

**Q.1) 'Chola Naikar' tribe is found in**

- a) Odisha
- b) Kerala
- c) Manipur
- d) Mizoram

**Q.1) Solution (b)**

They primarily inhabit the southern Kerala, especially Silent Valley National Park, and are one of the last remaining hunter-gatherer tribes of the region. The Cholanaikkans speak the Cholanaikkan language, which belongs to the Dravidian family.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/kerala-after-the-deluge-no-home-in-hills/article24845254.ece>

**Q.2) 'Brow-antlered Deers' are found in which of the following countries?**

- 1. Cambodia
- 2. Myanmar
- 3. India

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.2) Solution (b)**

It is native to Cambodia; China; India; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Myanmar.

Rucervus eldii eldii (Sangai) is an endemic and endangered subspecies of brow-antlered deer. It is now confined to a single small population at the southern end of Loktak Lake in Manipur. Its original natural habitat is the floating marshy grasslands of the Keibul Lamjao National Park, located in the southern parts of the Loktak Lake, which is the largest freshwater lake in eastern India.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/in-search-of-a-second-home-for-manipurs-brow-antlered-deer/article24843987.ece>

**Q.3) Consider the following statements about 'Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis'.**

1. It selectively affects motor neurons, the cells that control voluntary muscles of the body.
2. It is characterized by stiff muscles, muscle twitching, and gradually worsening weakness due to muscles decreasing in size.

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as motor neurone disease (MND), or Lou Gehrig's disease, is a specific disease which causes the death of neurons controlling voluntary muscles. Some also use the term motor neuron disease for a group of conditions of which ALS is the most common. ALS is characterized by stiff muscles, muscle twitching, and gradually worsening weakness due to muscles decreasing in size. This results in difficulty speaking, swallowing, and eventually breathing.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/drug-target-for-neurodegenerative-diseases-and-cancer-discovered/article24843099.ece>

**Q.4) Consider the following statements about 'Chitosan'**

1. It is found in the shell of crab, shrimp and also in the cell wall of fungi.
2. It is among the biological adsorbents used for heavy metals removal without negative environmental impacts
3. It is useful in bandages to reduce bleeding and as an antibacterial agent

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

## **Q.4) Solution (d)**

Chitosan is a natural polysaccharide found in the shell of crab, shrimp and also in the cell wall of fungi.

Chitosan has a number of commercial and possible biomedical uses. It can be used in agriculture as a seed treatment and biopesticide, helping plants to fight off fungal infections. In winemaking, it can be used as a fining agent, also helping to prevent spoilage. In industry, it can be used in a self-healing polyurethane paint coating. In medicine, it is useful in bandages to reduce bleeding and as an antibacterial agent; it can also be used to help deliver drugs through the skin.

Chitosan can be used in hydrology as a part of a filtration process. Chitosan causes the fine sediment particles to bind together, and is subsequently removed with the sediment during sand filtration. It also removes heavy minerals, dyes, and oils from the water. As an additive in water filtration, chitosan combined with sand filtration removes up to 99% of turbidity. Chitosan is among the biological adsorbents used for heavy metals removal without negative environmental impacts.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/sea-food-waste-prevents-steel-corrosion/article24842994.ece>

## **Q.5) Tinkhatia system is associated with**

- a) Bardoli Satyagraha
- b) Ahmadabad Mill Strike
- c) Kheda Satyagraha
- d) Champaran Satyagraha

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

**Champaran Satyagraha** - To remove the hardships of indigo workers in Champaran exploited by the European planters.

**About**

- Gandhi's first great experiment in Satyagraha came in 1917 in Champaran, a district in Bihar. The peasantry on the indigo plantations in the district was excessively oppressed by European planters.
- They were compelled to grow indigo on at least 3/20th of their land and to sell it at prices fixed by the planters (Tinkathia System). Similar conditions had prevailed earlier in Bengal, but as a result of a major uprising during 1859-61 the peasants there had won their freedom from the indigo planters.
- Having heard of Gandhi's campaigns in South Africa, several peasants of Champaran invited him to come and help them. Accompanied by Babu Rajendra Prasad, Mazhar-ul-Huq, J.B. Kripalani, Narhari Parekh and Mahadev Desai, Gandhiji reached Champaran in 1917 and began to conduct a detailed inquiry into the condition of the peasantry.
- The infuriated district officials ordered him to leave Champaran, but he defied the order and was willing to face trial and imprisonment.
- This forced the government to cancel its earlier order and to appoint a committee of inquiry on which Gandhiji served as a member.
- Ultimately, the disabilities from which the peasantry was suffering were reduced and Gandhiji won his first battle of civil disobedience in India. He also had a glimpse into the naked poverty in which the peasants of India lived.

### **Q.6) Consider the following statements about 'Kanthasth'**

1. It is aimed at making the learning of Hindi language easier
2. It is developed by the Ministry of Home Affairs

### **Select the correct statements**

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

### **Q.6) Solution (b)**

Department of Official Language of Ministry of Home Affairs has developed a computer software called "Kanthasth" for translating the all kinds of official files from English to Hindi and vice versa to make the translation work simpler and quicker.

The Dept. has developed the Lila Mobile App for making the learning of Hindi language easier, which was launched on the occasion of Hindi Diwas last year.

An E-learning platform called the “Pravah” also being developed by the department for use in 16 Indian languages including English.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183200>

**Q.7) Which of the following countries was the top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India in 2017-18?**

- a) Singapore
- b) Mauritius
- c) Seychelles
- d) United Arab Emirates

**Q.7) Solution (b)**

According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, Mauritius was top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India in 2017-18 followed by Singapore.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/mauritius-tops-indias-fdi-charts-again/article24849669.ece>

**Q.8) Consider the following statements about 'Krishna Kutir'**

1. It has been developed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development under the 'Swadhar Greh' scheme.
2. It is developed to mitigate the plight of widows living in pathetic condition in Vrindavan.

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

'Krishna Kutir' has been developed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development under the 'Swadhar Greh' scheme.

The widows' home has been constructed by the WCD Ministry to mitigate the plight of widows living in pathetic condition in Vrindavan.

The building's construction has been funded by the Centre and will be managed by the state government.

While the Centre will provide food, medicine, clothing and other related stuff, power supply, sewage, drinking water and cooking gas facilities will be arranged by the state government.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183176>

**Q.9) Transformative Carbon Asset Facility (TCAF) was launched by?**

- a) World Bank
- b) UN-Environment
- c) Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- d) Vulnerable Twenty (V20)

**Q.9) 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.

**Q.10) What is/are the purpose/purposes of Government's 'Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme' and 'Gold Monetization Scheme'?**

- a) To bring the idle gold lying with Indian households into the economy

- b) To reduce Indian's dependence on gold imports
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

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

The combined purposes of the schemes are to reduce India's gold imports and bring all the gold lying idle with individuals and households in India into the economy.

The idea is that by reducing the whopping quantities of imports, the government can try to narrow India's current account deficit and trade deficit.

## **Q.11) Consider the following statements about 'Coffee Krishi Tharanga'**

1. It is an IVR based Digital Mobile Extension Service aimed at maximizing the reach of the Board's services to increase productivity and environmental sustainability
2. It is jointly developed by Coffee Board and Precision Agriculture for Development India Foundation (PADIF)

### **Select the correct statements**

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

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

### **Coffee Krishi Tharanga**

- It is an IVR based Digital Mobile Extension Service, jointly developed by Coffee Board and PADIF aimed at maximizing the reach of the Board's services to increase productivity and environmental sustainability.
- The "Coffee KrishiTharanga" is pilot tested in the Chikmagalur and Hassan districts of Karnataka State covering 30,000 farmers during the first year and will be extended to remaining growers in a phased manner. NABARD has partly funded the Pilot project.
- The solution will help in to reach maximum growers in limited period, efficient, timely, customised advisory, improve the efficiency through digitisation and leverage existing mobile reach for wider delivery of improved technology.

## Coffee Connect

- The mobile app Coffee Connect has been developed to ease the work of field functionaries and to improve the work efficiency.
- This application provides solution by harnessing the power of mobility comprising the latest technology in easing the whole process of the field activities like digitization of Coffee Growers & Estates with Geo Tagging, collecting the Plantation details.
- It will also help in transparency in the activities of the extension officers and officials, transparency in subsidy disbursement and real time report generation.

## DO YOU KNOW?

- Coffee is cultivated in India in about 4.54 lakh hectares by 3.66 lakh coffee farmers and 98% of them are small farmers.
- Its cultivation is mainly confined to Karnataka (54%), Kerala (19%) and Tamil Nadu (8%) which form traditional coffee tracts.
- Coffee is also grown in non-traditional areas like Andhra Pradesh & Odisha (17.2%) and North Eastern states (1.8%), with main emphasis on tribal development and afforestation.

## Q.12) Consider the following statements about 'IOWave18'

1. It is a major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock exercise.
2. It is organised by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.

## Select the correct statements

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

## Q.12) Solution (c)

India along with 23 other nations will be participating in major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock exercise known as IOWave18. The exercise is being organized by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.



The purpose of the exercise is to increase tsunami preparedness, evaluate response capabilities in each state and improve coordination throughout the region. It is also aimed at enhancing tsunami preparedness at the community level.

The IOWave18 exercise will simulate Indian Ocean countries being put in tsunami warning situation and require National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) i.e. National and Local Disaster Management Offices (NDMO/LDMO) to implement and test their communication links and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

**Source:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-to-take-part-in-tsunami-mock-drill-on-september-45/articleshow/65662026.cms>

**Q.13) The 'kafala system' governs**

- a) Marriages
- b) Water sharing between GCC countries
- c) Public assassination
- d) Migrant Labourers

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

Under “kafala”, all foreign workers working in Qatar require a local sponsor, in the form of an individual or company, and need their permission to switch jobs or leave the country.

**Source:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/middle-east/qatar-lifts-controversial-exit-visa-system-for-workers/articleshow/65677094.cms>

**Q.14) The 'Khanjar' an annual joint military exercise is held between India and**

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

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

India-Kyrgyzstan military exercise

**Q.15) Partha Mukhopadhyay Committee is concerned with**

- a) Migrants
- b) Digital Economy
- c) Education
- d) Health

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

It recommended necessary legal and policy framework to protect the interests of the migrants in the country. Its report stated that the migrant population makes substantial contribution to economic growth and so it is necessary to secure their Constitutional rights.

**Q.16) Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH) consists of**

1. Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger (CSS-PT)
2. Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-DWH)
3. Project Elephant (CSS-PE)

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Umbrella Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH) beyond the 12th Plan period from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

The Scheme consists of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of-

- Project Tiger (CSS-PT),
- Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-DWH) and
- Project Elephant (CSS-PE)

**Source:** <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183284>

**Q.17) Consider the following statements about 'Nai Talim'**

1. It is a principle which states that knowledge and work are not separate.
2. An educational curriculum based on this pedagogical principle was promoted by the Mahatma Gandhi

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

Nai Talim is a principle which states that knowledge and work are not separate. Mahatma Gandhi promoted an educational curriculum with the same name based on this pedagogical principle.

It can be translated with the phrase 'Basic Education for all'. However, the concept has several layers of meaning. It developed out of Gandhi's experience with the English educational system and with colonialism in general. In that system, he saw that Indian children would be alienated and 'career-based thinking' would become dominant. In addition, it embodied a series of negative outcomes: the disdain for manual work, the development of a new elite class, and the increasing problems of industrialization and urbanization.

**Source:** <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183275>

**Q.18) Consider the following statements about 'Hope Mission'**

1. It is a space exploration probe mission to Mars
2. It is set to be launched by the Brazil in 2020

**Select the correct code:**

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

## Q.18) Solution (a)

The Hope Mars Mission or Emirates Mars Mission is a space exploration probe mission to Mars, set to be launched by the United Arab Emirates in 2021. Upon launch, it will become the first mission to Mars by any Arab or Muslim country.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-life/uae-to-send-astronauts-to-space/article24859144.ece>

## Q.19) Consider the following statements about Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

1. Most OECD members are high-income economies with a very high Human Development Index (HDI) and are regarded as developed countries
2. All the members of BRICS are members of OECD
3. Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs) was developed by the OECD Global Forum Working Group on Effective Exchange of Information

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

## Q.19) Solution (b)

Most OECD members are high-income economies with a very high Human Development Index (HDI) and are regarded as developed countries

OECD – Members and Partners - <http://www.oecd.org/about/membersandpartners/>

Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs) was developed by the OECD Global Forum Working Group on Effective Exchange of Information.

## Q.20) Koodiyattam, a Sanskrit theatre form performed in the state of

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

d) Andhra Pradesh

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

Koodiyattam also transliterated as Kutiyattam, is a form of Sanskrit theatre traditionally performed in the state of Kerala, India. It is officially recognised by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

## **Q.21) Consider the following statements about Battle of Haifa**

1. It is considered as one of the bravely-contested battles of World War I
2. 15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade helped liberate Haifa from the clutches of the Turkish-German forces

**Select the correct statements**

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

## **Q.21) Solution (c)**

### **Battle of Haifa**

- Indian cavalry brigades fighting under the leadership of British General Edmund Allenby helped liberate Haifa from the clutches of the Turkish-German forces.
- The Teen Murti memorial was constructed in 1922 in the memory of the Indian soldiers from three princely states namely Jodhpur, Hyderabad and Mysore who served present day Gaza strip, Israel and Palestine during the World War I under British India Army.

### **15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade**

- The 15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade was a brigade-sized formation that served alongside British Empire forces in the Sinai and Palestine Campaign, during the First World War.
- Originally called the Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade it was formed from Imperial Service Troops provided by the Indian Princely States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Patiala and Jodhpur, which each provided a regiment of lancers.

- A maximum of three regiments served in the brigade at any one time.
- The states of Bhavnagar, Kashmir, Kathiawar and Idar provided smaller detachments for the brigade, which was at times reinforced by other British Empire regiments and artillery batteries when on operations.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1545230>

**Q.22) Consider the following statements about Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM)**

1. It was officially established on 1 March 1996 at the first summit in Bangkok
2. India joined ASEM in 2008
3. European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat are the regional organisations involved in ASEM

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

**News:** The third ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Conference on ‘Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons’ was held in Seoul, capital of South Korea. It was jointly organised by South Korea and National Human Rights Commission of Korea.

The Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an Asian–European political dialogue forum to enhance relations and various forms of cooperation between its partners. It was officially established on 1 March 1996 at the first summit in Bangkok, Thailand, by the then 15 members of the European Union (EU) and the European Commission, the then 7 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the individual countries of China, Japan, and Korea. A series of enlargements saw additional EU members join as well as India, Mongolia, Pakistan and the ASEAN Secretariat in 2008[citation needed], Australia, New Zealand and the Russian Federation in 2010, Bangladesh, Norway, and Switzerland in 2012, as well as Croatia and Kazakhstan in 2014.

ASEM currently has 53 partners: 51 countries and 2 regional organisations. The countries are Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, the Lao PDR, Latvia,

Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and Viet Nam, while the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat are the regional organisations involved.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183257>

**Q.23) UNSC Resolution 2334 is concerned with?**

- a) Resolving the constitutional crisis that followed the Gambian presidential election of 2016
- b) United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)
- c) United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti
- d) Israel settlements in Palestine

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

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 was adopted on 23 December 2016. It concerns the Israeli settlements in "Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem".

**Q.24) Consider the following statements about World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)**

- 1. It is recognised as a reference organisation by the World Trade Organization (WTO)
- 2. The World Assembly of Delegates is the highest authority of the OIE

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

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

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

The need to fight animal diseases at global level led to the creation of the Office International des Epizooties through the international Agreement signed on January 25th 1924. In May 2003 the Office became the World Organisation for Animal Health but kept its historical acronym OIE.

The OIE is the intergovernmental organisation responsible for improving animal health worldwide.

It is recognised as a reference organisation by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and in 2016 has a total of 180 Member Countries. The OIE maintains permanent relations with 71 other international and regional organisations and has Regional and sub-regional Offices on every continent.

The day-to-day operation of the OIE is managed at the Headquarters situated in Paris and placed under the responsibility of a Director General elected by the World Assembly of Delegates. The Headquarters implements the resolutions passed by the International Committee and developed with the support of Commissions elected by the Delegates.

The World Assembly of Delegates is the highest authority of the OIE.

It comprises the Delegates of all Member Countries and meets at least once a year. The General Session of the Assembly lasts five days and is held every year in May in Paris.

Voting by Delegates within the Assembly respects the democratic principle of 'one country, one vote'.

The OIE's financial resources are derived principally from compulsory annual contributions backed up by voluntary contributions from Member Countries.

### **Q.25) Consider the following statements about 'FOXSI mission'**

1. It is a sounding rocket mission
2. It built specially to image high-energy X-rays from the Sun by directly focusing them
3. It is collaboration between NASA and the European Space Agency

### **Select the correct statements**

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



### Q.25) Solution (a)

FOXSI is a sounding rocket mission. Derived from the nautical term “to sound,” meaning to measure, sounding rockets make brief 15-minute journeys above Earth’s atmosphere for a peek at space before falling back to the ground. Smaller, cheaper and faster to develop than large-scale satellite missions, sounding rockets offer a way for scientists to test their latest ideas and instruments — and achieve rapid results.

FOXSI will travel 190 miles up, above the shield of Earth’s atmosphere, to stare directly at the Sun and search for nanoflares using its X-ray vision.

FOXSI is the first instrument built specially to image high-energy X-rays from the Sun by directly focusing them

FOXSI is a collaboration between NASA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, and has co-investigators from the University of Minnesota; University of California at Berkeley; NASA’s Goddard and Marshall space flight centers in Greenbelt, Maryland, and Huntsville, Alabama, respectively; the University of Tokyo; Nagoya University; the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan; and Tokyo University of Science. FOXSI is supported through NASA’s Sounding Rocket Program at the agency’s Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia. NASA’s Heliophysics Division manages the sounding rocket program.

### Q.26) Which of the following statements is correct about ‘Colobopsis explodens’?

- a) It is a species of ant found in Southeast Asia
- b) It is a species of night frog found in Western Ghats
- c) It is a newly discovered moth at Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary
- d) It is a medicinal plant found in Pir Panjal range

### Q.26) Solution (a)

#### Colobopsis explodens

- It is a species of ant which is found in Southeast Asia.
- When attacked, Colobopsis explodens ants live up to their name — they explode! The blast releases poisonous yellow goo that stops their enemies in their tracks.
- C. explodens are found in the tropical jungles of Borneo. They live in colonies of thousands, high up in the treetops.
- It latches onto an enemy and squeezes its own abdominal muscles hard enough that its backside bursts open, releasing the goo. It sacrifices itself to kill its rival.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-miscellaneous/tp-others/ant-that-explodes-to-kill-its-enemy/article24905971.ece>

**Q.27) 'HupB' is an essential protein of which of the bacteria?**

- a) Vibrio cholerae
- b) Mycobacterium tuberculosis
- c) Bacillus anthracis
- d) Borrelia burgdorferi

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

The HupB protein was discovered in late 1990s by Prof. H. Krishna Prasad, formerly with AIIMS, while looking at specific TB bacterial antigens that induced immune response in humans. He found the protein was associated with the DNA of the bacteria.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/aptamer-inhibits-tb-bacteria-entry-into-cells/article24903152.ece>

**Q.28) 'Eusociality' is displayed in which of the following?**

- 1. Termites
- 2. Bees
- 3. Ants

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.28) Solution (d)**

Eusociality, an extensively studied social system, is displayed in three main insect orders: Hymenoptera-ants, bees, wasps, Isoptera -termites, and Homoptera -aphids. Eusocial insects are recognized by three main characteristics:

- The mother, along with individuals that may or may not be directly related, conducts cooperative care of young.
- A reproductive division of labour evolves from sterile castes which often have certain propensities or characteristics associated with helping behaviour.
- There is an overlapping of generations which allows for the older generations of offspring to help related, younger generations.

Source: <https://www.pressreader.com/india/the-hindu/20180909/282265256319677>

**Q.29) 'Kebul Lamjao' is India's only floating National Park. Which of the following lakes hosts this park?**

- a) Dal Lake
- b) Wular Lake
- c) Chilka Lake
- d) Loktak Lake

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

Loktak Lake is the largest fresh water lake in North-East India. It hosts only floating National Park in the World – Kebul Lamjao. Sangai, an antlered deer is endemic to it.

**Q.30) 'Greyhounds' have been in news recently, they are**

- a) Suicide bombers
- b) Coastal guards
- c) Anti-naxal force
- d) Police dogs used in detecting bombs

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

Greyhounds is a police special forces unit operating in the Indian states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and belongs to the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Police departments. Greyhounds specialises in anti-insurgency operations against Naxalite and Maoist terrorists.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/maoists-favour-dialogue-with-centre/article24749611.ece>

**Q.31) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act'**

1. It was enacted to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals and to amend the laws relating to the prevention of cruelty to animals
2. The Animal Welfare Board of India was established under this Act
3. It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir

**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)**

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted in 1960 to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals and to amend the laws relating to the prevention of cruelty to animals. As per the provisions of the law the government of India formed the Animal Welfare Board of India.

The act however makes a provision under heading "Saving as respects manner of killing prescribed by religion" : Nothing contained in this Act shall render it an offence to kill any animal in a manner required by the religion of any community.

It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/casting-capers-maneka-sees-animals-in-wrong-role/article24919923.ece>

**Q.32) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)'**

1. It is under the aegis of Ministry of Earth Sciences
2. It was founded in 1861 by James Prinsep

**Select the correct statements**

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

- d) Neither 1 nor 2

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

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is a Government of India (Ministry of Culture) organisation responsible for archaeological research and the conservation and preservation of cultural monuments in the country. It was founded in 1861 by the British Raj.

ASI (archaeology) as well as BSI (botany), FSI (forests), FiSI (fisheries), GSI (geology), IIEE (ecology), NIO (oceanography), RGCCI (Census of India), SI (cartography) and ZSI (zoology) are key national survey organisations of India.

ASI was founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham who also became its first Director-General.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/changes-in-asi-act-opposed/article24920136.ece>

**Q.33) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Pacific trash vortex'**

1. It is a gyre of marine debris particles in the central North Pacific Ocean
2. It is the largest accumulation of ocean plastic in the world and is located between Hawaii and California

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

The Great Pacific garbage patch, also described as the Pacific trash vortex, is a gyre of marine debris particles in the central North Pacific Ocean discovered between 1985 and 1988. It is located roughly between 135°W to 155°W and 35°N to 42°N. The collection of plastic, floating trash halfway between Hawaii and California extends over an indeterminate area of widely varying range depending on the degree of plastic concentration used to define the affected area.

The patch is characterized by exceptionally high relative pelagic concentrations of plastic, chemical sludge, and other debris that have been trapped by the currents of the North Pacific Gyre.

Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/project-to-clean-up-great-pacific-garbage-patch-gets-underway-118091100128\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/project-to-clean-up-great-pacific-garbage-patch-gets-underway-118091100128_1.html)

**Q.34) Consider the following statements with respect to 'The Ocean Cleanup'**

1. It is a foundation that develops technologies to extract plastic pollution from the oceans and prevent more plastic debris from entering ocean waters
2. System 001 is the world's first ocean clean-up system developed by 'The Ocean Cleanup'

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

'The Ocean Cleanup' is a foundation that develops technologies to extract plastic pollution from the oceans and prevent more plastic debris from entering ocean waters. The organization was founded in 2013 by Boyan Slat, a Dutch-born inventor-entrepreneur of Croatian origin who serves as its CEO. The foundation's headquarters are in Delft, the Netherlands.

System 001 has been launched into the Pacific. The world's first ocean cleanup system will head to its testing site, before continuing its journey to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/project-to-clean-up-great-pacific-garbage-patch-gets-underway-118091100128\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/project-to-clean-up-great-pacific-garbage-patch-gets-underway-118091100128_1.html)

**Q.35) Article 161 of Constitution of India deals with**

- a) Extent of executive power of State
- b) Oath or affirmation by the Governor
- c) Qualifications for appointment as Governor

- d) Power of Governor to grant pardons

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

**Article 161 of the Constitution of India 1949**

Power of Governor to grant pardons, etc, and to suspend, remit or commute sentences in certain cases the Governor of a State shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the State extends.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/clemency-question/article24919118.ece>

**Q.36) Consider the following statements about 'International Criminal Court (ICC)'**

1. It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN)
2. It comprises a panel of 15 judges elected by the General Assembly and Security Council for nine-year terms.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.36) Solution (d)**

Both the statements are incorrect.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that sits in The Hague in the Netherlands. The ICC has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. The ICC is intended to complement existing national judicial systems and it may therefore only exercise its jurisdiction when certain conditions are met, such as when national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute criminals or when the United Nations Security Council or individual states refer situations to the Court. The ICC began functioning on 1 July 2002, the date that the Rome Statute entered into force. The Rome Statute is a

multilateral treaty which serves as the ICC's foundational and governing document. States which become party to the Rome Statute, for example by ratifying it, become member states of the ICC. Currently, there are 123 states which are party to the Rome Statute and therefore members of the ICC.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/trump-administration-takes-aim-at-international-criminal-court-plo/article24923264.ece>

**Q.37) 'Yudh Abhyas' is a bilateral military exercise between India and**

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

**Q.37) Solution (a)**

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183395>

**Q.38) 'Lippa-Asra wildlife sanctuary' is located in**

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Sikkim
- d) Mizoram

**Q.38) Solution (a)**

Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/elusive-snow-leopard-spotted-in-himachal-wildlife-sanctuary-118090800180\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/elusive-snow-leopard-spotted-in-himachal-wildlife-sanctuary-118090800180_1.html)

**Q.39) The Bishkek Declaration is concerned with conservation of**

- a) Pandas
- b) Snow Leopards
- c) Coral Reefs
- d) Cougars



**Q.39) Solution (b)**

The Bishkek Declaration on the Conservation of the Snow Leopard

Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/elusive-snow-leopard-spotted-in-himachal-wildlife-sanctuary-118090800180\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/elusive-snow-leopard-spotted-in-himachal-wildlife-sanctuary-118090800180_1.html)

**Q.40) The 'Horn of Africa' is bordered with which of the following water bodies?**

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

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.40) Solution (c)**



**Q.41) World Economic Outlook is released by**

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

**Q.41) Solution (b)**

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

**Q.42) Consider the following statements about 'Environmental Defense Fund'**

1. It was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems.
2. It was established in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.42) Solution (d)**

Environmental Defense Fund or EDF (formerly known as Environmental Defense) is a United States-based nonprofit environmental advocacy group. The group is known for its work on issues including global warming, ecosystem restoration, oceans, and human health, and advocates using sound science, economics and law to find environmental solutions that work. It is nonpartisan, and its work often advocates market-based solutions to environmental problems.

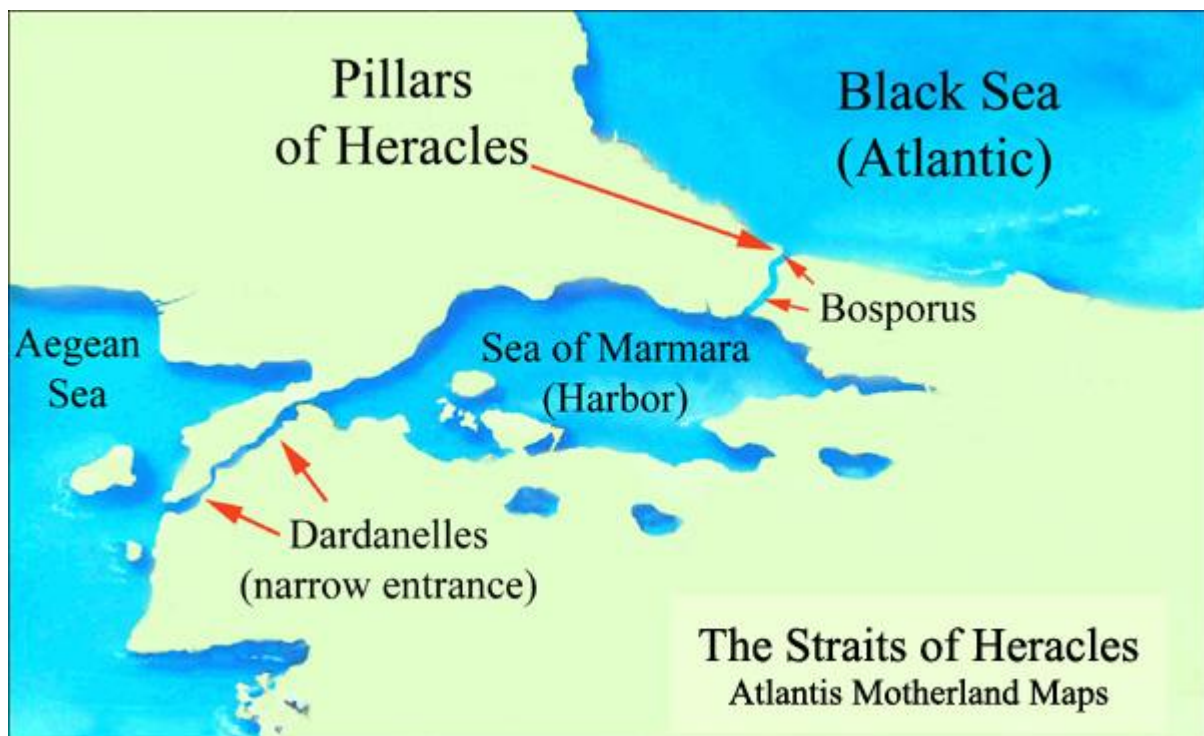
The group's headquarters are in New York City, with offices across the US, with scientists and policy specialists working worldwide

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/greenhouse-gas-emissions-from-indian-paddy-fields-very-high-study/article24925357.ece>

**Q.43) Which of the following strait connects Aegean Sea with the Sea of Marmara?**

- a) Bosphorus
- b) Dardanelles
- c) Gibraltar
- d) Bering

**Q.43) Solution (b)**



**Q.44) Mukurthi National Park is located in which of the following states?**

- a) Karnataka
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Andhra Pradesh

**Q.44) Solution (b)**

**About**

- It is located in the western corner of the Nilgiris Plateau west of Ootacamund hill station in the northwest corner of Tamil Nadu state in the Western Ghats mountain range of South India. The park was created to protect its keystone species, the Nilgiri tahr.
- The park is characterised by montane grasslands and shrublands interspersed with sholas in a high altitude area of high rainfall, near-freezing temperatures and high winds. It is home to an array of endangered wildlife, including royal Bengal tiger and

Asian elephant, but its main mammal attraction is the Nilgiri tahr. The park was previously known as Nilgiri Tahr National Park.

- The park is a part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India's first International Biosphere Reserve. As part of the Western Ghats, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1 July 2012.
- The Toda people are a small pastoral tribal community who live on the isolated Nilgiri plateau.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/alien-invasive-and-thriving/article24905530.ece>

**Q.45) 'Dagadusheth Halwai' is a famous 'Ganapati/Ganesha' temple which was recently in news. Where is it located?**

- a) Hampi
- b) Pune
- c) Kolhapur
- d) Dharwad

**Q.45) Solution (b)**

Shreemant Dagdusheth Halwai Ganapati Temple in Pune is dedicated to the Hindu God Ganesh.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/faith/punes-ganesha-in-thanjavur-temple/article24937996.ece>

**Q.46) Consider the following statements**

1. Swadesh Darshan is a scheme of the Ministry of Tourism, for development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned and prioritised manner.
2. First Tribal Circuit Project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme will be in Chhattisgarh

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

First Tribal Circuit Project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme to be inaugurated in Chhattisgarh.

Development of Tribal Circuit: Jashpur- Kunkuri- Mainpat- Kamleshpur- Maheshpur- Kurdar- Sarodadadar- Gangrel- Kondagaon- Nathiya Nawagaon- Jagdalpur- Chitrakoot- Tirthgarh in Chhattisgarh.

Swadesh Darshan scheme is one of the flagship schemes of the Ministry of tourism, for development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned and prioritised manner.

Under the tribal circuit theme of the scheme the Ministry has sanctioned 4 projects to Nagaland, Telangana and Chhattisgarh.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183436>

**Q.47) Consider the following statements about 'United Nations Interagency Task Force on NCDs (UNIATF)'**

1. It was established by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2013 in response to the 2011 Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of NCDs.
2. The World Health Organization acts as a Secretariat and lead for the Task Force

**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 United Nations Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) on the Prevention and Control of NCDs coordinates the activities of relevant UN organizations and other inter-governmental organizations to support Governments to meet high-level commitments to respond to NCD epidemics worldwide. The commitments were made by Heads of State and Government in the 2011 Political Declaration on NCDs. The Task Force was established by the UN Secretary-General in June 2013 and placed under the leadership of WHO.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183433>

**Q.48) 'Exporting Corruption Report' is released by**

- a) Transparency International
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) United Nations Development Programme
- d) World Bank

**Q.48) Solution (a)**

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-among-nations-no-or-little-enforcement-foreign-bribery-report-5352660/>

**Q.49) Consider the following statements about 'OECD Anti-Bribery Convention'**

- 1. It establishes legally binding standards to criminalise bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions
- 2. India is a party to the convention

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.49) Solution (a)**

The OECD Anti-Bribery Convention (officially Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions) is a convention of the OECD aimed at reducing political corruption and corporate crime in developing countries, by encouraging sanctions against bribery in international business transactions carried out by companies based in the Convention member countries. Its goal is to create a truly level playing field in today's international business environment. The Convention requires adherents to criminalise acts of offering or giving bribe, but not of soliciting or receiving bribes.

India is not a party to the Convention.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-among-nations-no-or-little-enforcement-foreign-bribery-report-5352660/>

**Q.50) IBSAMAR is a naval exercise between members of which of the following groupings?**

- a) BRICS
- b) ASEAN
- c) BIMSTEC
- d) Andean Community

**Q.50) Solution (a)**

IBSAMAR are a series of naval exercises between the navies of India, Brazil, South Africa. The name IBSAMAR is an abbreviation of India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime.

**Q.51) Which of the following statements about 'INS Karanj' is/are correct?**

- a) It is a Scorpene Class Submarine
- b) It is built by Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in collaboration with the Russian Shipbuilding Naval Group
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

**Q.51) Solution (a)**

It is Navy's third state-of-the-art Scorpene class submarine.

The new submarine is named after the earlier Kalvari class INS Karanj, which was decommissioned in 2003.

Six Scorpene class submarines are being built under Project 75 by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL), Mumbai, under a \$3.75 billion technology transfer signed in October 2005 with the Naval Group of France.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/submarine-plan-moves-forward-after-delays/article24959037.ece>



**Q.52) Coral reefs in India can be seen in which of the following areas?**

1. Gulf of Mannar
2. Gulf of Kutch
3. Lakshadweep islands
4. Andaman and Nicobar islands

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.52) Solution (d)**

The major reef formations in India are restricted to the Gulf of Mannar, Palk bay, Gulf of Kutch, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Lakshadweep islands. While the Lakshadweep reefs are atolls, the others are all fringing reefs. Patchy coral is present in the inter-tidal areas of the central west coast of the country.

Corals have a symbiotic relationship with the unicellular algae dinoflagellates. An increase in sea surface temperatures leads to coral bleaching and the breaking of this relationship. This ecosystem is so sensitive that an increase of sea surface temperature by one degree can cause the corals to bleach and die. Apart from sea surface temperatures, increase in carbon dioxide levels in the sea water and a change in its chemical composition can also trigger bleaching.

Not all corals are equally sensitive. The most susceptible are the branching corals, for example, Acropora species, and the least susceptible are the massive ones, for example Favia species.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/researchers-dive-in-to-restore-coral-ecosystems/article24955896.ece>

**Q.53) Consider the following statements about 'Listeria monocytogenes'**

1. It is capable of surviving in the absence of oxygen.
2. It is an electricity producing bacteria

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.53) Solution (c)**

Listeria monocytogenes is the species of pathogenic bacteria that causes the infection listeriosis. It is a facultative anaerobic bacterium, capable of surviving in the presence or absence of oxygen.

It is discovered that a common diarrhea-causing bacterium, Listeria monocytogenes, produces electricity using an entirely different technique from known electrogenic bacteria, and that hundreds of other bacterial species use this same process.

Bacteria generate electricity for the same reason we breathe oxygen: to remove electrons produced during metabolism and support energy production.

**Source: Hindu (16<sup>th</sup> September- S&T)**

**Q.54) 'Indian Rock Agama' is mostly found in**

- a) Rocky hills of South India
- b) Aravallis
- c) Himalayan Ranges in North East India
- d) Dhauladhar range

**Q.54) Solution (a)**

They are found in southern India, south of about 16°N latitude. In the Western Ghats, Nilgiris, South Arcot, and Nallamalai Hills, they are found in the hilly regions at altitudes up to 6000 ft above sea level in the Nilgiris. It is very common in some parts of the Nilgiris and it was noted as being particularly common near Bangalore.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/lizards-adapt-to-city-life/article24955827.ece>

**Q.55) Consider the following statements about 'BUFFALO Survey'**

1. It is one of the missions co-ordinated by NASA to explore the origins of the earliest galaxies
2. It is built around the six Hubble Space Telescope (HST) Frontier Fields clusters

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

Beyond Ultra-deep Frontier Fields And Legacy Observations (BUFFALO) is an astronomical survey built around the six Hubble Space Telescope (HST) Frontier Fields clusters designed to learn about early galactic assembly and clustering and prepare targets for observations with the James Webb Space Telescope. BUFFALO will place significant new constraints on how and when the most massive and luminous galaxies in the universe formed and how early galaxy formation is linked to dark matter assembly.

BUFFALO will place significant new constraints on how and when the most massive and luminous galaxies in the universe formed and how early galaxy formation is linked to dark matter assembly.

**Read More -** <https://buffalo.ipac.caltech.edu/>

**Source: Hindu (16th September- S&T)**

**Q.56) Rashtriya Garima Abhiyaan' is a national campaign to**

- a) Eradicate the practice of manual scavenging and rehabilitate the manual scavengers
- b) Rehabilitate the homeless and destitute persons and provide them with suitable sources of livelihood
- c) Release the sex workers from their practice and provide them with alternative sources of livelihood
- d) Release the bonded labourers from their bondage and rehabilitate them

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

## **Rashtriya Garima Abhiyan (National Campaign for Dignity and Eradication of Manual Scavenging)**

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is responsible for rehabilitation of manual scavengers and it implements the 'Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers' (SRMS). Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has associated reputed NGOs like Safai Karamchari Andolan, Rashtriya Garima Abhiyan, Sulabh International etc. for identification of manual scavengers and their rehabilitation.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/lethal-filth/article24962269.ece>

### **Q.57) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is constituted under the**

- a) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- b) Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- c) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- d) None of the above

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

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of India is a statutory organisation under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). It was established in 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/more-river-stretches-critically-polluted-cpcb/article24962440.ece>

### **Q.58) Consider the following statements about 'EyeROV TUNA'**

- 1. It is India's first underwater robotic drone
- 2. It is developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation.

**Select the correct code:**

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

## **Q.58) Solution (a)**

India's first underwater robotic drone can send real-time videos of ships and other underwater structures to help with their repair and maintenance

The first commercial Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV)/underwater drone, named EyeROV TUNA, was developed by EyeROV Technologies.

NPOL, a laboratory of Delhi-headquartered Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), made the first order of the product.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/a-maker-village-tool-for-npol/article24950166.ece>

## **Q.59) Boko Haram, an extremist group often in news is based in?**

- a) Iraq
- b) Nigeria
- c) Lebanon
- d) Syria

## **Q.59) Solution (b)**

It is an Islamic extremist group based in northeaster Nigeria, also active in Chad, Niger and northern Cameroon.

## **Q.60) 'Mt Everest Friendship Exercise' is held between**

- a) India and Nepal
- b) Bhutan and Nepal
- c) Nepal and China
- d) BIMSTEC Members

## **Q.60) Solution (c)**

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/himalayan-divide/article24970656.ece>

**Q.61) Consider the following statements with respect to International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)**

1. It is part of the World Bank Group
2. It was established in 1966 by the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States.
3. India is not a member of the ICSID

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.61) Solution (d)**

The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) is an international arbitration institution established in 1966 for legal dispute resolution and conciliation between international investors. The ICSID is part of and funded by the World Bank Group, headquartered in Washington, D.C., in the United States. It is an autonomous, multilateral specialized institution to encourage international flow of investment and mitigate non-commercial risks by a treaty drafted by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development's executive directors and signed by member countries.

Brazil, India, Mexico and South Africa are countries with large economies that have never been ICSID members, until January 2018 when Mexico joined the ICSID.

**Q.62) The Draft 'India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)' is released by**

- a) International Energy Agency (IEA)
- b) The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
- c) Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)
- d) The Ozone Cell of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

**Q.62) Solution (d)**

Source: [http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/press-releases/DRAFT-India%20Cooling%20Action%20Plan\(1\)\\_0.pdf](http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/press-releases/DRAFT-India%20Cooling%20Action%20Plan(1)_0.pdf)

**Q.63) Consider the following statements with respect to Minimum Import Price (MIP)**

1. It is a form of quantitative restriction not seen as compliant with the WTO norms
2. It can be seen as government's policy of promoting domestic industry

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.63) Solution (c)**

The MIP is a form of quantitative restriction not seen as compliant with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) norms.

To protect the domestic manufacturers from lower international rates, government take various measures like tariff barrier, non-tariff barrier, minimum importing price (MIP) and maximum exporting price.

**Q.64) Which of the following statements with respect to 'invasive species' is/are correct?**

- a) It can cause decline or extinction of a native species
- b) They have high reproduction rates
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

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

An invasive species is a non-native organism that causes ecological harm after being introduced to a new environment. Humans are responsible for the spread of a majority of earth's invasive species, often carrying them to different parts of the world on ships. Once they enter a new ecosystem, invasive species can out-compete native organisms for resources like food, especially if they lack natural predators. Some invasive species also carry diseases that kill native organisms, and many will consume native plants and animals. Invasive species can ultimately cause the decline or extinction of native species, decreasing biodiversity in an ecosystem.

These species become invasive due to their high reproduction rates and by competing with and displacing native species that naturally appear in that ecosystem.

**Q.65) 'Pension Adalats' are organised by**

- a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- b) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
- c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- d) NITI Aayog

**Q.65) Solution (b)**

**Pension Adalats**

- They are organised by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- The Pension Adalats are being convened with the objective of bringing on a common table the aggrieved pensioner, the concerned department, the bank or CGHS representative, wherever relevant, so that such cases can be settled across the table within the framework of extant rules.

**Anubhav Awards**

- Under Anubhav, the retiring employees give an account of their experiences during service.
- These experiences are an important account for research and resource for administrative reference and thus will help in improving our working.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183538>

**Q.66) Which of the following statements regarding NASA's Juno Spacecraft is/are correct?**

- a) It is second spacecraft to orbit Uranus, after the Galileo probe.
- b) The previous mission had found evidence of subsurface saltwater on Uranus's moons Europa, Ganymede and Callisto.
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)



**Q.66) Solution (d)**

The objective of Juno mission is to measure Jupiter's composition, gravity field, magnetic field, and polar magnetosphere.

Europa, Ganymede and Callisto are an example of Galilean moon of Jupiter. NASA's Juno spacecraft is sent to orbit Jupiter not Uranus. So, both the statements are incorrect.

NASA's Juno spacecraft has beamed back an image of a long, brown oval known as a "brown barge".

Brown barge is an elusive atmospheric feature in Jupiter's South Equatorial Belt.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/science/nasas-juno-probe-captures-elusive-brown-barge-on-jupiter/articleshow/65836759.cms>

**Q.67) Consider the following statements about Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)**

1. It finds exoplanets that periodically block part of the light from their host stars
2. It looks for dips in the visible light of stars, to determine the size of the exoplanet
3. It is developed by European Space Agency (ESA)

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) is a space telescope for NASA's Explorers program, designed to search for exoplanets using the transit method in an area 400 times larger than that covered by the Kepler mission.

The mission will find exoplanets that periodically block part of the light from their host stars, events called transits. TESS will survey 200,000 of the brightest stars near the sun to search for transiting exoplanets.

TESS will survey the entire sky over the course of two years by breaking it up into 26 different sectors, each 24 degrees by 96 degrees across.

The transit method of detecting exoplanets looks for dips in the visible light of stars, and requires that planets cross in front of stars along our line of sight to them. Repetitive, periodic dips can reveal a planet or planets orbiting a star. Transit photometry, which looks at how much light an object puts out at any given time, can tell researchers a lot about a planet. Based on how much of a dip in light a planet causes in its star, we can determine that planet's size. Looking at how long it takes a planet to orbit its star, scientists are able to determine the shape of the planet's orbit and how long it takes the planet to circle its sun.

**This animation shows how a dip in the observed brightness of a star may indicate the presence of a planet passing in front of it, an occurrence known as a transit -**

**<https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/thumbnails/image/transiting-exoplanet-with-brightness-graph-anim.gif>**

**Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/science/nasas-newest-planet-hunter-telescope-tess-shares-first-science-image-1918249>**

**Q.68) 'Nahargarh Biological Park' is located in**

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

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

State's first lion safari was recently inaugurated in this park.

**Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rajasthan-s-forest-minister-inaugurates-state-s-first-lion-safari-118091300842\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rajasthan-s-forest-minister-inaugurates-state-s-first-lion-safari-118091300842_1.html)**

**Q.69) 'Kudumbashree' is the women empowerment and poverty eradication program conceived by which of the following states?**

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

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

Kudumbashree is the women empowerment and poverty eradication program, framed and enforced by the State Poverty Eradication Mission (SPEM) of the Government of Kerala. The Mission aims to eradicate absolute poverty within a definite time frame of 10 years under the leadership of Local Self Governments formed and empowered by the 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution of India. The Mission launched by the State Government with the active support of Government of India and NABARD has adopted a different methodology in addressing poverty by organizing the poor in to community-based organizations. The Mission follows a process approach rather than a project approach.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-power-of-kudumbashree/article24962081.ece>

## **Q.70) 'Mangkhut Typhoon' hit which of the following?**

- a) Philippines
- b) Madagascar
- c) Florida, USA
- d) Malta

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

It struck the Philippines, Hong Kong and China.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/typhoon-mangkhut-toll-in-philippines-increases-to-65/article24972040.ece>

## **Q.71) Consider the following statements**

1. DRIP seeks to assist States in the rehabilitation and improvement of large dams
2. DHARMA is a web-based software package to support the effective collection and management of Dam Safety data in respect of all large dams

## **Select the correct statements**

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

## **Q.71) Solution (c)**

The objectives of DRIP are to improve the safety and operational performance of selected existing dams and associated appurtenances in a sustainable manner, and to strengthen the dam safety institutional setup of participating States / Implementing Agencies.

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) is an externally-aided project. 80% of the total project is provided by the World Bank as loan/credit and remaining 20% is borne by the States / Central Government (for CWC). Govt. of India has not sought funding from any internal agency for this project.

DHARMA is a web tool to digitize all dam related data effectively. It will help to document authentic asset and health information pertaining to the large dams in the country, enabling appropriate actions to ensure need based rehabilitation. DHARMA is a tool developed and operated by Central Water Commission.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183555>

## **Q.72) In the context, what is the implication of ratifying the 'Additional protocol' with the international Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)?**

- a) The military nuclear installations come under the inspection of IAEA.
- b) The country will have the privilege to but uranium from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).
- c) The country automatically becomes a member of the NSG
- d) The civilian nuclear reactors come under IAEA safeguards.

## **Q.72) Solution (d)**

It is a protocol to a safeguards agreement that provides additional tools for verification.

It increases the IAEA's ability to verify the peaceful use of all nuclear material in States with comprehensive safeguards agreements.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-puts-four-more-nuclear-facilities-under-iaea-safeguards/article24988409.ece>

## **Q.73) 'Exercise Aviaindra' is an Air Force level exercise between India and**

- a) Russia
- b) France
- c) Japan
- d) United Kingdom

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

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183578>

**Q.74) Consider the following statements about Nuclear Command Authority (NCA)**

1. Executive Council is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary
2. Political Council is chaired by the Prime Minister
3. The directives of the NCA are to be operationalised by the Strategic Forces Command under the control of a Commander-in-Chief of the rank of Air Marshal

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

NCA is responsible for command, control and operational decisions regarding India's nuclear weapons programme. Organisational structure of NCA includes Political Council and Executive Council. Executive Council is headed by National Security Advisor and Political Council is headed by Prime Minister. The Executive Council gives its opinion to the Political Council, which authorises a nuclear attack when deemed necessary. Strategic Forces Command is a part of Nuclear Command Authority, responsible to operationalize the directives of NCA and for the management and administration of the country's tactical and strategic nuclear weapons stockpile. SFC is headed by Commander-in-chief of the rank of Air Marshal. It will have the sole responsibility of initiating the process of delivering nuclear weapons and warheads, after acquiring explicit approval from the NCA.

**Q.75) 'Urja Ganga' is concerned with**

- a) River Ganga Rejuvenation
- b) Hydro Electric Projects in Ganga Basin
- c) Gas Pipeline Project
- d) Mekong Ganga Cooperation

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

It is a gas pipeline project of length 2540-km planned to be laid across the states from Uttar Pradesh to Odisha.

### **Q.76) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Vantangiyas'**

1. The Vantangiya community comprises people brought from Myanmar during the colonial rule to plant trees for afforestation.
2. They were brought by Lord Mountbatten

### **Select the correct statements**

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

### **Q.76) Solution (c)**

Both the statements are correct.

In a bid to bring the forest-dwelling Vantangiya community into the mainstream, Uttar Pradesh Government declared their 18 settlements as revenue villages.

'Tangia' is a distortion of the word for the Burmese technique of shifting hill plantation, Taungya, under which the space between the planted trees was used for growing seasonal crops by the labourers.

**Read More -** <http://www.uniindia.com/people-of-vantangiya-community-are-now-officially-indians/regional/news/213934.html>

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/eastern-ups-forest-dwellers-are-finally-on-the-revenue-map/article25018597.ece>

**Q.77) Consider the following statements about 'XMM-Newton'**

1. It is launched by the European Space Agency (ESA)
2. It is tasked with investigating interstellar X-ray sources, performing narrow- and broad-range spectroscopy.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.77) Solution (c)**

XMM-Newton, also known as the High Throughput X-ray Spectroscopy Mission and the X-ray Multi-Mirror Mission, is an X-ray space observatory launched by the European Space Agency in December 1999 on an Ariane 5 rocket. It is the second cornerstone mission of ESA's Horizon 2000 programme. Named after physicist and astronomer Sir Isaac Newton, the spacecraft is tasked with investigating interstellar X-ray sources, performing narrow- and broad-range spectroscopy, and performing the first simultaneous imaging of objects in both X-ray and optical (visible and ultraviolet) wavelengths.

Source: <https://www.pressreader.com/india/the-hindu/20180923/282248076480020>

**Q.78) Consider the following statements about 'Pika'**

1. It is a member of the rat family
2. It is a keystone species

**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.78) Solution (b)**

Pikas are members of the rabbit family and look like tailless rats.

They are a keystone species and ecosystem engineers

Keystone species is a species whose addition to or loss from an ecosystem leads to major changes in occurrence of at least one other species.

Certain species in an ecosystem is considered more important in determining the presence of many other species in that ecosystem.

If keystone species is lost, it will result in the degradation of whole ecosystem.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/dna-metabarcoding-reveals-herb-specific-diet-of-pikas/article25016139.ece>

**Q.79) Consider the following statements about 'UTRAQ'**

- a) It is a Vehicle Tracking System (VTS) module
- b) It is based on India Space Research Organisation' (ISRO) Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) to track locations
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

**Q.79) Solution (c)**

India has launched its very own GPS module. Known as 'UTRAQ', the module was introduced at an event in New Delhi, MobileTek and Rama Krishna Electro Pvt Ltd UTRAQ is a VTS module based on IRNSS to track locations.

L110 GNSS and L100 GNSS are the two modules launched. The L110 GNSS module is a compact NavIC module, while the L100 GNSS module is a smaller-sized POT (Patch on Top) IRNSS module. These modules can be used for different tasks other than tracking. These include ranging, command, control, timing and more.

UTRAQ modules can be used for marine, aerial, terrestrial navigations. These modules can also be used for vehicle tracking and Geodetic data capture among others.

The UTRAQ modules support L1 and L5 bands, EPOTM orbit prediction, EASYTM self-generated orbit prediction and measures 18x16x2.3mm.

Source: <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-india-launches-utraq-first-desi-version-of-gps-module-based-on-isro-s-irns-2666191>



**Q.80) 'Living Planet Index' is released by**

- a) World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- b) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- c) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- d) IUCN

**Q.80) Solution (a)**

Living Planet Index -

[http://wwf.panda.org/about\\_our\\_earth/all\\_publications/living\\_planet\\_index2/](http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/all_publications/living_planet_index2/)

**Q.81) Consider the following statements about 'Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV)'**

- 1. It is indigenously developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- 2. It is designed for engaging the targets in the exo-atmosphere region at an altitude above 50 km of the earth's atmosphere.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.81) Solution (c)**

Prithvi Defence Vehicle interceptor missile is capable of killing an incoming missile with a strike range of around 2,000 km outside the earth's atmosphere. India is the fifth nation in the world to have a robust Ballistic Missile Defence system. Other countries are US, Russia, Israel and China.

This Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) mission is for engaging the targets in the exo-atmosphere region at an altitude above 50 km of the earth's atmosphere

Both the interceptor PDV and the two-stage target missile were equipped with motors specially developed for the mission.

Source: <https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/india-conducts-successful-interceptor-missile-test-at-night/story/282750.html>

**Q.82) 'Boundary Working Group (BWG)' was constituted to undertake the construction, restoration and repair of boundary pillars, including clearance of 'No-man's land' and other technical tasks. It is related to India and**

- a) Pakistan
- b) Nepal
- c) Myanmar
- d) Bhutan

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

India and Nepal have agreed to explore the possibility of using high resolution satellite images in boundary survey work

During the 5th meeting of the Nepal-India Boundary Working Group (BWG), both sides agreed to continue mapping of no-man's land encroachment and cross-border occupation

The two countries also agreed to maintain status quo in cultivation of the disputed land until an agreement is reached between the two governments.

The BWG is a joint body constituted by India and Nepal in 2014 to conduct works in the fields of construction, restoration and repair of boundary pillars, including clearance of no-man's land and other technical tasks

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/india-nepal-to-explore-using-satellite-images-in-boundary-survey-work/articleshow/65914017.cms>

**Q.83) Consider the following statements about 'MINERVA-II1'**

1. It is the world's first rover to land on the surface of an asteroid
2. It is developed by European Space Agency

**Select the correct code:**

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.83) Solution (a)

History was created as Japan became the world's country to successfully land two robotic rovers on an asteroid. This is the first time that the world will observe the surface of an asteroid via moving robots.

#### MINERVA-II1

- It is a compact rover consisting of two rovers. MinervaII1 is a 3.3 kg compact package consisting the two cookie-tin shaped rovers, Rover-1A and Rover-1B, which are now operating on the asteroid surface.
- Both the rovers landed on the surface of asteroid Ryugu. Ryugu is a blackish coloured, diamond-shaped asteroid. It rotates on its axis once every 7.5 hours.
- Though the European Space Agency had managed to land on an icy comet before, MINERVA-II1 is the world's first rover to land on the surface of an asteroid. This is also the first time for autonomous movement and picture capture on an asteroid surface.
- MINERVA-II1 is therefore 'the world's first man-made object to explore movement on an asteroid surface'.

#### Hayabusa2

- Hayabusa2 is the successor to Hayabusa1, JAXA's first asteroid explorer, Hayabusa
- The term 'hayabusa' is Japanese for falcon
- The solar panel equipped spacecraft is about the size of a large fridge
- The Hayabusa2 mission was launched in December 2014
- The spacecraft is scheduled to leave Ryugu in December 2019 and return to Earth with its samples in 2020

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/gk-current-affairs/story/minerva-ii1-rovers-from-japan-land-on-asteroid-surface-html-1346931-2018-09-23>

### Q.84) Consider the following statements about 'LEADS index'

1. It is concerned with the performance of logistics
2. It is released by NITI Aayog

Select the correct statements

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

## **Q.84) Solution (a)**

### **LEADS index**

- Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) index is developed by the commerce and industry ministry along with Deloitte.
- It is a composite indicator to assess international trade logistics across states and Union territories
- LEADS is loosely based on the World Bank's biannual Logistics Performance Index (LPI), on which India was ranked 35 among 160 countries in 2016, up from 54 in 2014.
- LEADS is based on eight parameters such as infrastructure, services, timeliness, track and trace, competitiveness of pricing, safety of cargo, operating environment and regulatory process.

## **Q.85) 'Article 161' of the Constitution of India deals with**

- a) Qualifications for appointment as Governor
- b) Power of Governor to grant pardons, etc., and to suspend, remit or commute sentences in certain cases
- c) Discharge of the functions of the Governor in certain contingencies
- d) None of the above

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

### **Article 161 of the Constitution of India deals with**

Power of Governor to grant pardons, etc, and to suspend, remit or commute sentences in certain cases The Governor of a State shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the State extends.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/governors-discretion/article25021561.ece>

**Q.86) 'Delhi Solar Agenda' is associated with**

- a) International Solar Alliance
- b) The Energy and Resources Institute
- c) International Renewable Energy Agency
- d) International Energy Agency

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

The Delhi Solar Agenda, adopted in the Founding Conference of the ISA, states that the ISA member States inter-alia have agreed to pursue an increased share of solar energy in the final energy consumption in respective national energy mix, as a means of tackling global challenges of climate change and as a cost-effective solution by supporting and implementing policy initiatives and participation of all relevant stakeholders, as applicable, in respective States.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1547184>

**Q.87) Consider the following statements with respect to 'International Solar Alliance (ISA)'**

- 1. It was adopted on the side-lines of the 21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- 2. It was jointly launched by India and France

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.87) Solution (c)**

The International Solar Alliance (ISA), an Indian initiative, was launched jointly by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and H.E. François Hollande, Hon'ble

President of France on 30 November 2015 in Paris, France on the side-lines of the 21st Conference of Parties (CoP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Alliance, recognising that solar energy provides potential member solar resource rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, with an unprecedented opportunity to bring prosperity, energy security and sustainable development to their peoples, opened ISA Framework Agreement for signature on 15 November 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco, on the side-lines of COP-22.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1547184>

**Q.88) Which of the following countries is NOT a member of 'Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)'?**

- a) Mozambique
- b) Pakistan
- c) Comoros
- d) Yemen

**Q.88) Solution (b)**

Member States - <http://www.iora.int/en/about/member-states>

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1547184>

**Q.89) Consider the following statements about 'RE-INVEST'**

1. It is a global platform to explore strategies for development and deployment of renewables.
2. It is being organised by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
3. The 2nd Global RE-INVEST will host the First Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA)

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India is organising the 2nd Global RE-INVEST India-ISA Partnership Renewable Energy Investors Meet & Expo from 3-5 October 2018 in Delhi.

The 2nd Global RE-INVEST will host the First Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Meeting of the Energy Ministers of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) countries.

RE-INVEST 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 demand in socially, economically and ecologically sustainable ways.

The 2nd Global RE-INVEST will build upon the success of RE-INVEST 2015 and provide an international forum to established players as well as new segments of investors and entrepreneurs to engage, ideate and innovate.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1547184>

## **Q.90) Consider the following statements about 'Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM)'**

1. It is developed by IUCN and the UNEP
2. It provides a flexible and affordable framework for countries to rapidly identify and analyse areas that are primed for forest landscape restoration

### **Select the correct statements**

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

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

### **Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM)**

- ROAM produced by IUCN and the World Resources Institute (WRI), provides a flexible and affordable framework for countries to rapidly identify and analyse areas that are primed for forest landscape restoration (FLR) and to identify specific priority areas at a national or sub-national level.

- It is being used in 40 countries to find the best methods for landscape restoration.
- The tool includes rigorous analysis of spatial, legal and socio-economic data and draws on consultations with key stakeholders to determine the right type of interventions.
- In India, this tool is being piloted in Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh.

**Q.91) 'Punch Tantra' was recently in news. What is it related to?**

- a) Guidelines to double farmers' income by 2022
- b) Tribal handlooms and handicraft
- c) Air-to-Air Missile developed by DRDO
- d) Indigenously developed Supercomputer

**Q.91) Solution (b)**

The Punch Tantra is a range of tribal artifacts include handlooms and handicrafts. The Punch Tantra is a magnificent collection of such excellence and powerful tribal legacy, which comprises of a range of ethnic and traditional tribal handicraft and handloom products like Sarees, Stoles, Dupatas, Shawls, Kurtas/Kurtis, Lamp shades (Kandels), Sky Lanters, Diyas, Gift hampers, etc. specially introduced for the coming Diwali and festival season.

It will be organised by TRIFED and Tribes India under Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

TRIFED promotes tribal products through network of Tribes India Showrooms, Aadi Mahotsavs /Exhibitions and various e-commerce platforms namely, Amazon, Flipkart, Snapdeal and GeM which provide a window to National & International markets. TRIFED has brought more and more tribal artisans in its ambit of operations for improving their livelihood and upgrade their economic status.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1547368>

**Q.92) Consider the following statements about 'WAYU'**

1. It is developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI)
2. It works by converting pollutants such as PM2.5 and PM10 particles, carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds into carbon dioxide using a filter.

**Select the correct code:**



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

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

Air pollution control device WAYU (Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit) is developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) as a part of Technology Development Project being funded by Department of Science and Technology.

The device works on two principles mainly Wind generation for dilution of air pollutants and Active Pollutants removal. The device has filters for Particulate Matter removal and activated carbon (charcoal) and UV lamps for poisonous gases removal such as VOCs and Carbon Monoxide. The device has one fan and filter for sucking and removing Particulate Matter. There are two UV lamps and half kg of activated carbon charcoal coated with special chemical Titanium Dioxide.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183664>

**Q.93) Consider the following statements about 'SDG Media Compact'**

1. It is an initiative marking a new drive to advance awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were unanimously adopted by all world leaders at the United Nations in 2015.
2. India's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is one of the founding compact members

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

SDG Media Compact is initiative of United Nations, in collaboration with UN Foundation. It is alliance of news and entertainment media and it is committing to work with United Nations to foster public discourse and spur action on SDGs.

It seeks to inspire media and entertainment companies around the world to leverage their resources and creative talent to advance SDGs adopted by all world leaders at UN in 2015.

India's ministry of information and broadcasting is among more than 30 founding compact members.

**Source:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/indias-ministry-of-information-and-broadcasting-in-un-global-media-compact/articleshow/65932745.cms>

**Q.94) Consider the following statements about 'Tx2'**

1. It was launched by CITES at the 2010 St Petersburg Tiger Summit.
2. It is an ambitious and visionary species conservation goal set by the governments of the tiger range countries to double the number of wild tigers by 2022.

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.94) Solution (b)**

An ambitious and visionary species conservation goal was set by the governments of the 13 tiger range countries: to double the number of wild tigers by 2022 – the next Chinese year of the tiger. This is the Tx2 goal.

The initiative was started in 2010 at the St. Petersburg Tiger Summit. The International Tiger Day 2016 is especially important since it marks the halfway point of Tx2 and a shout-out to governments and countries across the world to review and strengthen its existing efforts to save the animal.

It was launched by World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) at the 2010 St Petersburg Tiger Summit held in Russia. Under it, 13 tiger range countries had agreed to double the world tiger population by 2022, which is the year of tiger in Chinese calendar. These 13 countries are Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Tx2 approach looks at doubling the number of tigers in the wild, rather than just saving the animal in each of the countries in which it is present. This strategic focus looks at not only protecting tigers but protecting landscapes including source sites and corridors. It also encourages trans-boundary collaboration between countries for tiger conservation. The Tx2 initiative marks the first time that all tiger range countries have come together to collaborate and work together towards a global goal of protecting this apex predator.

WWF is a major driving force behind the Tx2 campaign and is running a “Thumbs-Up for Tigers” campaign to mark the International Tiger Day 2016.

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2018/sep/24/nepal-becomes-first-country-to-double-tiger-population-1876537.html>

**Q.95) Project UNNATI is associated with**

- a) Allocation of coal mines
- b) Digital Literacy in Rural India
- c) Improving operational and financial performance of Ports
- d) Monitor high value transactions and detect tax evaders

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

**The aims and objectives of Project UNNATI of the Ministry of Shipping are**

- Benchmark operational and financial performance of the 12 major ports with selected Indian private ports and best-in-class international ports for identifying improvement areas.
- Undertake capability maturity assessment for key processes and functional capabilities (e.g., IT, HR, Environment, and Health) and identify gaps and areas for further strengthening.
- Detailed deep-dive diagnosis and root cause analysis for the identified opportunity areas in each of the 12 major ports to understand underlying reasons for performance bottlenecks.
- Develop practical and actionable solutions on the basis of root cause findings, and develop a comprehensive improvement roadmap for each of the 12 major ports.

**Q.96) Which of the following statements about “Poona Pact” is/are correct?**

1. The Poona Pact was accepted by the Government as an amendment to the Communal Award
2. It abandoned separate electorates for the depressed classes.

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

Gandhi saw the Communal Award as an attack on Indian unity and nationalism. He thought it was harmful to both Hinduism and to the depressed classes since it provided no answer to the socially degraded position of the depressed classes. Once the depressed classes were treated as a separate political entity, he argued, the question of abolishing untouchability would get undermined, while separate electorates would ensure that the untouchables remained untouchables in perpetuity. He said that what was required was not protection of the so-called interests of the depressed classes but root and branch eradication of untouchability

Gandhi demanded that the depressed classes be elected through joint and if possible a wider electorate through universal franchise, while expressing no objection to the demand for a larger number of reserved seats. And to press for his demands, he went on an indefinite fast on September 20, 1932. Now leaders of various persuasions, including B.R. Ambedkar, M.C. Rajah and Madan Mohan Malaviya got together to hammer out a compromise contained in the Poona Pact.

Poona Pact was signed by B.R. Ambedkar on behalf of the depressed classes in September 1932, the Pact abandoned separate electorates for the depressed classes. But the seats reserved for the depressed classes were increased from 71 to 147 in provincial legislatures and 18 per cent of the total in the central legislature.

The Poona Pact was accepted by the Government as an amendment to the Communal Award.

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/removing-biases-supreme-court-jarnail-singh-verdict-5377384/>

**Q.97) In 1932, Mahatma Gandhi began a fast unto death in Yerwada Jail against:**

- a) Communal award of Ramsay Mac Donald
- b) Violation of Gandhi-Irwin Pact
- c) British repression of Satyagrahis
- d) Communal riots in Calcutta

**Q.97) Solution (a)**

Ramsay Mac Donald granted separate electorates to Dalits. This is called the communal award. Mahatma Gandhi went on a hunger strike unto death against this decision.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/removing-biases-supreme-court-jarnail-singh-verdict-5377384/>

**Q.98) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Digi VAARTA'**

- 1. It is a platform designed to enable Financial and Social Inclusion by educating citizens on various schemes / programmes.
- 2. It is under the aegis of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

Digi VAARTA (Vehicle to Accelerate Access and Reach to Transformational Action) is a platform designed to enable Financial and Social Inclusion by educating citizens on various schemes / programmes. It will help and promote learning and behavioural change and empower users to draw content available under the financial and Social inclusion programme as per their choice. DIGI VAARTA will enable adaptive and interactive communication with a high degree of personalization.

**Read More -**

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.iexistssolutions.digivaarta&hl=en> IN

**Q.99) Consider the following statements about 'Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics (CEDA)'**

1. It will help the government offer better services to its citizens by analysing the data generated during the governance process
2. It is jointly developed by NITI Aayog and National Informatics Centre (NIC)

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

The Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics that will help the government offer better services to its citizens by analysing the data generated during the governance process. The centre is jointly developed by National Informatics Centre and National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated.

The CEDA intends to provide quality data analytic services to government departments at all levels by identifying appropriate tools and technologies and deploying experts to carry out these services.

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/nic-to-jointly-form-new-data-analytics-centre-to-work-with-govt-depts-5377673/>

**Q.100) 'Economic Freedom of the World Index' is released by**

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

**Q.100) Solution (d)**

The index published in Economic Freedom of the World measures the degree to which the policies and institutions of countries are supportive of economic freedom.

It is published by the libertarian Canadian think tank Fraser Institute.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/GwJsB1bcM5v2mbVNmBL7FK/Opinion--Why-economic-freedom-is-important-in-India.html>