

**Q.1) "Forty plus Nine (40+9)" Recommendations is concerned with which of the following institutions/organisations?**

- a) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- b) Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- c) Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- d) Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

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

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is often seen in news.

The FATF's primary policies issued are the Forty Recommendations on money laundering from 1990 and the Nine Special Recommendations (SR) on Terrorism Financing (TF).

Together, the Forty Recommendations and Special Recommendations on Terrorism Financing set the international standard for anti-money laundering measures and combating the financing of terrorism and terrorist acts. They set out the principles for action and allow countries a measure of flexibility in implementing these principles according to their particular circumstances and constitutional frameworks. Both sets of FATF Recommendations are intended to be implemented at the national level through legislation and other legally binding measures.

The 40+9 Recommendations, together with their interpretative notes, provide the international standards for combating money laundering (ML) and terrorist financing (TF).

**THINK!**

- FATF Black list and Grey list
- OECD

**Source:**

<http://www.fatf-gafi.org/publications/fatfrecommendations/documents/ixspecialrecommendations.html>

**Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan'**

1. It provides subsidised and quality antenatal care to women belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families
2. It is under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development
3. It aims to reach out to pregnant women who are in the 2nd & 3rd Trimesters of pregnancy

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

**Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan**

- It has been launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India.
- The program aims to provide assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month.
- PMSMA guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their 2nd / 3rd trimesters of pregnancy at designated government health facilities
- The programme follows a systematic approach for engagement with private sector which includes motivating private practitioners to volunteer for the campaign developing strategies for generating awareness and appealing to the private sector to participate in the Abhiyan at government health facilities.

**Goal of the PMSMA**

- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan envisages to improve the quality and coverage of Antenatal Care (ANC) including diagnostics and counselling services as part of the Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A) Strategy.

**Objectives of the program:**

- Ensure at least one antenatal checkup for all pregnant women in their second or third trimester by a physician/specialist
- Improve the quality of care during ante-natal visits. This includes ensuring provision of the following services:
  - All applicable diagnostic services
  - Screening for the applicable clinical conditions
  - Appropriate management of any existing clinical condition such as Anaemia, Pregnancy induced hypertension, Gestational Diabetes etc.
  - Appropriate counselling services and proper documentation of services rendered

- Additional service opportunity to pregnant women who have missed ante-natal visits
- Identification and line-listing of high risk pregnancies based on obstetric/ medical history and existing clinical conditions.
- Appropriate birth planning and complication readiness for each pregnant woman especially those identified with any risk factor or comorbid condition.
- Special emphasis on early diagnosis, adequate and appropriate management of women with malnutrition.
- Special focus on adolescent and early pregnancies as these pregnancies need extra and specialized care

### Key Features of PMSMA

- PMSMA is based on the premise — that if every pregnant woman in India is examined by a physician and appropriately investigated at least once during the PMSMA and then appropriately followed up — the process can result in reduction in the number of maternal and neonatal deaths in our country.
- Antenatal checkup services would be provided by OBGY specialists / Radiologist/physicians with support from private sector doctors to supplement the efforts of the government sector.
- A minimum package of antenatal care services (including investigations and drugs) would be provided to the beneficiaries on the 9th day of every month at identified public health facilities (PHCs/ CHCs, DHs/ urban health facilities etc) in both urban and rural areas in addition to the routine ANC at the health facility/ outreach.
- Using the principles of a single window system, it is envisaged that a minimum package of investigations (including one ultrasound during the 2nd trimester of pregnancy) and medicines such as IFA supplements, calcium supplements etc would be provided to all pregnant women attending the PMSMA clinics.
- While the target would reach out to all pregnant women, special efforts would be made to reach out to women who have not registered for ANC (left out/missed ANC) and also those who have registered but not availed ANC services (dropout) as well as High Risk pregnant women.
- OBGY specialists/ Radiologist/physicians from private sector would be encouraged to provide voluntary services at public health facilities where government sector practitioners are not available or inadequate.
- Pregnant women would be given Mother and Child Protection Cards and safe motherhood booklets.
- One of the critical components of the Abhiyan is identification and follow up of high risk pregnancies. A sticker indicating the condition and risk factor of the pregnant women would be added onto MCP card for each visit:
  - Green Sticker- for women with no risk factor detected

- Red Sticker – for women with high risk pregnancy
- A National Portal for PMSMA and a Mobile application have been developed to facilitate the engagement of private/ voluntary sector.
- 'IPledgeFor9' Achievers Awards have been devised to celebrate individual and team achievements and acknowledge voluntary contributions for PMSMA in states and districts across India.

**THINK!**

- 'IPledgefor9' Achievers Awards

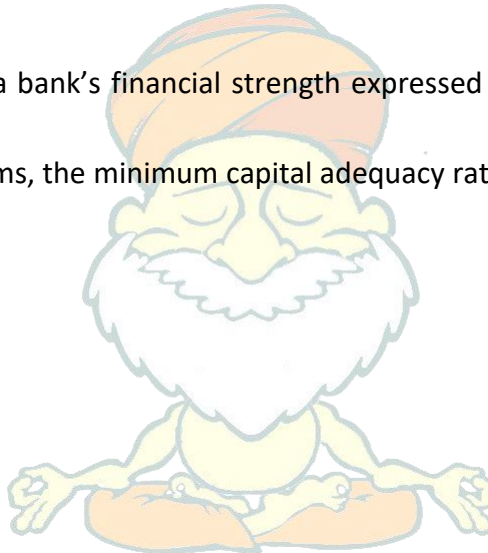
Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180313>

**Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR)' and identify the correct ones:**

1. It is a measure of a bank's financial strength expressed as a ratio of capital to risk-weighted assets.
2. Under Basel III norms, the minimum capital adequacy ratio that banks must maintain is 8%.

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

The capital adequacy ratio measures a bank's capital in relation to its risk-weighted assets. The capital-to-risk-weighted-assets ratio promotes financial stability and efficiency in economic systems throughout the world.

The Basel III norms stipulated a capital to risk weighted assets of 8%. However, as per RBI norms, Indian scheduled commercial banks are required to maintain a CAR of 9% while Indian public sector banks are emphasized to maintain a CAR of 12%.

**THINK!**

- What are Tier I, Tier II, Tier III Capital?

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/npas-increasing-iba-tells-panel/article24081672.ece>

**Q.4) Which of the following statements is the most appropriate with respect to 'Feed-in tariff'?**

- a) It allows consumers who generate some or all of their own electricity to use that electricity anytime, instead of when it is generated.
- b) It is a trade barrier erected for the purpose of reducing pollution and improving the environment
- c) It is a tax levied on activities which are considered to be harmful to the environment and is intended to promote environmentally friendly activities via economic incentives
- d) It is an economic policy created to promote active investment in and production of renewable energy sources

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

It is a policy mechanism designed to accelerate investment in renewable energy technologies. It achieves this by offering long-term contracts to renewable energy producers, typically based on the cost of generation of each technology.

Source: <https://m.economictimes.com/industry/energy/power/chinese-move-may-pull-down-solar-bid-tariffs-further/articleshow/64719557.cms>

**Q.5) 'Operation NISTAR' was a Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Operation (HADR) conducted by India in which of the following countries?**

- a) Yemen
- b) Djibouti
- c) Maldives
- d) Indonesia

**Q.5) Solution (a)**

It was conducted to rescue Indian Nationals off Socotra Islands (Yemen) after the island was struck with a severe Cyclonic Storm – Mekunu.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179842>

**Q.6) Which of the following are correctly matched?**

1. National Disaster Risk Index - UNISDR
2. Transformation Index – World Bank
3. Project Half-Earth - UNEP
4. REPLACE Programme - WHO

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.6) Solution (d)**

**National Disaster Risk Index**

This index is made by the Union Home Ministry with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The disasters taken into consideration include cyclones, earthquakes, landslides, etc. The top 5 states most vulnerable to natural disasters are:

- Maharashtra
- West Bengal
- Uttar Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh
- Rajasthan

**Do you know?**

- This is a list of countries by natural disaster risk, as measured in the World Risk Index, calculated by the **United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)** and featured in the 2016 World Risk Report (WRR 2016) published by the Alliance Development Works/Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (BEH).
- The report systematically considers a country's vulnerability and its exposure to natural hazards to determine a ranking of countries around the world based on their natural disaster risk.

- The WRI developed by UNU-EHS and BEH the main feature of the WRR, determines the risk of becoming a victim of a disaster as a result of vulnerability and natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, storms, floods, droughts and sea level rise for 171 countries worldwide.
- The WRI is based on 28 indicators and research data which are globally freely available and results in a global risk ranking and maps which allow for comparison between countries. Risk is at its highest where a high level of exposure to natural hazards coincides with very vulnerable societies
- India ranked 72/171

### Transformation Index

- Bangladesh, Lebanon, Mozambique, Nicaragua and Uganda are the “new” autocracies, according to **Germany’s Bertelsmann Foundation**.
- In its “Transformation Index 2018 (BTI)”, it has rated 58 out of 129 developing nations as autocracies.
- The Bertelsmann Stiftung’s Transformation Index (BTI) analyzes and evaluates the quality of democracy, a market economy and political management in 129 developing and transition countries. It measures successes and setbacks on the path toward a democracy based on the rule of law and a socially responsible market economy.
- India was ranked 26.

### Half-Earth Project

The extinction of species by human activity continues to accelerate, fast enough to eliminate more than half of all species by the end of this century. Earth’s foundational, billion-year-old environmental support system cannot be replaced. Once species are gone, they are gone forever.

Half-Earth is a call to protect half the land and half the sea in order to manage sufficient habitat to ensure the long-term health of our planet. The Half-Earth Project is bringing this conservation moonshot to life.

To protect life on earth, the famous **American biologist E.O. Wilson** has described an ambitious project he calls “**Half-Earth**”. He calls for formally protecting 50% of the earth’s land surface in order to conserve our rapidly disappearing natural heritage. Others have rightly argued that in the past conservation efforts have often disregarded issues of social justice and equity. Thus the goals of “Half-Earth” should not compromise the rights of indigenous people.

**The Half-Earth Project is:**



- Driving research to better understand the species of our planet and their interactions within ecosystems.
- Providing conservation management leadership by mapping the species of our planet and identifying where we have the best opportunity to protect the most species.
- Engaging people everywhere to participate in caring for our planet and achieving the goal of Half-Earth.

### REPLACE PROGRAMME

WHO released REPLACE, a step-by-step guide **for the elimination of industrially-produced trans-fatty acids from the global food supply.**

Eliminating trans fats is key to protecting health and saving lives: WHO estimates that every year, trans fat intake leads to more than 500,000 deaths of people from cardiovascular disease.

Industrially-produced trans fats are contained in hardened vegetable fats, such as margarine and ghee, and are often present in snack food, baked foods, and fried foods.

Manufacturers often use them as they have a longer shelf life than other fats. But healthier alternatives can be used that would not affect taste or cost of food.

WHO calls on governments to use the REPLACE action package to eliminate industrially-produced trans-fatty acids from the food supply.

Implementing the six strategic actions in the REPLACE package will help achieve the elimination of trans fat, and represent a major victory in the global fight against cardiovascular disease.

**REPLACE** provides six strategic actions to ensure the prompt, complete, and sustained elimination of industrially-produced trans fats from the food supply:

- REview dietary sources of industrially-produced trans fats and the landscape for required policy change.
- Promote the replacement of industrially-produced trans fats with healthier fats and oils.
- Legislate or enact regulatory actions to eliminate industrially-produced trans fats.
- Assess and monitor trans fats content in the food supply and changes in trans fat consumption in the population.
- Create awareness of the negative health impact of trans fats among policy makers, producers, suppliers, and the public.
- Enforce compliance of policies and regulations.



**Q.7) Following islands were recently in news.**

1. Socotra Island - Arabian Sea
2. Solomon Island – South Pacific Ocean
3. Guam Island - Western Pacific Ocean
4. Sabang Island – Andaman Sea
5. Easter island – Atlantic Ocean

**Which of them is/are correctly matched?**

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

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

**Socotra Island**- located between the Guardafui Channel and the Arabian Sea, is the largest of four islands of the Socotra archipelago. The territory is located near major shipping routes and is officially part of Yemen

The island was recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a world natural heritage site in July 2008.

**Solomon Island**- Solomon Islands is a sovereign state consisting of six major islands and over 900 smaller islands in Oceania lying to the east of Papua New Guinea and northwest of Vanuatu



**Guam Island-** is an unincorporated and organized territory of the United States in Micronesia in the Western Pacific Ocean.



**Sabang Island-** Weh Island often known as Sabang after the largest city, is a small active volcanic island to the northwest of Sumatra.

It was originally connected to the Sumatran mainland and became separated by sea after the volcano's last eruption in the Pleistocene era.

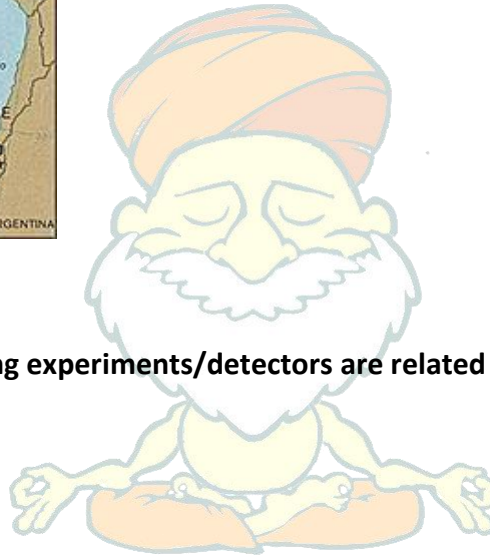
The island is situated in the Andaman Sea. The largest city on the island, Sabang, is the northernmost outpost of Indonesia.



**Easter Island,** a Chilean territory, is a remote volcanic island in Polynesia. Its native name is Rapa Nui. It's famed for archaeological sites, including nearly 900 monumental statues called moai, created by inhabitants during the 13th–16th centuries. The moai are carved human figures with oversize heads, often resting on massive stone pedestals called ahus. Ahu Tongariki has the largest group of upright moai.



In 1995, UNESCO named Easter Island a World Heritage Site, with much of the island protected within Rapa Nui National Park.



**Q.8) Which of the following experiments/detectors are related to study of 'Neutrino'?**

1. XENON
2. IceCube
3. MINOS
4. KATRIN

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.8) Solution (b)**

Neutrinos are also called Ghost Particles because they are very difficult to detect. They have mass but very negligible. Neutrinos are electrically neutral and interact only via the weak interaction.

**XENON Experiment-** The XENON **dark matter research project**, operated at the Italian Gran Sasso National Laboratory, is a deep underground research facility featuring increasingly ambitious experiments aiming to detect dark matter particles. The experiments aim to detect particles in the form of weakly interacting massive particles (WIMPs) by looking for rare interactions via nuclear recoils in a liquid xenon target chamber. The current detector consists of a dual phase time projection chamber (TPC).

#### Neutrino detectors around the world

- ANTARES -Under Mediterranean sea off coast of Toulon, France. (Underwater neutrino telescope)
- MiniBooNE- at Fermilab in the US
- IceCube – Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, Antarctica, (Under-ice detector)
- Borexino - Gran Sasso, Italy. (Underground experiment)
- Sudbury Neutrino Observatory - Sudbury, Ontario, Canada (Underground experiment)
- Daya Bay Reactor Neutrino Experiment- In Daya Bay near Hong Kong, China
- MINOS- Main Injector Neutrino Oscillation Search - is an experiment at Fermilab designed to study the phenomena known as neutrino oscillations
- Super-Kamiokande, under Mount Ikeno, Japan
- KATRIN- Karlsruhe Tritium Neutrino experiment, or KATRIN. Researchers say determining the mass of neutrinos is one of the most important open questions in particle physics and will help scientists better understand the history of the universe

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/scientists-seek-to-find-mass-of-ghost-particle/article24137611.ece>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/neutrino-project-no-clearance-from-villagers/article23544221.ece>

**Q.9) 'Joint Appeal to Youth' recently in news is related to:**

- a) BRICS
- b) SCO
- c) UN
- d) ASEAN

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

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/sco-leaders-make-joint-appeal-to-youth-against-terror/article24128722.ece>

**Q.10) The Energy Progress Report provides a global dashboard on progress towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).**

**The report targets which SDG and is a joint effort of:**

- a) SDG7 and International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the World Bank, and the World Health Organization (WHO)
- b) SDG4 and International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank, and the World Health Organization (WHO)
- c) SDG6 and International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the World Bank, and the World Health Organization (WHO)
- d) SDG7 and International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank, and the World Health Organization (WHO)

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

The Energy Progress Report provides a global dashboard on progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7). The report is a joint effort of the **International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the World Bank Group, and the World Health Organization (WHO)**, which the United Nations (UN) has named as global custodian agencies, responsible for collecting and reporting on country-by-country energy indicators for reporting on **SDG7**.

This report tracks global, regional and country progress on the four targets of SDG7: **energy access (electricity, clean fuels and technologies for cooking), renewable energy and energy efficiency**, based on statistical indicators endorsed by the UN.

The report updates progress with the latest available data up to 2016 for energy access, and 2015 for clean energy, against a baseline year of 2010.

**4th Sustainable Energy for All Forum - Lisbon, Portugal, May 2018**

**Specific findings on SDG 7 targets include:**

**Access to electricity:** One billion people (13% of the world population) continue to live without electricity. At current rates, 674 million people would remain without access to electricity in 2030. Experience in a few countries has shown that home solar energy systems or mini-grids are a promising technology to provide access in rural areas.

**Access to clean cooking fuels:** Three billion people (40% of the world population) remain without access to clean cooking fuels. The resulting indoor air pollution causes approximately 4 million deaths per year. The main reasons for lack of progress are low consumer awareness, financing gaps, slow technological progress and lack of fuel distribution infrastructure.

**Energy efficiency:** Global GDP continues to decouple from growth in energy demand with energy intensity declining on average 2.2% per year, compared to 2.6% required to double energy efficiency by 2030. Progress was driven by improved energy efficiency in the industrial sector, whereas the transport and heating sectors are lagging. Several large economies show signs that their primary energy use demand has peaked.

**Renewable energy:** Modern renewable energy use (excluding traditional uses of biomass) has increased to 9.6% of global energy consumption and is projected to reach 21% by 2030 under current policies. This is insufficient to achieve the “substantial increase” required under target 7.2 and to mitigate climate change. While falling costs have accelerated growth in renewable electricity to 22.8% per year in some countries, electricity only represented 20% of final energy consumption in 2015. Growth in the use of renewables in transport and heating is much slower at 2.8% per year.

**Source:**

- <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/energy-progress-report-the-world-is-not-on-track-to-achieve-sdg-7-but-progress-is-accelerating/>
- <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/make-power-supply-a-fundamental-right/article24202992.ece>

**Q.11) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)’**

1. The equity of a regional rural bank is held by the concerned State Government and the Sponsor Bank in the proportion of 50:50.
2. They were set up under the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976.
3. They have to maintain the minimum prescribed Capital to Risk weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 15%.

**Select the correct statements**



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

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

Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are financial institutions which ensure adequate credit for agriculture and other rural sectors. Regional Rural Banks were set up on the basis of the recommendations of the Narasimham Working Group (1975), and after the legislations of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976. The first Regional Rural Bank “Prathama Grameen Bank” was set up on October 2, 1975. At present there are 82 RRBs in India.

The equity of a regional rural bank is held by the Central Government, concerned State Government and the Sponsor Bank in the proportion of 50:15:35.

RRBs need to maintain a minimum CRAR of 9%.

**Q.12) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)’**

1. It is a statutory body of Ministry of Women & Child Development
2. It was set up under the POCSO Act
3. It has barred partners in live-in relationships from adopting a child

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.12) Solution (a)**

Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body of Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India. It functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions. CARA is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993, ratified by Government of India in 2003.



CARA primarily deals with adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children through its associated /recognised adoption agencies.

Read More - <http://cara.nic.in/Regulation/CARA.html>

Partners in live-in relationships can adopt a child -

<https://www.thequint.com/news/india/adoption-live-in-relationship-children-india>

**Q.13) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

1. Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary – Tamil Nadu
2. Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary – Kerala
3. Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary – Karnataka

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

All the above bird sanctuaries are located in Tamil Nadu.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/chitrangudi-karaivetti-maybe-declared-eco-sensitive/article24133169.ece>

**Q.14) 'Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)' is often seen in news. It is associated with which of the following organisations?**

- a) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- b) Middle East Security Alliance (MESA)
- c) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- d) BRICS

**Q.14) Solution (a)**

The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, is a permanent organ of the SCO which serves to promote cooperation of member states against the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism.

**Q.15) 'Helsinki Accords' is associated with**

- a) Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)
- b) Antarctic Treaty System
- c) Non-Proliferation Treaty
- d) None of the above

**Q.15) Solution (d)**

**Helsinki Accords**

- It is also known as the Helsinki Final Act, or Helsinki Declaration
- It were signed on August 1, 1975, at the conclusion of the first Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (now called the OSCE or Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe).
- It were made mainly to reduce tension between the Western blocs and the then Soviet Union by securing their common acceptance of the post-Second World War status quo in Europe.
- It were signed by all European countries barring Albania which became its signatory in 1991 and the US and Canada.
- It recognised that the post-World War II frontiers in Europe were inviolable and all the 35 nations that signed it pledged to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms besides cooperating on various areas.
- They are not binding and do not have a treaty status.

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2018/jun/28/finnish-neutrality-key-to-helsinki-hosting-us-russia-summit-1835204.html>

**Q.16) If you have to reach Russia from India through land, the minimum countries land boundaries that must be crossed is?**

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

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

If starting from Arunachal Pradesh, one has to cross only China to reach Russia.



Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/to-russia-with-love-on-a-cycle/article24188677.ece>

**Q.17) 'Billion Tree Tsunami', (BTT) a provincial government programme that has seen a total of 300 million trees of 42 different species planted across the province. BTT is associated with which province?**

- a) Bali Province, Indonesia
- b) Chongqing Province, China
- c) Philippines Province
- d) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan

**Q.17) Solution (d)**

The Billion Tree Tsunami was launched in 2014, by the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Pakistan, as a response to the challenge of global warming. Pakistan's Billion Tree

Tsunami restores 350,000 hectares of forests and degraded land to surpass its Bonn Challenge commitment.

- The project aimed at improving the ecosystems of classified forests, as well as privately owned waste and farm lands, and therefore entails working in close collaboration with concerned communities and stakeholders to ensure their meaningful participation through effectuating project promotion and extension services.
- The project was completed in August 2017, ahead of schedule.

#### Do you know?

**The Billion Tree Campaign** was launched in 2006, by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** as a response to the challenges of global warming, as well as to a wider array of sustainability challenges from water supply to biodiversity loss.

- Its initial target was the planting of one billion trees in 2007 (achieved by November). One year later, in 2008, the campaign's objective was raised to 7 billion trees a target to be met by the climate change conference that was held in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009.
- Three months before the conference, the 7 billion planted trees mark had been surpassed. In December 2011, after more than 12 billion trees had been planted, UNEP formally handed management of the program over to the youth-led not-for-profit Plant-for-the-Planet Foundation, based in Tutzing, Germany.
- Over 14.2 billion trees have been planted as of 2016.
- The Billion Tree Campaign calls upon all individuals, countries and companies to participate, and accepts all contributions.
- **The Billion Tree Campaign was inspired by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai**, founder of the Green Belt Movement.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/billion-tree-tsunami-transforms-arid-pakistan-region-into-green-gold/article24264422.ece>

**Q.18) Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) brands the monsoon as 'normal' or 'deficient' based on how it fares against its benchmark Long Period Average (LPA). Select the statement that closely defines LPA:**

- a) LPA is the average rainfall received by the country as a whole during the south-west monsoon, for a 50-year period.
- b) LPA is the average rainfall received by the country as a whole during the north-west monsoon, for a 60-year period.

- c) LPA is the average rainfall received by the country as a whole during the south-west monsoon, for a 100-year period.
- d) LPA is the average rainfall received by the country as a whole during the south-west monsoon, for a 10-year period.

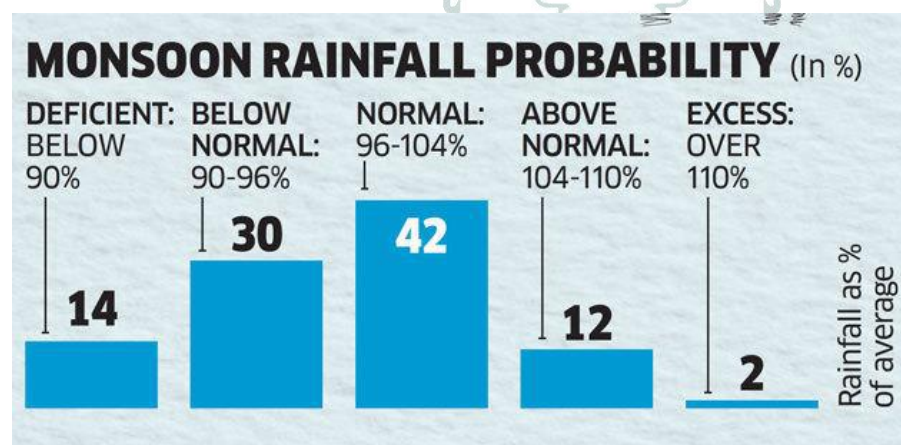
### Q.18) Solution (a)

LPA is the average rainfall received by the country as a whole during the south-west monsoon, for a 50-year period. The current LPA is 89 cm, based on the average rainfall over years 1951 and 2000.

This acts as a benchmark against which the rainfall in any monsoon season is measured.

- The country is said to have received deficient rainfall if the actual rainfall falls below 90 per cent of LPA.
- Similarly, the country is said to have received excess rainfall if the rainfall is greater than 110 per cent of LPA.
- It is deemed 'normal' when the actual rainfall received falls between 96 and 104 per cent of LPA.

In 2018, the IMD expects the rainfall to be at 97 per cent of LPA. The IMD also budgets for a 'model error' of plus or minus 5 per cent from its forecasts.



Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Politics/gSv8LFHMFsBvtw5ka4bmXM/IMD-upgrades-its-monsoon-forecast-to-98-of-long-period-ave.html>

### Q.19) Select the correct statement with reference to 'GROWTH-India' recently in new:

- a) The telescope located at the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) at Hanle in Ladakh, designed to observe dynamic or transient events in the universe.

- b) A joint initiative of World Bank and Union Finance Ministry on measures to accelerate GDP.
- c) A medical device designed by IIT Madras students for disabled children.
- d) It is a flagship initiative of NITI AAYOG for bridging the gaps between Center and State government fiscal health.

**Q.19) Solution (a)**

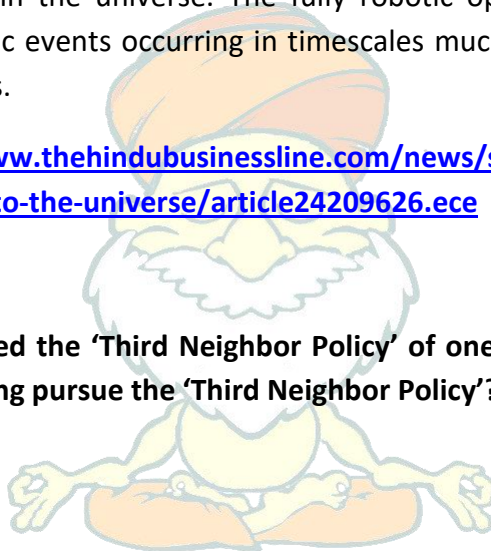
The telescope located at the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) at Hanle in Ladakh is the country's first robotic telescope and the first one designed to observe dynamic or transient events in the universe.

Called GROWTH-India, the facility at Hanle is part of a multi-country collaborative initiative known as 'Global Relay of Observatories Watching Transients Happen' (GROWTH) to observe transient events in the universe. The fully robotic optical research telescope is designed to capture cosmic events occurring in timescales much shorter than light years – years, days and even hours.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/indias-first-robotic-telescope-opens-its-eyes-to-the-universe/article24209626.ece>

**Q.20) Recently India lauded the 'Third Neighbor Policy' of one of its partner countries in Asia. Which of the following pursue the 'Third Neighbor Policy'?**

- a) Myanmar
- b) Mongolia
- c) Vietnam
- d) Philippines

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

The third neighbor policy is a facet of foreign relations of Mongolia referring to its building relationships with countries other than Russia and China, the two superpowers that historically had a sphere of influence extending to the country.

The economy of Mongolia is dependent on exploitation of the country's mineral resources, which include copper, gold, uranium and coal, and thus the country is vulnerable to pressure from foreign countries and corporations involved in resource extraction.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-lauds-mongolias-3rd-neighbour-policy-committed-to-strengthen-cultural-bond-rajnath-singh/articleshow/64722918.cms>



**Q.21) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Eco-Sensitive Zones'**

1. They are declared under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
2. All kinds of human activities are prohibited in the Eco-Sensitive Zones
3. Eco-Sensitive Zones can be notified only near National Parks

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.21) Solution (d)**

Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) or Ecologically Fragile Areas (EFAs) are areas notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. The purpose of declaring ESZs is to create some kind of "shock absorbers" to the protected areas by regulating and managing the activities around such areas. They also act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.

The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 does not mention the word "Eco-Sensitive Zones". However, Section 3(2)(v) of the Act, says that Central Government can restrict areas in which any industries, operations or processes or class of industries, operations or processes shall not be carried out or shall be carried out subject to certain safeguards.

It doesn't talk about prohibiting all kinds of human activities.

**Q.22) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY)' and identify the correct ones.**

1. It deals with the matters related to Urban Water Supply and Sanitation including Solid Waste Management
2. It aims to improve ground water management in priority areas in the country through community participation
3. It is being implemented by the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO)



**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.22) Solution (b)**

Atal Bhujal Yojana has been formulated by the Ministry of Water Resources to address the criticality of ground water resources in a major part of the country. The scheme aims to improve ground water management in priority areas in the country through community participation. The priority areas identified under the scheme fall in the states of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. These States represent about 25% of the total number of over-exploited, critical and semi-critical blocks in terms of ground water in India. They also cover two major types of groundwater systems found in India - alluvial and hard rock aquifers- and have varying degrees of institutional readiness and experience in groundwater management.

Funds under the scheme will be provided to the states for strengthening the institutions responsible for ground water governance, as well as for encouraging community involvement for improving ground water management to foster behavioural changes that promote conservation and efficient use of water. The scheme will also facilitate convergence of ongoing Government schemes in the states by incentivizing their focussed implementation in identified priority areas. Implementation of the scheme is expected to benefit nearly 8350 Gram Panchayats in 78 districts in these states. Funds under the scheme will be made available to the participating states as Grants.

The scheme envisages active participation of the communities in various activities such as formation of Water User Associations, monitoring and disseminating ground water data, water budgeting, preparation and implementation of Gram-Panchayat wise water security plans and IEC activities related to sustainable ground water management.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179796>

**Q.23) 'Lithium-ion batteries' can be used in which of the following?**

1. Mobile Phones
2. Electric and Hybrid Vehicles
3. Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

Some of the most common applications of lithium-ion batteries are:

- Power backups/UPS
- Mobile, Laptops, and other commonly used consumer electronic goods
- Electric mobility
- Energy Storage Systems

**Q.24) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Islands Development Agency (IDA)'**

1. It is chaired by the Prime Minister of India
2. It aims to develop a military and naval base at the Andaman and Lakshadweep Islands
3. It was set up in 2017

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

**IDA**

- It was set up on June 01, 2017 for the holistic development of islands.
- Holistic development of islands include key infrastructure projects, digital connectivity, green energy, desalination plants, waste management, promotion of fisheries, and tourism-based projects.
- It is chaired by the Union Home Minister

**Q.25) Which of the following statements with respect to 'Gram Swaraj Abhiyan' is/are correct?**

1. It releases the bonded labourers from their bondage and rehabilitates them
2. It rehabilitates the homeless and destitute persons and provides them with suitable sources of livelihood

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.25) Solution (d)**

This Abhiyan is being undertaken for reaching out to poor households, spreading awareness about government welfare schemes and other people centric initiatives.

The objective of the campaign is to promote social harmony, spread awareness about pro-poor initiatives of government, and reach out to poor households to enroll them as also to obtain their feedback on various welfare programmes

**Q.26) 'Cyclone Sagar and Mekunu' recently in news are associated with:**

- a) Southern Pacific Ocean
- b) Atlantic Ocean
- c) Indian Ocean
- d) Western Pacific Ocean

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

Cyclonic Storm Sagar was the strongest tropical cyclone to make landfall in Somalia in recorded history, and the first named cyclone of the 2018 North Indian Ocean cyclone season.

Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm Mekunu was the strongest storm to strike Oman's Dhofar Governorate since 1959. The second named storm of the 2018 North Indian Ocean cyclone season, Mekunu developed out of a low pressure area in 2018.

Cyclone Mekunu made landfall on the Arabian Peninsula early May, causing flash floods and other damage. It earlier hit Socotra in the Arabian Sea.

The cyclone packed maximum sustained winds of 170-180 kilometres (105-111 miles) per hour with gusts of up to 200 kph (124 mph).

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/bay-to-erupt-soon-with-a-strong-low-say-global-weather-models/article24076612.ece>

**Q.27) The term 'HiLumi' recently in news is associated with:**

- a) High intensity laser beam technology
- b) Helium exploration on the Moon
- c) An upgrade of Large Hadron Collider at CERN
- d) An artificial intelligence based telescope

**Q.27) Solution (c)**

The High-Luminosity LHC will make it possible to study the fundamental building blocks of matter in more detail than ever before.

- CERN, the organisation that operates the LHC, held a ground-breaking ceremony on Friday to mark the beginning of civil engineering works.
- The vast LHC is housed beneath the French-Swiss border, near Geneva.
- The upgrade will boost the accelerator's potential for new discoveries in physics, starting in 2026.
- **The High Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC) is an upgrade of the LHC** to achieve instantaneous luminosities a factor of five larger than the LHC nominal value, thereby enabling the experiments to enlarge their data sample by one order of magnitude compared with the LHC baseline programme.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-44484062>

**Q.28) 'International Conference on Water for Sustainable Development' was held in Tajikistan. Consider the following statements in this regard:**

1. The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed the decade 2020-2030 as the International Decade for Action 'Water for Sustainable Development'
2. Sustainable development and integrated water resources management has been kept under Sustainable Development Goal, SDG-6.
3. World Water Day is observed on 22 March every year.

**Which of the given statement(s) is/are correct?**

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

**Q.28) Solution (b)**

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed the decade **2018-2028 as the International Decade for Action 'Water for Sustainable Development'**. It will begin on **World Water Day 22 March 2018 and end on World Water Day, 22 March 2028.**

**Sustainable development and integrated water resources management to implement SDG 6** through a lens of conflict prevention. We need safe, clean and readily available water to have a decent life. However, 844 million people today are missing this basic element of a decent life.

We need sanitation for our good health and wellbeing. Nevertheless, more than a quarter of the world's population does not have access to basic toilet and sanitation facilities.

When water and sanitation are lacking, we all suffer because we are forced to compromise our health and human dignity. However, the disproportion of women's suffering is even greater, as they are also exposed to sexual violence.

**World Water Day is an annual UN observance day (always on 22 March) that highlights the importance of freshwater.**

The day is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources

**The theme for World Water Day 2019 is 'Leaving no one behind,'** which is the central promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: as sustainable development progresses, everyone must benefit.

Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of water for all by 2030. By definition, this means leaving no one behind.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180066>

**Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched National Digital Library (NDL) of India:**

1. NDL is the Single Window Secret Platform that collects and collates metadata from premier learning institutions in India
2. It is not open to foreign institutions
3. It is a project of the Ministry of Human Resource Development under the aegis of National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT).

**Identify the correct statement/s and mark the appropriate code**

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

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

It was launched by the HRD Ministry.

This National Digital Library of India (NDLI) is a project of the **Ministry of Human Resource Development under the aegis of National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT).**

- The objective of NDL is to make digital educational resources available to all citizens of the country to empower, inspire and encourage learning.
- National Digital Library of India is **developed by IIT Kharagpur.**
- NDL is the **Single Window Platform that collects and collates metadata from premier learning institutions in India and abroad, as well as other relevant sources.**
- It is a digital repository containing textbooks, articles, videos, audio books, lectures, simulations, fiction and all other kinds of learning media.
- National Digital Library is a 24x7 ubiquitous knowledge resource that is accessible to anyone with internet access and it is built to enable the rise of Digital India.
- Anyone can access the digital library anytime and anywhere absolutely free of cost and will contribute greatly to the Government's commitment towards "Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat".

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180048>

**Q.30) Consider the following statements about 'Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and 'Nuclear DNA':**

1. While nuclear DNA is circular in shape, mtDNA is linear.
2. mtDNA is inherited from both father and mother while nuclear DNA is solely from mother.
3. Nuclear DNA consists of 46 chromosomes while mitochondrial DNA consists of only one chromosome.

**Which of the given statement(s) is/are correct?**

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

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

- Nuclear DNA consists of 46 chromosomes while mitochondrial DNA consists of only one chromosome.
- The nuclear DNA contains 20,000 to 25,000 genes while mitochondrial DNA contains only thirty seven genes.
- The chromosomes in nuclear DNA are responsible genetic make-up of a human being while the chromosome of the **mitochondrial DNA is responsible for the metabolic activities.**
- Nuclear DNA is found inside the nucleus of the cell while mitochondrial DNA is found only in the mitochondria of the cell.
- Nuclear **DNA is linear in shape while mitochondrial DNA is circular** in shape.
- Nuclear DNA is longer as compared to the mitochondrial DNA which is shorter.
- **Nuclear DNA is inherited from the mother and father both** whereas on the other hand the mitochondrial DNA is inherited from the mother only.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/22-000-year-old-fossil-from-china-reveals-long-lost-panda-lineage/story-hw2W84ibYosykLSwe5TozM.html>

**Q.31) 'Bombali virus strain' was recently in news. It is associated with**

- a) Marburg virus
- b) Ebola virus
- c) Zika virus



d) Canine distemper virus

**Q.31) Solution (b)**

A new strain of Ebola Virus was discovered in bats in northern Bombali region of Sierra Leone.

**Other Strains of Ebola**

- Zaire
- Sudan
- Tai Forest
- Bundibugyo
- Reston

The Ebola virus disease (EVD), previously referred to as Ebola hemorrhagic fever, is a severe and often fatal infection. It is spread through contact with infected blood or bodily fluids. Ebola virus disease was first identified in 1976 in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire).

**Q.32) Which one of the following is the best description of 'INS Sahyadri', that was in the news recently?**

- a) Amphibious warfare ship
- b) Nuclear-powered submarine
- c) Torpedo launch and recovery vessel
- d) Frigate Warship

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

INS Sahyadri is the Shivalik-class advanced, stealth-minded, guided-missile frigate warship. Built by the Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai, INS Sahyadri (F-49) was launched into the sea 2005. She undertook sea trials for over a year in 2011-12 and was finally commissioned along with her sisters INS Shivalik (F-47), INS and Satpura (F-48) into the Indian Navy on July 21st, 2012.

**Q.33) Consider the following statements with respect to 'no-confidence motion'**

1. It is a Parliamentary floor test that demonstrates to the ruling government that the elected parliament no longer has confidence in them
2. The procedure for moving a no-confidence motion is specified in Rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Lok Sabha

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

A no-confidence motion can be moved by any member of the House. It can be moved only in the Lok Sabha and not Rajya Sabha. Rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Lok Sabha specifies the procedure for moving a no-confidence motion. The member has to give a written notice of the motion before 10 am which will be read out by the Speaker in the House. A minimum of 50 members have to accept the motion and accordingly, the Speaker will announce the date for discussion for the motion. The allotted date has to be within 10 days from the day the motion is accepted. Otherwise, the motion fails and the member who moved the motion will be informed about it.

**Q.34) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

Volcanoes	Country
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1. Popocatepetl - Indonesia
2. Krakatoa – Papua New Guinea
3. Mount Ruapehu – New Zealand

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.34) Solution (d)**

Popocatepetl - Mexico

Krakatoa – Indonesia

Mount Ruapehu – New Zealand

**Q.35) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. The oldest phase of the Holocene is known as the Greenlandian
2. The middle phase of the Holocene is referred to as the Meghalayan

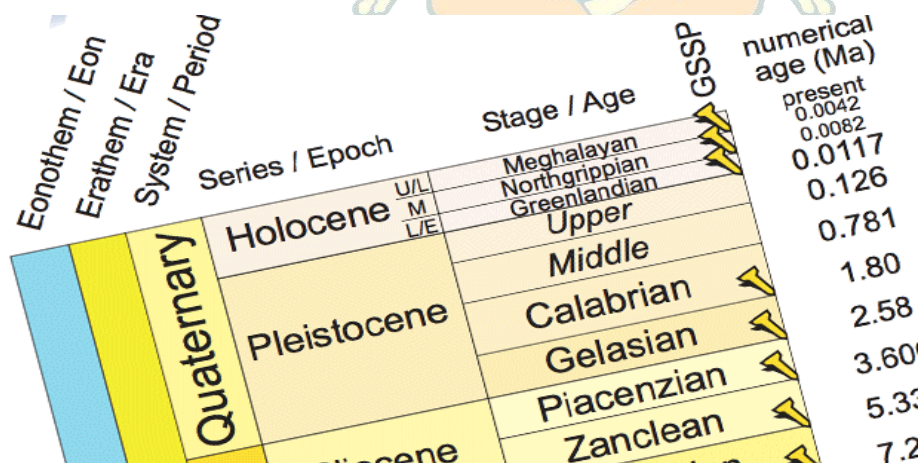
**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.35) Solution (a)**

We currently live in what is called the Holocene, which reflects everything that has happened over the past 11,700 years. Further, the Holocene is subdivided into three parts, the Greenlandian, the Northgrippian, and the youngest addition, the Meghalayan.

The Greenlandian runs from 11,700 to 8,200 years ago; the Northgrippian runs from 8,200 to 4,200 years ago, and finally, the Meghalayan runs from 4,200 years ago to present.



**Q.36) Consider the following statements regarding Bahrain:**

1. Manama is the capital and largest city of Bahrain
2. Bahrain is bordered by Qatar in South and Saudi Arabia in West.
3. It was a French territory before it got its independence.

**Select the INCORRECT statement/s**

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

**Q.36) Solution (b)**

**Bahrain is an island country in the Persian Gulf.**

The sovereign state comprises a small archipelago centered around Bahrain Island, situated between the Qatar peninsula and the north eastern coast of Saudi Arabia, to which it is connected by the 25-kilometre (16 mi) King Fahd Causeway.

Manama is the capital and largest city of Bahrain.

In the late 1800s, following successive treaties with the British, Bahrain became a protectorate of the United Kingdom. In 1971, Bahrain declared independence.

Source: <https://www.mea.gov.in/outgoing-visit-detail.htm?30065/IndiaBahrain+Joint+Statement+during+visit+of+External+Affairs+Minist+er+to+Bahrain+July+15+2018>

**Q.37) Arrange the following cities of South Korea from North to South:**

1. Incheon
2. Daegu
3. Seoul
4. Busan

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

President of the Republic of Korea (ROK) H.E. Mr. Moon Jae-in paid a State Visit to India from July 8-11, 2018.

There was a similar question in UPSC Prelims w.r.t Japan and South East Asian Nations (Capitals). Do prepare such concepts looking at the Maps (specifically for places in news).



**Note-** The Government of Korea established **Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF)** in 1987.

Source: <https://mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?30041/India+and+Republic+of+Korea+A+Vision+for+People+Prosperity+Peace+and+our+Future>

**Q.38) Identify the correct location of Ghana based on given options:**

- a) It is a country located along the Gulf of Guinea and Atlantic Ocean, in the subregion of West Africa.

- b) It is a country located along the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean, in the subregion of East Africa.
- c) It is a landlocked country surrounded by Nigeria, Chad and Mali.
- d) It is a country located touching the Mediterranean Sea in the Northern side

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

Republic of Ghana, is a country located along the Gulf of Guinea and Atlantic Ocean, in the subregion of West Africa.

Ghana is bordered by the Ivory Coast in the west, Burkina Faso in the north, Togo in the east and the Gulf of Guinea and Atlantic Ocean in the south. Ghana means "Warrior King" in the Soninke language.

**In news-** The Minister for Foreign Affairs & Regional Integration of Ghana, H.E. Mrs. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey was on an official visit to India from 16-19 July 2018.

**Q.39) State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) report is released by:**

- a) World Wildlife fund (WWF)
- b) International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- c) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- d) World Health Organization (WHO)



**Q.39) Solution (c)**

A health-check report on world fisheries and aquaculture by the United Nations (UN) has revealed that one-third of global marine fish stocks are now fished at unsustainable levels and have reached "over-fished" status.

NGO Oceana flags particular attention to the state of the **Mediterranean** which according to the report published today, is the world's most over-fished sea as well as **the Black Sea**.

**The 2018 State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) report, published by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN** confirmed a global trend toward unsustainable fishing.

Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/07/1014222>

**Q.40) 'Framework of Standards on Cross-Border E-Commerce' recently in news is published by:**

- a) World Trade Organization (WTO)
- b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- c) World Customs Organization (WCO)
- d) World Economic Forum

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

The Framework of Standards is intended for Customs administrations wishing to develop legislative and operational frameworks for cross-border e-commerce.

Source:

- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180591>
- <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2018/july/wco-publishes-global-standards-on-ecommerce.aspx>

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

1. It identifies top 15 projects from 100 cities chosen under the Smart City Mission.
2. Each awarded CITIIS project will receive an extra grant of Rupees 100 crores from the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund



**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.41) Solution (a)****Cities Investment To Innovate, Integrate and Sustain (CITIIS) Challenge**

When Smart Cities Mission was launched on 25 June 2015 a competitive, challenge process was used to select the 100 Smart Cities. Now, the Challenge process is being applied to project implementation, in line with the NITI Aayog guideline where under the Indo-French partnership program, at least 15 projects would be selected through an All-India Challenge. The projects would be in four sectors- Sustainable Mobility, Public Open Spaces, Urban governance & ICT and Social and Organizational Innovation in low-income settlements. The duration of the program will be three years (FY2018-19 to FY2020- 21).

A Loan of EUR 100 million would be extended by AFD to selected CITIIS projects in the form of grant. The repayment of the principle and interest would be equally shared by the Central Government and State Government on 50:50 basis. Each awarded CITIIS project will benefit from a grant ranging from INR 20 Cr. to INR 80 Cr (max project outlay: 160 crore). The CITIIS grant is expected to cover from minimum 50% up to 80% of the project cost subject to a maximum of INR 80 Cr. and additional funding amounting to least 20% to be secured by the awarded cities through its own resources.

In addition, EUR 6 million would be given as grant to be shared between the SPVs of the Smart Cities, State Governments and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for capacity building activities. The National institute of Urban Affairs would conduct the Challenge process for selection of projects under the Indo-French partnership.

The financial support and foreign technical assistance will help Smart Cities to access World Class expertise for selected innovative projects. It also intends to improve peer learning activities & cooperation within the smart cities and enhance the knowledge both at the State and National Level.

**Q.42) 'Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA)' was recently in news. It is associated with**

- a) Rafale Aircraft deal
- b) Non-Performing Assets

- c) Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)
- d) Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)

**Q.42) Solution (b)**

Recently signed Inter Creditor Agreements (ICA) between public sector, private sector and foreign banks is to push for the speedy resolution of non-performing loans on their balance sheets. It is part of the “Sashakt” plan approved by the government to address the problem of resolving bad loans. This was suggested by Sunil Mehta committee.

Inter Creditor Agreement is signed to ensure swift resolution of non-performing assets. There are around 22 public sector banks (including India Post Payments Bank), 19 private lenders and 32 foreign banks signed the inter-creditor agreement (ICA) to fast track the resolution of stressed assets.

Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/24-lenders-sign-an-inter-creditor-agreement-for-faster-npa-resolutions-118072400071\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/24-lenders-sign-an-inter-creditor-agreement-for-faster-npa-resolutions-118072400071_1.html)

**Q.43) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Sustainable India Finance Facility (SIFF)’**

1. It is facilitated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
2. It aims to leverage private finance for public good in India

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.43) Solution (c)**

The Sustainable India Finance Facility (SIFF) is an innovative partnership between UN Environment, World Agroforestry Centre and BNP Paribas which aims to ‘leverage private finance for public good’ in India. SIFF brings together governments, the private sector, academia and communities to scale up sustainable investment in natural resource management, renewable energy production, and rural livelihoods.

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

1. He was an exponent of Visishtadvaita
2. He was a contemporary to Shankaracharya and Madhvacharya

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.44) Solution (c)**

He was an Indian theologian, philosopher, and one of the most important exponents of the Sri Vaishnavism tradition within Hinduism. His philosophical foundations for devotionalism were influential to the Bhakti movement.

Ramanuja's guru was Yādava Prakāśa, a scholar who was a part of the more ancient Advaita Vedānta monastic tradition. Sri Vaishnava tradition holds that Ramanuja disagreed with his guru and the non-dualistic Advaita Vedānta, and instead followed in the footsteps of Indian Alvārs tradition, the scholars Nāthamuni and Yamunāchārya. Ramanuja is famous as the chief proponent of Vishishtadvaita subschool of Vedānta, and his disciples were likely authors of texts such as the Shatyayaniya Upanishad. Ramanuja himself wrote influential texts, such as bhāṣya on the Brahma Sutras and the Bhagavad Gita, all in Sanskrit.

His Vishishtadvaita (qualified monism) philosophy has competed with the Dvaita (theistic dualism) philosophy of Madhvāchārya, and Advaita (monism) philosophy of Ādi Shankara, together the three most influential Vedantic philosophies of the 2nd millennium. He was a contemporary to Shankaracharya and Madhvacharya. Ramanuja presented the epistemic and soteriological importance of bhakti, or the devotion to a personal God (Vishnu in Ramanuja's case) as a means to spiritual liberation. His theories assert that there exists a plurality and distinction between Ātman (soul) and Brahman (metaphysical, ultimate reality), while he also affirmed that there is unity of all souls and that the individual soul has the potential to realize identity with the Brahman.

**Q.45) The 'cVIGIL' app is associated with**

- a) Identification of Fake News on Social Media Platforms
- b) Model Code of Conduct during Elections
- c) Women Safety in Radio Cabs like Uber and Ola
- d) Coastal Security with the help of local fishermen

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

cVIGIL provide time stamped evidentiary proof of model code of conduct / Expenditure Violation, having live photo/video with auto location data. This unique combination of timestamping, live photo with auto location can be fairly relied upon by election machinery to navigate to the right spot and take prompt action. The GIS-based dashboard provides strong decision tool to drop and dispose of frivolous and unrelated cases even before they are acted upon, thereby reducing the workload of election machinery on ghost complaints.

Presently there is a lack of fast information channel to transmit and track complaints on MCC violations. Delay in reporting of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) violations has often resulted in the culprits escaping detection from the flying squads of election commission entrusted to ensure enforcement of Model Code of Conduct. Further, lack of any documented, untampered, evidence in the form of pictures or videos was a major hurdle in establishing the veracity of a complaint ex-post facto. The Commission's experience has also shown a significant percentage of reporting was false or inaccurate, which led to wastage of precious time of Field Units.

The new cVIGIL app launched by Election Commission of India is expected to fill in all these gaps and create a fast-track complaint reception and redressal system. 'cVIGIL' stands for Vigilant Citizen and emphasizes the proactive and responsible role citizens can play in the conduct of free and fair elections.

**Q.46) Indigenous faiths such as 'Donyi-Polo' and 'Rangfra' recently in news are associated with which Indian state?**

- a) Sikkim
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Assam
- d) West Bengal

**Q.46) Solution (b)**

Source:

- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/anti-conversion-law-must-stay-tribal-groups/article24301138.ece>
- <https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/states/story/20180716-the-question-of-religious-faith-1277828-2018-07-08>

**Q.47) The Reserve Bank has recently set the 'Ways and Means Advances' (WMA) in consultation with Government of India.**

**Select the most appropriate statement w.r.t WMA**

- a) WMA are temporary advances given by the RBI to government to tide over any mismatch in receipts and payments.
- b) WMA are temporary advances given by the RBI to only state government to tide over any mismatch in receipts and payments.
- c) WMA are temporary advances given by the RBI to public sector banks (PSBs) to tide over any mismatch in receipts and payments.
- d) WMA are permanent advances given by the RBI to government as part of fiscal consolidation.

**Q.47) Solution (a)**

The Reserve Bank of India gives temporary loan facilities to the centre and state governments as a banker to government. This temporary loan facility is called Ways and Means Advances (WMA).

'WMA' are temporary advances given by the RBI to government to tide over any mismatch in receipts and payments.

It is for both central and state governments.

Source: <https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/rbi-raises-centres-wma-advances-to-rs-70000-crore-for-july-september-quarter/1237646/>

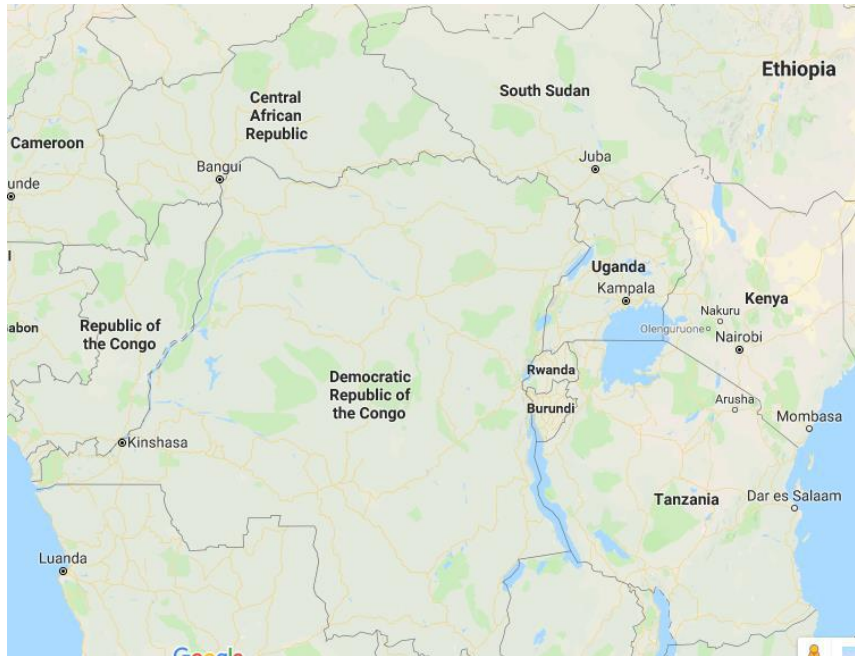
**Q.48) Which of the following country of Africa is not a landlocked country?**

- a) Rwanda
- b) Uganda
- c) South Sudan
- d) Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

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

Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa- In July 2018, PM, Shri Narendra Modi visited these countries.

You can see the map and find out that DRC has an opening on the Western Side.



Source:

<https://mea.gov.in/outgoing-visit-detail.htm?30152/Prime+Ministers+address+at+Parliament+of+Uganda+during+his+State+Visit+to+Uganda>

**Q.49) 'Better Life Farming (BLF) alliance' recently in news is:**

- a) An initiative by Bayer and International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- b) A joint agreement between FAO and BRICS countries
- c) An international alliance of developing nations for agriculture development
- d) An initiative by NITI AAYOG with assistance from FAO

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

Better Life Farming, a long-term partnership of Bayer, IFC (International Finance Corporation), Netafim and Swiss Re Corporate Solutions, aims at enabling smallholders to unlock their farming potential.

Together with many local partners they assist smallholder farmers to grow their farms into commercially viable and sustainable farming businesses.



This will encourage financial security, increase know-how and create a meaningful impact in their lives.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/a-new-alliance-to-help-chilli-tomato-farmers-to-get-better-returns/article24502398.ece>

**Q.50) Recently the 10th BRICS Summit was held. Consider the following statements regarding 10th BRICS Summit:**

1. It was held in Cape Town, South Africa.
2. The theme of this summit was *BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for inclusive growth and shared prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution*

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

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

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

It was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. Also, called as Johannesburg Declaration.

Source: <http://www.pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1540410>



**Q.51) You will notice that Nordic countries are always on the top chart of any international index or reports. Consider the following w.r.t Nordic Countries:**

1. Finland is the only Nordic country to have border with Russia
2. Sweden lies west of the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Bothnia

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

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

**Q.51) Solution (b)**

The Nordic countries are generally considered to refer to Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, including their associated territories (Greenland, the Faroe Islands and the Åland Islands).

Norway also borders Russia.



**Q.52) Match the following**

1. Bru Tribe:: Meghalaya
2. Reang Tribe:: Tripura
3. Apatani Tribe: Arunachal Pradesh

**Select the correct match:**

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

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

Bru Tribe belongs to Mizorum

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/over-30000-brus-to-be-repatriated-by-sept-30/article24325004.ece>

**Q.53) The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) recently added four species to a Recovery Programme for Critically Endangered Species. Which is not one of them?**

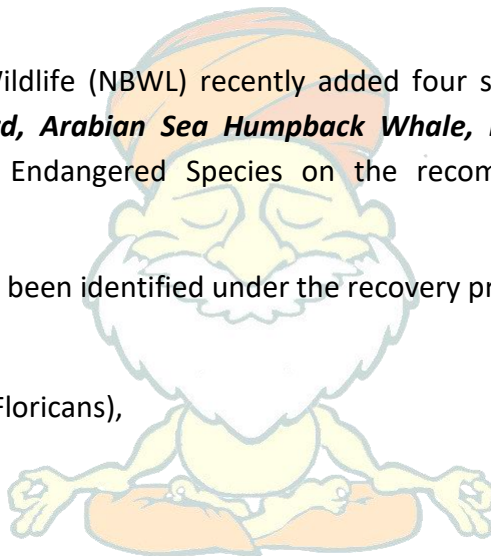
- a) Sparrow
- b) Clouded leopard
- c) Arabian Sea Humpback Whale
- d) Red Panda

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

The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) recently added four species- ***the Northern River Terrapin, Clouded Leopard, Arabian Sea Humpback Whale, Red Panda***- to a Recovery Programme for Critically Endangered Species on the recommendation of a Standing Committee.

So far, 17 + 4, species have been identified under the recovery programme. These are the

- Snow Leopard,
- Bustard (including Floricans),
- Dolphin,
- Hangul,
- Nilgiri Tahr,
- Marine Turtles,
- Dugongs,
- Edible Nest Swiftlet,
- Asian Wild Buffalo,
- Nicobar Megapode,
- Manipur Brow-antlered Deer,
- Vultures,
- Malabar Civet,
- Indian Rhinoceros,
- Asiatic Lion,
- Swamp Deer
- Jerdon's Courser.



Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/wildlife-biodiversity/4-species-added-to-recovery-programme-by-wildlife-board-60997>

**Q.54) India's first biofortified sorghum (jowar), was formally launched recently. Consider the following statements regarding it:**

1. It is developed by International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
2. It can be grown in rainy, post-rainy and summer seasons.

**Select the correct statement/s:**

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

**Q.54) Solution (c)**

India's first biofortified sorghum (jowar), with significantly higher iron and zinc than regular sorghum, was formally released.

- Developed by ICRISAT it was released for cultivation by Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV), Maharashtra.
- The improved variety ICSR 14001, released as 'Parbhani Shakti' by VNMKV, offers a cost-effective and sustainable solution to address micronutrient deficiency. An MoU was signed today between ICRISAT and VNMKV for large-scale seed production and dissemination.
- This improved sorghum variety was developed by ICRISAT under the HarvestPlus sorghum biofortification project and was tested as PVK 1009 in Maharashtra state and in All India Co-ordinated Sorghum Improvement Project (AICSIP) Trials.
- It was released as a rainy season variety (Kharif) but it can be grown in post-rainy (Rabi) and summer seasons. The yield levels are higher (>5.0 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) in post-rainy and summer seasons with irrigation.
- When grown in summer season, it can tolerate higher temperatures (41°C) at flowering and seed setting but the flowering may be delayed (80 days).

Source: <https://www.icrisat.org/india-gets-its-first-biofortified-sorghum/>

**Q.55) Consider the following statements regarding the 'Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)'**

1. It was formerly known as Hong Kong Declaration
2. APTA is an initiative under the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)
3. India is a founding member of APTA

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.55) Solution (b)**

The results of 4th Round of negotiations under the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) (formerly Bangkok Agreement) among six countries, namely, Bangladesh, China, India, Lao PDR, Republic of Korea, and Sri Lanka, have been implemented with effect from 1st July, 2018.

- APTA is an initiative under the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)** for trade expansion through exchange of tariff concessions among developing country members of the **Asia Pacific Region, in place since 1975.**
- APTA is a Preferential Trade Agreement, under which the basket of items as well as extent of tariff concessions are enlarged during the trade negotiating rounds which are launched from time to time.
- **India is a founding member**

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-to-provide-tariff-concessions-on-3142-items-to-apta-members/articleshow/64825996.cms>

**Q.56) 'Foreign Direct Investment Confidence (FDI) Index' is published by**

- a) A.T. Kearney
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) Boston Consulting Group
- d) World Bank

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

The Foreign Direct Investment Confidence (FDI) Index prepared by A.T. Kearney is an annual survey which tracks the impact of likely political, economic, and regulatory changes on the foreign direct investment intentions and preferences of CEOs, CFOs, and other top executives of Global 1000 companies.

India was ranked 11th in the 2018 index.

India remains the second highest ranked emerging market on the Index. A variety of recent reforms have made its regulatory environment more business friendly and economic growth is forecast to rebound this year.

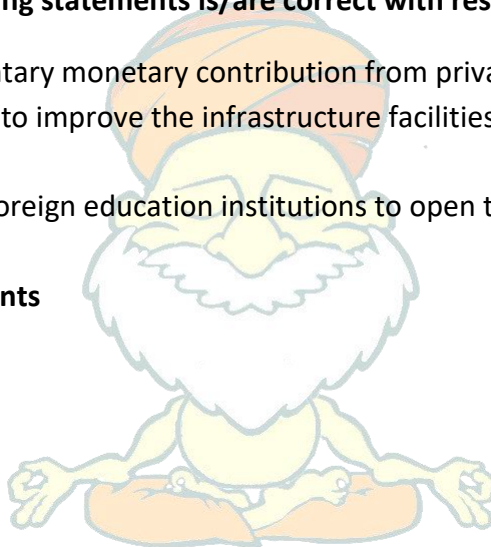
Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/india-drops-three-ranks-in-at-kearney-fdi-confidence-index/article24497785.ece>

**Q.57) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to 'SRIMAN' Scheme?**

1. It encourages voluntary monetary contribution from private individuals and organizations so as to improve the infrastructure facilities for primary and secondary schools
2. It enables the top foreign education institutions to open their campuses in India

**Select the correct statements**

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



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

**Scientific Research Infrastructure Management and Networks (SRIMAN)**

**NEWS:** SRIMAN proposed to transform scientific instruments in government labs into lucrative assets generating a steady rental income

**About**

- To address various issues for effective utilization of its research infrastructure.
- It plans to hire out to researchers all lab equipment that cost more than ₹10 lakh.

**Objective**



- Simplified but smarter ways of procurement and maintenance of scientific equipment and infrastructure.
- Providing greater access to instruments funded by the Government of India and its agencies through a network all over the country.
- Providing a framework for smarter ways of disposal of dated equipments and infrastructure
- Providing a framework to improve and promote efficiency of operations of research infrastructure
- A broad template to monitor utilization of expensive research infrastructure.

**Benefits**

- It will promote creation of a regional ecosystem, by galvanizing relevant stakeholders of scientific research infrastructure that provides wider access to scientists, researchers and industry professionals across the country.
- It will also help in creating a pool of trained operators for operation and maintenance of the equipment.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/education/rent-a-lab-policy-to-bring-revenues-to-institutions/article24477344.ece>

**Q.58) Consider the following statements with respect to 'International Comparison Program (ICP)'**

1. It compares how climate change impacts regions across the globe in different ways
2. It is led by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.58) Solution (d)****International Comparison Program (ICP)**

- The ICP is a worldwide statistical initiative led by the World Bank under the auspices of the United Nations Statistical Commission, with the main objective of providing

comparable price and volume measures of gross domestic product (GDP) and its expenditure aggregates among countries within and across regions.

- Through a partnership with international, regional, sub-regional and national agencies, the ICP collects and compares price data and GDP expenditures to estimate and publish purchasing power parities (PPPs) of the world's economies.

#### PPPs

- PPPs measure the total amount of goods and services that a single unit of a country's currency can buy in another country.
- PPPs are widely used to convert national accounts data, like GDP, into a common currency, while also eliminating the effect of price level differences between countries.

#### News: 50th Anniversary of the ICP

#### Q.59) Consider the following statements with respect to 'White Helmets'

1. They serve under the authority of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
2. They are deployed to implement and monitor peacekeeping agreements concerning NATO members and allies

#### Select the correct statements

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



#### Q.59) Solution (d)

The White Helmets officially known as Syria Civil Defence is a volunteer organisation that operates in parts of rebel-controlled Syria and in Turkey.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/syrian-white-helmet-members-flee-to-jordan/article24488994.ece>

#### Q.60) 'Lake Titicaca' is bordered by

1. Ecuador

2. Colombia
3. Peru

Select the correct code:

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

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

Lake Titicaca is a large, deep lake in the Andes on the border of Bolivia and Peru, often called the "highest navigable lake" in the world. By volume of water and by surface area, it is the largest lake in South America. Lake Maracaibo has a larger surface area, but it is a tidal bay, not a lake.



**Q.61) Which one of the following best describes the term "Static Interchange Fee" sometimes seen in news?**

- a) The incentive given by a bank to a merchant for accepting payments through debit cards pertaining to that bank
- b) The charge to a merchant by a bank for accepting payments from his customers through the bank's debit cards
- c) The charge what banks pay each other for the use of other banks' ATMs by their customers
- d) The incentive given by the Government to merchants for promoting digital payments by their customers through Point of Sale (PoS) machines and debit cards

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

It is the amount paid by one bank to the other when its customer uses the other bank's ATM network.

Source: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/business/atm-firms-for-rule-tweaks/cid/1309946>

**Q.62) Consider the following statements with respect to 'White Label ATM (WLAs)'**

1. WLAs are those ATMs where hardware and the lease of the ATM machine is owned by a service provider but cash management and connectivity to banking networks is provided by a sponsor bank
2. They can source cash only from Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) set up, owned and operated by non-bank entities are called "White Label ATMs" (WLAs). They provide the banking services to the customers of banks in India, based on the cards (debit/credit/prepaid) issued by banks.

Non-bank entities that set up, own and operate ATMs are called "White Label ATM Operators" (WLAO). The WLAO's role is confined to acquisition of transactions of all banks' customers by establishing technical connectivity with the existing authorized, shared ATM Network Operators / Card Payment Network Operators.

In a step to boost activities of white label automated (WLA) teller machine operators, the RBI has allowed such entities to buy wholesale cash, above a threshold of 1 lakh pieces of any denomination, directly from the RBI and currency chests against full payment.

WLAs are also allowed to source cash from scheduled banks, including cooperative banks and regional rural banks.

**Q.63) 'Caspian Sea' is bordered by**

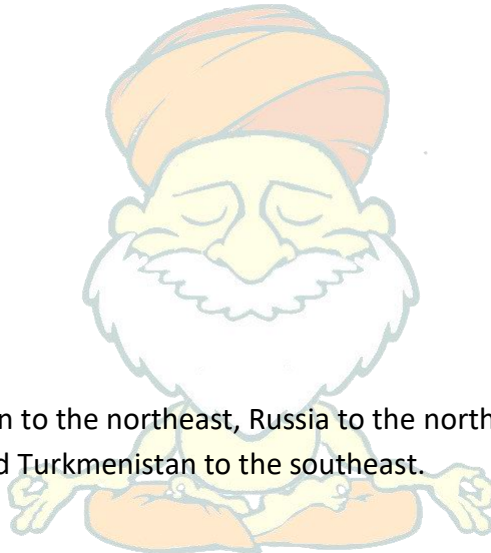
1. Azerbaijan
2. Iran
3. Kazakhstan
4. Russia
5. Turkmenistan

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- b) 2, 3, 4 and 5
- c) 1, 3, 4 and 5
- d) All of the above

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

It is bounded by Kazakhstan to the northeast, Russia to the northwest, Azerbaijan to the west, Iran to the south, and Turkmenistan to the southeast.





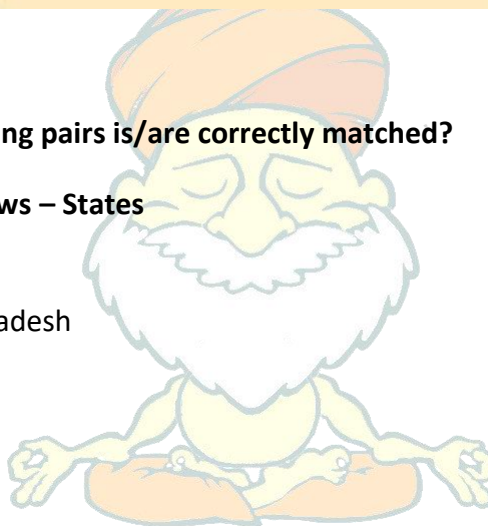
**Q.64) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

**Tribes/Communities in news – States**

1. Yerukala - Kerala
2. Savara – Andhra Pradesh
3. Yakthung – Sikkim

**Select the correct code:**

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



**Q.64) Solution (b)**

**Yerukala – Telangana/Andhra Pradesh**

(<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/its-dark-nights-for-bats-in-telanganas-nalgonda/article24604246.ece>)

**Savara – Andhra Pradesh** (<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/savara-tribal-art-gasps-for-survival/article24637087.ece>)



Yakthung – Sikkim (<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/more-assembly-seats-for-sikkim/article24667220.ece>)

Note – Go through Wikipedia pages of the mentioned tribes/communities.

**Q.65) Consider the following statements with respect to 'TReDS Platform'**

1. It is a digital platform where small businesses (MSMEs) can get access to capital by auctioning their trade receivables
2. It is governed by the Payment and Settlement Systems Act

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.65) Solution (c)**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given license to three entities to launch Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) — a digital platform where small businesses (MSMEs) can get access to capital by auctioning their trade receivables and they are governed by the Payment And Settlement Systems Act.

The TReDS will facilitate the discounting of both invoices as well as bills of exchange.

Read More - [https://rbi.org.in/scripts/bs\\_viewcontent.aspx?id=2904](https://rbi.org.in/scripts/bs_viewcontent.aspx?id=2904)

**Q.66) 'Bhoomi Rashi Portal' recently in news is aimed at and developed by:**

- a) Reducing the time taken for approval and publication of notifications pertaining to land acquisition and developed by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and National Informatics Centre.
- b) Reducing the time taken for approval and publication of notifications pertaining to land acquisition and developed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and National Informatics Centre.
- c) Pertaining to land acquisition and distribution of acquired land by GoI to Industries in resource rich regions to boost Manufacturing sector and developed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and National Informatics Centre.

- d) Pertaining to land acquisition issues of Tribal people and developed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and National Informatics Centre.

**Q.66) Solution (a)**

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Govt. of India has designed Bhoomi Rashi as a single point platform for online processing of land acquisition notifications to accelerate highway infrastructure development projects in India.

Bhoomi Rashi will fast track the process of land acquisition and result in greater benefits for all stakeholders.

Farmers, landowners, contractors and investors will benefit from the transparency introduced by the portal in the land acquisition process.

The Bhoomi Rashi portal will be a new milestone in the nation's journey towards DIGITISATION and TRANSPARENCY.

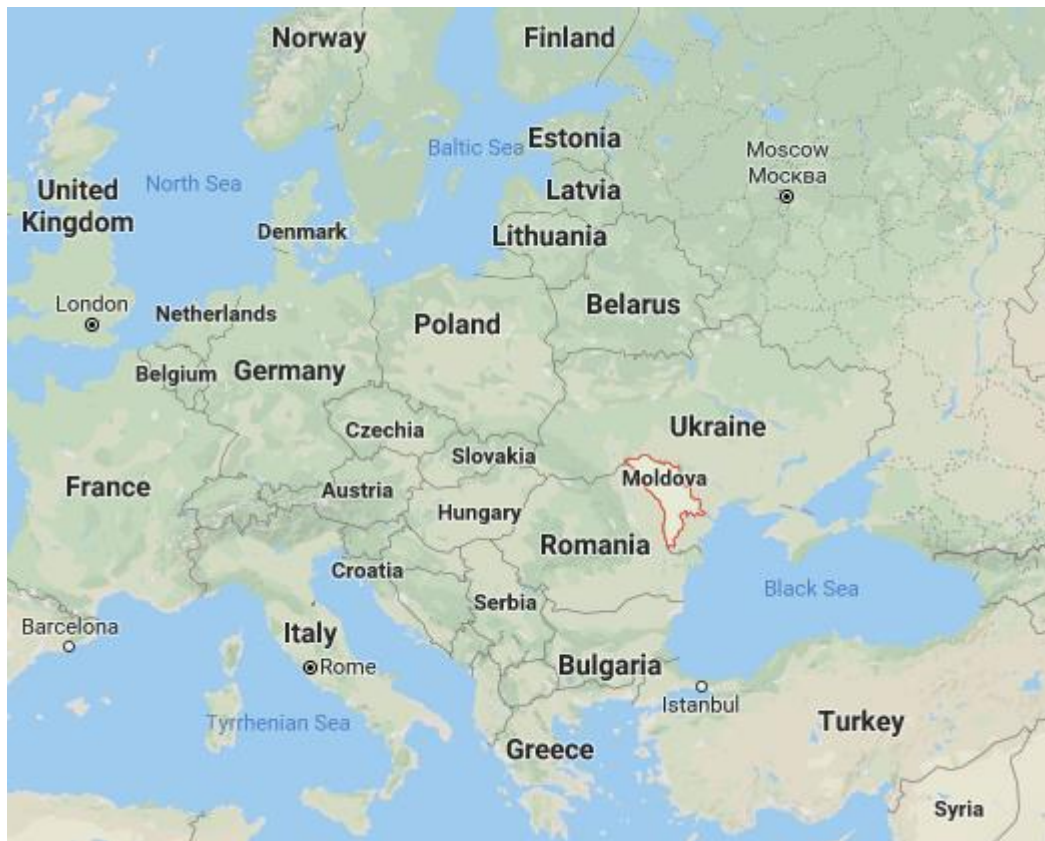
Bhoomi Rashi portal is developed by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and National Informatics Centre.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181568>

**Q.67) Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova gave a historic visit (as it is the first time that a Foreign Minister of Moldova has visited India) to India. Which of the following countries borders Moldova?**

- a) Hungary and Romania
- b) Ukraine and Poland
- c) Romania and Poland
- d) Ukraine and Romania

**Q.67) Solution (d)**



Source:

<https://mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?30319/Visit+of+Minister+of+Foreign+Affairs+and+European+Integration+of+the+Republic+of+Moldova+to+India+August+11+2018>

Q.68) To tackle the garbage crisis in Ladakh, Bengaluru-based Tesla has come up with a machine that works without fuel or electricity, and converts all waste, except glass, into ash. What is the name of that machine?

- a) E-Bin
- b) TrashCan
- c) BlackHOLE
- d) GlobeMaster

Q.68) Solution (c)

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/soon-teslas-blackhole-to-gobble-up-waste-in-ladakh/cleaning-up-the-world/slideshow/65560617.cms>

**Q.69) Recently Google has launched 'Project Navlekha'. What is the aim of this project?**

- a) To allow specially abled people to browse and utilize internet.
- b) It is aimed at cracking the fake news and its origin.
- c) It is aimed at improving scientific literacy in children
- d) To allow Indian vernacular news publishers to get their content online.

**Q.69) Solution (d)**

Google has launched Project Navlekha to expand the reach of Indian content. The project would allow Indian vernacular news publishers to get their content online

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/googles-project-navlekha-to-help-regional-publications-go-online/article24799483.ece>

**Q.70) E-Government Survey 2018: Gearing E-Government to Support Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies was launched recently. It is published by:**

- a) United Nations
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) International Monetary Forum
- d) World Bank

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

The UN E-Government Survey 2018 has ranked India at 96 positions for its performance in development and execution of information technologies, up from 107 in 2016 and 118 in 2014, a massive leap over the years.

The survey, published every two years, ranks 193 UN member states on basis of their performance on mainly three dimensions or e-governance development index (EGDI): online service index (OSI), telecommunication infrastructure index (TII), and human capital index (HCI).

UN carried out this year's survey with the theme "gearing e-government to support transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies". The survey is aimed at serving as a development tool for countries to identify areas of strength and challenges in e-government and shape their policies and strategies

Source: <https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb/en-us/Reports/UN-E-Government-Survey-2018>

**Q.71) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

**Saree/Fabrics States**

1. Ilkal Saree - Uttar Pradesh
2. Bathukamma saree - Telangana
3. Arani Silk Saree – Tamil Nadu

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

Ilkal Saree - Karnataka

Bathukamma saree - Telangana

Arani Silk Saree – Tamil Nadu

**Q.72) 'RISECREEK' was in recently in news. What is it?**

- a) A new technology to tackle coral bleaching
- b) A newly formed island in Lakshadweep
- c) A fighter jet developed by Iran
- d) A newly developed microprocessor

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

**News:** Computer scientists and a student team from the IIT- Madras have developed a industry-standard microprocessors (RISECREEK).

**About**

- It can be adapted by others, as the design is open source
- It can meet the demands of defence and strategic equipment such as NAVIC (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite) and Internet of Things (IoT) electronics.
- The initial batch of 300 chips named RISECREEK, produced under Project Shakti.
- Project Shakti started in 2014 as an IIT-M initiative.

**Q.73) 'A.S. Anand Committee' is often seen in news concerned with**

- a) Public Credit Registry (PCR)
- b) Mullaperiyar Dam
- c) IPO-related issues
- d) Mutual Funds' Total expense ratio (TER)

**Q.73) Solution (b)**

Justice A.S. Anand Committee was constituted to study all the issues of Mullaperiyar Dam.

**Mullaperiyar Dam**

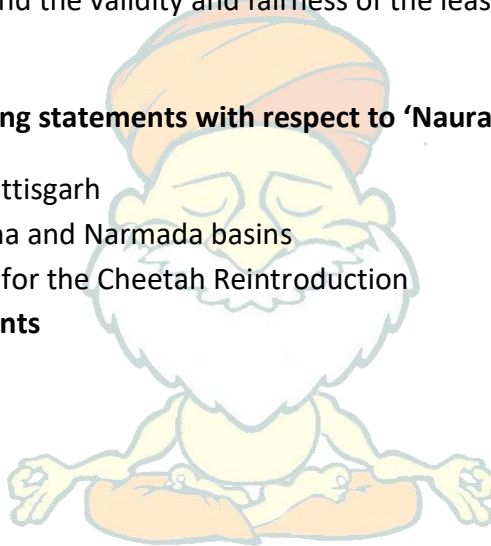
- It is a masonry gravity dam on the Periyar River in Kerala
- The dispute between Kerala and Tamil Nadu states is because of the control and safety of the dam and the validity and fairness of the lease agreement.

**Q.74) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary'**

1. It is located in Chhattisgarh
2. It falls in the Yamuna and Narmada basins
3. It is a potential site for the Cheetah Reintroduction

**Select the correct statements**

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



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

**Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary**

- It is the largest wildlife sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh
- It is a potential site for the Cheetah Reintroduction in India
- It was found to be the most suitable area for the cheetahs as its forests are not very dense to restrict the fast movement of the animal. The prey base for cheetahs is also in abundance at the sanctuary
- It sits astride two major river basins of India, namely the Narmada, flowing west to the Arabian Sea and the Ganges, flowing east to the Bay of Bengal.



- Three-fourths of the wildlife sanctuary falls in the basin of Ganges tributary, the Yamuna River, of which the Ken River is a tributary, and one fourth of the sanctuary falls in the Narmada basin.
- The north flowing Kopra River, Bamner River, Vyarma River and Bearma River, which are tributaries of the Ken River, are the major rivers of this protected area.
- Indian wolf is the keystone species of Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary
- The flora consists of central Indian Monsoon forests, which include tropical dry deciduous forest.

**Q.75) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

**Places in news Country**

1. Salta - Chile
2. Port Louis - Maldives
3. Aktau - Kazakhstan

**Select the correct code:**

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



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

Salta - Argentina

Port Louis - Mauritius

Aktau – Kazakhstan

**Q.76) Consider the following regarding Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**

- | State               | PVTG       |
|---------------------|------------|
| 1. Tamil Nadu::     | Irular     |
| 2. Madhya Pradesh:: | Baiga      |
| 3. Nagaland::       | Maram Naga |

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

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

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

Maram Naga belongs to Manipur

**Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups**

There are 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) notified as on date in the country. The criteria followed for determination of PVTGs are as under:

- A pre-agriculture level of technology;
- A stagnant or declining population;
- Extremely low literacy; and
- A subsistence level of economy.

**Development of PVTGs:**

- Covers the 75 identified PVTGs among Scheduled Tribes in 18 States/ UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- It is a flexible scheme and covers funding for activities like housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, animal husbandry, construction of link roads, and installation of non-conventional sources of energy for lighting purpose, social security including Janshree Beema Yojana or any other innovative activity meant for the comprehensive socio-economic development of PVTGs.
- Priority is also assigned to PVTGs under the schemes of Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub-Scheme (TSS), Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution, Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of Schedule Tribes and Strengthening of Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts.

**Source:**

**Yojana & Kurukshetra- August 2018**

<https://tribal.nic.in/DivisionsFiles/SwLPVTGs.pdf>

**Q.77) Consider the following statements regarding Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA):**

1. It has been established with a purpose to systematically foster the culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country.
2. It is an initiative by Ministry of Science and Technology

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

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

**Q.77) Solution (a)**

Innovation Cell and Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) launched by Ministry of Human Resource Development (M/o HRD) to foster culture of innovation in Higher Education Institutions.

**MHRD Innovation Cell (MIC)**

Innovation cell is MHRD's initiative established at AICTE with a purpose to systematically foster the culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country. The primary mandate of Innovation Cell is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas and processes resulting in innovative activities in their formative years fostered through Network of Innovation clubs in Higher Educational Institutions.

**Major Programs**

- Network of Innovation Clubs (NIC)
- Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)
- Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2019
- National Student Startup Policy (NSSP)

**Do you know?**

**AICTE's Student Start-up Policy:**

- AICTE crafted its Student Start-up Policy and was launched on 16th November 2016 at the hands of Honourable President of India.
- This policy is designed for the AICTE approved Institutions in accordance with Govt of India's "Start-up India" Action plan, that was launched on 16th January 2016.
- AICTE's Student Start up policy intends to guide AICTE approved institutions to promote student driven innovations and start-ups.

- The policy aims at identifying the innovative and entrepreneurial potential of students and transforming them into start-up entrepreneurs.
- This can be done by developing an ideal entrepreneurial ecosystem and promoting strong inter-institutional partnerships among technical institutions, other ecosystem enablers, different stakeholders, programs, market and society.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/new-ranking-based-on-innovation/article24823285.ece>

**Q.78) 'Chandaka and Konark- Balukhand Wildlife Sanctuaries (WLS)' recently in news belongs to which state?**

- a) Odisha
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Karnataka

**Q.78) Solution (a)**

Chandka Elephant Sanctuary is a wildlife reserve located in the south fringe of Cuttack in Odisha.

The Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary located in Odisha.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/wildlife-and-biodiversity/pronking-in-ganjam-61351>

**Q.79) 'Vanuatu', one of the world's most linguistically dense countries is located in**

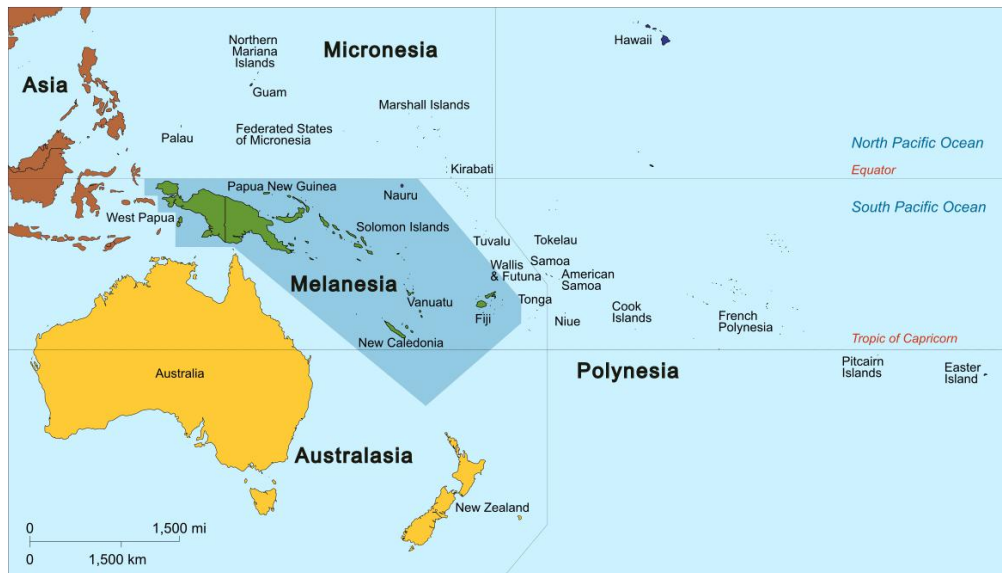
- a) Atlantic Ocean
- b) Pacific Ocean
- c) Indian Ocean
- d) Arctic Ocean

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

The Pacific nation of Vanuatu is one of the world's most "linguistically-dense" countries.

Located in Eastern Melanesia, the archipelago nation is home to rich biodiversity, which is encoded in the vocabulary of its many hundreds of languages.

That is, local communities have words for different species of plant and animal life that have yet to be classified by researchers. This reality led the Bronx Botanical Gardens to partner with communities in Vanuatu—an instance of linguistic diversity fueling the scientific method.



Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/environment/resurrecting-babel-61436>

**Q.80) Biodiesel is a renewable, clean-burning diesel replacement that can be produced from:**

1. Rapeseed
2. Sun flower
3. Soyabean
4. Palm Oil
5. Jatropa

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.80) Solution (d)**

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/energy/biodiesel-in-india-the-jatropha-fiasco-61321>

**Q.81) 'Pink bollworm' was in news recently. It generally affects which of the following crops?**

- a) Wheat
- b) Cotton
- c) Tomato and Onion
- d) Barley

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

It is an insect known for being a pest in cotton farming.

In parts of India, the pink bollworm is now resistant to first generation transgenic Bt cotton (Bollgard cotton) that expresses a single Bt gene (Cry1Ac). Monsanto has admitted that this variety is ineffective against the pink bollworm pest in parts of Gujarat.

**Q.82) Consider the following statements with respect to 'State Energy Efficiency (EE) Preparedness Index'**

1. It is developed and released by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE)
2. The index mandates, only those states that have implemented national programmes designed by BEE and EESL should be ranked in the index

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.82) Solution (a)**

Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE), under the guidance and leadership of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and NITI Aayog, has developed the State Energy Efficiency (EE) Preparedness Index for 29 Indian states and the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The State EE Index comprises 63 qualitative, quantitative, outcome-based indicators to assess energy efficiency initiatives, programmes and outcomes in 5 sectors, i.e. Buildings, Industry, Municipalities, Transport, Agriculture, and Distribution Companies (DISCOMs). Based on



their efforts and achievements, states have been classified as Front runners, Achievers, Contenders and Aspirants.

**Q.83) Consider the following statements with respect to 'NABARD All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey 2016-17'**

1. Within "agricultural households", the share of average income from cultivation and livestock rearing was just over 80 per cent
2. It highlighted that the average annual income of an agricultural household is Rs 1,07,172 compared to Rs 87,228 for families engaged only in non-agricultural activities.

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

The survey, with reference year of 2016-17, covered 40,327 rural households. It highlighted that the average annual income of an agricultural household is Rs 1,07,172 compared to Rs 87,228 for families engaged only in non-agricultural activities.

Within "agricultural households", the share of average income from cultivation and livestock rearing was just over 43 per cent. The balance 57 per cent income in their case, too, was from non-agricultural sources.

**Source:**

- <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/88-per-cent-rural-households-have-savings-account-nabard-survey/articleshow/65428862.cms>
- <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/farming-agriculture-income-farm-distress-nabard-survey-nss-5313772/>

**Q.84) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. A micro enterprise is defined as a unit where the annual turnover does not exceed Rs 5 crores
2. A small enterprise is defined as a unit where the annual turnover is more than Rs 5 crore but does not exceed Rs 75 crore

Select the correct code:

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

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

As per the new classification, enterprises with annual turnover less than or equal to Rs 5 crore fall under the 'micro' category, those between Rs 5 crore to Rs 75 crore as small enterprises, and those with turnover between Rs 75 crore and Rs 250 crore will be classified as medium enterprises. Further, there is no distinction between manufacturing and service units.



**Q.85) 'Partnership on New Industrial Revolution' was in news recently. It is associated with**

- a) BRICS
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
- d) European Union

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

## Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR)

- It is a programme of partnership among BRICS nation that will focus on Maximising the opportunities arising from the fourth industrial revolution/New Industrial Revolution.
- It was formed at the 10th BRICS summit in Johannesburg

**Q.86) The relationship between corals and the micro-algae can be best described as:**

- a) Amensalism
- b) Parasitism
- c) Commensalism
- d) Mutualism

**Q.86) Solution (d)**

The mutually beneficial relationship between algae and modern corals which provides algae with shelter, gives coral reefs their colors and supplies both organisms with nutrients began more than 210 million years ago as per a research.

This symbiotic relationship arose during a time of massive worldwide coral-reef expansion suggests that the interconnection of algae and coral is crucial for the health of coral reefs, which provide habitat for roughly one-fourth of all marine life. Reefs are threatened by a trend in ocean warming that has caused corals to expel algae and turn white, a process called coral bleaching.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/corals-reefs-could-survive-global-warming-says-study/article24681835.ece>

**Q.87) What is the correct explanation of the term 'kilonova' often seen in news:**

- a) Burst of light seen during the collision of two neutron stars
- b) Burst of light seen during the collision of two meteorites
- c) Bright explosion seen during the last stages of a star
- d) Bright glow seen during the collision of two galaxies

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

A kilonova (also called a macronova or r-process supernova) is a transient astronomical event that occurs in a compact binary system when two neutron stars or a neutron star and a black hole merge into each other.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-deep-and-far-of-science/article24497089.ece>

**Q.88) Antibiotics you throw away may be breeding superbugs as per a new research.**

**What is called a superbug?**

- a) If bacteria are bugs, then bugs that survive on bugs are called superbugs
- b) Bugs that attack organism surviving in water bodies
- c) Bugs that carry several drug-resistant genes are superbugs
- d) Bugs that infect other bugs are called superbugs

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

"Superbugs" is a term used to describe strains of bacteria that are resistant to the majority of antibiotics commonly used today. Resistant bacteria that cause pneumonia, urinary tract infections and skin infections are just a few of the dangers we now face.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/antibiotics-you-throw-away-may-be-breeding-superbugs/articleshow/65585501.cms>

**Q.89) Trees talk and share resources right under our feet, using a 'X' network nicknamed the Wood Wide Web. What is the medium X?**

- a) Stems
- b) Fungal
- c) Electrical current produced in soil
- d) Chemicals present in the soil

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

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWOqeyPIVRo>

**Q.90) Which of the following is not true about ants and wasps?**

- a) They both belong to the class called Hymenoptera

- b) Ants are more closely related to bees than wasps
- c) Ants are totally different from bees and wasps
- d) None of the statement is correct

**Q.90) Solution (c)**

Honeybees and ants are both insects and both belong to the order hymenoptera, but after that they separate into different families. Bees are in the family apidae, while ants are in the family formicidae.

Hymenoptera is a large order of insects, comprising the sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants.

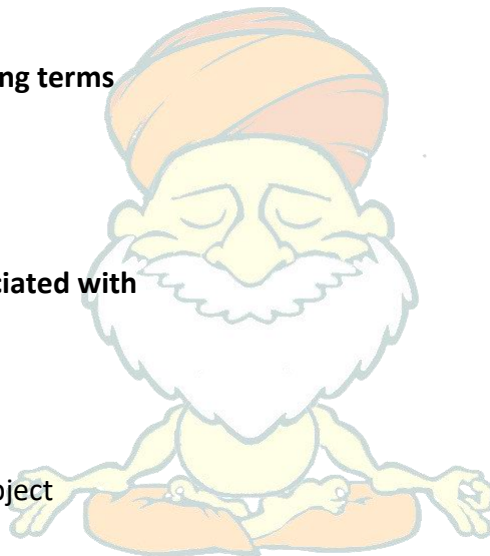
Ants evolved from wasp-like ancestors in the Cretaceous period, about 140 million years ago, and diversified after the rise of flowering plants.

**Q.91) Consider the following terms**

1. Aitken basin
2. Von Kármán
3. Engel'gardt

The above terms are associated with

- a) Mars
- b) Moon
- c) Antarctica
- d) Trans-Neptunian object

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

The South Pole–Aitken basin is an impact crater on the far side of the Moon.

Von Kármán is a large lunar impact crater that is located in the southern hemisphere on the far side of the Moon.

Engel'gardt is a lunar impact crater on the far side of the Moon, located to the north of the huge walled plain Korolev.

**Source:** I news due Chinese unmanned lunar probe Chang'e 4 on the far side of the Moon.

**Q.92) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

1. Gaia Telescope – European Space Agency
2. Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope - Tata Institute of Fundamental Research
3. Spitzer Space Telescope – NASA

**Select the correct code:**

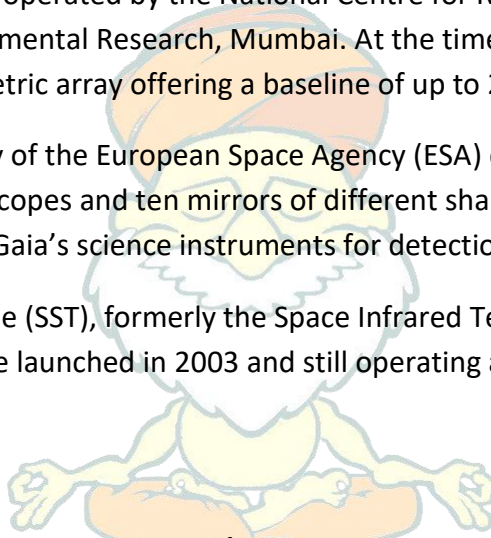
- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

**Q.92) Solution (d)**

The Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT), located near Pune (Narayangaon) in India, is an array of thirty fully steerable parabolic radio telescopes of 45 metre diameter, observing at metre wavelengths. It is operated by the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, a part of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai. At the time it was built, it was the world's largest interferometric array offering a baseline of up to 25 kilometres (16 mi).

Gaia is a space observatory of the European Space Agency (ESA) designed for astrometry. It consists of two space telescopes and ten mirrors of different shapes and sizes to collect, focus and direct light into Gaia's science instruments for detection.

The Spitzer Space Telescope (SST), formerly the Space Infrared Telescope Facility (SIRTF), is an infrared space telescope launched in 2003 and still operating as of 2019. It is operated by NASA and Caltech.



**Q.93) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. Ecological footprint is the impact of a person or community on the environment, expressed as the amount of land required to sustain their use of natural resources.
2. Bio capacity refers to the capacity of a given biologically productive area to generate an on-going supply of renewable resources and to absorb its spill over wastes.

**Select the correct statements**

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

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



The ecological footprint measures human demand on nature, i.e., the quantity of nature it takes to support people or an economy. It tracks this demand through an ecological accounting system. The accounts contrast the biologically productive area people use for their consumption to the biologically productive area available within a region or the world (biocapacity, the productive area that can regenerate what people demand from nature). In short, it is a measure of human impact on Earth's ecosystem and reveals the dependence of the human economy on natural capital.

The biocapacity or biological capacity of an ecosystem is an estimate of its production of certain biological materials such as natural resources, and its absorption and filtering of other materials such as carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. "Useful biological

Biocapacity are expressed in terms of global hectares per person, thus is dependent on human population. A global hectare is an adjusted unit that represents the average biological productivity of all productive hectares on Earth in a given year (because not all hectares produce the same amount of ecosystem services). Biocapacity is calculated from United Nations population and land use data, and may be reported at various regional levels, such as a city, a country, or the world as a whole.

**Q.94) Which of the following statements i/are correct with respect to 'PARIVESH'?**

1. It is an innovative project in e-governance and good governance
2. It is aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

PARIVESH (Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub) is a Single-Window Integrated Environmental Management System.

It has been rolled out for online submission, monitoring and management of proposals submitted by Project Proponents to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC), as well as to the State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAA), to seek various types of clearances.

The system has been designed, developed and hosted by the MOEFCC with technical support from National Informatics Centre, (NIC).

**Q.95) 'India Wage Report: Wage policies for decent work and inclusive growth' is published by**

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

**Q.95) Solution (b)**

While India's economy in the past two decades has seen an annual average GDP rate of 7% – low pay and inequality persist according to the India Wage Report: Wage policies for decent work and inclusive growth, published by the International Labour Organization.

**Q.96) Consider the following statements:**

1. Bartaman Bharat meaning "Present Day India" is an essay written by X.
2. According to Subhas Chandra Bose, a proponent of armed struggle for Indian independence, X was "the maker of modern India"
3. Rabindranath Tagore told French Nobel laureate Romain Rolland, "If you want to know India, study 'X'"

**Who is being referred in the above statements as 'X'?**

- a) Mahatma Gandhi
- b) Jawaharlal Nehru
- c) Swami Vivekananda
- d) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

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

Vivekananda was born Narendranath Datta in a Bengali family. He was a chief disciple of the 19th-century Indian mystic Ramakrishna.

Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Math and the Ramakrishna Mission.

Bartaman Bharat meaning "Present Day India" is an erudite Bengali language essay written by him, which was first published in the March 1899 issue of Udbodhan, the only Bengali

language magazine of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission. The essay was reprinted as a book in 1905 and later compiled into the fourth volume of The Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda.

Vivekananda was one of the main representatives of Neo-Vedanta, a modern interpretation of selected aspects of Hinduism in line with western esoteric traditions, especially Transcendentalism, New Thought and Theosophy.

**In the words of social reformer Charles Freer Andrews,** "The Swami's intrepid patriotism gave a new colour to the national movement throughout India. More than any other single individual of that period Vivekananda had made his contribution to the new awakening of India"

**Sri Aurobindo** regarded Vivekananda as the one who awakened India spiritually.

**Mahatma Gandhi** counted him among the few Hindu reformers "who have maintained this Hindu religion in a state of splendor by cutting down the dead wood of tradition"

**Chakravarti Rajagopalachari,** said "Vivekananda saved Hinduism, saved India"

**According to Subhas Chandra Bose,** a proponent of armed struggle for Indian independence, Vivekananda was "the maker of modern India".

**Rabindranath Tagore** told French Nobel laureate Romain Rolland, "If you want to know India, study Vivekananda.

**His main work, Raja Yoga,** consists of talks he delivered in New York

In 2012, a 3-day **World Congress of Religions conference** was organised by the Institute of World Religions (of the Washington Kali Temple), Burtonsville, Maryland, in association with the Council for A Parliament of World Religions, Chicago, Illinois to commemorate 150th birthday of Swami Vivekananda.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/the-footprints-of-the-youth-icon/article24817062.ece>

**Q.97) In 1907, Bombay-born British author was announced as the winner of the Nobel Prize in literature. He then aged forty-two, remains the youngest winner of the award till date. He is also the first English-language recipient of the honour. Who is being referred to here?**

- a) Rudyard Kipling
- b) Robert Frost
- c) William Wordsworth

d) Ogden Nash

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

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/sunday-quiz-on-poets-and-poetry/article24724377.ece>

**Q.98) Which of the following diseases are linked with genetic disorder?**

1. Brittle bone disease
2. Sickle Cell Anemia
3. Cystic Fibrosis

**Select the correct answer using the codes:**

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

**Q.98) Solution (d)**

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/motivational-speaker-dhanya-ravi-doesnt-allow-a-rare-genetic-disease-to-stand-in-her-way/article24715374.ece>



**Q.99) Match the following**

Folk Tradition	Associated State
1. Bhavageete::	Karnataka
2. Kummi Paatu::	Kerala
3. Gondhala::	Maharashtra

**Which of the given options is/are correctly matched?**

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

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

Kummi Pattu is of Tamil Nadu.

Source:

- <https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/music/music-for-all-occasions/article24705745.ece>
- <https://www.culturalindia.net/indian-music/folk-music.html>

**Q.1000) Consider the following statements:**

1. The battle was fought between a Southern-kingdom and the Dutch East India Company.
2. It was the first time in Indian history that a native army defeated a European force.

**Which battle is being referred here?**

- a) Battle of Colachel
- b) Battle of Diu
- c) Battle of Swally
- d) Battle of Calicut

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

The Battle of Colachel was fought on 10 August 1741 between the Indian kingdom of Travancore and the Dutch East India Company, during the Travancore-Dutch War.

Travancore, under Raja Marthanda Varma, defeated the Dutch East India Company. The defeat of the Dutch by Travancore is considered the earliest example of an organised power from Asia overcoming European military technology and tactics.

The Dutch never recovered from the defeat and no longer posed a large colonial threat to India.

It was the first time in Indian history that a native army defeated a European force. It was even more unique because an army with firearms lost to an army without one.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/chennai-sees-battle-of-colachel-re-enactment/article24689975.ece>

**Q.101) Which of the following statements with respect to 'Currency war' is/are correct?**

1. It is usually engineered by a country's central bank
2. It can also be referred to as 'competitive devaluation'

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.101) Solution (c)**

Currency war, also known as competitive devaluations, is a condition in international affairs where countries seek to gain a trade advantage over other countries by causing the exchange rate of their currency to fall in relation to other currencies.

In the current era of floating exchange rates, where currency values are determined by market forces, currency depreciation is usually engineered by a nation's central bank through economic policies that may force the currency lower, such as reducing interest rates or increasingly, "quantitative easing (QE)."

**Q.102) Consider the following statements with respect to 'European Stability Mechanism (ESM)'**

1. It is an intergovernmental military alliance between European countries
2. It safeguards and provides instant access to financial assistance programmes for member states of the Eurozone in financial difficulty
3. It is headquartered in Luxembourg City

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.102) Solution (b)****European Stability Mechanism (ESM)**

- It is an intergovernmental organization located in Luxembourg City, which operates under public international law for all Eurozone Member States having ratified a special ESM intergovernmental treaty.
- ESM's mission is to provide financial assistance to euro area countries when needed.



- The European Stability Mechanism (ESM) is part of the EU strategy designed to safeguard financial stability in the euro area.
- Like its predecessor, the temporary European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF), the ESM provides financial assistance to euro area countries experiencing or threatened by financing difficulties.
- It was established on 27 September 2012 as a permanent firewall for the Eurozone, to safeguard and provide instant access to financial assistance programmes for member states of the Eurozone in financial difficulty, with a maximum lending capacity of €500 billion.

**DO YOU KNOW?**

- It replaces two earlier temporary EU funding programmes: the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) and the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism (EFSM).
- All new bailouts for any Eurozone member state will now be covered by ESM, while the EFSF and EFSM will continue to handle money transfers and programme monitoring for the previously approved bailout loans to Ireland, Portugal and Greece.

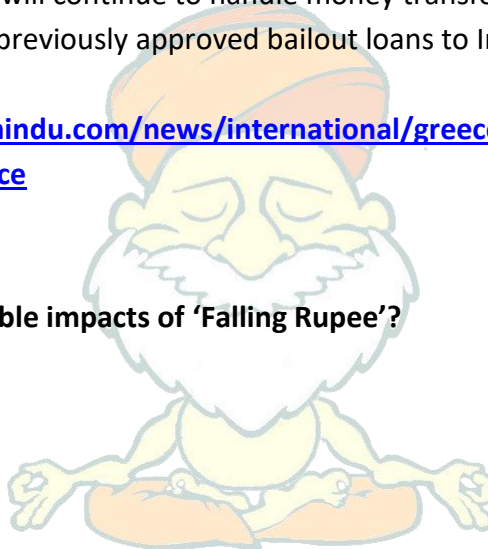
Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/greece-emerges-from-eurozone-bailout/article24739194.ece>

**Q.103) What are the possible impacts of 'Falling Rupee'?**

1. Boost in tourism
2. Low Inflation
3. Cheaper Exports

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

**What happens when the rupee falls?**

- Country's imports become more expensive and exports cheaper. It takes more rupees to pay for the same quantum of imports and fewer dollars for a buyer to pay for the same quantity of exports.

- More expensive imports are likely to drive inflation upward, especially in India where input products constitute a large part of our imports. It impacts the oil import bill since it costs more rupees per barrel of oil, which plays its own part in pushing inflation up.
- GDP growth - On the one hand, costlier inputs and the subsequent increase in the prices of finished goods should have a positive impact on GDP. But the consequent decrease in demand due to higher prices could nullify this. 'Household consumption of goods and services' plays a big role here.
- Domestic tourism could grow as more tourists visit India since their currency now buys more here. In the medium term, export-oriented industries may also create more jobs.

**Q.104) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Financial Stability Board (FSB)'**

1. In the wake of the 'Asian Crisis of 1997', the ASEAN and SAARC finance ministers and central bank governors came together to establish the Financial Stability Board (FSB)
2. It is hosted and funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.104) Solution (d)**

**Financial Stability Board (FSB)**

- In the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis, the Group of Twenty (G-20) finance ministers and central bank governors came together to establish the Financial Stability Board (FSB) in April 2009.
- It is an international body that monitors and makes recommendations about the global financial system.
- It was created to strengthen and coordinate international standards among national financial authorities and international standard-setting bodies as a way to foster the implementation of more effective financial sector policies for increased global financial stability.
- The FSB, which comprises 24 member countries, the European Commission and numerous international bodies, is an outgrowth of the Financial Stability Forum (FSF) founded in 1999 by the member countries of the Group of Seven (G-7).

- It is hosted and funded by the Bank for International Settlements; the board is based in Basel, Switzerland.

**Q.105) 'National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)' is chaired by**

- a) Prime Minister
- b) Home Minister
- c) Cabinet Secretary
- d) Director General of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

**Q.105) Solution (c)**

National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) is set up for effective implementation of relief measures in the wake of a natural calamity. It is chaired by the Cabinet secretary.

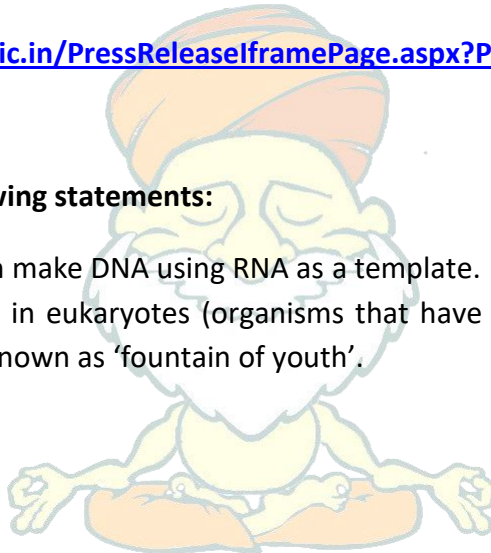
Source: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1543164>

**Q.106) Consider the following statements:**

1. An enzyme that can make DNA using RNA as a template.
2. This enzyme found in eukaryotes (organisms that have a well-defined, membrane-bound nucleus) is known as 'fountain of youth'.

**Identify the enzyme?**

- a) Polymerase
- b) Hexokinase
- c) Telomerase
- d) Actin



**Q.106) Solution (c)**

This enzyme has been in news for quite some time because: Cancer, aging-related diseases and other illnesses are closely tied to an important enzyme called **"telomerase."**

Telomerase's main job is to maintain the DNA in telomeres, the structures at the ends of human chromosomes. When telomerase is not active, each time the cells divide, the telomeres get shorter. When that happens, the telomeres eventually become so short that the cells stop dividing or die.

**Q.107) Recently a controversy erupted when Pakistan claimed that Jinnah House in Malabar Hill, Mumbai belonged to it. Who was the architect of Jinnah House?**

- a) Edwin Lutyens
- b) Claude Batley
- c) Laurie Baker
- d) Charles Correa

**Q.107) Solution (b)**

Claude Batley was an English architect who as practitioner, teacher and President of the Indian Institute of Architects from 1921 to 1923, played an influential role in development of modern architecture in India in the first half of the 20th Century.

He became a visiting professor in the J. J. School of Art in the year 1914, and its principal in the year 1923. He held this post for a period of 20 years, during which he took his students on trips all over the country making measure drawings of buildings of architectural significance. He spent a lot of time in research and documented Jaipur's architecture. He was the president of the "Bombay Architectural Association" (now merged into The Indian Institute of Architects) from 1925 to 1926.

He died in the mid-1950s in one of the buildings he had designed—the Bombay Club.

**Among his works are**

- the Bombay Gymkhana (1917);
- Lincoln House (1933), previously Wankaner House, Breach Candy;
- Bombay Central Station (1930);
- South Court (1936),
- residence of Mohamed Ali Jinnah;
- Round Building (1937),
- Cusrow Baug in Colaba Causeway (1937–59)
- The Seth Nusserwanji Hirji Karani Agiary (1938),
- Bombay Club (1939)
- Lalbhai House (1942) and
- Breach Candy Hospital (1950)

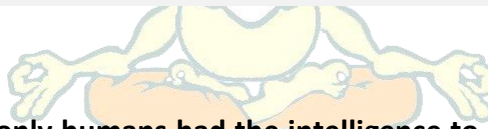
**Q.108) “With the growing demand of data in today’s internet driven world, there is need for more and more data storage capacity”. Arrange the following in increasing order of memory capacity:**

- a) Petabyte<Terabyte<Zettabyte<Yottabyte<Exabyte

- b) Terabyte<Petabyte<Exabyte<Zettabyte<Yottabyte
- c) Terabyte<Petabyte<Exabyte<Yottabyte<Zettabyte
- d) Exabyte<Terabyte<Petabyte<Zettabyte<Yottabyte

**Q.108) Solution (b)**

Memory capacity hierarchy and conversion chart		
UNIT	ABBREVIATION	APPROXIMATE SIZE
bit	b	Binary digit, single 1 or 0
nibble	—	4 bits
byte/octet	B	8 bits
kilobyte	KB	1,024 bytes or $10^3$ bytes
megabyte	MB	1,024 KB or $10^6$ bytes
gigabyte	GB	1,024 MB or $10^9$ bytes
terabyte	TB	1,024 GB or $10^{12}$ bytes
petabyte	PB	1,024 TB or $10^{15}$ bytes
exabyte	EB	1,024 PB or $10^{18}$ bytes
zettabyte	ZB	1,024 EB or $10^{21}$ bytes
yottabyte	YB	1,024 ZB or $10^{24}$ bytes



**Q.109) It is long believed only humans had the intelligence to get the concept, but recent research has shown honeybees, monkeys and birds have the brains for it as well. Which concept is being referred here?**

- a) Understanding the concept of zero
- b) Suicidal Behavior
- c) Making and using tools
- d) Verbal communication

**Q.109) Solution (a)**

**Source:** <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/honeybees-understand-abstract-concept-of-zero-study/articleshow/64501667.cms>

**Q.110) A biomarker, or biological marker is a measurable indicator of some biological state or condition. Biomarkers are often measured and evaluated to examine normal biological processes, pathogenic processes, or pharmacologic responses to a therapeutic intervention.**

**Which of the following is a new class of biomarker to detect doping?**

- a) Transfer-messenger RNAs
- b) microRNAs
- c) Small nuclear RNAs
- d) Erythropoietin

**Q.110) Solution (b)**

Source: <https://www.bicycling.com/news/a24108977/new-technique-detects-self-blood-doping/>

**Q.111) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)'**

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as a Central Sector Scheme.
2. Identified manual scavengers and their dependents are provided with loans upto Rs. 15 lacs at concessional rate of interest.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.111) Solution (c)**

**Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)**

It is implemented by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as a Central Sector Scheme

Identified manual scavengers and their dependents are provided the following rehabilitation benefits:

- Onetime cash assistance of Rs.40000/-.



- Loans upto Rs. 15.00 lacs at concessional rate of interest.
- Credit linked back end capital subsidy upto Rs. 3,25,000/-.
- Skill Development Training upto two years with stipend of Rs.3000/- per month

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1540792>

**Q.112) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Concessional Financing Scheme (CFS)'**

1. It aims to support Indian entities bidding for strategically important infrastructure projects abroad
2. The financing is solely decided by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.112) Solution (a)**

**Concessional Financing Scheme (CFS)**

- Under the CFS, GoI has been supporting Indian Entities bidding for strategically important infrastructure projects abroad
- MEA selects the specific projects keeping in view strategic interest of India and sends the same to Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)
- The strategic importance of a project to deserve financing under this Scheme, is decided, on a case to case basis, by a Committee chaired by Secretary, DEA
- The Scheme is presently being operated through the Export-Import Bank of India, which raises resources from the market to provide concessional finance.
- The scheme envisages Government of India to provide counter guarantee and interest equalization of 2 % to EXIM Bank to offer concessional finance to any foreign Govt. or foreign Govt. owned or controlled entity, if any Indian entity, succeeds in getting contract for the execution of a project.

**Impact**

- Having projects of strategic interest to India executed by Indian entities, the CFS enables India to generate substantial backward linkage induced jobs, demand for material and machinery in India and also a lot of goodwill for India.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1541088>

**Q.113) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Indian star tortoise'**

1. It is found only in India
2. It is listed as 'Critically Endangered' under the IUCN Red List
3. The species is prohibited from export under the Foreign Trade Policy

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.113) Solution (c)**

**Indian star tortoises**

- It is categorised as 'Vulnerable' in the red list of endangered species of the IUCN.
- It is listed in the Schedule IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and prohibited from export under the Foreign Trade Policy.
- The species are liable for confiscation under the Customs Act, 1962.
- It has been included on Appendix II of the CITES
- Native: India (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Tamil Nadu); Pakistan; Sri Lanka
- It naturally inhabits scrub forests, grasslands, and some coastal scrublands of arid and semi-arid regions throughout its wide range, but also commonly inhabits human-dominated landscapes.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/1125-indian-star-tortoises-seized-from-three-train-passengers/article24610332.ece>

**Q.114) Which of the following statements with respect to 'Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)' is/are correct?**

1. In case of accidental death or full disability, the payment to the nominee will be ₹2 lakh and in case of partial Permanent disability ₹1 lakh
2. It is available to people between 18 and 60 years of age with bank accounts
3. The GST is exempted on Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

**Q.114) Solution (c)****Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)**

- It was launched with a view to enhance the level of insurance penetration in the country and to provide insurance cover to common people especially poor and the Under-privileged Sections of the society.
- It is available to people between 18 and 70 years of age with bank accounts.
- It has an annual premium of ₹12 exclusive of taxes.
- The GST is exempted on Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana.
- The amount will be automatically debited from the account.
- The accident insurance scheme will have one year cover from June 1 to May 31 and would be offered through banks and administered through public sector general insurance companies.

**Risk Coverage:**

- Death - Rs 2 Lakh
- Total and irrecoverable loss of both eyes or loss of use of both hands or feet or loss of sight of one eye and loss of use of hand or foot - Rs 2 Lakh
- Total and irrecoverable loss of sight of one eye or loss of use of one hand or foot – Rs.1 Lakh.

**Q.115) Which of the following statements with respect to 'RBI survey of inward remittances for 2016-17' is/are correct?**

1. United States has emerged as the top source of inward remittances to India
2. Maharashtra receives the highest number of inward remittances

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.115) Solution (d)****RBI survey of inward remittances for 2016-17**

- United Arab Emirates (UAE) has emerged as the top source of inward remittances, while Kerala has received the maximum funds sent from abroad
- UAE's share in total remittances was 26.9%, followed by the United States (22.9%), Saudi Arabia (11.6%), Qatar (6.5%) and Kuwait (5.5%).
- 82% of the total remittances received by India originated from eight countries — UAE, the U.S., Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, the United Kingdom and Malaysia.
- Among destinations, Kerala has the highest share with 19%, followed by Maharashtra (16.7%), Karnataka (15%), Tamil Nadu (8%) and Delhi (5.9%).
- Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu together received 58.7% of total remittances.
- More than half of remittances received by Indian residents were used for family maintenance, i.e., consumption (59.2%).
- Rupee drawing arrangement (RDA) is the most popular channel of remittances which accounts for 75.2% of remittances, followed by SWIFT (19.5%), direct transfers (3.4%) and cheques and drafts (1.9%).

**Q.116) They outweigh people by about 7,500 to 1, and make up more than 80% of the world's biomass as per a new census based on biomass. What is being referred to here?**

- a) Virus
- b) Flora
- c) Fauna
- d) Bacteria

**Q.116) Solution (b)**

**Plants outweigh all**

They outweigh people by about 7,500 to 1, and make up more than 80% of the world's biomass, a study in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences concluded.

- Bacteria are nearly 13% of the world's biomass.
- Fungi yeast, mold and mushrooms make up about 2%.

These estimates aren't very exact, the real numbers could be more or less, but they give a sense of proportion.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/humans-form-a-minuscule-part-of-life-on-earth/article23961689.ece>

**Q.117) 4500-year-old DNA from Rakhigarhi was recently examined and a term 'Haplogroup' was seen. Which of the following closely describes a haplogroup?**

- a) A group of people belonging to Aryan culture.
- b) A group of people which shares a common ancestor
- c) A group of people which descends from two different groups of ancestors
- d) A group of people whose genetic lineage is yet to be established

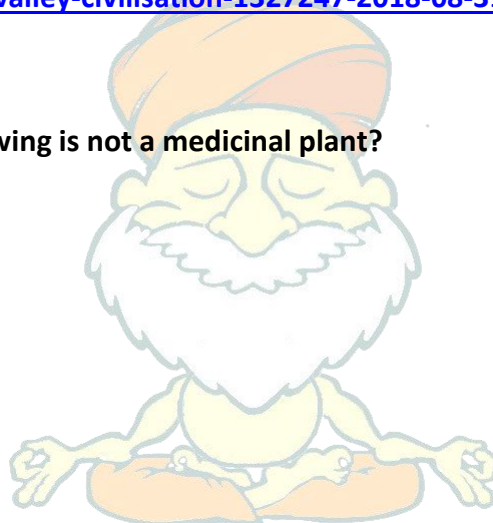
**Q.117) Solution (b)**

A haplotype is a group of alleles in an organism that are inherited together from a single parent, and a haplogroup is a group of similar haplotypes that share a common ancestor with a single-nucleotide polymorphism mutation.

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/cover-story/story/20180910-rakhigarhi-dna-study-findings-indus-valley-civilisation-1327247-2018-08-31>

**Q.118) Which of the following is not a medicinal plant?**

- a) Lemongrass
- b) Ginger
- c) Datura
- d) Oleander



**Q.118) Solution (d)**

Oleander (*Nerium oleander*) is an evergreen shrub or small tree that is prized by home gardeners for its showy, funnel-shaped blooms.

Oleanders are fast-growing and easy to care for, which makes them an appealing landscape plant.

However, all parts of this plant are highly toxic and in some locations is considered invasive.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181668>

**Q.119) This recently found exoplanet is three times the size of Jupiter and only half as dense. It is the hottest exoplanet where iron and titanium glow in it. Which of the following is it?**

- a) K2-236b
- b) Proxima b
- c) KELT-9b
- d) Kepler-1654b

**Q.119) Solution (c)**

KELT-9b, one of the most unlikely planets ever discovered, has surprised astronomers yet again with the discovery that its atmosphere contains the metals iron and titanium.

The planet is truly like no other. Located around 620 light-years away from Earth in the constellation Cygnus, it is known as a Hot Jupiter – which gives a hint to its nature. Nearly three times the size of Jupiter, its surface temperature tops 3780 degrees Celsius – the hottest exoplanet ever discovered. It is even hotter than the surface of some stars. In some ways it straddles the line between a star and a gas-giant exoplanet.

Source: <https://www.latestly.com/technology/science/alien-planet-kelt-9b-has-hottest-temperatures-exceeding-4000c-327715.html>

**Q.120) In July 2018, Mars will be at its closest point to Earth in 15 years. This phenomenon also brought a term known as ‘Mars at Opposition’. Which of the following explains ‘Mars at Opposition’?**

- a) Mars and Earth are on opposite sides of the Sun, along a straight line.
- b) Mars and Sun are on one line and on opposite sides of the Earth.
- c) Mars is closest to Earth, so the two planets are on a straight line.
- d) Mars, Earth and Sun are equidistant in the same order.

**Q.120) Solution (b)**

Mars orbits the Sun at a greater distance than Earth. As the distance increases, the orbital period also increases.

While Earth takes a little more than 365 days to go round the Sun, Mars takes 687 days.

Due to the difference of the orbital speed and orbital period, every 26 months or so Earth passes between Mars and the Sun, bringing Mars and Sun on exactly opposite sides of the Earth. **This is called Mars at Opposition.**

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/up-there-with-mars-dont-miss-our-neighbours-brighest-show/article24554732.ece>