

Q.1) The 'Damocles index' was in news recently. It is published by

- a) Mckinsey
- b) Nomura
- c) Moodys
- d) Ernst and Young

Q.1) Solution (b)

"Damocles" is an early warning indicator of emerging market exchange rate crises. Damocles, when supplemented by a broader assessment of the global economic, political and institutional landscape, can help better assess EM risk.

Read More - <https://www.nomuraconnects.com/focused-thinking-posts/damocles-our-early-warning-indicator-of-exchange-rate-crises/>

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/markets/seven-countries-at-risk-of-exchange-rate-crises-nomura/article24918851.ece>

Q.2) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Fighter Aircrafts Manufacturer/Country

- 1. JAS 39 Gripen - United Kingdom
- 2. F 22 Raptor - United States of America
- 3. Panavia Tornado - France

Select the correct code:

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

Q.2) Solution (d)

The Panavia Tornado is a family of twin-engine, variable-sweep wing multirole combat aircraft, jointly developed and manufactured by Italy, the United Kingdom, and West Germany.

The Saab JAS 39 Gripen is a light single-engine multirole fighter aircraft manufactured by the Swedish aerospace company Saab.

The Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor is a fifth-generation, single-seat, twin-engine, all-weather stealth tactical fighter aircraft developed for the United States Air Force (USAF).

Q.3) The term 'Khafz', refers to

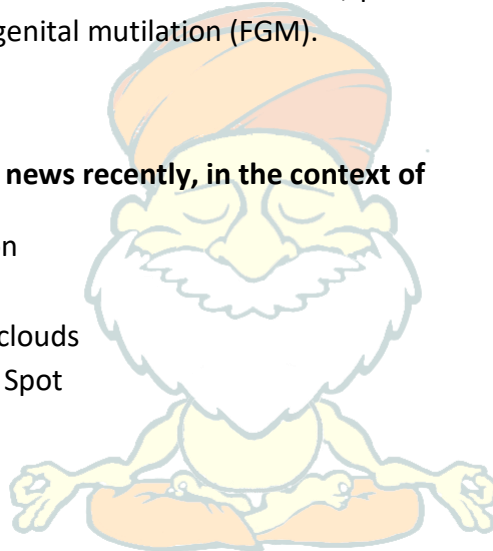
- a) Female circumcision
- b) Male Companion
- c) Migrant Labourers
- d) Various forms of hidden teachings

Q.3) Solution (a)

'Khafz' refers to the practice of female circumcision, prevalent in the Dawoodi Bohra sect, which amounts to female genital mutilation (FGM).

Q.4) 'MINERVA-II1' was in news recently, in the context of

- a) Far side of the moon
- b) Asteroid Ryugu
- c) Polar mesospheric clouds
- d) Jupiter's Great Red Spot



Q.4) Solution (b)

MINERVA-II1 becomes world's first rover to land on the surface of an asteroid. The MINERVA-II1 rovers were carried on Hayabusa2 spacecraft. Both the rovers landed on the surface of asteroid Ryugu.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/japan-becomes-worlds-first-to-land-rovers-minerva-ii1-on-asteroid-ryugu/future-plans/slideshow/65945708.cms>

Q.5) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Lippa-Asra wildlife sanctuary – Jammu and Kashmir
- 2. Raiganj wildlife sanctuary – West Bengal
- 3. Nahargarh Biological Park – Madhya Pradesh

Select the correct code:

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

Q.5) Solution (b)

Lippa-Asra wildlife sanctuary – Himachal Pradesh

Raiganj wildlife sanctuary – West Bengal

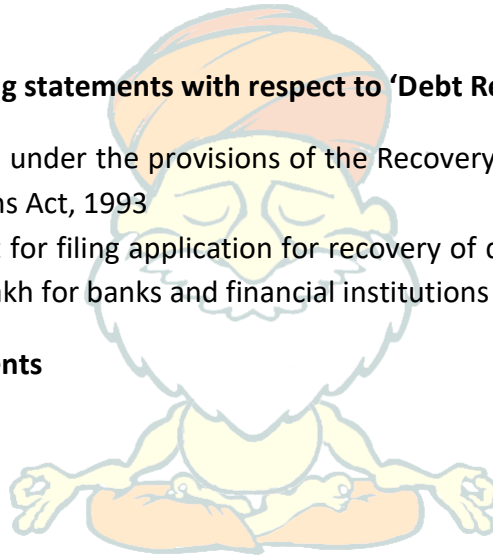
Nahargarh Biological Park – Rajasthan

Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs)'

1. The DRTs functions under the provisions of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993
2. The pecuniary limit for filing application for recovery of debts in the Debts Recovery Tribunals is Rs 50 lakh for banks and financial institutions

Select the correct statements

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



Q.6) Solution (a)

The Debts Recovery Tribunals have been established by the Government of India under an Act of Parliament (Act 51 of 1993) for expeditious adjudication and recovery of debts due to banks and financial institutions.

The DRTs function under the provisions of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and as per the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.

Government doubled the pecuniary limit to Rs 20 lakh for filing loan recovery application in the Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT) by banks and financial institutions.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/monetary-limit-for-filing-cases-in-drt-doubled-to-rs-20-lakh/article24884061.ece>

Q.7) 'Shyamala Gopinath Panel' is associated with

- a) Small Savings Scheme
- b) Primary Health Care
- c) Doubling Farmers' Income
- d) Coal Blocks Allocation

Q.7) Solution (a)

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/govt-hikes-interest-rate-on-small-savings-by-up-to-04/article24992611.ece>

Q.8) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

Places in news	Country
1. Cagayan	Philippines
2. Chattogram	Sri Lanka
3. Idlib	Iraq

Select the correct code:

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



Q.8) Solution (a)

Cagayan - Philippines

Chattogram - Bangladesh

Idlib – Syria

Q.9) The 'SAVE Consortium' is associated with

- a) Tigers
- b) Snow Leopards
- c) Vultures
- d) Elephants

Q.9) Solution (c)

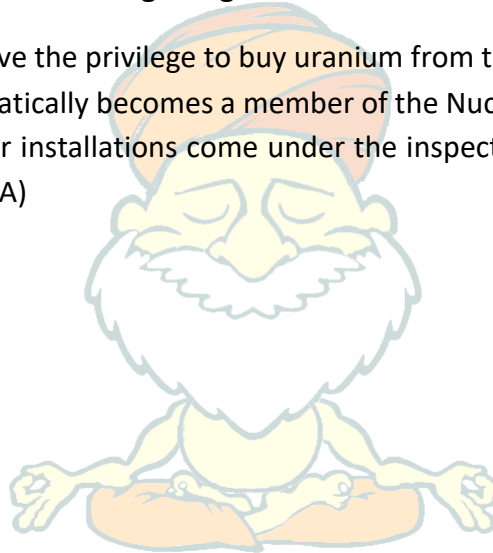
SAVE is a consortium that coordinates recovery efforts and conservation breeding programmes of vultures across Asia.

Q.10) What is/are the implication of getting access to 'CENTRIXS'

1. The country will have the privilege to buy uranium from the Nuclear Suppliers Group.
2. The country automatically becomes a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group.
3. The military nuclear installations come under the inspection of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Select the correct code:

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



Q.10) Solution (d)

CENTRIXS

- Combined Enterprise Regional Information Exchange System, or CENTRIXS, which is the secure communication system network of the US.
- India will get access to it as part of COMCASA
- Navy ships with CENTRIXS on board can communicate securely with the U.S. Navy when needed and can benefit from the wider situational picture of the region as they have a large number of ships and aircraft deployed.
- CENTRIXS consists of a collection of coalition wide area networks (WAN) known as 'enclaves'

- It is a great enabler, allowing ship-to-ship operational dialogue between the two nations in text and web-based formats.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/india-can-track-chinas-ocean-moves-better/article24897825.ece>

Q.11) Consider the following statements with respect to 'International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)'

1. It is monitored by the United Nations Human Rights Committee
2. It is legally binding
3. India is yet to ratify the ICCPR

Select the correct statements

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

Q.11) Solution (a)

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

- It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1966 and came into force in 1976
- It is one of three documents that make up the International Bill of Rights, together with the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).
- The covenant commits its parties to respect the civil and political rights of individuals, including the right to life, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, electoral rights and rights to due process and a fair trial.
- It is monitored by the United Nations Human Rights Committee (a separate body to the United Nations Human Rights Council), which reviews regular reports of States parties on how the rights are being implemented.
- States must report initially one year after acceding to the Covenant and then whenever the Committee requests (usually every four years). The Committee normally meets in Geneva and normally holds three sessions per year.

- The ICCPR is a legally binding treaty. This means that states which ratify the treaty are legally bound by it, while states that do not are neither bound by the treaty obligations or entitled to invoke those obligations against other state parties.
- It is ratified by India

Human Rights Committee

- The Human Rights Committee was established to monitor the implementation of the ICCPR.
- It is composed of 18 independent experts with recognized competence in the field of human rights.
- Committee members are elected for a term of four years and must be from countries that have ratified the Covenant.

There are two Optional Protocols to the Covenant

- The First Optional Protocol establishes an individual complaints mechanism, allowing individuals to complain to the Human Rights Committee about violations of the Covenant. This has led to the creation of a complex jurisprudence on the interpretation and implementation of the Covenant.
- The Second Optional Protocol abolishes the death penalty; however, countries were permitted to make a reservation allowing for use of death penalty for the most serious crimes of a military nature, committed during wartime.

THINK!

- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

Q.12) Consider the following terms

1. Industrial Security Annex (ISA)
2. General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)
3. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Which of the above terms is/are associated with India-US partnership?

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

Q.12) Solution (a)

Industrial Security Annex (ISA) would allow Indian private sector to collaborate with the U.S. defence industry

General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)

- It allows sharing of classified information from the U.S. government and American companies with the Indian government and defence Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) but not with Indian private companies.

MoU was signed between the U.S. Defence Innovation Unit (DIU) and the Indian Defence Innovation Organization – Innovation for Defence Excellence (DIO-IDEX), which will look into joint projects for co-production and co-development projects through the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI).

The General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 is a regulation in EU law on data protection and privacy for all individuals within the European Union and the European Economic Area.

Q.13) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000'

1. It empowers the Centre to set up a National Authority which can close down facilities which violate the Convention on the 'Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons'
2. It provides that no person shall transfer to, or receive from, a state which is not a party to the Convention any toxic chemicals

Select the correct statements

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

Q.13) Solution (c)**Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000**

- It was enacted to give effect to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction signed by the government in 1993.

- It defines chemical weapons and empowers the Centre to set up a **National Authority** to act as the “national focal point” for effective liaison with organisations and other state parties on matters relating to the Convention and for fulfilling the obligations of the country.
- The Authority’s functions include **regulation and monitoring** the development, production, processing, consumption, transfer or use of toxic chemicals or precursors as specified in the Convention, among others.
- The Authority is also empowered to **issue directions and even close down facilities** which violate the Convention. It can liaise with other countries to seek or give assistance and protection against the use of chemical weapons.
- It defines chemical weapons as toxic chemicals, including munitions and devices, specifically designed to cause death or other harm. The definition includes in its ambit **“any equipment” specifically designed for employing chemical weapons.**
- It gives **full power of inspection** of any person who is engaged in the production, processing, acquisition, consumption, transfer, import, export or use of any toxic chemical or discrete organic chemical.
- Inspections extend to any place where any chemical weapon, old chemical weapon, or abandoned chemical weapon is located, or where a chemical weapon production facility exists.
- It allows inspections teams to conduct “challenge inspections” of chemical facilities in the company of an Observer. An enforcement officer under the Act shall also accompany the team.
- It was amended to give the Centre power to appoint any of its own officers, other than those of the National Authority, as enforcement officers.
- It contains provisions for **restriction on transfer of any toxic chemical or precursor.** It provides that no person shall, three years after April 29, 1997, transfer to or receive from any person, who is not a citizen of a state party, toxic chemicals.
- This has been amended to provide that no person shall transfer to, or receive from, a state which is not a party to the Convention any toxic chemicals.

Q.14) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

Community	State
1. Woj	Chattisgarh
2. Hatti	Jharkhand
3. Kapu	Andhra Pradesh

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 3

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

Q.14) Solution (c)

Woj – Telangana

Hatti – Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand

Kapu – Andhra Pradesh

Q.15) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Total Expense Ratio (TER)'

1. It is the cost of running and managing a mutual fund scheme.
2. In India, the maximum TER that a fund can charge its investors is prescribed by the RBI.

Select the correct statements

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



Q.15) Solution (a)

Total Expense Ratio (TER)

News: Reduction in MF expense ratio will benefit investors

About

- It is the share of the fund that is used to meet the administrative, management and other operating expenses of the scheme
- The reduction in the TER would not only lead to greater financial inclusion and helping in attracting more investors, but also would lead to better utilisation of scarce capital resources

What is total expense ratio and why is it important for investing in mutual funds?

- Mutual funds are investments where an investor entrusts his/her money with an investment manager (of an asset management company) to manage the money smartly and efficiently.
- This money management comes at a cost, which is usually charged as a percentage of the investment.
- SEBI has laid down rules on how much an asset management company can charge an investor to manage their funds.
- For an investor this is important because it is a charge (called total expense ratio or TER in short) levied on their investment, and the money they get back from their investment is reduced by this figure.
- For example, if a fund charges 2% as the TER, and the fund produces a gross profit (return) of 15% in a given year, the investor would get 13% - which is the gross profit minus the TER – in their hands.
- So, for an investor, TER is an important number to focus on since it has a direct impact on their returns. However, it is not the only number to look at and investors should evaluate funds based on various parameters such as consistency of performance and risk levels.

What are the changes made by SEBI now to TER?

- SEBI has, across the board, lowered the. The reduction is higher for larger funds and lower for smaller funds — larger and smaller being a measure of how much money a fund manages.
- SEBI has capped the maximum TER at 2.25% for open-ended equity schemes

Q.16) A recently released report by the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, reported the loss caused by erosion of coastal states. Which state has recorded maximum erosion?

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

Q.16) Solution (c)

It's a land-starved State, and between 1990 and 2016, West Bengal lost more to erosion. A report by the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), under the Ministry of Earth

Sciences, released recently said **West Bengal recorded the maximum erosion of 63%**, followed by Puducherry 57%, Kerala 45%, and Tamil Nadu 41%.

West Bengal, regularly hit by tides, tropical cyclones and storm surges, has suffered 63% erosion. Between 1990 and 2016, West Bengal lost 99 sq km land due to coastal erosion. The land gain in the State, due to accretion has been only 16 sq km. Sagar, the biggest island of the Sunderbans archipelago, which is home to almost 2 lakh people, is facing severe erosion on its western and south eastern parts. Islands like Ghoramara and Mousuni are also facing erosion. The same trend has been observed at Jambudweep Island and Henry Island in the Sunderbans.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/west-bengal-where-erosion-leads-to-land-loss/article24842375.ece>

Q.17) Recently a strong typhoon named 'Trami' was in news. It made headlines after hitting which of the following country?

- a) Cyprus
- b) Malta
- c) Japan
- d) Seychelles

Q.17) Solution (c)

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/environment/japan-braces-for-super-typhoon-trami-61744>

Q.18) 2018 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index is released by:

- a) World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- b) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Bank
- c) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)
- d) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

Q.18) Solution (c)

India has made momentous progress in reducing multidimensional poverty, according to estimates from the 2018 global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)**.

<http://www.in.undp.org/content/india/en/home/sustainable-development/successstories/MultiDimesnionalPovertyIndex.html>

Q.19) Ayodhya/Ajodhya Hills was in news because of protest by Tribals in connection to dams being built in the region. It is part of which of the following states?

- a) Odisha
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) West Bengal
- d) Uttar Pradesh

Q.19) Solution (c)

It is a small plateau with hilly surroundings located in the Purulia district of the state West Bengal, India.

It is the easternmost part of the Chhotanagpur Plateau and extended part of Eastern Ghats range. Highest peak of Ajodhya Hills is Chamtuburu.

In 2006-07, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) invested in building dams in Ayodhya hills under 'Purulia Pump Storage Plant' (PPSP). For the pumped storage plant two dams, both in upstream and downstream, need to be built. When water will flow downstream, it will be stored for generating electricity. During dry spell, water from the dam downstream will be pumped back into the upstream dam. While water is meant for Ranchi and Arambagh, the local tribals, who are hit by water scarcity, do not stand to benefit much from this project.

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/environment/tribals-voice-protest-against-power-project-in-west-bengal-s-ayodhya-hills-61666>

Q.20) Recently a place called 'Pakyong' was in news. Which state of India it belongs to?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Assam
- c) Meghalaya

d) Sikkim

Q.20) Solution (d)

Pakyong is a town in the East Sikkim district of the Indian state of Sikkim located in the foothills of the Himalayas.

Sikkim's first Airport- in Pakyong inaugurated by PM.

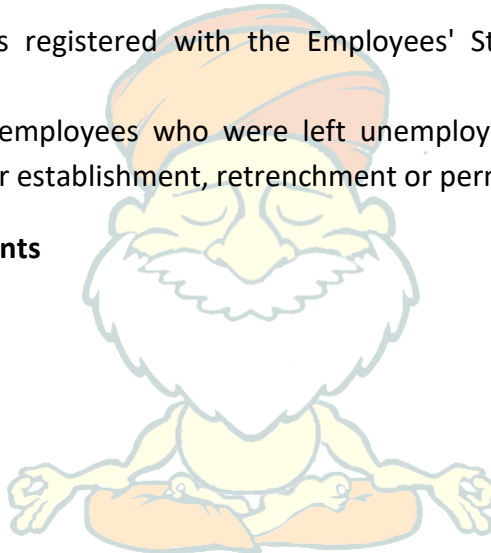
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/what-you-need-to-know-about-pakyong-airport-in-sikkim-indias-100th-airport/article25026303.ece>

Q.21) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana'

1. It benefits workers registered with the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).
2. It is launched for employees who were left unemployed for three reasons - the closure of factory or establishment, retrenchment or permanent invalidity.

Select the correct statements

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



Q.21) Solution (a)

Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna

- Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has approved a Scheme named "ATAL BIMIT VYAKTI KALYAN YOJNA" for Insured Persons (IP) covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.
- This scheme is a relief payable in cash directly to their Bank Account in case of unemployment and while they search for new engagement.
- For availing super specialty treatment for dependents of Insured Person, the eligibility has been relaxed to insurable employment of one year with 156 days of contributions.
- It approved the proposal for increasing the funeral expenses from existing 10 thousand rupees to 15 thousand rupees being paid on the death of Insured Person.

- The ABVKY will provide cash allowance to ESIC subscribers who are unemployed for at least three months in a row after leaving their previous jobs, for reasons apart from retrenchment and factory closure.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183695>

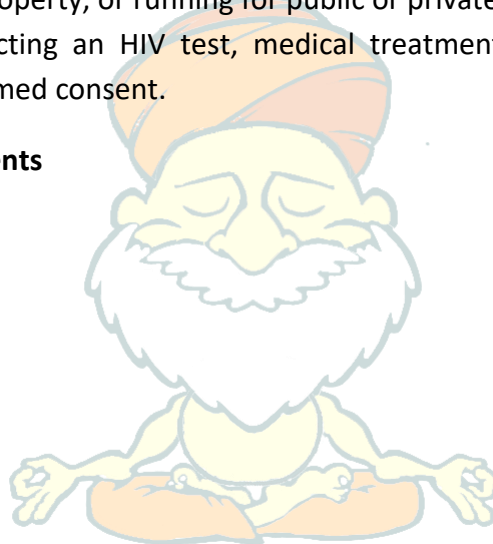
Read More - <https://m.rediff.com/money/special/all-you-want-to-know-about-atal-bimit-vyakti-kalyan-yojana/20180928.htm>

Q.22) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act of 2017’

1. It prohibits discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS for the purposes of employment, access to educational establishments, healthcare and insurance services, renting property, or running for public or private office.
2. It prohibits conducting an HIV test, medical treatment or research on a person without their informed consent.

Select the correct statements

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



Q.22) Solution (c)

Both the statements are correct.

The Act prohibits discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS for the purposes of employment, access to educational establishments, healthcare and insurance services, renting property, or running for public or private office. The law also bans any form of expression that is deemed as inciting hatred against people infected with HIV/AIDS.

The law prohibits conducting an HIV test, medical treatment or research on a person without their informed consent. The Act prohibits a person from being forced to disclose their HIV/AIDS status, unless mandated by a court order. However, no informed consent will be required by licensed blood banks, medical research, and epidemiological purposes where an HIV test is conducted anonymously and not for the purpose of identifying a specific HIV positive individual.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act of 2017

- It deals with topics of a diverse range, from safe working environment, prohibition of discrimination and appointment of an ombudsman, to strategies for reduction of risk and special provisions such as: right of residence, living wills for guardianship and testamentary guardianship.
- It safeguards the human rights of people living with HIV and AIDS.
- It has highlighted the necessity for effective care, support and treatment for HIV and AIDS.
- It spawns from the commitment to the global community under the Declaration of Commitment on Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (2001) for enhanced coordination and intensification of national, regional and international efforts to combat the virus and syndrome in a comprehensive manner.
- India, is a signatory to the Declaration of Commitment on Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (2001)
- It makes a legal obligation to protect the privacy of persons with HIV and AIDS
- It addresses discrimination meted out to persons with HIV and AIDS.
- It fortifies the health and medical health-care system for them and introduces legal accountability along with formal mechanisms to inquire into complaints and redress grievances.
- It lists various grounds on which discrimination against persons with HIV is prohibited
- The requirement for HIV testing as a pre-requisite for obtaining employment or accessing health care or education is also prohibited.
- It provides that every HIV infected or affected person below the age of 18 years has the right to reside in a shared household
- Violation of the act by publishing information about people living with HIV (PLHIV) or advocating hatred against them would attract imprisonment ranging from three months to two years or a maximum fine of Rs one lakh or both.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/protecting-persons-with-hiv-aids/article24998255.ece>

Q.23) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to Adoption rules in India?

1. Indians in domestic live-in partnerships and staying abroad can adopt via Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)
2. Single women can adopt a child of any gender, while single men can adopt only boys

Select the correct statements

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

Q.23) Solution (c)

Adoption Rules - Update

Individuals in a live-in relationship will be able to adopt children from and within India.

The eligibility criteria under Adoption Regulations, 2017, permit single women to adopt a child of any gender, while single men can adopt only boys.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/live-in-partners-can-adopt-now/article25010051.ece>



Q.24) Consider the following statements about 'National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)'

1. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is the Nodal Ministry for the project.
2. It aims to make all the Legislatures of the country paperless by making the proceedings of the Houses digital.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.24) Solution (b)

National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)

- It is a member-centric, decentralised digital application that makes information available on digital platform about day to day functioning of Legislative Houses.
- NeVA, an initiative by Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, aims to make all the Legislatures of the country paperless by making the proceedings of the Houses digital. It is an attempt to provide the information about the functioning of House to the common citizen at the click of a button.
- The mNeVA (NeVA-mobile app) is a device neutral and user friendly app that has made information on conduct of business in Legislatures accessible anytime, anywhere to everyone.
- It is a work-flow based app deployed in Cloud (Meghraj) which helps the Chair of the House to conduct the proceedings of the House smoothly and the members to carry out their duties in the House efficiently.
- NeVA has made live for Rajya Sabha in respect of Monsoon Session 2018 and information in respect of Lok Sabha is being updated.
- The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is the Nodal Ministry for the project.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183679>

Q.25) 'The Future of Jobs Report' is published by

- a) International Labour Organization
- b) International Employees Welfare Association
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) LinkedIn Corporation

Q.25) Solution (c)**The Future of Jobs Report**

- It is published by World Economic Forum
- It seeks to understand the current and future impact of key disruptions on employment levels, skill sets and recruitment patterns in different industries and countries

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/machines-will-rule-workplace-by-2025/article24970906.ece>

Q.26) The growing 'SILT' has been one of the major problems of Indian Rivers. Which of the following statements are correct regarding it?

1. Silt raises the riverbed leading to devastating floods.
2. Heavy silt deposits in the river slow down the river flow, posing a big challenge to India's ambitious national waterway project.
3. Silt deposits are greatest near the confluence points of tributaries coming from the mountains.

Select the correct code:

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

Q.26) Solution (d)

All the statements are correct.

Recently a central government committee recommends removal of silt along the Ganga in Bihar to reduce flood risks and boost shipping.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/governance/expert-committee-sheds-light-on-bihar-s-mounting-silt-crisis-61668>

Q.27) The term "Khirni" recently in news correctly describes:

- a) It is a fruit mentioned in ancient texts that has medicinal properties.
- b) It is a type of folk art mentioned in ancient texts typically performed in central India.
- c) It is an ancient art form.
- d) It is a recently discovered prehistoric site in Assam.

Q.27) Solution (a)

Khirni is a life-saving fruit mentioned in ancient texts and also has medicinal properties.

Khirni (Manilkara hexandra) flowers between September and December and the fruit ripens between April and June. The tree is 3-12 m high and is usually found in forests.

It is a tropical tree and grows in China, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. In India, it is found in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar,

Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. But these days the fruit is not easily available in the market.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/food/kings-ate-this-fruit-to-restore-their-youth-61651>

Q.28) If global temperatures rise above 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels the ideal temperature limit set by the Paris agreement global sea levels will rise by more than 40 centimeters (approximately 15.7 inches) by 2100 as per IPCC. Which of the following cities will be underwater/affected by rise in sea level if above assessment of IPCC comes to reality?

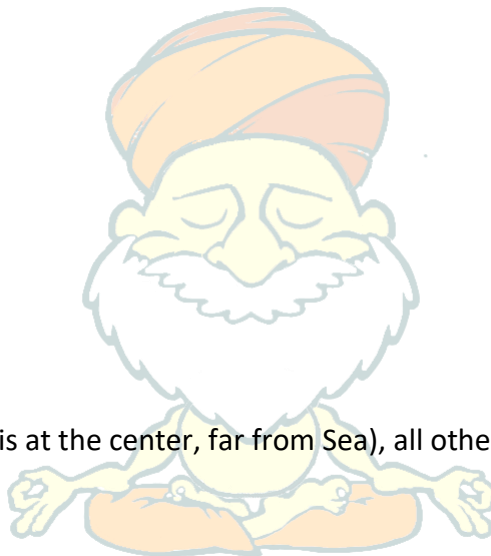
1. Mexico City
2. New York
3. Miami
4. Chittagong

Select the correct code:

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

Q.28) Solution (b)

Except Mexico City (which is at the center, far from Sea), all others fall on the coastlines.



Rising waters

Sea levels going up 60 percent faster than previous UN climate panel forecasts, scientists report Wednesday

Largest cities exposed to risk by 2070

Most vulnerable to surge-induced events, by projected population

Millions







Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/climate-change/african-countries-aren-t-doing-enough-to-prepare-for-rising-sea-levels-61643>

Q.29) Match the following

Events	Places
1. Typhoon Mangkhut::	Philippine
2. Hurricane Florence::	USA
3. Tropical Storm Gordon::	Nordic Countries

Select the correct match from the code given below:

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

Q.29) Solution (a)

Typhoon Mangkhut, known in the Philippines as Typhoon Ompong, was an extremely powerful tropical cyclone that brought widespread damages to Guam, the Philippines and South China in mid- September 2018.

Hurricane Florence was a powerful and long-lived Cape Verde hurricane that caused catastrophic damage in the Carolinas in September 2018, primarily as a result of freshwater flooding

Tropical Storm Gordon was a tropical storm that caused moderate damage along the Gulf Coast of the United States in early September 2018.

Source:

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/natural-disasters/tropical-storm-florence-kills-at-least-13-disaster-declared-in-north-carolina-61639>

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/natural-disasters/after-killing-59-in-philippines-typhoon-mangkhut-wreaks-havoc-in-hong-kong-china-61640>

Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), a potent ozone depleting substance:

1. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are highly stable compounds.
2. Chlorofluorocarbons are non-toxic, non-flammable and non-carcinogenic.
3. They are used in the manufacture of aerosol sprays, blowing agents for foams and packing materials, as solvents, and as refrigerants.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Q.30) Solution (d)

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are highly stable compounds that were used as propellents in spray cans and in refrigeration units. CFCs are manufactured under the trade name Freon.

Chloroflouorocarbons were first created in 1928 as non-toxic, non-flamable refrigerants, and were first produced commercially in the 1930's by DuPont.

Chlorofluorocarbons are non-toxic, non-flammable and non-carcinogenic.

They are used in the manufacture of aerosol sprays, blowing agents for foams and packing materials, as solvents, and as refrigerants.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/environment/how-chinese-foam-manufacturers-are-undermining-the-montreal-protocol-61629>

Q.31) Which of the following statement is/are correct with respect to 'Credit Rating Agencies'?

1. It is an agency that collects and researches individual credit information and sells it for a fee to creditors so they can make a decision on granting loans.
2. Credit Analysis and Research limited (CARE) and Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited (CRISIL) are the only Credit Rating Agencies in India

Select the correct statements

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

Q.31) Solution (d)

Credit Rating Agencies (CRA) assess creditworthiness of organisation and different entities. In simple words, these agencies analyse a debtor's ability to repay the debt and also rate their credit risk. All the credit rating agencies in India are regulated by SEBI (Credit Rating Agencies) Regulations, 1999 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

Other CRAs are Brickwork Ratings (BWR), Small and Medium Enterprises Rating Agency of India (SMERA), ICRA LIMITED etc.

Read More - <https://www.bankbazaar.com/cibil/credit-rating-agencies-in-india.html>

Q.32) Consider the following statements with respect to 'India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)'

1. It does not offer the facility of Current Account
2. It does not offer any ATM debit card
3. As per RBI rules, one cannot hold more than ₹ 1 lakh in IPPB savings accounts

Select the correct statements

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

Q.32) Solution (b)

IPPB offers the facility of a Current Account to the small merchants/ kirana stores and individual businessmen. This account is a prerequisite for carrying out and expanding business. IPPB's Current Account gets you started on the road to digital transactions for your business needs. Along with this, IPPB also offers a Merchant App for meeting business requirements. The current account can be opened at the Post Office Counters or at your doorstep through our Postman/GDS.

All the 3 IPPB savings accounts offer some common features and benefits, including 4% interest rate, no minimum balance, etc. As per RBI rules, you can't hold more than ₹ 1 lakh in all payments bank accounts but you can open a post office bank account where any amount in excess of ₹ 1 lakh will be transferred.

None of these IPPB savings accounts allows you to open a joint account. You also don't get a cheque book, debit card or ATM card but a QR card, which allows you the benefit of all three.

Q.33) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Commercial Paper (CP)'

1. It can be issued in denominations of Rs.5 lakh or multiples thereof
2. Only a scheduled bank can act as an Issuing and Paying Agent (IPA) for issuance of CP
3. It is always issued at a discount to face value

Select the correct statements

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

Q.33) Solution (d)

All the statements are correct.

Read More - <https://m.rbi.org.in/Scripts/FAQView.aspx?id=25>

Q.34) 'e-VBAB Network Project' is associated with

- a) ASEAN
- b) BRICS
- c) BIMSTEC
- d) None of the above

Q.34) Solution (d)

E-VBAB Network Project is primarily a technological upgrade and extension of the Pan-African e-Network Project (Phase 1) which was implemented in 48 partner countries across Africa from 2009 till 2017.

Read More - <https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/30373/Signing+of+Agreement+between+MEA+and+TCIL+for+the+eVBA+B+Network+Project>

Q.35) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)'

1. It seeks to prevent nuclear proliferation by controlling the export of materials, equipment and technology that can be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.
2. North Korea and China are the only countries who are yet to sign the treaty.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.35) Solution (d)

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is the Treaty banning all nuclear explosions - everywhere, by everyone. The Treaty was negotiated at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. It opened

for signature on 24 September 1996. Since then, the Treaty has reached near-universality. 182 countries have signed the Treaty – the last country to do so was Trinidad and Tobago on 8 October 2009 which also ratified the Treaty on 26 May 2010. 154 countries have ratified the Treaty – most recently Ghana on 14 June 2011.

The treaty will enter into force 180 days after the 44 states listed in Annex 2 of the treaty have ratified it. These "Annex 2 states" are states that participated in the CTBT's negotiations between 1994 and 1996 and possessed nuclear power reactors or research reactors at that time. As of 2016, eight Annex 2 states have not ratified the treaty: China, Egypt, Iran, Israel and the United States have signed but not ratified the Treaty; India, North Korea and Pakistan have not signed it.

Q.36) Consider the following statements regarding Gold bought by, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the first time in nearly a decade in 2018:

1. More than 60% of the RBI's foreign reserves are held in the form of Gold.
2. India is the largest holder of Gold reserve in the World.

Which of the above is / are correct?

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

Q.36) Solution (d)

More than 60% of the RBI's foreign reserves are held in the form of bonds and securities.

The Reserve Bank of India, which added 6.5 tonnes of gold to its reserves in January 2019, taking its total holding forming part of its foreign exchange reserves to 607 tonnes, is set to become the tenth largest holder of the metal worldwide, displacing the Netherlands.

According to data provided by the World Gold Council, India's share of gold held globally has been rising steadily to stand at 6.2 per cent at the end of 2018 and has gone up further in January 2019.

<https://www.businessinsider.in/heres-why-the-rbi-bought-gold-for-the-first-time-since-2009/articleshow/65669182.cms>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/commodities/news/rbi-buys-gold-for-first-time-in-nearly-a-decade/articleshow/65651133.cms>

Q.37) WHO recently released a paper titled 'Mycotoxins'. Consider the following statements:

1. Mycotoxins are manmade toxins produced by certain moulds (fungi) and are found in artificially made food.
2. Mycotoxins can cause a variety of adverse health effects and pose a serious health threat to both humans and livestock.
3. Aflatoxins are amongst the most poisonous mycotoxins and are produced by certain moulds which grow in soil, decaying vegetation, hay, and grains.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Q.37) Solution (a)

Mycotoxins are **naturally occurring toxins** produced by certain moulds (fungi) and can be found in food.

- The moulds grow on a variety of different crops and foodstuffs including cereals, nuts, spices, dried fruits, apples and coffee beans, often under warm and humid conditions.
- Mycotoxins can cause a variety of adverse health effects and pose a serious health threat to **both humans and livestock**.
- The adverse health effects of mycotoxins range from acute poisoning to long-term effects such as immune deficiency and cancer.

Aflatoxins are amongst the most poisonous mycotoxins and are produced by certain moulds (*Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus parasiticus*) which grow in soil, decaying vegetation, hay, and grains. There is also evidence that they can cause liver cancer in humans

Ochratoxin A is produced by several species of *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium* and is a common food-contaminating mycotoxin. Contamination of food commodities, such as cereals and cereal products, coffee beans, dry vine fruits, wine and grape juice, spices and liquorice, occurs worldwide. Ochratoxin A is formed during the storage of crops and is known to cause a number of toxic effects in animal species.

Patulin is a mycotoxin produced by a variety of moulds, particularly *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium* and *Byssoschlamys*. Often found in rotting apples and apple products, patulin can also occur

in various mouldy fruits, grains and other foods. Major human dietary sources of patulin are apples and apple juice made from affected fruit.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/steps-to-stop-the-rot/article24875097.ece>

Q.38) Consider the following statements regarding 'edible-oil' consumption in India:

1. India is the largest producers of edible oil in the World.
2. Edible-oil accounts for one of the largest agricultural commodity being exported by India.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Q.38) Solution (d)

Both the statements are wrong.

Among food commodities, **edible oil import is the largest with a foreign exchange** outgo of a humongous \$11 Billion (₹77,000 crore) towards import of about 15 million tonnes of various types of oils. Imports are necessary because consumption continues to far outstrip domestic production.

The central government has prepared a five-year schedule to double India's edible oil production and reduce import dependence, through expansion in sowing area and yield.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/lets-cut-edible-oil-imports/article24979978.ece>

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-plans-to-double-edible-oil-production-by-2022-to-cut-import-dependence-118092400873_1.html

Q.39) Consider the following statements regarding Sugar production and consumption:

1. India is the second largest producer of sugar in the world.
2. India is the largest consumer of sugar in the world.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Q.39) Solution (c)

Both the statements are correct.

India, which is the world's largest consumer of sugar, is set to produce a record yield of sugarcane in the current financial year.

This is largely because sugarcane farmers are assured of a government-mandated fair price from sugar mills that exceeds their costs by a significant margin.

According to data from the Indian Sugar Mills Association, the country's sugarcane farmers will produce 35.5 million tonnes of sugar between October 2018, when the crop season starts, and September 2019. This is a significant jump over the 32.2 million tonnes it will have produced by the end of 2017-18.

In doing so, India will unseat Brazil as the world's largest producer of sugar.

Currently, Brazil is the largest producer of sugar in the world.

<https://www.businessinsider.in/india-could-soon-become-the-worlds-largest-sugar-producer-but-heres-why-thats-a-problem/articleshow/65657844.cms>

Q.40) 'Ethiopia-Eritrea Border Opens for First Time in 20 Years'. Consider the following statements:

1. Both Ethiopia and Eritrea are landlocked countries.
2. Both share border with Djibouti.

Which of the above is / are correct?

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

Q.40) Solution (b)



<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-45475876>

Q.41) 'MILEX' military exercise is associated with which of the following organisation?

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

Q.41) Solution (a)

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183495>

Q.42) The 'End-Use Monitoring Agreement (EUMA)' is often seen in news in context of India and

- a) United States of America
- b) European Union
- c) Germany
- d) Japan

Q.42) Solution (a)

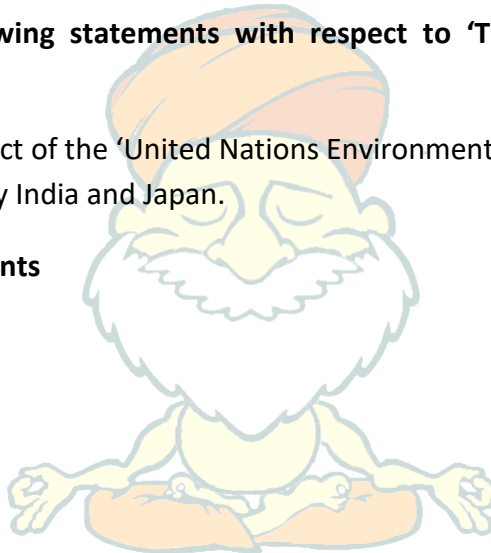
Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/too-close-for-comfort/article24910063.ece>

Q.43) Consider the following statements with respect to 'The New Climate Economy (NCE)'

1. It is a flagship project of the 'United Nations Environment Programme'.
2. It is spearheaded by India and Japan.

Select the correct statements

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



Q.43) Solution (d)

The Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, and its flagship project The New Climate Economy, were set up to help governments, businesses and society make better-informed decisions on how to achieve economic prosperity and development while also addressing climate change.

The New Climate Economy was commissioned in 2013 by the governments of seven countries: Colombia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Norway, South Korea, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The Commission has operated as an independent body and has been given full freedom to reach its own conclusions. Led by its global commission, it has disseminated its messages

by engaging with heads of governments, finance ministers, business leaders and other key economic decision-makers in over 30 countries around the world.

Q.44) 'R K Arya Committee' is associated with

- a) Prison Reforms
- b) Criminalisation of Politics
- c) Electoral reforms
- d) Faculty Hip Implants

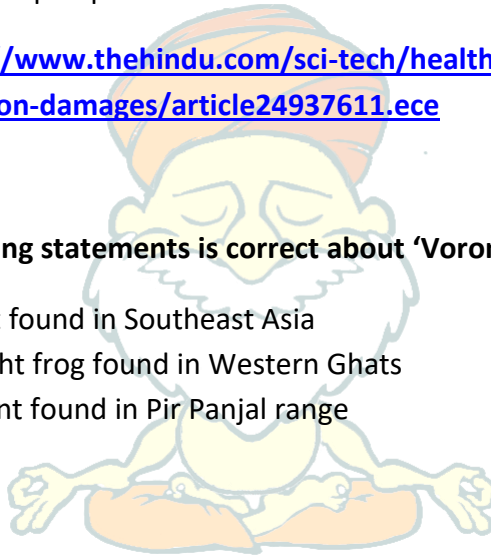
Q.44) Solution (d)

Johnson & Johnson's faulty hip implants

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/johnson-johnson-implant-government-forms-panel-on-damages/article24937611.ece>

Q.45) Which of the following statements is correct about 'Vorombe titan'?

- a) It is a species of ant found in Southeast Asia
- b) It is a species of night frog found in Western Ghats
- c) It is a medicinal plant found in Pir Panjal range
- d) None of the above



Q.45) Solution (d)

World's largest bird

Read More - <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/elephant-bird-vorombe-titan-named-largest-ever-bird/articleshow/65962342.cms>

Q.46) You often come across a term 'Probiotics' in news. Consider the following statements w.r.t it:

1. These are live bacteria found in certain foods or supplements.
2. Probiotics are known to be good for digestion and reducing diarrhea.
3. Yogurt is a kind of probiotic food.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Q.46) Solution (d)

Probiotics

- These are live bacteria found in certain foods or supplements. They can provide numerous health benefits.

There are also many probiotic foods that naturally contain helpful bacteria, such as yogurt.

A high-quality, plain yogurt with live cultures can be a fantastic addition to your diet if you want to add beneficial bacteria.

Fermented foods are another great option, as they contain beneficial bacteria that thrive on the naturally occurring sugar or fiber in the food.

Examples of fermented foods include:

- Sauerkraut.
- Kimchi.
- Kombucha tea.
- Kefir (dairy and non-dairy).
- Some types of pickles (non-pasteurized).
- Other pickled vegetables (non-pasteurized).

If you are going to eat fermented foods for their probiotic benefits, make sure they are not pasteurized, as this process kills the bacteria.

Prebiotics

- These substances come from types of carbs (mostly fiber) that humans can't digest. The beneficial bacteria in your gut eat this fiber.
- Prebiotics are types of fiber found in vegetables, fruits and legumes.

These types of fiber are not digestible by humans, but your good gut bacteria can digest them.

Foods that are high in prebiotic fiber include:

- Legumes, beans and peas.
- Oats.
- Bananas.
- Berries.
- Jerusalem artichokes (not the same as regular artichokes).
- Asparagus.
- Dandelion greens.
- Garlic.
- Leeks.
- Onions.

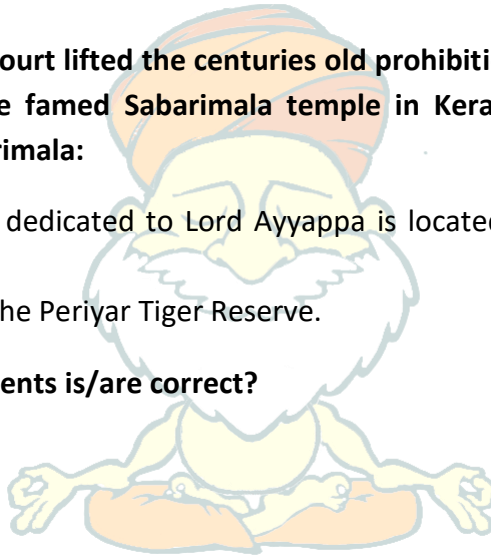
<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/health/probiotics-a-first-look-at-what-s-going-on-in-the-gut-61578>

Q.47) Recently Supreme Court lifted the centuries old prohibition on women from the age of menarche to enter the famed Sabarimala temple in Kerala. Consider the following statements regarding Sabarimala:

1. Sabarimala temple dedicated to Lord Ayyappa is located on the banks of the river Pamba.
2. It is located inside the Periyar Tiger Reserve.

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.47) Solution (c)

Both are correct.

The Sabarimala temple is a temple complex located at Sabarimala inside the Periyar Tiger Reserve in Pathanamthitta district, Kerala, India.

It is the site of the largest annual pilgrimage in the world with an estimate of between 17 million and 50 million devotees visiting every year.

The temple is dedicated to the Hindu celibate deity Ayyappan also known as Dharma Sastha, who according to belief is the son of Shiva and Mohini, the feminine incarnation of Vishnu.

The traditions of Sabarimala are a confluence of Shaivism, Shaktism, Vaishnavism, and other Śramaṇa traditions.

The Pamba River (also called Pampa river) is the third longest river in the South Indian state of Kerala after Periyar and Bharathappuzha and the longest river in the erstwhile princely state of Travancore. Sabarimala temple dedicated to Lord Ayyappa is located on the banks of the river Pamba. In old Hindu Epics, Pampa was Lord Brahma's daughter, who was later married to Lord Shiva.

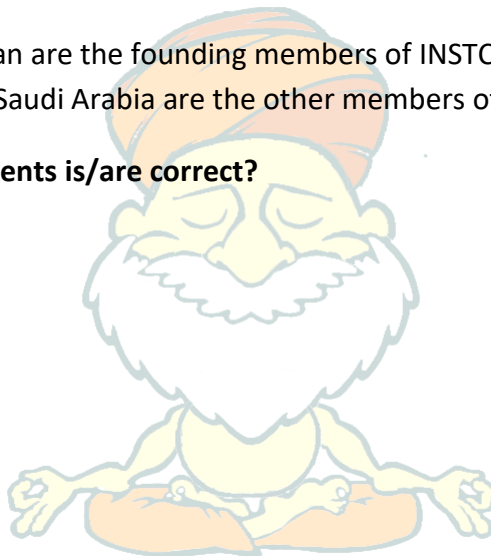
The river is also known as 'Dakshina Bhageerathi'. During ancient times it was called 'River Baris'.

Q.48) Consider the following statements regarding International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC):

1. India, Russia and Iran are the founding members of INSTC project
2. Turkey, Oman and Saudi Arabia are the other members of INSTC

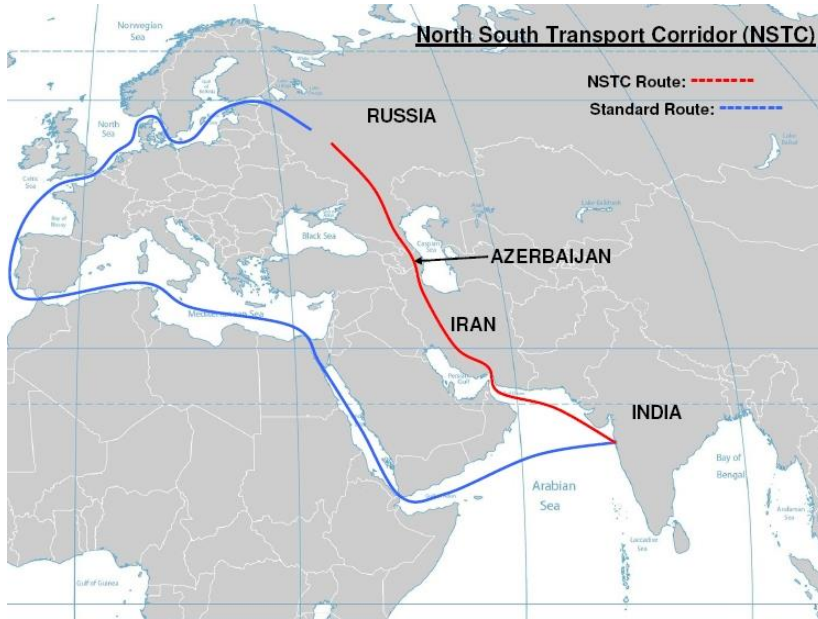
Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

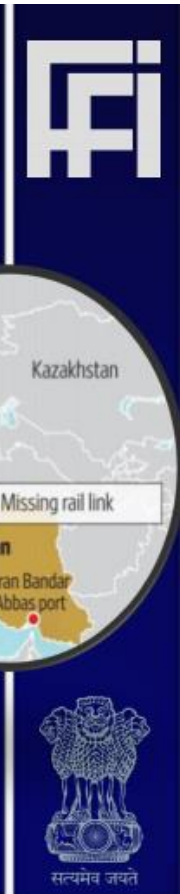
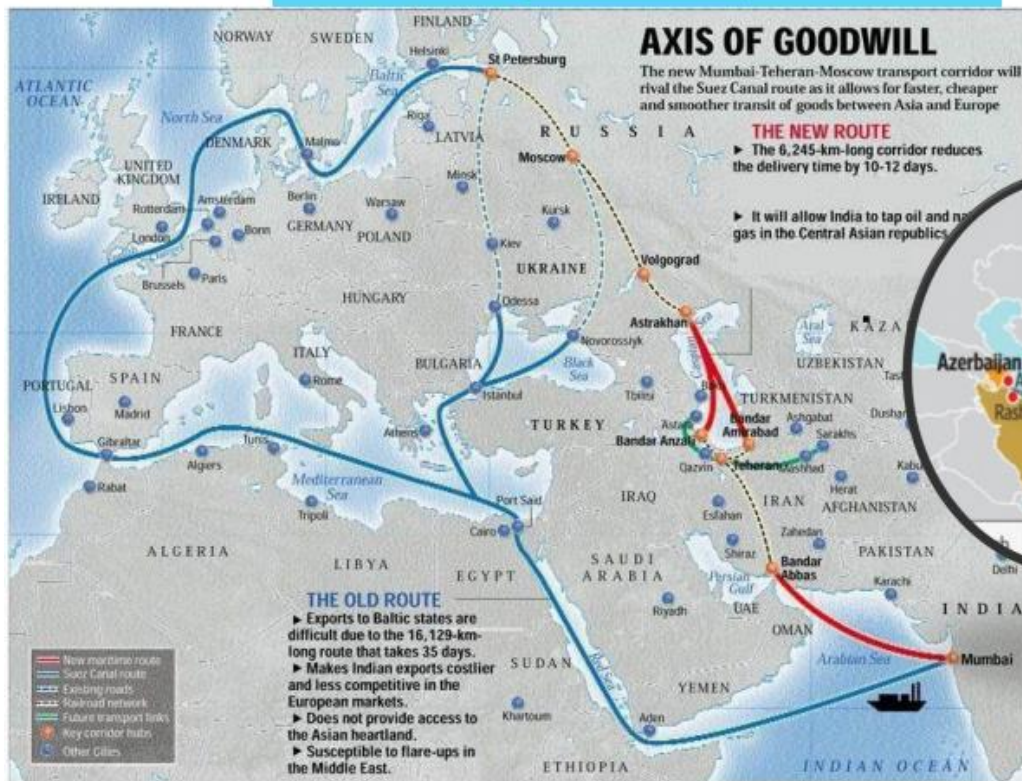


Q.48) Solution (a)

Remember these diagrams for INSTC. **Saudi Arab is not a member.**



INSTC



[https://fiata.com/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/recent_views/REU/International North South Transport Corridor .pdf](https://fiata.com/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/recent_views/REU/International_North_South_Transport_Corridor_.pdf)

Q.49) Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India case recently in news is related to:

- a) Child Trafficking
- b) Sedition
- c) Homosexuality
- d) Economic Reservation

Q.49) Solution (c)

In its decision in **Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India**, the Supreme Court has struck down the colonial-era law criminalising homosexuality and the lives of LGBTQ persons.

In its four concurring judgments, the court traversed the protections of fundamental rights in the Constitution to find that the provision violated the rights of LGBTQ persons to dignity, equality, privacy and expression.

<https://iasbaba.com/2018/09/rstv-section-377-decriminalised/>

<https://indiankanoon.org/doc/168671544/>

Q.50) Recently Supreme Court questioned the leprosy free tag of India. Consider the following statements regarding 'leprosy':

1. It is also known as Hansen's disease.
2. It is a chronic infectious disease caused by protozoan leprae.
3. The disease mainly affects the skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosal surfaces of the upper respiratory tract and the eyes.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Q.50) Solution (a)

Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is a chronic infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*. The disease mainly affects the skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosal surfaces of the upper respiratory tract and the eyes. Leprosy is known to occur at all ages

ranging from early infancy to very old age. Leprosy is curable and early treatment averts most disabilities.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/reality-different-in-leprosy-free-india-says-supreme-court/article24949051.ece>

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

1. It is a global inter-governmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.
2. It is the only global treaty to focus on one single ecosystem.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.51) Solution (c)

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, also known as the Ramsar Convention, is a global inter-governmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. It is the only global treaty to focus on one single ecosystem.

The Ramsar Convention is the only international treaty focused on wetlands. It provides a platform of 170 Contracting Parties working together for wetland conservation and wise use, and to develop the best available data, advice and policy recommendations to realize the benefits of fully functional wetlands to nature and society. Parties to the Convention have already committed to maintaining the ecological character of over 2,300 Wetlands of International Importance covering nearly 250million hectares, 13-18% of global wetlands.

Q.52) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Phumlenpat Lake - Meghalaya
2. Ameenpur Lake – Odisha
3. Loktak Lake – Manipur

Select the correct code:

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

Q.52) Solution (c)

Phumlenpat Lake - Manipur

Ameenpur Lake – Telangana

Loktak Lake – Manipur

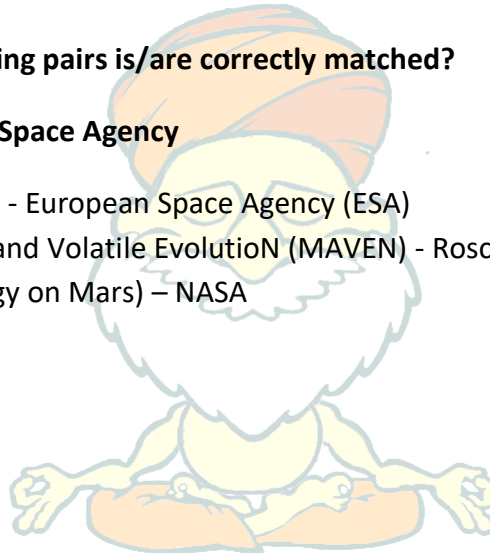
Q.53) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Mission to Mars	Space Agency
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1. Hope Mars Mission - European Space Agency (ESA)
2. Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) - Roscosmos
3. ExoMars (Exobiology on Mars) – NASA

Select the correct code:

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



Q.53) Solution (d)

The Hope Mars Mission also called Emirates Mars Mission, is a space exploration probe mission to Mars built by the United Arab Emirates and set for launch in 2020.

Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) mission was developed by NASA to study the Martian atmosphere while orbiting Mars. Mission goals include determining how the planet's atmosphere and water, presumed to have once been substantial, were lost over time.

ExoMars (Exobiology on Mars) is a two-part astrobiology project to search for evidence of life on Mars, a joint mission of the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Russian space agency Roscosmos.

Q.54) The term 'Oort Cloud' was in news recently. It is associated with

- a) Blockchain Technology
- b) Polar mesospheric clouds
- c) Icy objects that exist in the solar system
- d) Far Side of the Moon

Q.54) Solution (c)

The Oort cloud, named after the Dutch astronomer Jan Oort, sometimes called the Öpik–Oort cloud, is a hypothetical cloud of predominantly icy planetesimals proposed to surround the Sun at distances ranging from 2,000 to 200,000 AU (0.03 to 3.2 light-years). It is divided into two regions: a disc-shaped inner Oort cloud (or Hills cloud) and a spherical outer Oort cloud. Both regions lie beyond the heliosphere and in interstellar space. The Kuiper belt and the scattered disc, the other two reservoirs of trans-Neptunian objects, are less than one thousandth as far from the Sun as the Oort cloud.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/celestial-misfit/article24980187.ece>

Q.55) Consider the following statements with respect to 'HAL Tejas'

1. It is a delta wing multirole fighter jet
2. It is integrated with a fly-by-wire flight control system
3. It is powered with a General Electric F404 afterburning turbofan engine

Select the correct statements

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

Q.55) Solution (d)

The HAL Tejas is an Indian single-engine, multirole light fighter designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy. It came from the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme, which began in the 1980s to replace India's ageing MiG-21 fighters. In 2003, the LCA was officially named "Tejas".

Tejas has a tail-less compound delta-wing configuration with a single dorsal fin. This provides better high-alpha performance characteristics than conventional wing designs. Its wing root leading edge has a sweep of 50 degrees, the outer wing leading edge has a sweep of 62.5 degrees, and trailing edge has a forward sweep of four degrees. It integrates technologies such as relaxed static stability, fly-by-wire flight control system, multi-mode radar, integrated digital avionics system and composite material structures. It is the smallest and lightest in its class of contemporary supersonic combat aircraft.

It was intended to be powered by the GTRE GTX-35VS Kaveri, but had to be replaced with an off-the-shelf "foreign" engine, the General Electric F404.

Q.56) The exercise 'IOWave18' recently in news was conducted by:

- a) Indian Ocean Commission
- b) Indian Ocean Rim Association
- c) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
- d) United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea

Q.56) Solution (c)

India, along with 23 other Indian Ocean Nations, participated in a major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock exercise (drill) on 4th & 5th September, 2018.

The Exercise, known as IOWave18, was **organized by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO**, which coordinated the setting up of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS) in the aftermath of the 26 December 2004 tsunami.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183296>

Q.57) Consider the following

1. Medhar is a bamboo basket-making community in Karnataka.
2. Chola Naikar is a tribal community of Kerala.

Which of the given statement is/are correct?

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

Q.57) Solution (c)

Both are correct.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/bamboo-a-promising-crop-for-progressive-farmers/article24910099.ece>

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

Q.58) The project launch of the Green Agriculture project jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) deals with:

1. Addressing Biodiversity Conservation
2. Renewable Energy Use
3. Climate Change Mitigation
4. Sustainable Forest Management

Select the correct code:

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

Q.58) Solution (c)

The project aims to transform agricultural production to generate global environmental benefits by **addressing biodiversity conservation, land degradation, climate change mitigation and sustainable forest management.**

<http://www.fao.org/india/news/detail-events/en/c/1153806/>

Q.59) Germany launched World's first hydrogen-powered train recently. Consider the following statements in this regard:

1. It uses fuel cells that produce electricity through a combination of hydrogen and oxygen, leaving behind only water and steam as residue.
2. It produces zero-emission unlike other fossil based fuels.

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.59) Solution (c)

It uses fuel cells that produce electricity through a combination of hydrogen and oxygen, leaving behind water and steam.

Hydrogen produced via electrolysis commonly costs roughly the same as natural gas and almost double that of diesel fuel; however, unlike either of these fossil-based fuels, hydrogen propulsion produces zero emissions.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/germany-rolls-out-worlds-first-hydrogen-train/article24969856.ece>

Q.60) International Seapower Symposium (ISS) which was held recently is organized by:

- a) Indian Ocean Naval Symposium
- b) RIM Association
- c) US Navy
- d) UNCLOS

Q.60) Solution (c)

Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee and the Chief of the Naval Staff visited Rhode Island, USA on a bilateral visit from 18 to 22 September 2018 for attending the **23rd edition of the International Seapower Symposium (ISS) organised by the US Navy.**

The biennial ISS was first held in 1969 in Newport and was designed to allow naval leaders from around the world to meet and discuss common issues they faced, how to address these issues, and ultimately find solutions for them.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183539>

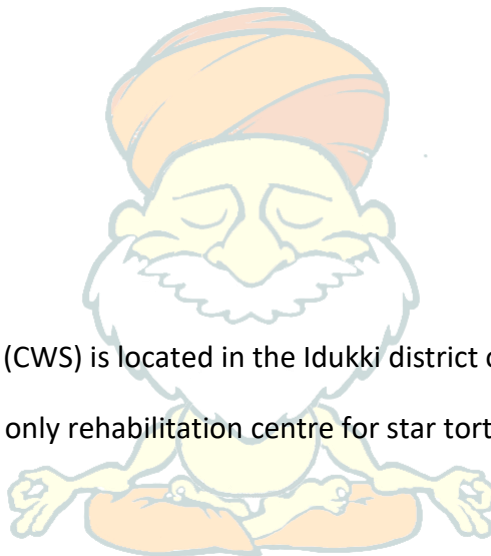
Q.61) In which of the following states is 'Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary' located?

- a) Manipur
- b) Nagaland
- c) Kerala
- d) Karnataka

Q.61) Solution (c)

Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) is located in the Idukki district of Kerala.

It has earned the name for only rehabilitation centre for star tortoise in India.

**Q.62) Consider the following statements with respect to 'International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)'**

1. It was launched at the Fourteenth Conference of the Parties (CoP 14 – 2018) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
2. The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) has declared the year 2018 as the International Year of the Reef (IYOR 2018)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.62) Solution (b)

The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) is an informal partnership among nations, international organisations and non-government organisations to help protect coral reefs globally. It aims to implement Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, Aichi Target 10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity's 10-year Strategic Plan, and other relevant internationally agreed objectives and targets.

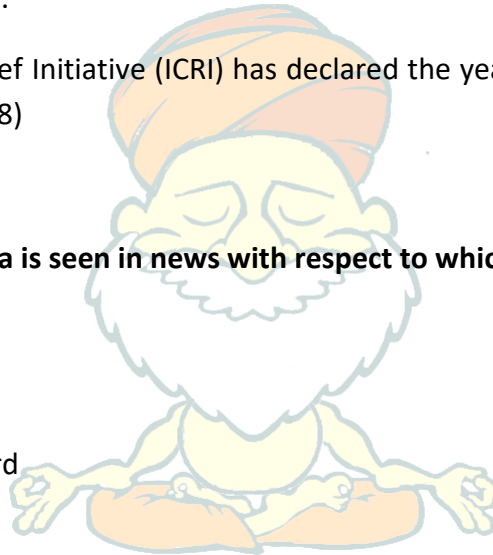
It is the "only global entity solely devoted to coral reefs".

ICRI was established in 1994 at the initiative of eight founding nations: Australia, France, Japan, Jamaica, the Philippines, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. It was launched at the First Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in the Bahamas in December 1994, and subsequently announced at the high level segment of the Intersessional Meeting of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development in April 1995.

The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) has declared the year 2018 as the International Year of the Reef (IYOR 2018)

Q.63) The Umru-Tyrso area is seen in news with respect to which of the following species?

- a) Forest Owlet
- b) Amur Falcons
- c) Helmeted Hornbill
- d) Great Indian Bustard

**Q.63) Solution (b)**

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

Q.64) The 'Red Line Campaign' is associated with

- a) Anti-Microbial Resistance
- b) Fluoride Contamination
- c) Antiretroviral therapy
- d) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Q.64) Solution (a)

The Union health ministry's Anti-Microbial Resistance awareness campaign urges people not to use medicines marked with a red vertical line, including antibiotics, without a doctor's prescription. These medicines are called as the 'Medicines with the Red Line'.

Q.65) The term 'RedShift' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of

- a) Phenomenon where electromagnetic radiation from an object undergoes an increase in wavelength
- b) Study of the solar and the lunar eclipses
- c) Placing satellites in the orbit of the Earth
- d) Origin and evolution of living organisms on the Earth

Q.65) Solution (a)

In physics, redshift is a phenomenon where electromagnetic radiation (such as light) from an object undergoes an increase in wavelength. Whether or not the radiation is visible, "redshift" means an increase in wavelength, equivalent to a decrease in wave frequency and photon energy, in accordance with, respectively, the wave and quantum theories of light.

Q.66) Central American countries are often in news because of migration issue. Consider the following regarding Central American countries:

Which of the following borders Pacific Ocean as well as Caribbean Sea?

- 1. Honduras
- 2. Belize
- 3. Nicaragua
- 4. El Salvador

Select the correct code:

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

Q.66) Solution (a)



Q.67) 21 countries in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) recently adopted the Delhi Declaration. It is related to which of the following?

- a) Anti-microbial resistance
- b) Tackling pirates in Indian Ocean Region.
- c) Renewable Energy in the Indian Ocean Region.
- d) Port connectivity in the Indian Ocean Region.

Q.67) Solution (c)

21 IORA Countries adopt the Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy; To Collaborate with ISA Member Countries

The Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy in the Indian Ocean Region calls for collaboration among IORA member states in meeting the growing demand for renewable energy in the Indian Ocean littorals, development of a common renewable energy agenda for the Indian Ocean region and promote regional capacity building.

The declaration also calls for promotion of technology development and transfer, strengthening of public private partnerships in renewable energy and collaboration among IORA member states and the member nations of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

IORA member countries also resolved to collaborate with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

<https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/21-iora-countries-adopt-the-delhi-declaration-on-renewable-energy-to-tie-up-with-isa-members/1337800/>

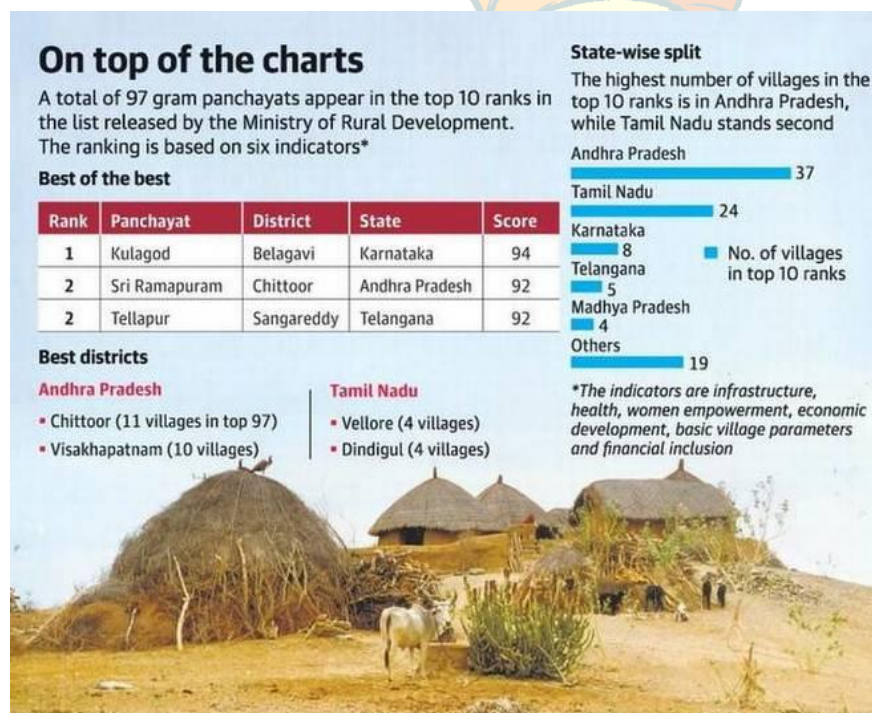
Q.68) Which village beat 3.5 lakh gram panchayats across the country to emerge as the best rural local body under the Antyodaya scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development?

- Tellapur, Telangana
- Vellor, Tamil Nadu
- Kulagod, Karnataka
- Sri Ramapuram, Andhra Pradesh

Q.68) Solution (c)

Rural Development Ministry conducts a gap analysis of more than 3.5 lakh villages in the country.

Kuligod in Karnataka's Belagavi district is the country's best developed village, but more than a third of the gram panchayats ranked in the top 10 are in Andhra Pradesh, according to the findings of Rural Development Ministry survey.



<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/how-kulgod-wrested-the-best-village-tag/article25266548.ece>

Q.69) Which country is planning to launch its own 'artificial moon' by 2020 to replace streetlamps and lower electricity costs in urban areas?

- a) USA
- b) France
- c) Russia
- d) China

Q.69) Solution (d)

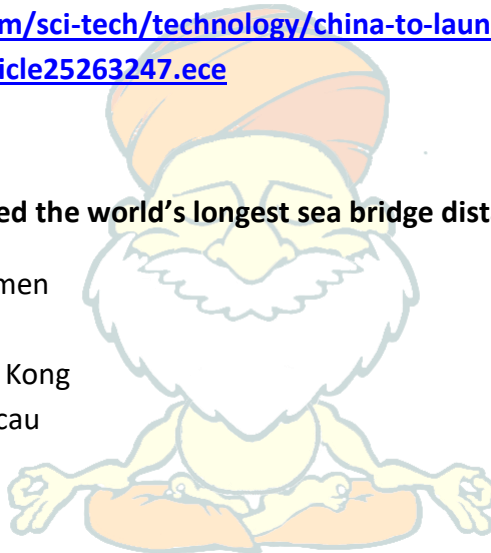
China is planning to launch its own 'artificial moon' by 2020 to replace streetlamps and lower electricity costs in urban areas. Chengdu, a city in southwestern Sichuan province, is developing "illumination satellites" which will shine in tandem with the real moon, but are eight times brighter.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/china-to-launch-man-made-moons-to-lower-electricity-costs/article25263247.ece>

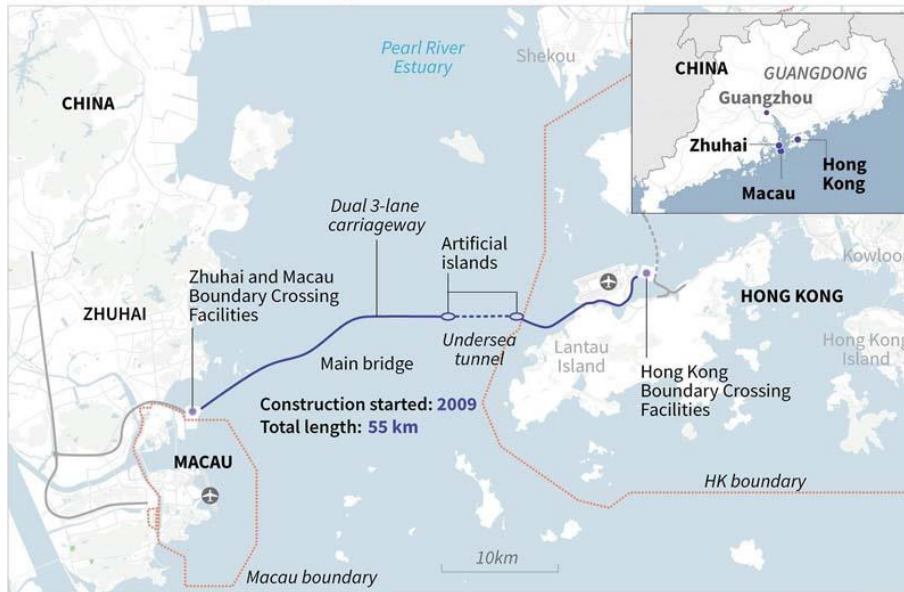
Q.70) China has inaugurated the world's longest sea bridge distancing 55km. It connects:

- a) Hong Kong and Xiamen
- b) Xiamen and Macau
- c) Zhangjian and Hong Kong
- d) Hong Kong and Macau

Q.70) Solution (d)



The Zhuhai-Hong Kong-Macau bridge project



Source: Highways Department Hong Kong

© AFP

<https://indianexpress.com/article/world/world-longest-sea-bridge-55-km-china-macau-zhuhai-hong-kong-5120134/>

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

Tribes	State
--------	-------

1. Malamandaram - Kerala
2. Maldhari - Gujarat
3. Jatapus – Uttarakhand

Select the correct code:

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

Q.71) Solution (b)

Malamandaram - Kerala

Maldhari - Gujarat

Jatapus – Andhra Pradesh and Odisha

Q.72) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Diseases Vector

1. Yellow Fever - Aedes Mosquito
2. West Nile virus – Culex Mosquito
3. Kala Azhar – Sandfly

Select the correct code:

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

Q.72) Solution (d)

All are correctly matched.

Q.73) Which of the following countries/groupings are signatories of the 'INF Treaty'?

- a) All the Axis Powers of World War 2
- b) Soviet Union, and the United States
- c) All the Allied Powers of the World War 2
- d) The Big Four - Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States and China

Q.73) Solution (b)

The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty, formally Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles is an arms control treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union (and its successor state, the Russian Federation). U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev signed the treaty on 8 December 1987. The United States Senate approved the treaty on 27 May 1988, and Reagan and Gorbachev ratified it on 1 June 1988.

President Donald Trump announced on 20 October 2018 that he was withdrawing the U.S. from the treaty, accusing Russia of non-compliance. The U.S. formally suspended the treaty on 1 February 2019, and Russia did so the on following day in response to the U.S. withdrawal.

Q.74) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Global Geoparks Network (GGN) is a UNESCO assisted network established in 1998.
2. There are no Global Geoparks in India

Select the correct statements

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

Q.74) Solution (c)

Global Geoparks Network (GGN)

- It is a UNESCO assisted network established in 1998.
- Managed under the body's Ecological and Earth Sciences Division, the GGN seeks the promotion and conservation of the planet's geological heritage, as well as encourages the sustainable research and development by the concerned communities.
- List - <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/unesco-global-geoparks/list-of-unesco-global-geoparks/>
- There is no Geopark in India as of now.
- An aspiring Global Geopark must have a dedicated website, a corporate identity, comprehensive management plan, protection plans, finance, and partnerships for it to be accepted.

Q.75) The 'Palu-Koro Fault' is a lateral strike-slip fault zone in

- a) Northern Africa
- b) Patagonia
- c) Indonesia
- d) Scandinavia

Q.75) Solution (c)

The Palu-Koro Fault or Palu-Koro Fault System is a major active NNW-SSE trending left-lateral strike-slip fault zone on the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia. It caused the 2018 Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami.

Q.76) The 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded jointly to two scientists for their breakthrough work in the field of:

- a) HIV
- b) Tuberculosis
- c) Cancer
- d) Alzheimer

Q.76) Solution (c)

The 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded jointly to **two cancer immunotherapy researchers, James P. Allison**, PhD, of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, and **Dr. Tasuku Honjo** of Kyoto University in Japan.

Allison and Honjo were honored for their work on uncovering ways to activate the immune system to attack cancer, a breakthrough in developing new cancer treatments.

The discoveries of Honjo and Allison led to the development of several drugs which allow for the routine use of effective immunotherapy.

Both researchers are being recognized for their work in the 1990s. The two worked separately during their careers to show **how certain proteins prevent immune cells called T cells from attacking other cells in the body.**

Q.77) Consider the following statements regarding Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions:

1. The Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), is a global network of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) administrative bodies set up to promote, protect and monitor human rights in a given country.
2. The Year 2018 was celebrated as 25th anniversary for the adoption of the Paris Principles by the General Assembly and the creation of GANHRI.

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 (c)

Both the statements are correct.

Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), a UN body based in Geneva, re-accredited India's apex rights watchdog NHRC with the 'A' status in 2018. NHRC completed its 25 years too.

<https://theprint.in/india/governance/nhrc-turns-25-and-thats-pretty-much-all-it-has-achieved/132716/>

Q.78) Consider the following regarding the recent 'Agriculture Census' of India:

1. There are more people who own smaller parcels of agricultural land.
2. The percentage of land holders who are women has increased as compared to last census.
3. The current Agriculture Census with reference year 2015-16 is tenth in the series.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Q.78) Solution (d)

The number of small and marginal agricultural land holdings in the country (known as operational holdings) has registered a marginal increase in 2015-16 compared to 2010-11, according to the tenth agricultural census. This means that there are more people who now own smaller parcels of agricultural land.

In a positive development, the percentage of land holders who are women has increased from 12.79% in 2010-11 to 13.87% in 2015-16, with a corresponding increase of 1.2 percentage points in the operated area. **"This shows that more and more females are participating in the management and operation of agricultural lands"**

The Agriculture Census in India is conducted at five yearly intervals to collect data on structural aspects of operational holdings in the country. The Agriculture Census programme is carried out in three phases at five yearly intervals with cooperation of States/UTs. The Government of India provides a financial and administrative support as well as all technical guidance to States/UTs required for Census operations. In each State/UT a nucleus staff of the State Government, designated as State Agriculture Census Unit is

responsible for coordinating the activities of Agriculture Census Programme at the State/UT level.

- The reference period for Agriculture Census is the Agricultural year (July-June).
- The first comprehensive Agriculture Census in the country was conducted with reference year 1970-71.
- So far, nine Agriculture Censuses have been conducted in the country.
- The current Agriculture Census with reference year 2015-16 is tenth in the series.

The small and marginal holdings taken together (0.00-2.00 ha) constituted 86.21% in 2015-16 against 84.97% in 2010-11 while their share in the operated area stood 47.34% in the current census as against 44.31% in 2010-11.

Semi-medium and Medium operational holdings (2.00-10.00 ha) in 2015-16 were only 13.22% with 43.61% operated area. The corresponding figures for 2010-11 census was 14.29% and 44.82%.

The large holdings (10.00 ha & above) were merely 0.57% of total number of holdings in 2015-16 and had a share of 9.04% in the operated area as against 0.71% and 10.59% respectively for 2010-11 census.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/agriculture/indian-farms-getting-smaller/article25113177.ece>

Q.79) Consider the following regarding recently launched 'Udyam Abhilasha':

1. It is a National Level Entrepreneurship Development programme targeted for empowering art forms in people living in Tribal areas.
2. It was launched by TRIFED on the occasion of birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

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.79) Solution (d)

On the occasion of Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi i.e. October 02, 2018, **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, had launched a **National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign, Udyam Abhilasha** in 115 Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog in 28 States and reaching to around 15,000 youth.

SIDBI will join to contribute to “the transformation mission” unleashed for these districts. The campaign would be running parallelly from 3rd October to 8th October, 2018 across India.

The campaign would create and strengthen cadre of more than 800 trainers to provide entrepreneurship training to the aspiring youths across these districts thus encouraging them to enter the admired segment of entrepreneurs.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183911>

Q.80) Consider the following regarding ‘Abilympics’:

1. Abilympics are vocational skills competitions specifically designed for disabled individuals persons with disabilities to enable them to expose their unique talents.
2. The first Abilympics competition was held in Tokyo in 1981 to commemorate the United Nations’ International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP).
3. Abilympics takes place every four years, governed under the International Abilympic Federation, Japan.

Select the correct statements

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



Q.80) Solution (d)

All the statements are correct.

IndiaSkills, 2018, the country’s biggest skill competition recently concluded in Delhi. It was the second edition of the nationwide skill competition organised by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India.

It seeks to identify, recognise, promote and reward the best talents in various skills. It also working at recognising best talents of various trades and providing them with training to make them able to participate in **45th WorldSkills Competition at Kazan, Russia in 2019.**

A number of Divyangs also participated in the competition and the winners will take part at the **World level in Abilympics in China.**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184009>

Q.81) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)'

1. It is a statutory body
2. It is chaired by the Governor of 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.81) Solution (d)

The FSDC is headed by the Finance Minister and comprises the RBI Governor, the SEBI Chairman, and heads of regulators such as PFRDA, IRDAI and the Chairman of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board.

It is not a statutory body.

Q.82) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The number of tax returns filed in FY 2017-18 have increased from 3.79 crore in FY 2013-14 to 6.85 crore showing 80% growth in tax base.
2. The number of taxpayers reporting income greater than ₹1 crore has decreased in FY 2017-18 compared to FY 2013-14.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.82) Solution (a)

The number of tax returns filed has surged to 6.85 crore in FY 2017-18, an 80% growth since FY 2013-14.

The number of taxpayers reporting income greater than ₹1 crore has reached 1,40,139, an increase of 60% between assessment year (AY) 2014-15 and 2017-18.

Collections have grown at a decent compound rate of about 13% per annum.

The average income reported by rich Indians (those in the highest tax slab) has decreased. The share of the richest top 1% in the total tax collected has decreased by almost four percentage points.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/who-pays-taxes-and-who-doesnt/article25363404.ece>

Q.83) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to 'BreatheLife Campaign'

1. It is a partnership of World Health Organisation, UN Environment and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition
2. It aims to increase awareness and action on air pollution by governments and individuals.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.83) Solution (c)

BreatheLife is a joint campaign led by the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Environment and the Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to mobilize cities and individuals to protect our health and planet from the effects of air pollution.

The campaign combines public health and climate change expertise with guidance on implementing solutions to air pollution in support of global development goals.

The campaign aims to support the leadership, policy and technical work of the WHO, UN Environment and the Coalition in advancing three core strategic goals:

- Engage city, subnational and national governments to commit to achieving WHO Air Quality Guidelines by 2030
- Halve the number of air pollution related deaths by 2030
- Slow the pace of climate change by 0.5 degrees Celsius by 2050

Q.84) 'Miging Island' was in news recently. Where is it located?

- a) Bering Sea
- b) Lake Victoria
- c) South China Sea
- d) Mediterranean Sea

Q.84) Solution (b)

Miging Island

- It is claimed both by Kenya and Uganda
- It is a 2,000-square-metre island, in Lake Victoria

Q.85) 'Exercise Dharma Guardian' is a bilateral exercise between India and

- a) Japan
- b) Australia
- c) Russia
- d) France

Q.85) Solution (a)

Exercise Dharma Guardian

To promote Military cooperation, India and Japan are all set to hold the first ever joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN-2018' involving the Indian Army and Japan Ground Self Defence Force.

Q.86) 'Moscow Format' refers to

- a) Afghan Crisis
- b) Two State Solution
- c) UNSC Reforms
- d) Korean Dispute

Q.86) Solution (a)

'Moscow format' is a Russian initiative, seen as a significant move to finding a regional solution to the protracted Afghan war.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/salvaging-a-strategic-partnership/article25172539.ece>

Q.87) 'World Economic Outlook (WEO)' is published by

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

Q.87) Solution (b)

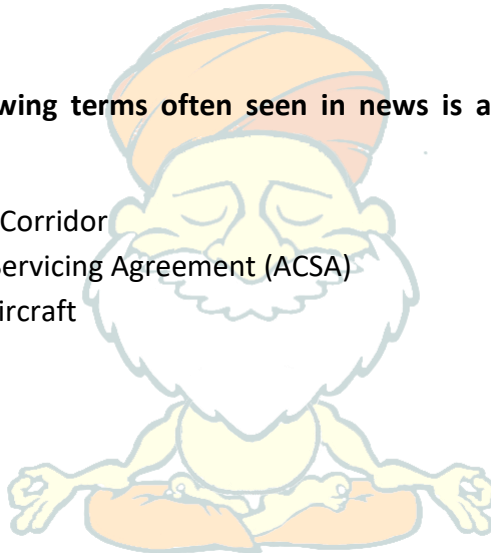
It is published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Q.88) Which of the following terms often seen in news is associated with India-Japan partnership?

- 1. Asia-Africa Growth Corridor
- 2. Acquisition, Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)
- 3. US-2i amphibious aircraft

Select the correct code:

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



Q.88) Solution (d)

The Asia-Africa Growth Corridor or AAGC is an economic cooperation agreement between the governments of India, Japan and multiple African countries.

ACSA - <https://thediomat.com/2018/10/india-japan-begin-negotiations-over-military-base-sharing-agreement/>

US-2i amphibious aircraft -
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/india-may-agree-to-buy-japanese-us2i-aircraft-for-13-b/article9854479.ece>

Q.89) 'J.S. Verma Committee' was constituted in association with

- a) Sexual assault against women
- b) Shell Companies
- c) Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework
- d) Anti-Profiteering Committee

Q.89) Solution (a)

J.S. Verma Committee

- It was constituted to recommend amendments to the Criminal Law so as to provide for quicker trial and enhanced punishment for criminals accused of committing sexual assault against women.
- It made recommendations on laws related to rape, sexual harassment, trafficking, child sexual abuse, medical examination of victims, police, electoral and educational reforms.
- It was formed in the aftermath of the December 16 Nirbhaya gangrape in 2012.

Q.90) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)'

1. It is implemented as response to degrading level of air pollution.
2. It is implemented by the Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA).
3. It is part of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.90) Solution (a)

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for Delhi and NCR

- A graded response lays down stratified actions that are required to be taken as and when the concentration of pollutants, in this case particulate matter, reaches a certain level.
- The plan puts governments under the lens and holds out the promise of improvement in air quality.

- The actions are to be implemented in the entire NCR. Besides, action related to stubble burning is to be implemented by Government of Punjab.
- It comprises measures such as prohibition on entry of trucks into Delhi; ban on construction activities, introduction of odd and even scheme for private vehicles, shutting of schools, closure of brick kilns, hot mix plants and stone crushers; shutting down of Badarpur power plant, ban on diesel generator sets, garbage burning in landfills and plying of visibly polluting vehicles etc.
- The plan was prepared by the Supreme Court-mandated Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA)

Q.91) Floating rate bonds are:

- a) Bonds with variable interest rate with a fixed percentage over the benchmark rate.
- b) Bonds for which interest rate is pegged to the changes in exchange rate of Rupee.
- c) Bonds for which interest rate changes according to inflation.
- d) None of the above.

Q.91) Solution (a)

Floating rate bonds are with variable interest rate with a fixed percentage over the benchmark rate.

Capital Indexed bonds are Bonds for which interest rate changes according to inflation.

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

1. Nanjanagud banana – Karnataka
2. Kachai Lemon – Maharashtra
3. Vengurla Cashew – Kerala

Select the correct code:

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

Q.92) Solution (a)

Nanjanagud banana – Karnataka

Kachai Lemon – Manipur

Vengurla Cashew – Maharashtra

Q.93) 'The Global Investment Trends Monitor' is published by

- a) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- b) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- c) World Bank (WB)
- d) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Q.93) Solution (a)

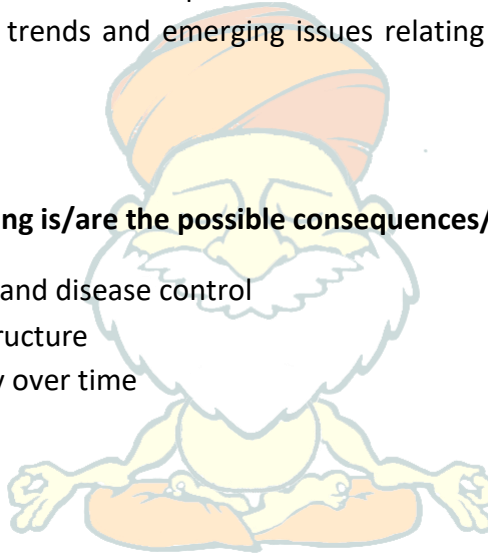
The Global Investment Trends Monitor provides the international community with up-to-date data and analysis on trends and emerging issues relating to FDI and the activities of multinational enterprises.

Q.94) Which of the following is/are the possible consequences/of stubble burning?

- 1. Assist weed, insect and disease control
- 2. Reduction in soil structure
- 3. Can increase acidity over time

Select the correct code:

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



Q.94) Solution (d)

Advantages of burning

- Cheap
- Quick and easy
- Can assist weed, insect and disease control
- Reduced nitrogen tie-up

Disadvantages of burning

- Loss of nutrients

- Loss of carbon
- Impact on soil microbes and fauna
- Reduction in soil structure (soil aggregate stability)
- Increase in erosion (wind and water)
- Can increase acidity over time

Q.95) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Malta Fever'

1. It is a zoonotic disease
2. It is caused by the a virus
3. In humans it is usually associated with consumption of unpasteurized milk from the milk of infected animals

Select the correct statements

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

Q.95) Solution (c)

Brucellosis is a highly contagious zoonosis caused by ingestion of unpasteurized milk or undercooked meat from infected animals, or close contact with their secretions. It is also known as undulant fever, Malta fever, and Mediterranean fever.

Brucella species are small, Gram-negative, nonmotile, non-spore-forming, rod-shaped (coccobacilli) bacteria.



Q.96) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Electoral Bonds'

1. It can only be purchased by an Individual and not buy any firm or a company
2. Electoral Bonds cannot be purchased multiple times by same applicant

Select the correct statements

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

Q.96) Solution (d)**Can Electoral Bonds be purchased multiple times by same Applicant?**

- Yes. Every application will be treated as fresh request for Electoral Bonds purchase and every time fresh KYC documents will be given.

The Electoral Bonds under this Scheme may be purchased by a Person, who is a Citizen of India or Incorporated or Established in India.

The definition of "Person" includes-

- an Individual;
- a Hindu Undivided Family;
- a Company;
- a Firm;
- an Association of Persons or a Body of Individuals, whether incorporated or not;
- every Artificial Juridical Person, not falling within any of the preceding subclauses; and
- any Agency, Office or Branch owned or controlled by such person

Read More - https://www.onlinesbi.com/documents/27022018_2032_FAQ_Final.pdf

Q.97) India's external debt is on decline from past few months. The major components of India's external debt in increasing order are:

- a) External Commercial Borrowing < NRI deposits < Short-term trade credits
- b) NRI deposits < External Commercial Borrowing < Short-term trade credits
- c) External Commercial Borrowing < Short-term trade credits < NRI deposits
- d) Short-term trade credits < NRI deposits < External Commercial Borrowing

Q.97) Solution (d)

Commercial borrowings continued to be the largest component of external debt with a share of 37.1 per cent, followed by NRI deposits (23.9 per cent) and short-term trade credits (19.9 per cent).

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/indias-external-debt-declines-2-8-per-cent-514-4-billion-at-end-june-rbi/articleshow/65997118.cms>

Q.98) Match the following**Nomadic Community**

1. Gaddis::
2. Bakarwal::
3. Charan::

Places

- Himachal Pradesh
Jammu and Kashmir
Gujarat

Select the correct code:

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

Q.98) Solution (d)

All are correctly matched.

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/climate-change/climate-change-in-india-mountains-play-hocus-focus-in-himachal-pradesh-61874>

Q.99) In which of the following places will you find 'Desierto florido'?

- a) Himalayas
- b) Saragaso Sea
- c) Atacama Desert
- d) Great Barrier Reef

**Q.99) Solution (c)**

In news: "Desierto florido", or flowering desert, returned to the **Atacama Desert in Chile**, the earth's driest place, some four years before the usual time.

A desert bloom is a climatic phenomenon that occurs when unusually high rainfall awakens seeds, bulbs and rhizomes that have been dormant in deserts for years, sometimes even decades. This results in a stunning blossoming of flowers that create a burst of color all over the land.

Desert blooms have been seen in several parts of the world, albeit rather infrequently. The places where it's most common are Australia, Arizona in the U.S., and the Atacama Desert in northern Chile.



<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/climate-change/the-21st-century-lore-of-atacama-61800>

Q.100) The term 'Migrant Caravan' is associated with:

- a) Middle East Region
- b) Central American Region
- c) South East Asian Region
- d) Central Asian Region

Q.100) Solution (b)

Thousands of migrants have arrived at the US-Mexico border after travelling more than 4,000km (2,500 miles) **from Central America.**

- They say they are fleeing persecution, poverty and violence in their home countries of Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador.
- Many of them say their goal is to settle in the US despite warnings by US officials that anyone found entering the country illegally will face arrest, prosecution and deportation.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-45951782>

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

1. It is a by-product of the production of coke from coal
2. It occurs naturally in crude oil

Select the correct statements

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

Q.101) Solution (c)

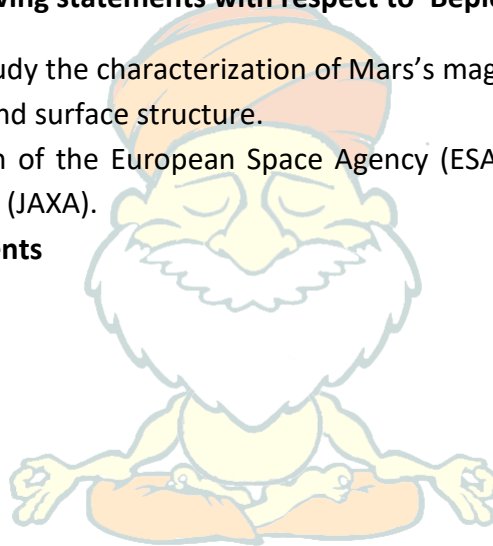
Toluene occurs naturally at low levels in crude oil and is a byproduct in the production of gasoline by a catalytic reformer or ethylene cracker; It is also a byproduct of the production of coke from coal.

Q.102) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bepicolombo'

1. It is a mission to study the characterization of Mars's magnetic field, magnetosphere, and both interior and surface structure.
2. It is a joint mission of the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

Select the correct statements

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

**Q.102) Solution (b)**

BepiColombo is a joint mission of the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) to the planet Mercury. The mission comprises two satellites launched together: the Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO) and Mio (Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter, MMO). The mission will perform a comprehensive study of Mercury, including characterization of its magnetic field, magnetosphere, and both interior and surface structure.

Q.103) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO)'

1. It is an autonomous self-regulatory body under the aegis of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
2. It is aimed at enhancing consumer confidence in various housing & real estate projects

Select the correct statements

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

Q.103) Solution (c)

The National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) was established self-regulatory body in 1998 under the aegis of Housing And Urban Affairs.

Aimed at enhancing consumer confidence in various housing & real estate projects, NAREDCO with the help of leading rating agencies promotes rating of developers and their projects on various parameters including title of property, financial resources, track record of timely completion of project, quality control, pricing mechanism, deliverance etc.

Read More - <http://www.naredco.in/aboutus.asp?links=ab1>

Q.104) The term 'Panduaraguddum', refers to

- a) A pulley to draw water from the well
- b) Ancient Egyptian funerary rituals
- c) UNESCO Heritage destroyed by ISIS in Syria
- d) None of the above

Q.104) Solution (d)

Panduaraguddum

News: 18 dolmenoid cists (burial places) surrounded by slab circles on a big granite hill locally called 'Panduaraguddum' were found in Anantpur, A.P.

Highlights

- This megalithic site was recorded about two decades ago
- The site has innumerable traces of megalithic habitational settlements as well as burials.
- One of the huge dolmenoid cist is surrounded by three slab circles and the outer two circles are flat topped and small in size resembling the pattern of Iralabanda-megalithic site in Chittoor
- The third inner circle consists a unique anthropomorphic statue with a semi- circular head without any sensory organs with a sharp protruding edge on both sides resembling a shoulder.
- On the back of this statue two half anthropomorphic statues are found resembling fore limbs.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/study-throws-light-on-megalithic-site/article25162047.ece>

Q.105) The 'Model Concessionaire Agreement (MCA)' is often seen in the context of

- a) Goods and Services Tax (GST)
- b) Initial Public Offering (IPO)
- c) Public Private Partnership (PPP)
- d) Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)

Q.105) Solution (c)

Model Concession Agreement (MCA)

- It forms the core of public private partnership (PPP) projects in India. The MCA spells out the policy and regulatory framework for implementation of a PPP project.
- It addresses a gamut of critical issues pertaining to a PPP framework like mitigation and unbundling of risks; allocation of risks and returns; symmetry of obligations between the principal parties; precision and predictability of costs & obligations; reduction of transaction costs and termination. The MCA allocates risk to parties best suited to manage them.
- The Model Concession Agreements for various sectors like National Highways, State Highways, Urban Rail Transit System and Ports are available.

Q.106) Which of the following is located at the confluence of the Western and Eastern Ghats?

- a) Shevaroy Hills
- b) B R Hills
- c) Kolli Hills
- d) Javadi Hills

Q.106) Solution (b)

The Biligirirangana Hills, commonly called BR Hills, is a hill range situated in south-eastern Karnataka, at its border with Tamil Nadu (Erode District) in South India. The area is called Biligiriranganatha Swamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary or simply **BRT Wildlife Sanctuary**.

- It is a protected reserve under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.
- **Being at the confluence of the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats**, the sanctuary is home to eco-systems that are unique to both the mountain ranges.
- The site was declared a tiger reserve in January 2011 by the Karnataka government, a few months after approval from India's National Tiger Conservation Authority

Jindhagada is the highest mountain in the Eastern Ghats situated in Araku, district Vishakapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

The famous temple Malai Mahadeshwara Hills Temple is situated in Chamarajanagar District in the Karnataka state on the Eastern Ghat.

According to a study published in 2018, the forest cover of the Eastern Ghats has shrunk drastically since 1920 and several plant species endemic to this region face the threat of extinction.

Eastern Ghats spread across Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu lost almost 16% of its forest area over a span of 100 years. The forest cover was 43.4% in 1920, now it reduced to 27.5% in 2015

For more refer to this link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/eastern-ghats-face-loss-of-forest-cover-endemic-plants/article25144684.ece>

Q.107) Consider the following statements regarding 'INVEST INDIA':

1. Invest India is government owned company under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
2. It is a National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India and act as the first point of reference for investors in India.

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.107) Solution (b)

An investment promotion agency (is not-for-profit Company) in which the government has 49% equity, the rest is equally divided among three industry bodies — CII, FICCI and NASSCOM — thereby technically making it a private entity. While the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) has a 43.5% stake in the agency, 5.5% has been transferred to 11 states (0.5% each)

Invest India wins UN award for excellence in promoting investments in sustainable development

- The awards, organised by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), honour investment promotion agencies (IPAs) and their governments for their achievements, but also showcase best practices in attracting investment into Sustainable Development Goals-related projects that can inspire investment promotion practitioners in developing and developed countries.
- Invest India received the award for excellence in servicing and supporting a major global wind turbines company in the establishment of a blade manufacturing plant in India while committing to train local staff and produce 1 gigawatt of renewable energy, according to an official statement.

<https://img.etimg.com/photo/61165152/untitled-4.jpg>

Q.108) Select the correct statement w.r.t 'Sierra Leone':

- a) It is a country on the southwest coast of West Africa.
- b) It is a country on the southeast coast of West Africa.
- c) It is a country on the southwest coast of East Africa.
- d) It is a country on the southwest coast of North Africa.

Q.108) Solution (a)

Read the options carefully and use common sense to arrive at correct answer.

Q.109) Select the correct statement regarding 'Solicitor General of India':

- a) The main role of the Solicitor General is to appear in courts on behalf of the Government of India.
- b) The post of the Solicitor General is a Constitutional post.
- c) President of India appoints the Solicitor General.
- d) None of the above are correct

Q.109) Solution (a)

The Solicitor General of India is subordinate to the Attorney General of India. He is the second law officer of the country, assists the Attorney General, and is himself assisted by four Additional Solicitors General for India. Currently solicitor general of India is Tushar Mehta

- The main role of the Solicitor General is to appear in courts on behalf of the Government of India.
- The posts of the Solicitor General and the Additional Solicitors General are merely statutory, while Attorney General for India is a Constitutional post.

Q.110) Amaravati is the de facto capital city of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. The planned city is located on the southern banks of

- a) Penna River
- b) Godavari River
- c) Tungabhadra River
- d) Krishna River

Q.110) Solution (d)

Amaravati is the de facto capital city of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

The planned city is located on the southern banks of the Krishna River in Guntur district, within the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region

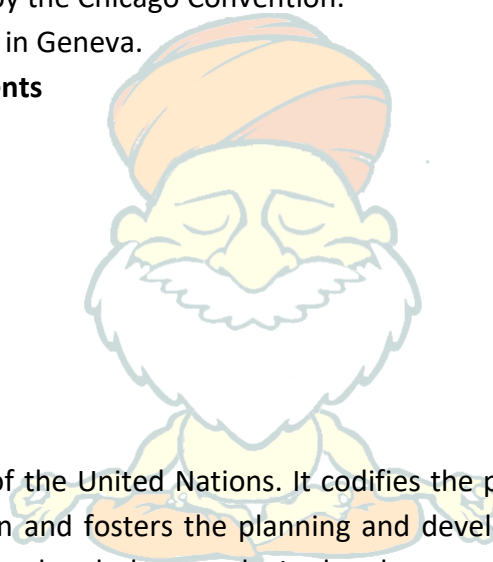
The word "Amaravati" derives from the historical Amaravathi Temple town, the ancient capital of the Satavahana dynasty.

Q.111) Consider the following statements with respect to 'International Civil Aviation Organization'

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
2. It was established by the Chicago Convention.
3. It is headquartered in Geneva.

Select the correct statements

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



Q.111) Solution (a)

It is a specialized agency of the United Nations. It codifies the principles and techniques of international air navigation and fosters the planning and development of international air transport to ensure safe and orderly growth. Its headquarters is located in the Quartier International of Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

The Convention on International Civil Aviation, also known as the Chicago Convention, established the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Q.112) Recently, India and Japan signed a currency swap agreement. Consider the following statements with respect to it.

1. In this case, India's Central Bank will get a certain amount of yen and the Japan's Central Bank will get an equivalent amount in Indian rupees.
2. It will help India to avoid turbulence and other risks in the foreign exchange market and exchange rate.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.112) Solution (c)

The word swap means exchange. A currency swap between two countries is an agreement or contract to exchange currencies (of the two countries or any hard currency) with predetermined terms and conditions.

A currency swap agreement between two countries is signed between the central banks. In this case, RBI will get a certain amount of yen and the Bank of Japan will get an equivalent amount in Indian rupees. The rate will be decided on the basis of prevailing market rates.

The main purpose of currency swaps is to avoid turbulence and other risks in the foreign exchange market and exchange rate. Central banks and governments engage in currency swaps with foreign counterparts to ensure adequate foreign currency during the time of foreign currency scarcity. Both works with the same objective and through similar mechanism.

Q.113) 'Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary' is located in which of the following states?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Odisha
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Himachal Pradesh

Q.113) Solution (b)

The Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in the Balasore district of Odisha.

It is linked with Simlipal National Park via the Sukhupada and Nato hill ranges.

Q.114) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs)' in India:

1. In cases where PPIs are issued in the form of wallets, interoperability across PPIs shall be enabled through unified payments interface (UPI).
2. In case where PPIs are issued in the form of cards, the cards shall be affiliated to the authorized card networks.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.114) Solution (c)

Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs)

- PPIs are methods that facilitate purchase of goods and services against the value stored on such instruments.
- The value stored on such instruments represents the value paid for by the holder, by cash, by debit to a bank account, or by credit card.
- The prepaid instruments can be issued as smart cards, magnetic stripe cards, internet accounts, online wallets, mobile accounts, mobile wallets, paper vouchers and any such instruments used to access the prepaid amount.

Reserve Bank of India has released the guidelines for interoperability between prepaid payment instruments (PPIs)

- Interoperability allows compatibility between payment systems and once implemented, a user will be able to transfer funds between wallets and also from their wallets to bank accounts.
- The rules on interoperability of prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) do not force PPIs such as wallets to permit such transfers; instead, these guidelines are for "participating PPI issuers, who choose to adopt interoperability".
- In cases where PPIs are issued in the form of wallets, interoperability across PPIs shall be enabled through unified payments interface (UPI).
- Where PPIs are issued in the form of cards, the cards shall be affiliated to the authorized card networks.

Q.115) The 'Pearl River Delta' includes which of the following regions?

- a) News Jersey and New York
- b) Singapore
- c) Hong Kong and Macau
- d) California and San Francisco

Q.115) Solution (c)

The Pearl River Delta Metropolitan Region, also known as Greater Bay, is the low-lying area surrounding the Pearl River estuary, where the Pearl River flows into the South China Sea. It is one of the most densely urbanized regions in the world.

Regions

- Guangdong
- Hong Kong
- Macau

Q.116) Consider the following statements regarding 'Oneer Technology' recently in news:

1. It is a reverse osmosis based water purifier for disinfecting water.
2. It is developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's Lucknow-based Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-IITR).

Which of the given statement is/are correct?

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

Q.116) Solution (b)

Scientists at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's Lucknow-based Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-IITR) have developed a technology for disinfecting water that promises to provide safe and clean drinking water at a cost of just two paise per litre.

The technology is based on the principle of anodic oxidation. Raw water is passed through a chamber and disinfection occurs with the help of singlet oxygen species generated at the

anode. The technology has been named Oneer – 'O' for singlet oxygen species and 'neer' for water.

A key feature of the technology is that purified water will retain all essential minerals and there will be no wastage as it happens in reverse osmosis (RO)-based purifiers. In addition, there will be no need to add any chemical and the water can be stored for around 30 hours without the risk of any recontamination.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/csir-transfers-technology-for-disinfecting-water/article25257755.ece>

Q.117) Malai Kuravans is a tribal community of

- a) Assam
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Tamil Nadu

Q.117) Solution (d)

The Koravar (also known as Malai Kuruvans) were one of the tribes of the Madras Presidency during the British Raj in India. They were primarily involved in the salt trade.

In 1913 they were classed as a criminal tribe by the British authorities. Today there are an estimated 1.2 million (12 lakh) Koravar in Tamil Nadu.

<https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/pazhangudi-naadham-a-tribal-festival-in-chennai/article25095942.ece>

Q.118) Poet T. S. Eliot (won the Nobel Prize in Literature) makes use of the story "The Voice of the Thunder" and for the source of "datta, dayadhvam, and damyata" found in:

- a) Brihadaranyaka Upanishad
- b) Chandogya Upanishad
- c) Shvetashvatara Upanishad
- d) Skanda Upanishad

Q.118) Solution (a)

This is a difficult question but since it was in news, better we know it now 😊

Refer to the given article that featured in The Hindu.

<https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/how-indian-thought-influenced-ts-eliot/article25122620.ece>

Q.119) The term 'Pushkaram' in Indian culture refers to:

- a) It is an Indian festival dedicated to worshipping of Rivers.
- b) It is an ancient art form.
- c) It is a sacred place in southern India.
- d) It is an Indian festival dedicated to worshipping of Wind.

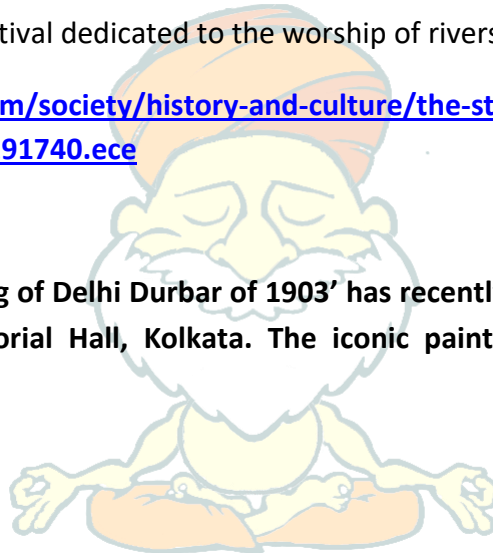
Q.119) Solution (a)

Pushkaram is an Indian festival dedicated to the worship of rivers.

<https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/the-story-of-tamiraparani-the-copper-maiden/article25191740.ece>

Q.120) The 'Iconic painting of Delhi Durbar of 1903' has recently been restored and put on display at Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata. The iconic painting features which of the following viceroy?

- a) Lord Curzon
- b) Lord Mayo
- c) Lord Dufferin
- d) Lord Ripon



Q.120) Solution (a)

Who was responsible for Partition of Bengal? **Lord Curzon**

Titled State Entry Into Delhi, the painting was commissioned by the then British government. **Painted by British artist Roderick Mackenzie**, the picture shows **Viceroy Lord Curzon**, seated on an elephant and leading the ceremonial procession of the Delhi Durbar followed by several Indian kings.

The procession goes past the north side of the magnificent Jama Masjid, rendered in splendour with its large dome and towering minarets.

The 1903 Delhi Durbar, which was held after the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, also marked the declaration of Edward VII and Queen Alexandra as the Emperor and Empress of the country.



<https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/art/iconic-painting-of-delhi-durbar-of-1903-restored/article25348072.ece>

