-after-rain-for-first-time-india-gets-soil-moisture-map-5383688/>

Q.13) Consider the following statements about 'Asian Development Bank (ADB)'

1. ADB raises funds through bond issues on the world's capital markets.
2. ADB is an official United Nations Observer.
3. ADB provides direct financial assistance to private sector companies, for projects that have clear social benefits beyond the financial rate of return.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.13) Solution (d)

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established in 1966, which is headquartered in the Ortigas Center located in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

The Asian Development Bank was conceived as a financial institution that would be Asian in character and foster economic growth and cooperation in one of the poorest regions in the world.

ADB is an official United Nations Observer.

ADB provides direct financial assistance, in the form of debt, equity and mezzanine finance to private sector companies, for projects that have clear social benefits beyond the financial rate of return. ADB's participation is usually limited but it leverages a large amount of funds from commercial sources to finance these projects by holding no more than 25% of any given transaction.

ADB raises funds through bond issues on the world's capital markets. They also rely on our members' contributions, retained earnings from our lending operations, and the repayment of loans.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183878>

Q.14) Consider the following statements about 'Black Spotted Turtles'

1. It is classified as vulnerable by the IUCN Red List of threatened species.
2. It is native to South Asia

Select the correct code:

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

Q.14) Solution (c)

India accounts for 29% of black spotted turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*) seized from across seven countries in South Asia, states a recent report by TRAFFIC.

Classified as vulnerable by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of threatened species, the black spotted turtle or spotted pond turtle is native to South Asia, and a heavily trafficked chelonian. The medium-sized freshwater turtle has a black shell with yellow streaks. The species was once smuggled for its meat and is now sought after as an exotic pet.

The report titled 'Black Spotted Turtle Trade in Asia II: A Seizure Analysis' records seizures of 10,321 specimens in 53 instances across seven countries between April 2014 and March 2016.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-sees-highest-seizure-of-black-spotted-turtles/article25083451.ece>

Q.15) 'Agricultural Marketing & Farm Friendly Reforms Index' is released by

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- c) NABARD
- d) The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN

Q.15) Solution (a)

NITI Aayog has launched an index to rank States and UTs that is based on implementation of seven provisions proposed under model APMC Act, joining eNAM initiative, special treatment to fruits and vegetables for marketing and level of taxes in mandis. These indicators reveal ease of doing agribusiness as well as opportunities for farmers to benefit from modern trade and commerce and have wider option for sale of her/his produce. These indicators also represent competitiveness, efficiency and transparency in agri markets. The second area of reforms included in the index is relaxation in restrictions related to lease in and lease out agricultural land and change in law to recognise tenant and safeguard land owners liberalisation. The third area included in the index represent freedom given to farmers for felling and transit of trees grown on private land. This represents opportunity to diversify farm business.

It has a score which can have minimum value "0" implying no reforms and maximum value "100" implying complete reforms in the selected areas. States and UTs have been ranked in terms of the score of the index.

Q.16) The 'São Paulo Round' is associated with

- a) Asia Pacific Trade Agreement
- b) Global System of Trade Preferences
- c) Broad based Trade and Investment Agreement
- d) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

Q.16) Solution (b)

Third Round of the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) negotiations is known as the "São Paulo Round".

"São Paulo Round" was launched in 2004 with 22 participating countries, on the occasion of the UNCTAD XI Quadrennial Conference in Sao Paulo in Brazil.

Q.17) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) India and Pakistan have no formal trade agreement.
- b) India has granted Most Favoured Nation (MFN) Status to Pakistan
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Q.17) Solution (c)

India and Pakistan have no formal trade agreement. India has granted Most Favoured Nation (MFN) Status to Pakistan, whereas Pakistan maintains a List of Importable Items from India called 'Positive List'.

Q.18) MERCOSUR is a trading bloc in

- a) East Africa
- b) South America
- c) West Africa
- d) Scandinavia

Q.18) Solution (b)

MERCOSUR is a trading bloc in South America region comprising of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. It was formed in 1991 with the objective of free movement of goods, services, capital and people and became a customs union in January 1995.

Q.19) 'South African Customs Union (SACU)' comprises of

- 1. Lesotho
- 2. Swaziland
- 3. Botswana

Select the correct code:

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

- d) All of the above

Q.19) Solution (d)

South African Customs Union (SACU) comprises of South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana and Namibia.

SACU and India are currently negotiating trade agreements.

Q.20) Which of the following countries is part of European Free Trade Association (EFTA)?

1. Liechtenstein
2. Monaco
3. Luxembourg

Select the correct code:

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

Q.20) Solution (d)

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is an intergovernmental organisation for the promotion and intensification of free trade. EFTA was founded as an alternative for states that did not wish to join the European Community (EC). EFTA was founded by the Stockholm Convention on May 3, 1960 with Austria, Denmark, Great Britain, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland as its founding members. The present membership of EFTA is limited to four countries – Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. These countries are not part of the European Union (EU).

Q.21) 'Sahyog HOP TAC -2018', is a joint exercise of Coast Guards of India and

- a) Laos
- b) Vietnam
- c) Thailand
- d) Singapore

Q.21) Solution (b)

The maiden joint exercise of Coast Guards of India and Vietnam "Sahyog HOP TAC -2018" was held in the Bay of Bengal off the Chennai coast, Tamil Nadu.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/coast-guards-of-india-vietnam-hold-joint-exercise-off-chennai/articleshow/66076682.cms>

Q.22) 'RE-INVEST' is a global platform to explore strategies for development and deployment of

- a) Dam Safety
- b) Zero Budget Natural Farming
- c) Renewables
- d) Desalination of seawater

Q.22) Solution (c)

RE-INVEST

- It is a global platform to explore strategies for development and deployment of renewables.
- It showcases India's clean energy market and the Government's efforts to scale up capacity to meet the national energy demands in sustainable ways.
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is organising 2nd global RE-INVEST expo in Noida.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183974>

Q.23) 'De-notified tribes' refers to

- a) Tribes which were earlier classified as criminal tribes
- b) Tribes which are aboriginals
- c) Nomadic tribes
- d) Tribes practising shifting cultivation

Q.23) Solution (a)

Denotified Tribes (DNTs) are the tribes that were originally listed under the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871, as "Criminal Tribes" and "addicted to the systematic commission of non-bailable offences."

Q.24) In the parlance of financial investments, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) A bull market is one where prices are rising
- b) A bear market is one where prices are falling
- c) Both A and B
- d) Neither A nor B

Q.24) Solution (c)

A bull market is a financial market of a group of securities in which prices are rising or are expected to rise. The term "bull market" is most often used to refer to the stock market but can be applied to anything that is traded, such as bonds, currencies and commodities.

A bear market is a condition in which securities prices fall and widespread pessimism causes the stock market's downward spiral to be self-sustaining. Investors anticipate losses as pessimism and selling increases.

Q.25) Which of the following are correct with respect to election of Vice president in India?

- a) He is elected by people directly
- b) He is elected by the members of Rajya Sabha only
- c) He is elected by the members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha
- d) He is elected by the members of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislatures

Q.25) Solution (c)

Both elected and nominated members of both houses of parliament participate in the election.

Q.26) The term 'Ghost nets' refer to

- a) Fishing nets that have been left or lost in the ocean
- b) Internet that isn't visible to search engines
- c) An American private military company security contracting in the Iraq War
- d) None of the above

Q.26) Solution (a)

Ghost nets are classified under Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG), which includes lines, traps, hooks, dredges and buoys.

Ghost nets can kill marine wildlife, including vulnerable species, and destroy the benthic ecosystems that exist at the lowest level of a body of water. The problem has been worsening with the global expansion in fishing operations, and the availability of more durable gear.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in a 2009 study titled 'Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear', states that almost 6,40,000 tonnes of all fishing gear (approximately 10% of the total usage) is lost or discarded in our oceans annually, in bad weather or when nets get stuck to the rocky bottom.

Additionally, "the economic impacts of ALDFG are complex and have not been estimated systematically but include incremental costs associated with fishing operations, compliance, accidents at sea, search and rescue and recovery," says a 2016 submission on 'Marine Debris, Plastics and Microplastics' by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/picking-out-silent-ghosts-in-the-deep/article25146517.ece>

Q.27) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Odonates'.

- 1. It encompasses the dragonflies and damselflies
- 2. They are amphibiotic

Select the correct statements

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

Q.27) Solution (c)

Odonata is an order of carnivorous insects, encompassing the dragonflies (Anisoptera) and the damselflies (Zygoptera). The Odonata form a clade, which has existed since the Triassic.

Dragonflies are generally larger, and perch with their wings held out to the sides; damselflies have slender bodies, and hold their wings over the body at rest.

Odonates are amphibiotic (having aquatic larval form and terrestrial adult form) insects.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/a-safe-haven-for-rare-dragonflies/article25147007.ece>

Q.28) Consider the following statements about 'Seemai karuvelam' trees

1. It is native to Mexico, South America and the Caribbean
2. It is an invasive species
3. It produces less oxygen and more carbon dioxide

Select the correct statements

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

Q.28) Solution (d)

Prosopis Juliflora is a shrub or small tree in the family Fabaceae commonly known as Seemai Karuvelam. It is native to Mexico, South America and the Caribbean. It was initially introduced in India during colonial times. Later in 1960s it was Seed Bombed i.e. aurally seeded by helicopter in Southern Tamil Nadu to meet firewood demand. Since then it has become invasive species. It causes stomach poisoning in livestock by inducing a permanent impairment of its ability to digest cellulose. It causes drying up of water bodies and ground water as it absorbs more than 4 litres of water to obtain one kg of biomass. It cannot even shelter birds as it produces less oxygen and more carbon dioxide. It causes land erosion due to the loss of the grasslands that are habitats for native plants and animals. Dispersal of the species is mainly through animals by endozoochory (dispersal by vertebrate animals).

Q.29) The place, Kutupalong' was in news recently. Where is it located?

- a) Myanmar
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Thailand
- d) Vietnam

Q.29) Solution (b)

Kutupalong refugee camp is a refugee camp in Ukhia, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, inhabited mostly by Rohingya refugees that fled from ethnic and religious persecution in neighboring Myanmar. It is one of two government-run refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, the other being the Nayapara refugee camp.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/uncertainty-shadows-the-rohingya-in-bangladeshs-kutupalong-refugee-camp/article25145560.ece>

Q.30) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy'

1. It is more common in boys
2. It leads to shortened lifespans

Select the correct statements

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

Q.30) Solution (c)

Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) is a severe type of muscular dystrophy. The symptom of muscle weakness usually begins around the age of four in boys and worsens quickly. DMD affects about one in 5,000 males at birth

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy results in progressive muscular weakness leading to shortened lifespans. This is due to mutations that reduce expression of dystrophin, an essential structural protein in heart and skeletal muscles.

Q.31) Consider the following statements about 'Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA)'

1. It was constituted with the objective of 'protecting and improving' the quality of the environment and 'controlling environmental pollution' in the National Capital Region.
2. It was constituted at the behest of the Supreme Court.
3. It is mandated to enforce Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) as per the pollution levels.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.31) Solution (d)

News: The Centre has reconstituted the Supreme Court-empowered Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority or the EPCA, which is tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region.

Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority, also known as the EPCA, is a statutory body constituted by the central government in 1998 at the behest of the Supreme Court. One of the initial and significant achievements of this authority was introducing compressed natural gas as a fuel for vehicles in Delhi after an order of the Supreme Court. This was aimed to address pollution problems. But that is not surprising as the EPCA was constituted with the objective of 'protecting and improving' the quality of the environment and 'controlling environmental pollution' in the National Capital Region. The EPCA also assists the apex court in various environment-related matters in the region.

The EPCA was constituted with the objective of protecting and improving the quality of the environment and preventing and controlling the environmental pollution in the National Capital Region. The EPCA is also mandated to enforce Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in the city as per the pollution levels.

Source: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/centre-reconstitutes-epca-the-authority-tasked-with-tackling-environment-pollution-in-ncr-3022131.html>

Q.32) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Rapid Action Force (RAF)'

1. It is a specialised wing of the Central Industrial Security Force.
2. It is headed by an officer of the rank of Inspector general.
3. It is governed by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.32) Solution (b)

The Rapid Action Force (RAF) is a specialised wing of the Indian CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) to deal with riot and crowd control situations.

This specialized force has 15 battalions which are numbered 99 to 108 and 83, 91, 97, 114, 194. It is headed by an officer of the rank of Inspector general.

The smallest functional unit in the force is a 'Team' commanded by an inspector, has three components namely riot control element, tear smoke element and fire element. It has been organised as an independent striking unit.

The RAF battalions are based in various parts of the country in order to cut down response time and rush the teams in the shortest possible time to counter an incident.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/pm-modi-s-constituency-varanasi-among-5-new-rapid-action-force-bases-118100700299_1.html

Q.33) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bisphenol A'

1. It is used primarily to make plastics.
2. It is used in food packaging items to extend shelf life and protect food from contamination and spoilage.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.33) Solution (c)

Bisphenol A is used primarily to make plastics. Bisphenol A based plastics have been in commercial use since 1957. It is a key ingredient in polymers that are used to make adhesives, containers, electronic coatings, boat hulls. In terms of consumer goods, reusable drink containers, food storage containers, canned foods, children's toys, and even receipts from stores.

BPA is used safely in food packaging items to extend shelf life and protect food from contamination and spoilage.

Q.34) Which one of the following is a purpose of 'UDAY', a scheme of the Government?

- a) Providing technical and financial assistance to start-up entrepreneurs in the field of renewable sources of energy
- b) Providing electricity to every household in the country by 2018
- c) Replacing the coal-based power plants with natural gas, nuclear, solar, wind and tidal power plants over a period of time
- d) Providing for financial turnaround and revival of power distribution companies

Q.34) Solution (d)

Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) is the financial turnaround and revival package for electricity distribution companies of India (DISCOMs) initiated by the Government of India with the intent to find a permanent solution to the financial mess that the power distribution is in.

Q.35) Other than poaching, what are the possible reasons for the decline in the population of Ganges River Dolphins?

- 1. Construction of dams and barrages on rivers
- 2. Getting trapped in fishing nets accidentally
- 3. Use of synthetic fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals in crop-fields in the vicinity of rivers

Select the correct code:

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

- d) All of the above

Q.35) Solution (d)

In India, the Ganges River Dolphin is threatened by river water pollution and siltation, accidental entanglement in fishing nets, and poaching for their oil. In addition, alterations to the rivers in the form of barrages and dams are separating populations. Various organizations, including the WWF-India in Uttar Pradesh, have initiated programs for conservation and re-introduction of the River Dolphin.

Read More -

http://www.panda.org/knowledge_hub/endangered_species/cetaceans/about/river_dolphins/ganges_river_dolphin/

Q.36) Consider the following statements about 'Security Policy Group (SPG)'

1. It will assist the National Security Council
2. It will chaired by the Cabinet Secretary

Select the correct statements

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

Q.36) Solution (a)

The government has set up a panel, headed by NSA Ajit Doval, to assist the National Security Council, which advises the prime minister on matters of national security and strategic interests

The Strategic Policy Group (SPG) will assist the National Security Council and undertake among other tasks, a long-term strategic review of country's security affairs.

It will be the principal mechanism for inter-ministerial coordination and integration of relevant inputs in the formulation of national security policies

The SPG will be chaired by National Security Advisor (NSA) Doval and its members include the NITI Aayog vice chairman, the cabinet secretary, the chiefs of the three defence services,

the RBI governor, the foreign secretary, the home secretary, the finance secretary and the defence secretary.

The secretary of the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, the scientific adviser to the defence minister and the secretary (R), Cabinet Secretariat will also be members of the panel.

The other members are secretary, Department of Revenue; secretary, Department of Atomic Energy; secretary, Department of Space; director, Intelligence Bureau and secretary, National Security Council Secretariat.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/government-sets-up-key-panel-under-nsa-to-assist-national-security-council/articleshow/66122939.cms>

Q.37) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'

1. It is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.
2. It was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.37) Solution (c)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. It was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988 to provide policymakers with regular scientific assessments concerning climate change, its implications and risks, as well as to put forward adaptation and mitigation strategies. It has 195 member states.

IPCC assessments provide governments, at all levels, with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies. IPCC assessments are a key input into the international negotiations to tackle climate change. IPCC reports are drafted and reviewed in several stages, thus guaranteeing objectivity and transparency.

The IPCC assesses the thousands of scientific papers published each year to tell policymakers what we know and don't know about the risks related to climate change. The IPCC identifies where there is agreement in the scientific community, where there are differences of opinion, and where further research is needed. It does not conduct its own research.

To produce its reports, the IPCC mobilizes hundreds of scientists. These scientists and officials are drawn from diverse backgrounds. Only a dozen permanent staff work in the IPCC's Secretariat.

The IPCC has three working groups: Working Group I, dealing with the physical science basis of climate change; Working Group II, dealing with impacts, adaptation and vulnerability; and Working Group III, dealing with the mitigation of climate change. It also has a Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories that develops methodologies for measuring emissions and removals.

IPCC Assessment Reports consist of contributions from each of the three working groups and a Synthesis Report. Special Reports undertake an assessment of cross-disciplinary issues that span more than one working group and are shorter and more focused than the main assessments.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/global-warming-impacts-on-india-will-be-huge-ipcc/article25157254.ece>

Q.38) Consider the following statements about 'Voyager 2'

1. It is a space probe launched by NASA
2. It was launched along with Cassini-Huygens Mission

Select the correct statements

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

Q.38) Solution (a)

Voyager 2 is a space probe launched by NASA on August 20, 1977, to study the outer planets. Part of the Voyager program, it was launched 16 days before its twin, Voyager 1, on

a trajectory that took longer to reach Jupiter and Saturn but enabled further encounters with Uranus and Neptune. It is the only spacecraft to have visited either of the ice giants.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-life/nasa-probe-nearing-interstellar-space/article25152188.ece>

Q.39) Which of the following are considered as 'ice giants' in the Solar System?

1. Uranus
2. Neptune
3. Venus

Select the correct code:

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

Q.39) Solution (a)

An ice giant is a giant planet composed mainly of elements heavier than hydrogen and helium, such as oxygen, carbon, nitrogen, and sulfur. There are two known ice giants in the Solar System: Uranus and Neptune.

Q.40) Which of the following is an application of NN (Neural Network)?

1. Sales forecasting
2. Data validation
3. Risk management

Select the correct code:

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

Q.40) Solution (d)

What is a Neural Network?

An Artificial Neural Network (ANN) is an information processing paradigm that is inspired by the way biological nervous systems, such as the brain, process information. The key element of this paradigm is the novel structure of the information processing system. It is composed of a large number of highly interconnected processing elements (neurons) working in unison to solve specific problems. ANNs, like people, learn by example. An ANN is configured for a specific application, such as pattern recognition or data classification, through a learning process. Learning in biological systems involves adjustments to the synaptic connections that exist between the neurons. This is true of ANNs as well.

Why use neural networks?

Neural networks, with their remarkable ability to derive meaning from complicated or imprecise data, can be used to extract patterns and detect trends that are too complex to be noticed by either humans or other computer techniques. A trained neural network can be thought of as an "expert" in the category of information it has been given to analyse. This expert can then be used to provide projections given new situations of interest and answer "what if" questions.

Other advantages include:

- Adaptive learning: An ability to learn how to do tasks based on the data given for training or initial experience.
- Self-Organisation: An ANN can create its own organisation or representation of the information it receives during learning time.
- Real Time Operation: ANN computations may be carried out in parallel, and special hardware devices are being designed and manufactured which take advantage of this capability.
- Fault Tolerance via Redundant Information Coding: Partial destruction of a network leads to the corresponding degradation of performance. However, some network capabilities may be retained even with major network damage.

Neural networks versus conventional computers

Neural networks take a different approach to problem solving than that of conventional computers. Conventional computers use an algorithmic approach i.e. the computer follows a set of instructions in order to solve a problem. Unless the specific steps that the computer needs to follow are known the computer cannot solve the problem. That restricts the problem solving capability of conventional computers to problems that we already understand and know how to solve. But computers would be so much more useful if they could do things that we don't exactly know how to do.

Neural networks process information in a similar way the human brain does. The network is composed of a large number of highly interconnected processing elements(neurones) working in parallel to solve a specific problem. Neural networks learn by example. They cannot be programmed to perform a specific task. The examples must be selected carefully otherwise useful time is wasted or even worse the network might be functioning incorrectly. The disadvantage is that because the network finds out how to solve the problem by itself, its operation can be unpredictable.

On the other hand, conventional computers use a cognitive approach to problem solving; the way the problem is to be solved must be known and stated in small unambiguous instructions. These instructions are then converted to a high level language program and then into machine code that the computer can understand. These machines are totally predictable; if anything goes wrong is due to a software or hardware fault.

Neural networks and conventional algorithmic computers are not in competition but complement each other. There are tasks more suited to an algorithmic approach like arithmetic operations and tasks that are more suited to neural networks. Even more, a large number of tasks, require systems that use a combination of the two approaches (normally a conventional computer is used to supervise the neural network) in order to perform at maximum efficiency.

Given this description of neural networks and how they work, what real world applications are they suited for? Neural networks have broad applicability to real world business problems. In fact, they have already been successfully applied in many industries.

Since neural networks are best at identifying patterns or trends in data, they are well suited for prediction or forecasting needs including:

- sales forecasting
- industrial process control
- customer research
- data validation
- risk management
- target marketing

THINK!

- Applications of Neural networks in medicine and Business

Q.41) Consider the following statements about 'The Sexual Harassment of Women At Workplace Act, 2013'

1. The Act is for any woman who is harassed in any workplace
2. Under the Act, the victims can directly approach the court
3. It replaced the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in the Vishakha case judgment

Select the correct code:

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

Q.41) Solution (d)

The Sexual Harassment of Women At Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition And Redressal) Act, 2013

- It had replaced the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in the historic Vishaka case judgment
- This Act makes it illegal to sexually harass women in the workplace.
- It talks about the different ways in which someone can be sexually harassed and how they can complain against this kind of behaviour.
- This Act is only for women who are sexually harassed in workplaces.
- This Act is for any woman who is harassed in any workplace. It is not necessary for the woman to be working at the workplace in which she is harassed. A workplace can be any office, whether government or private.
- Even if there are no cases of sexual harassment at the moment, it is still necessary for the Internal Complaints Committee to be set up (if you employ more than 10 workers) and for all rules to be followed.
- The Act gives a choice between dealing with the offender within the office or approaching a court.
- If a woman wishes, she can file a criminal complaint instead of approaching the Internal/Local Complaints Committee.

Q.42) Consider the following statements

1. Tripuri Kingdom merged with India before Independence
2. The state of Tripura came into existence in 1972 along with Meghalaya and Manipur

Select the correct statements

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

Q.42) Solution (b)

Following the 1971 war, the Indian government reorganised the North East region to ensure effective control of the international borders – three new states came into existence on 21 January 1972 Meghalaya, Manipur, and Tripura.

Tripura fact file

■ Princely State of Tripura merged with the Indian Union on October 15, 1949

■ Attained full statehood on January 21, 1972

■ Fresh communal disturbances in 1950 in East Bengal, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura lead to the Nehru-Liaquat Agreement on April 8, 1950

■ National Register of Citizens prepared in 1951

■ Treaty for friendship, co-operation and peace signed between India and Bangladesh on March 19, 1972

■ The Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 and The Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Rules, 1984 are struck down by SC

■ As per the government, the estimated number of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in India as on 2002 was 1,20,53,950. In Tripura, there were approximately 3,25,400 illegal immigrants



SOURCE: PIL

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/sc-tags-tripura-nrc-plea-with-assam-case/article25162119.ece>

Q.43) India is home to which of the following species of Otters?

1. Eurasian Otter

2. Smooth-coated Otter
3. Small-clawed Otter

Select the correct code:

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

Q.43) Solution (d)

Otters are found the world over, except in Australia, New Zealand, Madagascar, and other oceanic islands. India is home to 3 of the 13 species of otters found worldwide. These are - Eurasian Otter (*Lutra lutra*); Smooth-coated Otter (*Lutra perspicillata*) and Small-clawed otter (*Aonyx cinereus*). The Smooth-coated Otter is distributed throughout the country from the Himalayas southward. But the Common Otter and the Small-clawed Otter are restricted to the Himalayas, to the north of the Ganges and to southern India. The occurrence of all three species has been reported from northeast India and the Western Ghats. In most of their distribution range, otters occur along with gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*), crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*), Ganges river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*), and several species of turtles.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/western-ghats-is-home-to-the-eurasian-otter/article25145259.ece>

Q.44) Consider the following statements about 'Solicitor General of India'

1. He/She is the Indian government's chief legal advisor.
2. He/She is appointed for the period of 3 years.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.44) Solution (b)

The Solicitor General of India is below the Attorney General for India, who is the Indian government's chief legal advisor, and its primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India. The Solicitor General of India is appointed for the period of 3 years.

Q.45) Consider the following statements with respect to India's first ever 'National Environment Survey'

1. It will assess carbon sequestration potential of the districts across the country.
2. It will be carried through Environmental Information System (ENVIS).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.45) Solution (c)

The first NES will be carried out by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) through Environmental Information System (ENVIS) and its hubs and resource partners across the country. It will be done through grid-based approach, using grids measuring 9×9 km to collect comprehensive data on various environmental parameters.

These parameters will include air, water, soil quality; solid, hazardous and e-waste; emission inventory; forest & wildlife; flora & fauna; wetlands, lakes, rivers and other water bodies. It will also assess carbon sequestration potential of all the districts across the country.

It will also assess carbon sequestration potential of the districts across the country.

It will rank all the districts on their environmental performance and document their best green practices.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/indias-first-ever-national-environment-survey-to-kick-off-in-24-states-3-uts-in-jan-2019/articleshow/66143528.cms>

Q.46) Transformative Carbon Asset Facility (TCAF) was launched by?

- a) World Bank
- b) UNEP

- c) Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- d) Vulnerable Twenty (V20)

Q.46) Solution (a)

The World Bank Group, in partnership with several contributing countries, established the Transformative Carbon Asset Facility (TCAF), which will support developing countries in increasing their mitigation ambition. This will in turn help to inform the international process for shaping international carbon markets going forward.

TCAF will test various methods to transfer “mitigation outcomes” between parties transparently and to provide stringent accounting and transparency, thereby ensuring the environmental integrity of the assets.

A predictable long-term price on carbon is recognized as a necessary element in spurring climate change mitigation.

TCAF will support measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by developing baselines and monitoring the performance of the programs.

Read More - <https://tcaf.worldbank.org/about-tcaf>

Q.47) Consider the following statements about Carbon Initiative for Development (Ci-Dev)

1. It is under the aegis of World Bank Group
2. It is aimed at low-income countries

Select the correct statements

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

Q.47) Solution (c)

The Carbon Initiative for Development (Ci-Dev) was launched in December 2011 to build capacity and develop tools and methodologies to help the world's poorest countries access carbon finance, mainly in the area of energy access. It is set up to use performance

payments based on reduced emissions to support projects that use clean and efficient technologies in low-income countries.

The objectives of the Ci-Dev are the following:

- To demonstrate that performance-based payments for the purchase of certified carbon emission reductions (CERs) can lead to a successful and viable business model that promotes increased private sector participation, and share lessons for replication.
- To influence future carbon market mechanisms so that low income countries, and especially least developed ones, receive a greater and fairer share of carbon finance, resulting in high development benefits that avoid carbon emissions.
- To support low income countries in developing standardized baselines and establishing "suppressed demand" accounting standards in key areas such as rural electrification, household energy access and energy efficiency.
- To contribute proposals to further improve and extend the scope of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) for use by least developed countries (LDCs), in particular for Programmes of Activities (POA).

Ci-Dev comprises two reinforcing components, the Readiness Fund and the Carbon Fund.

- The Readiness Fund finances capacity building activities in least developed countries to develop standardized baselines and technical assistance for energy access programs. It supports the development of new methodologies and proposals for simplified CDM rules, and dissemination of results. Where needed, it also provides technical assistance to the projects and programs supported by the Carbon Fund.
- The Carbon Fund provides performance-based payments to low-carbon investments in the form of purchases of certified carbon emission reductions.

Q.48) Consider the following statements with respect to 'India for Humanity' initiative

1. It was launched by the Ministry of External Affairs part as of 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi
2. It will feature a year-long series of artificial limb fitment camps in a number of countries spanning the globe

Select the correct statements

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

Q.48) Solution (c)

As part of 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi being held over the next one year, the Ministry of External Affairs has launched the 'India for Humanity' initiative in honour of his service to humanity," a press statement read.

With its focus on Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of compassion, caring and service to humanity, the initiative will feature a year-long series of artificial limb fitment camps in a number of countries spanning the globe, for which the MEA is collaborating with the renowned charitable organisation -- "Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti" (BMVSS).

Q.49) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Tylosin'

1. It is used in veterinary medicine to treat bacterial infections in a wide range of species
2. It has been banned for use as a growth promoter in the EU

Select the correct statements

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

Q.49) Solution (c)

Tylosin is not only critically important to animal health, it has been banned for use as a growth promoter in the EU since 1998 because of fears it fuels resistance to erythromycin, which is used to treat chest infections and other human diseases. WHO classes erythromycin as critically important to human health.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/antibiotics-to-grow-farm-animals-raise-superbug-risk/article25194733.ece>

Q.50) Common Risk Mitigating Mechanism (CRMM) is concerned with

- a) UNFCCC
- b) ISA

- c) ASEAN
- d) WTO

Q.50) Solution (b)

International Solar Alliance (ISA), which became a treaty-based global entity, will develop an insurance scheme - Common Risk Mitigating Mechanism –

- To protect investors' interests so that more and more investment can be attracted to the growing solar energy sector.
- It has set up an international expert group to work on blue print of the mechanism
- There is a task force headed by the Terrawatt Initiative (TWI) with members from the World Bank Group, The Currency Exchange Fund (TCX), the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), and also the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)
- CRMM will act as a pooled insurance with limited liability. Banks and multi-lateral institutions can contribute to the fund for a marginal premium. This will lower the cost of capital for developing renewable energy projects

Funds

- CRMM fund already has channelled \$250 million through the India-UK Fund.
- The body aims to raise another \$350 million through the Green Climate Fund and around \$250 million from private investors.
- A \$300-million India-French fund, similar to the India-UK Fund, is also being assessed.

Q.51) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Zika'

1. It is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by Aedes Mosquito
2. It can cause a paralyzing side effect called Guillain-Barré syndrome

Select the correct statements

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

Q.51) Solution (c)

Virus watch

- Zika is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by the Aedes mosquito, which bites during the day

- The symptoms are generally mild and typically last for 2-7 days. However, most people with Zika do not develop symptoms

- Increased risk of neurological complications is associated with Zika virus in adults and children, including the Guillain-Barré syndrome, neuropathy and myelitis

- The symptoms include fever, rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, and malaise or headache



- Zika infection during pregnancy may lead to babies developing microcephaly and other congenital malformations, known as congenital Zika syndrome. It can also lead to other complications like preterm birth and miscarriage

Q.52) Consider the following statements about 'Mithun'

1. They are is a large domestic bovine inhabitants of hill-forests
2. It is the State animal of Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct statements

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

Q.52) Solution (c)

The gayal (*Bos frontalis*), also known as mithun, is a large domestic bovine distributed in Northeast India, Bangladesh, northern Myanmar and in Yunnan, China. Gayals are essentially inhabitants of hill-forests. In India, semi-domesticated gayals are kept by several ethnic groups living in the hills of Tripura, Mizoram, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland. They also occur in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The mithun or gayal (*Bos frontalis*), considered a descendant of the Indian Gaur or bison, plays an important role in the socio-economic and cultural life of tribes such as the Nyishi, Apatani, Galo and Adi in Arunachal Pradesh. Reared under free-range conditions in hilly forests, the mithun is known as the 'cattle of the mountain'.

It is the State animal of Arunachal Pradesh.

Q.53) Consider the following statements about 'Rushikulya river'

1. It flows through three states
2. The Rushikulya river mouth beach is a major nesting site of the endangered olive ridley turtles

Select the correct statements

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

Q.53) Solution (b)

The Rushikulya River is one of the major rivers in the state of Odisha and covers entire catchment area in the districts of Kandhamal and Ganjam district of Odisha. The Rushikulya originates at an elevation of about 1000 metres from Daringbadi hills of the Eastern Ghats range. The place from where the river originates, Daringbadi is called the 'Kashmir of Odisha'. It meets the Bay of Bengal at Puruna Bandha in Ganjam. Its tributaries are the Baghua, the Dhanei, the Badanadi etc. It has no delta as such at its mouth.

In 1993, biologists from the Odisha Forest Department and the Wildlife Institute of India learned that large scale nesting of olive ridley sea turtles was taking place near the mouth of the Rushikulya River. This area is the location of one of the largest mass nesting (arribada) sites of olive ridley sea turtles in India.

Q.54) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Commercial Paper (CP)'

1. It is an unsecured money market instrument issued in the form of a promissory note.
2. They are short-term instruments and the maturity period does not exceed over 30 days.

Select the correct statements

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

- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.54) Solution (a)

Commercial Paper (CP) is an unsecured money market instrument issued in the form of a promissory note. CPs are short-term instruments and the maturity period varies from seven days to up to one year. The instrument was introduced in 1990 to enable highly rated corporate borrowers to diversify their sources of short-term borrowings, and also to provide an additional instrument to investors. CPs can be issued by corporates, primary dealers, and financial institutions. Eligible participants should have a minimum credit rating of A-2 at the time of the issuance of the CP. Banking companies, mutual funds, other corporate bodies, NRIs, individuals and foreign institutional investors (FIIs) can subscribe to CPs; they are also traded in the secondary market.

Q.55) _____ is the ability of a single cell to divide and produce all of the differentiated cells in an organism

- a) Totipotency
- b) Prepotency
- c) Unipotency
- d) None of the above

Q.55) Solution (a)

Totipotency

- It is a characteristic feature of a plant cell which signifies that a single cell is capable of giving rise to the whole plant i.e. the cell has the inherited capacity of differentiation and dedifferentiation.
- Totipotency is the ability of a single cell to divide and produce all of the differentiated cells in an organism.
- The term was first coined by Haberlandt in 1902.

Q.56) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Central Information Commission (CIC)'

1. It has been constituted under the Right to Information Act, 2005
2. Chief Information Commissioner is appointed by the President of India

Select the correct statements

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

Q.56) Solution (c)

The Central Information Commission (CIC) set up under the Right to Information Act is the authorised body, established in 2005, under the Government of India to act upon complaints from those individuals who have not been able to submit information requests to a Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer due to either the officer not have been appointed, or because the respective Central Assistant Public Information Officer or State Assistant Public Information Officer refused to receive the application for information under the RTI Act.

CIC and members are appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a committee consisting of—Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha; a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

Q.57) Consider the following statements about 'National Health Resource Repository (NHRR)'

1. It is a platform for comprehensive information of both, Private and Public healthcare establishments
2. The vision of the NHRR is to strengthen evidence-based decision making and develop a platform for citizen and provider-centric services by creating a robust, standardized and secured IT-enabled repository of India's healthcare resources

Select the correct statements

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

Q.57) Solution (c)

NHRR is India's 1st ever national healthcare facility registry of authentic, standardised and updated geo-spatial data of all public and private healthcare establishments.

The vision of the NHRR Project is to strengthen evidence-based decision making and develop a platform for citizen and provider-centric services by creating a robust, standardized and secured IT-enabled repository of India's healthcare resources. NHRR will be the ultimate platform for comprehensive information of both, Private and Public healthcare establishments including Railways, ESIC, Defense and Petroleum healthcare establishments.

Q.58) Consider the following statements

1. 'Turbidity Current' is set into motion when mud and sand on the continental shelf are loosened by earthquakes.
2. 'Turbidites' are sediments which are transported and deposited by frictional flow.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.58) Solution (a)

Turbidity Currents

They are fast-moving currents that sweep down submarine canyons, carrying sand and mud into the deep sea. However, there is more to them than just sediment-laden seawater flowing over the sea floor, and they also involve large-scale movements of the sea floor itself. This discovery could help ocean engineers avoid damage to pipelines, communications cables, and other sea floor structures. Geologists have known about turbidity currents since at least 1929, when a large earthquake triggered a violent current that travelled several hundred kilometres and damaged 12 trans-Atlantic communications cables. Turbidity currents are still a threat today, as people place more and more cables, pipelines, and other structures on the sea floor. Turbidity currents are also important to petroleum geologists because they leave behind layers of sediment that comprise some of the world's largest oil reserves.

A turbidite is the geologic deposit of a turbidity current, which is a type of sediment gravity flow responsible for distributing vast amounts of clastic sediment into the deep ocean.

Turbidites are sediments which are transported and deposited by density flow, not by tractional or frictional flow.

Q.59) Consider the following statements about 'Make II Scheme'

1. It is part of 'Make Procedure' in Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)-2016
2. It is a government-funded scheme

Select the correct statements

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

Q.59) Solution (a)

Make-II is an industry-funded scheme. It offers easier clearance and faster scaling-up of production.

The provision of 'Make' category of capital acquisition in Defence Procurement Procedure is a vital pillar for realising the vision behind the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government, by fostering indigenous capabilities through design & development of required defence equipment/product/systems or upgrades/ sub-systems/components /parts by both public and private sector industry/organization in a faster time frame.

As per DPP-2016, there are two sub- categories of 'Make' Procedure:

'Make-I' (Government Funded): Projects under 'Make-I' sub-category will involve Government funding of 90%, released in a phased manner and based on the progress of the scheme, as per terms agreed between MoD and the vendor.

'Make-II' (Industry Funded): Projects under 'Make-II' category will involve prototype development of equipment/system/ platform or their upgrades or their sub-systems/ sub-assembly/assemblies/components, primarily for import substitution/innovative solutions, for which no Government funding will be provided for prototype development purposes.

Another scheme — SPARK (Support for Prototype & Research Kick-start) — supports development of prototypes after selection under various programmes.

Q.60) 'Singphan Wildlife Sanctuary' is located in

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Nagaland
- c) Assam
- d) Manipur

Q.60) Solution (b)

Q.61) Consider the following statements with respect to 'HarvestPlus'

- 1. It focuses on three critical micronutrients recognized by the World Health Organization as most limiting in diets: iron, zinc, and vitamin A.
- 2. It is part of the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.61) Solution (c)

HarvestPlus seeks to reduce hidden hunger and provide micronutrients to billions of people directly through the staple foods that they eat. It uses a novel process called biofortification to breed higher levels of micronutrients directly into key staple foods.

HarvestPlus focuses on three critical micronutrients that recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as most limiting in diets: iron, zinc, and vitamin A. Efforts are underway to biofortify seven of the most important staple food crops in the developing world: bean, cassava, maize, pearl millet, rice, sweet potato and wheat.

In late 2002, the CGIAR Micronutrients Project was selected to be one of three pioneer CGIAR Challenge Programs. In 2004, the HarvestPlus Challenge Program was officially launched when it became the first recipient of funding for biofortification research granted by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. It has also received funding from many other generous donors. HarvestPlus has since emerged as a global leader in developing biofortified crops and now works with more than 200 agricultural and nutrition scientists

around the world. It is co-convened by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

HarvestPlus is part of the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH).

Read More - <http://www.harvestplus.org/content/about>

Q.62) Consider the following statements about 'Youth Road Safety Learners License Programme'

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
2. India committed to this at the 2nd Global High Level Conference on Road Safety, wherein the Brasilia Declaration

Select the correct statements

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

Q.62) Solution (a)

The programme is a PPP initiative to be run in collaboration with Diageo India and the Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE), and attempts to bring a formal and structured training program for young, first-time drivers as they apply for learner's license.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184190>

Q.63) What is/are the purpose/purposes of Government's 'Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme'?

1. To promote FDI in the gold and jewellery sector
2. To reduce India's dependence on gold imports

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.63) Solution (b)

Gold bonds will reduce the imports of the physical gold and thus help reduce our current account deficit.

It doesn't promote FDI.

Read More - <https://www.businesstoday.in/top-story/sovereign-gold-bond-scheme-opens-all-you-need-to-know/story/285221.html>

Q.64) With reference to 'Bitcoins' sometimes seen in the news, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Bitcoins are tracked by the Central Banks of the countries.
2. Anyone with a Bitcoin address can send and receive Bitcoins from anyone else with a Bitcoin address.
3. Online payments can be sent without either side knowing the identity of the other

Select the correct statements

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

Q.64) Solution (b)

Bitcoin (₿) is a cryptocurrency, a form of electronic cash. It is a decentralized digital currency without a central bank or single administrator that can be sent from user-to-user on the peer-to-peer bitcoin network without the need for intermediaries.

In the blockchain, bitcoins are registered to bitcoin addresses. Creating a bitcoin address requires nothing more than picking a random valid private key and computing the corresponding bitcoin address.

Q.65) Consider the following statements about Chandra X-ray Observatory

1. It is launched by NASA

2. It is a telescope specially designed to detect X-ray emission from very hot regions of the Universe

Select the correct statements

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

Q.65) Solution (c)

NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory is a telescope specially designed to detect X-ray emission from very hot regions of the Universe such as exploded stars, clusters of galaxies, and matter around black holes. Because X-rays are absorbed by Earth's atmosphere, Chandra must orbit above it, up to an altitude of 139,000 km (86,500 mi) in space.

Read More - <http://chandra.harvard.edu/about/>

Q.66) 'Global Innovation Index' is released by

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) International Monetary Forum
- c) World Trade Organisation
- d) None of the above

Q.66) Solution (d)

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

Q.67) 'Global Human Capital Index' is released by

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) UNDP
- c) International Labour Organisation
- d) Oxfam International

Q.67) Solution (a)

Global Human Capital Index (GHCI) is released by World Economic Forum (WEF)

Human Capital Index (HCI) compiled by the World Bank as part of the World Development Report 2019.

Q.68) 'Human Development Index' is released by

- a) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- b) International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- d) None of the above

Q.68) Solution (a)

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a statistical tool used to measure a country's overall achievement in its social and economic dimensions. The social and economic dimensions of a country are based on the health of people, their level of education attainment and their standard of living.

It is published by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Q.69) Consider the following statements about 'BepiColombo'

- 1. It is a joint mission between European Space Agency (ESA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- 2. It is a mission to study Mercury

Select the correct statements

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

Q.69) Solution (c)

BepiColombo is Europe's first mission to Mercury. It will set off in 2018 on a journey to the smallest and least explored terrestrial planet in our Solar System. When it arrives at Mercury in late 2025, it will endure temperatures in excess of 350 °C and gather data during its 1 year nominal mission, with a possible 1-year extension. The mission comprises two spacecraft: the Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO) and the Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO). BepiColombo is a joint mission between ESA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), executed under ESA leadership.

Q.70) 'Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary' is located in

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

Q.70) Solution (b)

Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, covering about 1,197 km² (462 sq mi), is the largest wildlife sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh.

It is a potential site for the Cheetah Reintroduction in India.

The protected area sits astride two major river basins of India, namely the Narmada, flowing west to the Arabian Sea and the Ganga, flowing east to the Bay of Bengal.

Q.71) It was believed that in order to avoid another political crisis like 1857, a vent was required to channelize the discontent of Indians. For this, the retired Civil Servant A O Hume, founder the Indian National Congress. This theory is called:

- a) Political Theory of India
- b) Lightning Conductor theory
- c) Energy Vent Theory
- d) Safety Valve Theory

Q.71) Solution (d)

The concept of Safety Valve Theory says that the British had seen the political situation in the country leading to another rebellion on the lines of the Mutiny of 1857; and they wished

to avoid such a situation. So, they wanted to provide a platform to the people, where they could discuss their political problems. Indian National Congress was founded by a Retired Civil Servant and not by any Indian. It was said that the INC was started by Viceroy Lord Dufferin with the help of an ex Civil Services member as a "Safety Valve" against the popular discontent.

Q.72) The city of Mosul is often in news. It is located in which of the following countries?

- a) Syria
- b) Yemen
- c) Iran
- d) Iraq

Q.72) Solution (d)

Mosul is a city in northern Iraq.

Q.73) Vietnam is bordered with which of the following countries?

- 1. Laos
- 2. China
- 3. Cambodia
- 4. Thailand

Select the correct code:

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

Q.73) Solution (a)



Q.74) Bardoli Satyagraha was launched against

- a) The oppression of the Muslim landlords
- b) Unjustified hike in land revenue by the authorities
- c) Oppression of thekedars in charge of revenue collection
- d) Refusal to grant remission in land revenue by the authorities despite a drought

Q.74) Solution (b)

The movement sparked off in January 1926 when the authorities decided to increase the land revenue by 30%. The Bardoli Inquiry Committee constituted by the Congress found the revenue hike to be unjustified. Under Patel, the Bardoli peasants resolved to refuse payments of the revised assessment until the Government appointed an independent tribunal or accepted the current amount as full payment. The government eventually relented when a committee went into the whole affair and found the revenue hike to be unjustified and recommended a rise of 6% only.

Kheda Satyagraha was launched against the refusal to grant remission by the authorities despite a drought.

Oppression of thikadars in charge of revenue collection was one of the issues in Eka Movement.

Q.75) Two important rivers – one with its source in Jharkhand (and known by a different name in Odisha), and another, with its source in Odisha – merge at a place only a short distance from the coast of Bay of Bengal before flowing into the sea. This is an important site of wildlife and bio-diversity and a protected area. Which one of the following could be this?

- a) Chandipur-on-sea
- b) Simlipal
- c) Gopalpur-on-sea
- d) Bhitarkanika

Q.75) Solution (d)

Bhitarkanika - the rivers are Brahmani and Baitarani rivers.

Simlipal National Park is far away from coast. It is a national park and a tiger reserve in the Mayurbhanj district in the Indian state of Odisha.

Chandipur-on-sea and Gopalpur-on-sea are tourist destinations with resorts. There is no significant wildlife or bio-diversity.

Q.76) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Universal Postal Union (UPU)'

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that coordinates postal policies among member nations
2. It is established by the Treaty of Bern of 1874
3. It is based in Bern, Switzerland

Select the correct statements

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

Q.76) Solution (d)

The Universal Postal Union established by the Treaty of Bern of 1874, is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that coordinates postal policies among member nations, in addition to the worldwide postal system. The UPU contains four bodies consisting of the Congress, the Council of Administration (CA), the Postal Operations Council (POC) and the International Bureau (IB). It also oversees the Telematics and Express Mail Service (EMS) cooperatives. Each member agrees to the same terms for conducting international postal duties. The UPU's headquarters are located in Bern, Switzerland.

Q.77) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Azad Hind'

1. It was an Indian provisional government established in occupied Singapore
2. It was formed by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

Select the correct statements

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

Q.77) Solution (c)

The Provisional Government of Free India, or, more simply, Free India (Azad Hind), was an Indian provisional government established in occupied Singapore in 1943 and supported by the Empire of Japan, Nazi Germany, Italian Social Republic, and their allies.

It was a part of a political movement originating in the 1940s outside India with the purpose of allying with the Axis powers to free India from British Rule. It was established by Indian nationalists-in-exile during the latter part of the Second World War in Singapore with monetary, military and political assistance from Imperial Japan. Founded on 21 October 1943, the government was inspired by the concepts of Subhas Chandra Bose who was also the leader of the government and the Head of State of this Provisional Indian Government-in-exile. The government proclaimed authority over Indian civilian and military personnel in Southeast Asian British colonial territory and prospective authority over Indian territory to fall to the Japanese forces and the Indian National Army during the Japanese thrust towards India during the Second World War. The government of Azad Hind had its own currency, court and civil code, and in the eyes of some Indians its existence gave a greater legitimacy to the independence struggle against the British.

The Provisional Government of Free India consisted of a Cabinet headed by Subhas Chandra Bose as the Head of the State, The Prime Minister and the Minister for War and Foreign Affairs.

Azad Hind was recognised as a legitimate state by only a small number of countries limited solely to Axis powers and their allies. Azad Hind had diplomatic relations with nine countries: Nazi Germany, the Empire of Japan, Italian Social Republic, Independent State of Croatia and Wang Jingwei Government, Thailand, the State of Burma, Manchukuo and the Second Philippine Republic.

Q.78) Consider the following statements

1. ADMM is the highest defence consultative and cooperative mechanism in ASEAN.
2. The 5th ADMM-Plus was convened in the Philippines

Select the correct statements

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

Q.78) Solution (a)

The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) is the highest defence consultative and cooperative mechanism in ASEAN. The ADMM aims to promote mutual trust and confidence

through greater understanding of defence and security challenges as well as enhancement of transparency and openness.

Consistent with the ADMM guiding principles of open and outward looking, the 2nd ADMM in Singapore in 2007 adopted the Concept Paper to establish the ADMM-Plus. The ADMM-Plus is a platform for ASEAN and its eight Dialogue Partners to strengthen security and defence cooperation for peace, stability, and development in the region.

The Inaugural ADMM-Plus was convened in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, on 12 October 2010. The Defence Ministers then agreed on five areas of practical cooperation to pursue under this new mechanism, namely maritime security, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping operations and military medicine. To facilitate cooperation on these areas, Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) are established.

The 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and 5th ADMM-Plus was held on October 19 and 20, 2018 Singapore.

Q.79) Consider the following statements about 'World Steel Association (WSA)'

1. It is the international trade body for the iron and steel industry under the aegis of United Nations
2. It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium

Select the correct statements

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

Q.79) Solution (b)

World Steel Association, often abbreviated as worldsteel, is the international trade body for the iron and steel industry. The association represents over 160 steel producers (including 9 of the world's 10 largest steel companies), national and regional steel industry associations and steel research institutes. World Steel Association members represent around 85% of world steel production.

It is a non-profit organisation with its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium and a second office in Beijing, China, whose purpose is to promote steel and the steel industry to customers, the industry, media and the general public.

Q.80) 'NABH Nirman' is in sync with which of the following?

- a) UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik)
- b) Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
- c) Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana
- d) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana

Q.80) Solution (a)

NABH (Nextgen Airports For Bharat) Nirman initiative

Q.81) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018)'

- 1. It is organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- 2. It is hosted by the Department of Atomic Energy in Gandhinagar

Select the correct statements

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

Q.81) Solution (c)

The six-day event is organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and hosted by the Department of Atomic Energy and Gandhinagar-based Institute of Plasma Research.

The 27th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018) aims to provide a forum for the discussion of key physics and technology issues as well as innovative concepts of direct relevance to the use of nuclear fusion as a source of energy.

Among the participants are international bodies like the ITER Organisation and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom).

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/27th-fusion-energy-conference-begins-in-gandhinagar-on-oct-22-118102100531_1.html

Q.82) 'World Development Report (WDR)' is published by

- a) World Bank
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) World Trade Organization
- d) International Monetary Fund

Q.82) Solution (a)

The World Development Report (WDR) is an annual report published since 1978 by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) or World Bank. Each WDR provides in-depth analysis of a specific aspect of economic development.

The World Development Report 2019 studies the impact of technology on the nature of work.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/chidambaram-congress-bjp-pollution-we-have-failed-our-children-water-scarcity-5410846/>

Q.83) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Toluene'

- 1. It is one of the petrochemical wastes
- 2. It has genotoxic and carcinogenic effects on human beings
- 3. It is used as a jet fuel surrogate blend

Select the correct statements

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

Q.83) Solution (d)

Toluene is one of the petrochemical wastes that get released without treatment from industries such as refineries, paint, textile, paper and rubber. Toluene has been reported to

cause serious health problems to aquatic life, and studies point that it has genotoxic and carcinogenic effects on human beings.

Toluene is one of a group of fuels that have included in jet fuel surrogate blends. Toluene is used as a jet fuel surrogate for its content of aromatic compounds.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/bacteria-to-degrade-toluene/article25272923.ece>

Q.84) India's longest river bridge will be built across the Brahmaputra. It will connect which of the following states?

- a) Assam and Meghalaya
- b) Assam and Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Nagaland and Manipur
- d) Tripura and Mizoram

Q.84) Solution (a)

India's longest river bridge will be built across the Brahmaputra, connecting Dhubri in Assam to Phulbari in Meghalaya, and will cut road travel by 203km as also travel time.

The new bridge will complete the missing link of NH127B from Assam to Meghalaya. Currently, small boats run between Dhubri and Phulbari.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/20km-assam-bridge-to-cut-travel-by-200km/articleshow/66288987.cms>

Q.85) The distribution of powers between the centre and the states in the Indian Constitution is based on the scheme provided in the

- a) Morley Minto Reforms, 1909
- b) Indian Independence Act 1947
- c) Montague Chelmsford Act, 1919
- d) Government of India Act, 1935

Q.85) Solution (d)

The Act divided the powers between the Centre and units in terms of three lists—Federal List (for Centre, with 59 items), Provincial List (for provinces, with 54 items) and the Concurrent List (for both, with 36 items).

Q.86) 'Druzhba' is a joint military exercise between

- a) Russia and China
- b) Pakistan and Russia
- c) Pakistan and China
- d) India and Kazakhstan

Q.86) Solution (b)

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/russian-forces-arrive-in-pakistan-for-third-joint-military-drill/articleshow/66315007.cms>

Q.87) 'Sittwe Port' is a deepwater port constructed by India. Where is it located?

- a) Myanmar
- b) Maldives
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Seychelles

Q.87) Solution (a)

Sittwe Port is a deepwater port constructed by India in 2016 at Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine State in Myanmar, on the Bay of Bengal. Situated at the mouth of the Kaladan River, the USD 120 Million port is being financed by India as a part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, collaboration between India and Myanmar. The project is aimed at developing transport infrastructure in southwestern Myanmar and northeastern India.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/shipping/-transport/india-myanmar-sign-mou-towards-sittwe-port-operationalisation/articleshow/66320183.cms>

Q.88) 'Amitava Roy' Committee is constituted to look into

- a) Prison Reforms
- b) Non-Performing Assets
- c) Cross Border Insolvency
- d) Railway Safety

Q.88) Solution (a)

SC formed a committee on prison reforms headed by former Supreme Court judge, Justice Amitava Roy. It is to look into the entire gamut of reforms to the prison system.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/ripe-for-prison-reform/article25290500.ece>

Q.89) 'Iron Magic' is a bilateral exercise between

- a) Israel and Jordan
- b) India and Israel
- c) US and Canada
- d) US and UAE

Q.89) Solution (d)

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/uae-us-kick-off-two-week-joint-military-exercise-118102200035_1.html

Q.90) Islands Development Agency (IDA) is chaired by

- a) Union Home Minister
- b) Prime Minister
- c) Cabinet Secretary
- d) Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Q.90) Solution (a)

Union Home Minister chairs the Islands Development Agency (IDA)

The Island Development Agency reviewed the concept development plans and detailed master plans for holistic development of 09 islands (four in A&N Islands i.e. Smith, Ross, Long, Avis) and (five in Lakshadweep i.e. Minicoy, Bangaram, Thinnakara, Cheriya, Suheli). The project being steered by NITI Aayog aims at promoting and implementing development based on sustainable approach to building a thriving maritime economy of the project islands.

Q.91) 'Bangaram Island' was in news recently. Where is it located?

- a) Lakshadweep
- b) Goa
- c) Odisha
- d) West Bengal

Q.91) Solution (a)

Bangaram is an atoll in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep,

Q.92) What is 'Hiyang Tannaba'?

- a) A traditional boat race of Manipur
- b) Martial Art of Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Colourful Motifs done with hands and paint made of rice and flour on auspicious occasions in Mizoram.
- d) An instrument played by Buddhist Monks

Q.92) Solution (a)

Hiyang Tannaba is a traditional boat race of Manipur dating back to a few centuries and was originally celebrated during the Manipuri Lunar month of Hiyangei Tha or October-November. The race begins with a ritualistic ceremony to Lord Sanamahi or the ruling deity of every Manipuri household, praying for safety and protection.

Q.93) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bala Bodhisattva'

1. It was found in Sarnath in early 1900s

2. The inscription on it states that Kanishka I had several kshatrapas under his commands in order to rule his vast territory

Select the correct statements

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

Q.93) Solution (c)

The Bala Bodhisattva is an ancient Indian statue of a Bodhisattva, found in 1904-1905 by German archaeologist F.O. Oertel (1862-1942) in Sarnath, India. The statue has been decisive in matching the reign of Kanishka with contemporary sculptural style, especially the type of similar sculptures from Mathura, as it bears a dated inscription.

The inscription on the Bodhisattva explains that it was dedicated by a "Brother" (Bhikshu) named Bala, in the "Year 3 of Kanishka". This allows to be a rather precise date on the sculptural style represented by the statue, as year 3 is thought to be approximately 123 CE.

The inscription further states that Kanishka (who ruled from his capital in Mathura) had several satraps under his commands in order to rule his vast territory: the names of the Indo-Scythian Northern Satraps Mahakshatrapa ("Great Satrap") Kharapallana and the Kshatrapa ("Satrap") Vanaspara are mentioned as satraps for the eastern territories of Kanishka's empire. At the same time a "General Lala" and Satraps Vespasi and Liaka are mentioned as in charge of the north.

Q.94) 'Gandikota Gorge' is formed by which of the following rivers?

- a) Brahmaputra
- b) Godavari
- c) Pennar
- d) Krishna

Q.94) Solution (c)

The almost forgotten gorge of Gandikota is situated on the Pennar River in Andhra Pradesh and is known as the Grand Canyon of India. A gorge is any valley formed by a source of water flowing between tall slabs of steep rocks.

Q.95) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Hiuen Tsang'

1. He was known as 'Prince of Pilgrims'
2. He travelled India during the reign of Chandra Gupta II

Choose the appropriate code

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

Q.95) Solution (a)

Hiuen Tsang (also Xuanzang, Hsuan Tsang) was the celebrated Chinese traveler who visited India in Ancient Times. He has been described therefore as the "Prince of Pilgrims."

His visit to India was an important event of the reign of Harshavardhana. India is much indebted to this Chinese traveller for the valuable accounts he left behind with many details of political, religious, economic, social conditions of those days.

Harsha (c. 590–648), also known as Harshavardhana, was an Indian emperor who ruled North India from 606 to 648 from his capital Kannauj. He was the founder and ruler of the Empire of Harsha. Harshavardhana was the last Hindu emperor of united North India.

Harsha is widely believed to be the author of three Sanskrit plays Ratnavali, Nagananda and Priyadarsik

Q.96) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Biodiversity Atlas – India'

1. It provides a powerful natural history web-platform for species-based bioinformatics
2. Mammals of India (MaOI) is a part of the Biodiversity Atlas.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.96) Solution (c)

Biodiversity Atlas – India provides a powerful natural history web-platform for species-based bioinformatics. Most data are contributed by amateur citizen scientists, photographers and professional scientists, and peer-reviewed and curated by advanced amateurs and professional biologists. Thus, Biodiversity Atlas – India supports efforts of one of the best integrated professional-amateur scientific communities that aggregate big data on Indian biodiversity with the goal of studying ecological trends.

MaOI is a part of the Biodiversity Atlas (India project), which is an initiative of Krushnamegh Kunte, associate professor at NCBS.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/aim-shoot-for-a-citizen-science-repository-of-indian-mammals/article25325705.ece>

Q.97) Consider the following statements about 'Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management'

1. It provides a forum for the active exchange of innovations, knowledge and practice in citizen-centred service delivery, leadership development and growth, and public service management
2. It is under the aegis of United Nations (UN)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.97) Solution (a)

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions is an institutional member of Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) which is a non-profit association representing an international network of over 1100 senior public servants, Heads of Government, leading academics and researchers located in over 50 different countries across the Commonwealth.

The association is guided by international leaders who believe in the value of networking, knowledge exchange and the promotion of good governance for the betterment of citizens in the Commonwealth countries. CAPAM has been announcing its International Innovations Awards (IIA) Programme bi-annually, since 1998.

The CAPAM Awards celebrate the spirit of innovation in the public service by recognizing organizations that have made significant contributions to improve governance and services in the public sector.

The initiative entitled “Unnayan Banka- Reinventing Education Using Technology of Banka District, State of Bihar has been awarded under the Category “Innovation Incubation”. “Unnayan Banka” is an initiative which envisages “Quality education for all’ especially for those at the bottom of the Pyramid, using latest technologies. It’s a holistic model of overall development of youths from Education to Employability. One of the most important Millennium Development Goals, “Education” is the great social Mobiliser & must be everyone’s Birthright and it is Government of India’s endeavour to provide this to all its children.

Another initiative entitled “Unified Agriculture Markets” of Co-operation Department of Government of Karnataka has also been selected under the Category ‘Innovation in Public Service Management’. This initiative has also been awarded the overall Gold Award for CAPAM Awards, 2018.

Q.98) ‘PRISM’ is a tool used to collect private electronic data belonging to users of major internet services. It is associated with which of the following countries?

- a) United States of America
- b) France
- c) India
- d) China

Q.98) Solution (a)

Since September 11th, 2001, the United States government has dramatically increased the ability of its intelligence agencies to collect and investigate information on both foreign subjects and US citizens. Some of these surveillance programs, including a secret program called PRISM, capture the private data of citizens who are not suspected of any connection to terrorism or any wrongdoing.

PRISM is a tool used by the US National Security Agency (NSA) to collect private electronic data belonging to users of major internet services like Gmail, Facebook, Outlook, and others. It’s the latest evolution of the US government’s post-9/11 electronic surveillance efforts, which began under President Bush with the Patriot Act, and expanded to include the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) enacted in 2006 and 2007

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/cyber-warfare-indian-military-defence-cyber-attack-at-digital-war-5416998/>

Q.99) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GEPI)'

1. It is a public-private partnership led by national governments
2. World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are partners of the GEPI

Select the correct statements

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

Q.99) Solution (c)

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is a public-private partnership led by national governments with five partners – the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Its goal is to eradicate polio worldwide.

Q.100) Where is the famous 'Kamakhya temple' located?

- a) Hampi
- b) Chidambaram
- c) Srikalahasti
- d) Guwahati

Q.100) Solution (d)

The Kamakhya Temple also Kamrup-Kamakhya is a Hindu temple dedicated to the mother goddess Kamakhya. It is one of the oldest of the 51 Shakti Pithas. It is situated on the Nilachal Hill in western part of Guwahati.

Q.101) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Agalega islands'

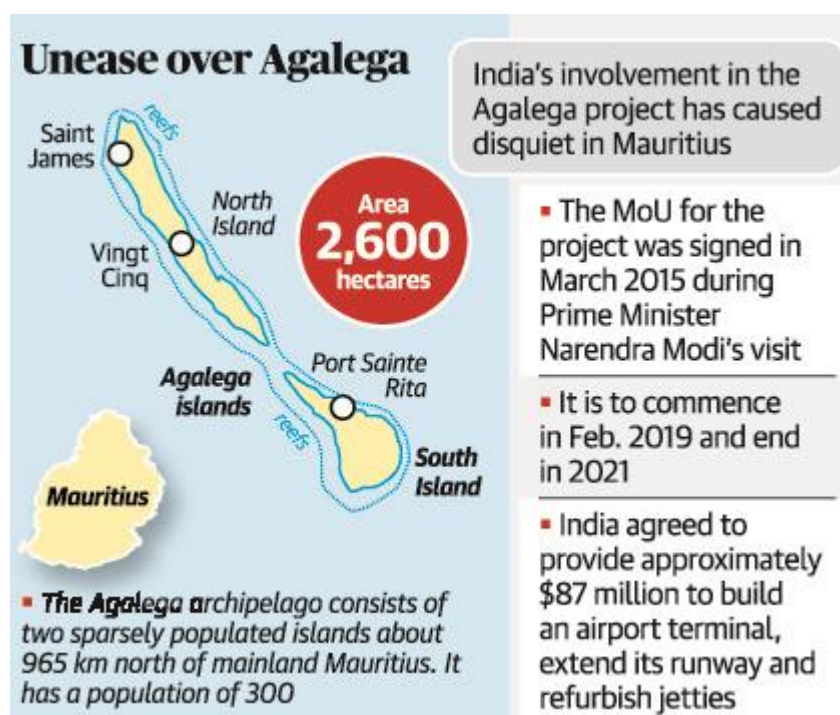
1. They are two outer islands of Seychelles located in the Indian Ocean
2. It is leased to India for the development of strategic assets

Select the correct statements

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

Q.101) Solution (b)

Agaléga island is leased to Indian Military for the development of strategic assets. The Head of Mauritius Navy and the Mauritian National Security Advisor are Indian officers. Also see India–Mauritius Military cooperation.



Q.102) 'Huyen langlon' is an Indian martial art from

- a) Manipur
- b) Nagaland

- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Mizoram

Q.102) Solution (a)

Huyen langlon is an Indian martial art from Manipur. In the Meitei language, huyen means war while langlon or langlong can mean net, knowledge or art. Huyen langlon consists of two main components: thang-ta (armed combat) and sarit sarak (unarmed fighting).

Q.103) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. World Economic Forum - Global Gender Gap Index
2. UNESCO - Gender Inequality Index
3. OECD - Women's Empowerment Index (WEI)

Select the correct code:

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

Q.103) Solution (a)

World Economic Forum - Global Gender Gap Index

UNDP - Gender Inequality Index

The Hunger Project - Women's Empowerment Index (WEI)

Q.104) Consider the following statements about 'ARYA Project'

1. It was initiated by the Indian Council of Agriculture (ICAR)
2. It is implemented through Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)
3. It is aimed at attracting and empowering the Youth to take up various Agriculture and allied services

Select the correct statement

- a) 1 and 2

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

Q.104) Solution (d)

Realizing the importance of rural youth in agricultural development of the country, ICAR has initiated a programme on "Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture".

The objectives of ARYA project are

- To attract and empower the Youth in Rural Areas to take up various Agriculture, allied and service sector enterprises for sustainable income and gainful employment in selected districts.
- To enable the Farm Youth to establish network groups to take up resource and capital intensive activities like processing, value addition and marketing.
- To demonstrate functional linkage with different institutions and stakeholders for convergence of opportunities available under various schemes/program for sustainable development of youth.

ARYA project will be implemented in 25 States through KVKs, one district from each State. In one district, 200-300 rural youths will be identified for their skill development in entrepreneurial activities and establishment of related micro-enterprise units. KVKs will involve the Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes as Technology Partners. At KVKs also one or two enterprise units will be established so that they serve as entrepreneurial training units for farmers. The purpose is to establish economic models for youth in the villages so that youths get attracted in agriculture and overall rural situation is improved.

Q.105) The Gāyatrī Mantra is a highly revered mantra from the Rig Veda dedicated to

- a) Varuna
- b) Surya
- c) Agni
- d) Savitri

Q.105) Solution (d)

The Gāyatrī Mantra, also known as the Sāvitrī mantra, is a highly revered mantra from the Rig Veda (Mandala 3.62.10), dedicated to Savitr, a form of the sun. Gāyatrī is the name of

the Vedic meter in which the verse is composed. Its recitation is traditionally preceded by om̐ and the formula bhūr bhuvaḥ svaḥ, known as the mahāvyāhṛti, or "great (mystical) utterance". Vishvamitra is said to have created Gayatri Mantra.

Q.106) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Significant Economic Presence (SEP)'

1. The Finance Act, 2018 introduced the concept of SEP in the Income-tax Act, 1961 (the Act)
2. It provided that the SEP of a non-resident in India will constitute its business connection in India.

Select the correct code:

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

Q.106) Solution (c)

The Finance Act, 2018 introduced the concept of SEP in Section 9 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (the Act). It provided that the SEP of a non-resident in India will constitute its business connection in India. For this purpose, SEP has been defined as the following:

- a) A transaction in respect of any goods, services or property, including provision of downloaded data or software, carried out by a non-resident in India if the aggregate of the payments arising from such transactions during the previous year exceeds the prescribed threshold
- b) Systematic and continuous soliciting of business activities or engagements involving interaction with the prescribed number of users in India using digital processes

THINK!

- Equalisation Levy

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/ANxiWHh10vaHZ97IkuaXBO/Opinion--Tech-taxes-are-the-wrong-solution-to-real-problems.html>

Q.107) 'Living Planet Report' is released by

- a) United Nations Environment Programme
- b) World Commission on Environment
- c) World Wildlife Fund
- d) None of the above

Q.107) Solution (c)

The Living Planet Report is published every two years by the World Wide Fund for Nature since 1998. It is based on the Living Planet Index and ecological footprint calculations.

The Living Planet Report is the world's leading, science-based analysis on the health of our only planet and the impact of human activity.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/nature-pushed-to-the-brink-by-runaway-consumption-says-wwf/article25366734.ece>

Q.108) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is attached to Ministry of Home Affairs
- 2. Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and Systems (CCTNS) is being implemented by the NCRB

Select the correct code:

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

Q.108) Solution (c)

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is an attached office of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Vision: To empower Indian Police with Information Technology to enable them to effectively enforce the law and improve public service delivery.

The MHA has entrusted NCRB with a renewed mandate for the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) Project.

Q.109) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Electoral Bond Scheme 2018'

1. Registered political parties that have secured not less than 1 per cent of the votes polled in the last election of the Lok Sabha or legislative assembly will be eligible to receive electoral bonds.
2. Electoral bonds may be purchased by a person, who is a citizen of India or entities incorporated or established in India
3. State Bank of India (SBI) is the only authorised bank to issue such bonds.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.109) Solution (d)

Only the Political Parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) and which secured not less than one per cent of the votes polled in the last General Election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State, shall be eligible to receive the Electoral Bonds. The Electoral Bonds shall be encashed by an eligible Political Party only through a Bank account with the Authorized Bank.

SBI is the only authorised bank to issue such bonds. A person being an individual can buy electoral bonds, either singly or jointly, with other individuals.

An electoral bond will be valid for 15 days from the date of issue. No payment would be made to any payee political party if the bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period.

The bond deposited by any eligible political party into its account would be credited on the same day.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/bonds/6th-tranche-of-electoral-bonds-sale-to-kick-off-from-november-1-finance-ministry/articleshow/66391432.cms>

Q.110) 'Vrindavani Vastra' was in news recently. It is related which of the following states?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Gujarat
- c) Assam

d) Madhya Pradesh

Q.110) Solution (c)

Vrindavani Vastra is a drape woven by Assamese weavers during 16th century under the guidance of Srimanta Sankardeva, a Vaishnavite saint and scholar who lived in present-day Assam.

Q.111) Which one of the following mountain ranges is spread over only one State in India?

1. Satpura
2. Aravalli
3. Sahyadri

Select the correct code:

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

Q.111) Solution (d)

The Aravalli Range

- It is a range of mountains running approximately 692 km (430 mi) in a northwest direction, starting in North India from Delhi and passing through southern Haryana, through to Western India across the states of Rajasthan and ending in Gujarat.
- They are one of the oldest (very old) fold mountains of the world and the oldest in India.
- The range is conspicuous in Rajasthan (continuous range south of Ajmer where it rises to 900 m.) but becomes less distinct in Haryana and Delhi (characterized by a chain of detached and discontinuous ridges beyond Ajmer).

Satpura Range

- The range rises in eastern Gujarat state running east through the border of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh to the east till Chhattisgarh.
- It runs in an east-west direction south of the Vindhyas and in between the Narmada and the Tapi, roughly parallel to these rivers.

- Parts of the Satpuras have been folded and upheaved. They are regarded as structural uplift or 'horst'.

Sahyadri Range

- Also known as 'Western Ghats', is a mountain range that runs parallel to the western coast of the Indian peninsula.
- The range starts near the border of Gujarat and Maharashtra, south of the Tapi river, and runs approximately 1,600 km (990 mi) through the states of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu ending at Swamithoppe, near Kanyakumari, at the southern tip of India.
- The Western Ghats are steep-sided, terraced, flat-topped hills presenting a stepped topography facing the Arabian Sea coast.

Q.112) Consider the following statements about Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)

1. The zone experiences low precipitation
2. The zone experiences high humidity

Select the correct statements

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

Q.112) Solution (b)

Near the equator, from about 5° north and 5° south, the northeast trade winds and southeast trade winds converge in a low-pressure zone known as the Intertropical Convergence Zone or ITCZ. Solar heating in the region forces air to rise through convection which results in a plethora of precipitation.

Weather stations in the equatorial region record precipitation up to 200 days each year, making the equatorial and ITC zones the wettest on the planet.

The equatorial region lacks a dry season and is constantly hot and humid.

The Intertropical Convergence Zone has been called the doldrums by sailors due to the lack of horizontal air movement (the air simply rises with convection). The ITCZ is also known as the Equatorial Convergence Zone or Intertropical Front.

The location of the ITCZ varies throughout the year and while it remains near the equator, the ITCZ over land ventures farther north or south than the ITCZ over the oceans due to the variation in land temperatures. The location of the ITCZ can vary as much as 40° to 45° of latitude north or south of the equator based on the pattern of land and ocean.

There's a diurnal cycle to the precipitation in the ITCZ. Clouds form in the late morning and early afternoon hours and then by 3 to 4 p.m., the hottest time of the day, convectional thunderstorms form and precipitation begins.

Q.113) The term 'Iffy Quotient' was in news recently. What is it related to?

- a) Real Estate
- b) Equalisation Levy
- c) Fake News
- d) Open Market Operations

Q.113) Solution (c)

Scientists have developed a web-based tool to help monitor the prevalence of fake news on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter.

Developed by researchers at the University of Michigan in the US, the tool uses a Platform Health Metric called the Iffy Quotient, which draws data from two external entities: NewsWhip and Media Bias/Fact Checker.

NewsWhip, a social media engagement tracking firm, collects URLs on hundreds of thousands of sites every day and then gathers information on which of those sites have engagements on Facebook and Twitter.

Iffy Quotient queries NewsWhip for the top 5,000 most popular URLs on the two social media platforms.

Then the tool checks to see if those domain names have been flagged by Media Bias/Fact Check, an independent site that classifies various sources based on their reliability and bias.

The tool divides the URLs into three categories based on the Media Bias/Fact Checklists: "Iffy," if the site is on the Questionable Sources or Conspiracy lists; "OK," if the site is on any other list, such as Left-Bias, Right-Bias or Satire; "Unknown," if not on any list.

Q.114) Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is associated with which of the following organisations?

- a) BRICS
- b) G4
- c) European Union
- d) SCO

Q.114) Solution (d)

Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS)

- RATS is headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- It is a permanent organ of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- It serves to promote cooperation of member states against the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism.
- The Head of RATS is elected to a three-year term. Each member state also sends a permanent representative to RATS.

Q.115) A place called 'Umru' was in news recently. Where is it located?

- a) Ladakh
- b) Odisha
- c) Pondicherry
- d) None of the above

Q.115) Solution (d)

Umru village is on the Assam-Meghalaya border.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/siberian-visitors-freeze-assam-meghalaya-border-dispute/article25354038.ece>