

Q.1) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Places in News - Country

1. Manus Island - Bangladesh
2. Kyaukpyu - Myanmar
3. Hukitola Island – India

Select the correct code:

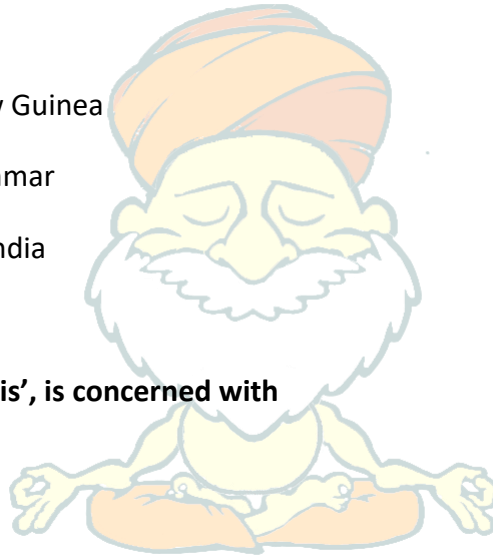
- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 Only
- c) 2 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.1) Solution (c)

Manus Island – Papua New Guinea

Kyaukpyu – Rakhine, Myanmar

Hukitola Island – Odisha, India



Q.2) The term 'Janamsakhis', is concerned with

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

The Janamsakhis, literally birth stories, are writings which profess to be biographies of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak. These compositions have been written at various stages after the death of the first guru.

The four Janamsakhis that have survived into the modern era include the Bala, Miharban, Adi and Puratan versions, and each hagiography contradicts the other.

Q.3) 'ACROSS' Scheme is associated with

- a) Security on National Highways
- b) Captive Breeding of Wild Fauna
- c) Weather and Climate Forecast
- d) Electromagnetic radiation (EMF) compliance status of mobile towers

Q.3) Solution (c)

The scheme pertains to the atmospheric science programs of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). Its objective is to provide reliable weather and climate forecast for betterment of society. It also aims at improving skill of weather and climate forecast through sustained observations, intensive R & D.

Q.4) Which of the following statements is correct with respect to 'Vetiver'?

- a) It is a sweetener and sugar substitute
- b) It is widely used in the cosmetics industry
- c) It is associated with Cloning Techniques
- d) It is a trans-neptunian object

Q.4) Solution (b)

Vetiver has been used to produce perfumes, creams and soaps. It is used for its antiseptic properties to treat acne and sores.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/agri-business/making-farmers-do-wonders-with-this-grass/article25592143.ece>

Q.5) "Byungjin" policy is associated with which of the following countries?

- a) North Korea
- b) China
- c) Myanmar
- d) Japan

Q.5) Solution (a)

“byungjin” policy of simultaneously developing its nuclear capabilities alongside the economy.

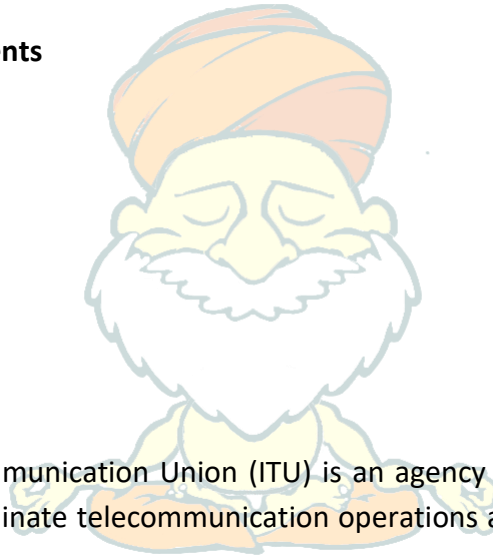
Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Politics/3tNjB4SHYeOuabOa7L4yK/North-Korea-warns-of-returning-to-nuclear-policy.html>

Q.6) Which of the following statements are correct about International Telecommunication Union (ITU)?

1. ITU is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies
2. It allocates global radio spectrum and satellite orbits.
3. It is an organization based on public-private partnership, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Select the correct statements

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



Q.6) Solution (d)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is an agency of the United Nations (UN) whose purpose is to coordinate telecommunication operations and services throughout the world.

Originally founded in 1865, as the International Telegraph Union, the ITU is the oldest existing international organization. ITU headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.

The ITU coordinates the shared global use of the radio spectrum, promotes international cooperation in assigning satellite orbits, works to improve telecommunication infrastructure in the developing world, and assists in the development and coordination of worldwide technical standards.

The organization conducts working parties, study groups and meetings to address current and future issues and to resolve disputes. The ITU organizes and holds an exhibition and forum known as the Global TELECOM every four years.

Another important aspect of the ITU's mandate is helping emerging countries to establish and develop telecommunication systems of their own. Although the recommendations of

the ITU are non-binding, most countries adhere to them in the interest of maintaining an effective international electronic communication environment.

Q.7) Consider the following about Rubab:

1. It is a flute-like musical instrument originating from central Afghanistan.
2. It is a traditional dance form of eastern Indian states of Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha.
3. It is a bowed, short-necked string instrument from India as well as Nepal which is used in Hindustani classical music.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Q.7) Solution (d)

Rabab is a lute-like musical instrument originating from central Afghanistan. The rubab is mainly used by Pashtun, Tajik, Turkish, Kashmiri, Baluch, Azerbaijani, and Iranian Kurdish classical musicians.

Rubab is one of the national musical instruments of Afghanistan. It is considered to be one of the Kashmir's folk music.

The word 'rabab' comes from rooh (soul) and bab (expression). It should stir the soul.

Q.8) Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, second largest stretch of mangrove forests in India and home to the critically endangered white-backed vulture and the long billed vulture, is located in -

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) West Bengal
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Manipur

Q.8) Solution (a)**Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS)**

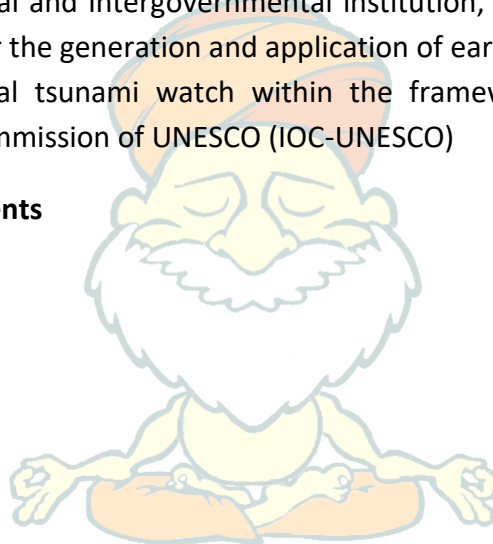
- The Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) is a wildlife sanctuary and estuary situated in Andhra Pradesh. It covers an area of 235.7 square kilometers.
- It is the second largest stretch of mangrove forests in India with 24 mangrove tree species and more than 120 bird species.
- It is home to the critically endangered white-backed vulture and the long billed vulture.

Q.9) Consider the following statements about RIMES (Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System for Asia and Africa)

1. It is an international and intergovernmental institution, owned and managed by its Member States, for the generation and application of early warning information
2. It provides regional tsunami watch within the framework of Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO)

Select the correct statements

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

**Q.9) Solution (c)**

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) is an international and intergovernmental institution, owned and managed by its Member States, for the generation and application of early warning information.

RIMES evolved from the efforts of countries in Africa and Asia, in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, to establish a regional early warning system within a multi-hazard framework for the generation and communication of early warning information, and capacity building for preparedness and response to trans-boundary hazards.

RIMES was established on 30 April 2009, and was registered with the United Nations on 1 July 2009.

RIMES operates from its regional early warning center located at the campus of the Asian Institute of Technology in Pathumthani, Thailand.

Aim: RIMES provides regional early warning services and builds capacity of its Member States in the end-to-end early warning of tsunami and hydro-meteorological hazards.

Mission: Building capacity and providing actionable warning information towards forearmed, forewarned and resilient communities.

12 Member States: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Comoros, India, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste.

19 Collaborating Countries: Afghanistan, Armenia, Bhutan, China, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Somalia, Tanzania, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Yemen.

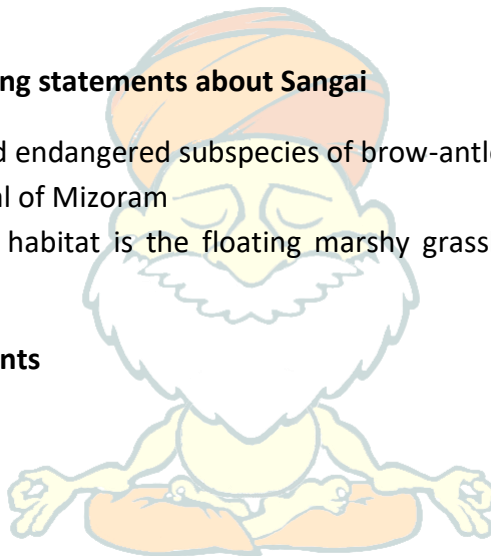
RIMES was registered with the United Nations under Article 102 on 1 July 2009, and has been supported since inception by UNESCAP and DANIDA.

Q.10) Consider the following statements about Sangai

1. It is an endemic and endangered subspecies of brow-antlered deer
2. It is the state animal of Mizoram
3. Its original natural habitat is the floating marshy grasslands of the Keibul Lamjao National Park

Select the correct statements

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



Q.10) Solution (c)

The sangai is an endemic and endangered subspecies of brow-antlered deer found only in Manipur, India. It is also the state animal of Manipur and is under threat from poachers.

Why in news?

- There are less than 260 deer in its natural habitat, the 40 sq. km. Keibul Lamjao national park.

About Sangai

- The sangai is an endemic and endangered subspecies of brow-antlered deer found only in Manipur, India. It is also the state animal of Manipur. Its common English name is Manipur brow-antlered deer or Eld's deer and the scientific name is , Rucervus eldii eldii.
- The brow-antlered deer or the dancing deer is found in its natural habitat only at Keibul Lamjao National Park over the floating biomass locally called "phumdi" in the south eastern part of Loktak Lake.
- Phumdi is the most important and unique part of the habitat. It is the floating mass of entangled vegetation formed by the accumulation of organic debris and biomass with soil. Its thickness varies from few centimeter to two meters. The humus of phumdi is black in colour and very spongy with large number of pores. It floats with 4/5 part under water.
- IUCN status: Endangered

Q.11) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC)'

1. It is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)
2. Five Indian Cities are participants in the GPSC

Select the correct statements

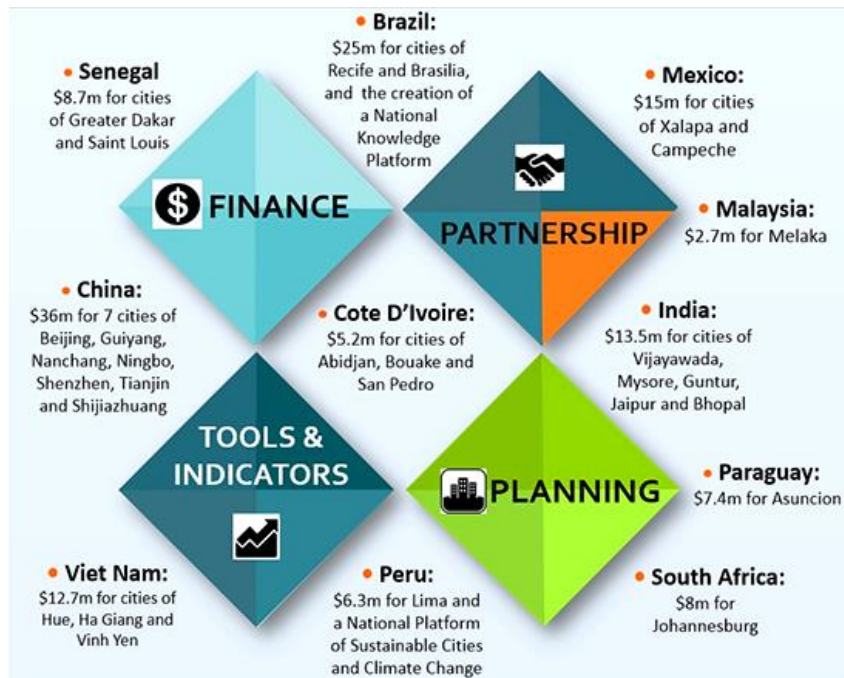
- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2



Q.11) Solution (c)

Led by the World Bank, the Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC) is a forum for knowledge sharing and partnership to achieve urban sustainability.

The GPSC promotes an integrated approach to urban development, focusing on urban sustainability indicators, planning, and financing. Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the platform currently comprises of 28 cities across 11 countries.



Read More - <https://www.thegpsc.org/country/india>

Q.12) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Currency and Gold Revaluation Account (CGRA)'

1. It represents the accumulated net balance of unrealised gains and losses arising out of valuation of Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) and gold.
2. Increase in gold price and depreciation of the rupee decreases the CGRA fund.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.12) Solution (a)

Unrealised gains/losses on valuation of Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) and gold due to movements in the exchange rates and/ or price of gold are not taken to the Profit & Loss Account but instead booked under a balance sheet head named as the Currency and Gold Revaluation Account (CGRA).

Unlike the Contingency Reserve (CR), which is created by apportioning realised gains, the CGRA is not a reserve account as it represents the accumulated net balance of unrealised gains and losses arising out of valuation of FCA and gold.

As CGRA balances mirror the changes in prices of gold and in exchange rate, its balance varies with the size of asset base and volatility in the exchange rate and price of gold.

In the recent past, even though FCA and gold have declined as a percentage of total assets, the CGRA has risen due to sharp depreciation of Indian Rupee against US Dollar. It, thus, acts as a cushion against fluctuations in exchange rates/price of gold which have in the recent times exhibited sharp volatility.

The CGRA shows fund that is available to compensate RBI's loss in the value of gold and foreign exchange reserve holdings. Gains and losses of the values of Gold and Foreign Currency Assets decreases or increases the CGRA money.

Thus, changes in the market value of gold and forex assets (like the US Government securities where the RBI invested its foreign exchange reserves) is reflected in the CGRA.

CGRA provides a buffer against exchange rate/gold price fluctuations. When CGRA is not enough to fully meet exchange losses, it is replenished from the contingency fund.

Increase in gold price and depreciation of the rupee increases the CGRA fund.

Q.13) Consider the following statement with respect to 'Operation Greens'

1. It aims to aid farmers and help control and limit the erratic fluctuations in the prices of all green vegetables
2. It is essentially a price fixation scheme that aims to ensure farmers are given the right price for their produce

Select the correct statements

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

Q.13) Solution (b)

Operation Greens

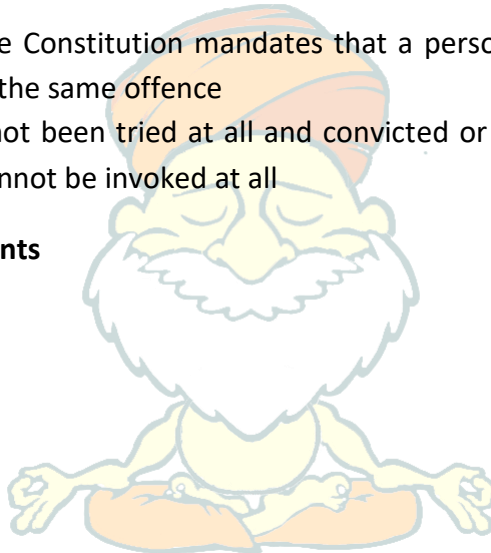
- It aims to promote farmer producers organisations, agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management.
- The operation aims to aid farmers and help control and limit the erratic fluctuations in the prices of onions, potatoes and tomatoes.
- It is essentially a price fixation scheme that aims to ensure farmers are given the right price for their produce.
- It was announced in the Budget speech of 2018-19 with an outlay of Rs 500 crores to stabilize the supply of Tomato, Onion and Potato(TOP) crops and to ensure availability of TOP crops throughout the country round the year without price volatility.

Q.14) Which of the following statement is/are correct with respect to ‘Doctrine of Double Jeopardy’

1. Article 20 (2) of the Constitution mandates that a person cannot be prosecuted or punished twice for the same offence
2. If an accused has not been tried at all and convicted or acquitted, the principles of double jeopardy cannot be invoked at all

Select the correct statements

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



Q.14) Solution (c)

Double jeopardy

- If an “accused has not been tried at all and convicted or acquitted, the principles of double jeopardy cannot be invoked at all.
- The judgment is based on an appeal filed by the State of Mizoram against an order passed by the Gauhati High Court in August 2015, upholding a Special Court decision to decline to entertain a second chargesheet filed in a corruption case against the accused, Dr. C. Sangnghina, on the ground of double jeopardy.
- Article 20 (2) of the Constitution mandates that a person cannot be prosecuted or punished twice for the same offence.

Read More - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/no-double-jeopardy-bar-if-there-was-no-trial-supreme-court/article25457534.ece>

Q.15) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘High-throughput satellite (HTS)’

1. It is a classification for communications satellites
2. GSAT-29 is India’s first High-throughput satellite

Select the correct statements

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

Q.15) Solution (a)

High-throughput satellite (HTS) is a classification for communications satellites that provide at least twice, though usually by a factor of 20 or more, the total throughput of a classic FSS satellite for the same amount of allocated orbital spectrum thus significantly reducing cost-per-bit.

GSAT-19, the first of the series (HTS), was sent up in June 2017 from Sriharikota.

Q.16) Purandara Dasa, a saint and chief founding-proponents of the South Indian classical Music (Carnatic Music) was contemporary of:

- a) Krishnadevaraya
- b) Harihara
- c) Deva Raya II
- d) Sadashiva Raya

Q.16) Solution (a)

Purandara Dāsa was a Haridasa (a devotee – servant of Lord Hari (Vishnu)), great devotee of Lord Krishna (an incarnation of Lord Vishnu) and a saint.

- He was a disciple of the celebrated Madhwa philosopher-saint Vyasatirtha, and a contemporary of yet another great Haridasa, Kanakadasa.

- He was a composer, singer and one of the chief founding-proponents of the South Indian classical Music (Carnatic Music).
- In honor of his significant and legendary contributions to Carnatic Music, he is widely referred to as the Pitamaha (lit, "father" or the "grandfather") of Carnatic Music.
- He is respected as an avatara (incarnation) of the great sage Narada (a celestial being who is also a singer).
- Purandara Dasa is noted for composing Dasa Sahithya, as a Bhakti movement vocalist, and a music scholar.
- His practice was emulated by his younger contemporary, Kanakadasa. Purandara Dasa's Carnatic music compositions are mostly in Kannada, while some are in Sanskrit.
- He signed his compositions with the ankita (pen name) "Purandara Vittala" (Vittala is one of the incarnations of the Hindu god Vishnu).
- In the course of his wandering he met the holy sage Vyasatirtha, one of the chief exponents of Madhwa philosophy and the rajaguru of Krishnadevaraya, the emperor of Vijayanagara kingdom.
- Purandara Dasa traveled extensively through the length and breadth of the Vijayanagara empire in Karnataka, Tirupati, Pandharapura composing and rendering soul stirring songs in praise of god.
- He spent his last years in Hampi and also sang in Krishnadevaraya's durbar.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/looking-for-purandaradasa-in-hampi/article25623622.ece>

Q.17) 'Jayadeva' was a Sanskrit poet during the 12th century. He is most known for his epic poem:

- a) Gita Govinda
- b) Panchatantra
- c) Shishupala Vadha
- d) Kumārasambhava

Q.17) Solution (a)

Gita Govinda: is a work composed by the 12th-century Indian poet, Jayadeva. It describes the relationship between Krishna and the gopis (female cow herders) of Vrindavana, and in particular one gopi named Radha.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/poetic-richness-of-gita-govinda/article25389131.ece>

Q.18) Dakshayagam (The Fire-Sacrifice of Daksha) is related to:

- a) Bharatnatyam
- b) Sattriya
- c) Kathakali
- d) Kuchipudi

Q.18) Solution (c)

Dakshayagam (The Fire-Sacrifice of Daksha) is a Kathakali play(Aattakatha) authored by Irayimman Thampi in Malayalam.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/sadanam-bhasi-excelled-in-a-performace-of-dakshayagam-kathakali-at-palakkad/article25442886.ece>

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding 'Adi Shankara', an early 8th century Indian philosopher and theologian:

1. Shankara's masterpiece of commentary is the Brahmasutrabhasya, a fundamental text of the Vedanta school of Hinduism.
2. He believed that, Hinduism asserts 'Soul and Self' whereas Buddhism asserts that there is 'no Soul, no Self'.

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.19) Solution (c)

Adi Shankara was an early 8th century Indian philosopher and theologian who consolidated the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta.

- He is credited with unifying and establishing the main currents of thought in Hinduism.
- Adi Shankara is most known for his systematic reviews and commentaries (Bhasyas) on ancient Indian texts. Shankara's masterpiece of commentary is the Brahmasutrabhasya (literally, commentary on Brahma Sutra), a fundamental text of the Vedanta school of Hinduism.
- His works in Sanskrit discuss the unity of the ātman and Nirguna Brahman "brahman without attributes".
- He wrote copious commentaries on the Vedic canon (Brahma Sutras, Principal Upanishads and Bhagavad Gita) in support of his thesis.
- His works elaborate on ideas found in the Upanishads. Shankara's publications criticised the ritually-oriented Mīmāṃsā school of Hinduism.
- He also explained the key difference between Hinduism and Buddhism, stating that Hinduism asserts "Atman (Soul, Self) exists", while Buddhism asserts that there is "no Soul, no Self".

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/society/faith/hymn-that-enlightens/article25532477.ece>

Q.20) NASA's flagship mission, the Chandra X-ray observatory is named after a famous person of Indian origin. Name the person?

- a) Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman
- b) Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar
- c) Rajendra Chandrasekhar
- d) C. Chandra

Q.20) Solution (b)

The Chandra X-ray Observatory (CXO), previously known as the Advanced X-ray Astrophysics Facility (AXAF), is a Flagship-class space observatory launched by NASA on July 23, 1999.

- The telescope is named after the Nobel Prize-winning Indian-American astrophysicist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar.

NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory is a telescope specially designed to detect X-ray emission from very hot regions of the Universe such as exploded stars, clusters of galaxies, and matter around black holes.

Because X-rays are absorbed by Earth's atmosphere, Chandra must orbit above it, up to an altitude of 139,000 km (86,500 mi) in space.

Q.21) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to 'Monetary Transmission'?

1. It is the process through which the policy action of the central bank is transmitted to the ultimate objective of stable inflation and growth
2. In the Indian scenario, the monetary transmission is heavily depending upon the repo rate.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.21) Solution (c)

The monetary transmission mechanism is the process by which asset prices and general economic conditions are affected as a result of monetary policy decisions. Such decisions are intended to influence the aggregate demand, interest rates, and amounts of money and credit in order to affect overall economic performance.

The traditional monetary transmission mechanism occurs through interest rate channels, which affect interest rates, costs of borrowing, levels of physical investment, and aggregate demand. Additionally, aggregate demand can be affected through friction in the credit markets, known as the credit view. In short, the monetary transmission mechanism can be defined as the link between monetary policy and aggregate demand.

In the Indian scenario, the monetary policy transmission is heavily depending upon the repo rate. The repo rate is the anchor rate in determining the interest rate in the economy (of the banking system).

Q.22) Indian Crude Basket, is weighted average of

1. Dubai and Oman

2. Brent Crude
3. West Texas Intermediate (WTI)

Select the correct code:

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

Q.22) Solution (a)

Indian Basket (IB), also known as Indian Crude Basket, is weighted average of Dubai and Oman (sour) and the Brent Crude (sweet) crude oil prices. It is used as an indicator of the price of crude imports in India and Government of India watches the index when examining domestic price issues.

Q.23) The term ‘Generalized System of Preferences’ seen in news refers to

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



Q.23) Solution (c)

The Enabling Clause is the WTO legal basis for the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). Under the Generalized System of Preferences, developed countries offer non-reciprocal preferential treatment (such as zero or low duties on imports) to products originating in developing countries. Preference-giving countries unilaterally determine which countries and which products are included in their schemes.

The Enabling Clause is also the legal basis for regional arrangements among developing countries and for the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP), under which a number of developing countries exchange trade concessions among themselves.

Q.24) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Application Programming Interface Exchange'

1. It is a banking technology platform which is designed to reach two billion people all across the world who are still living without bank accounts.
2. It is developed by Google Inc.

Select the correct statements

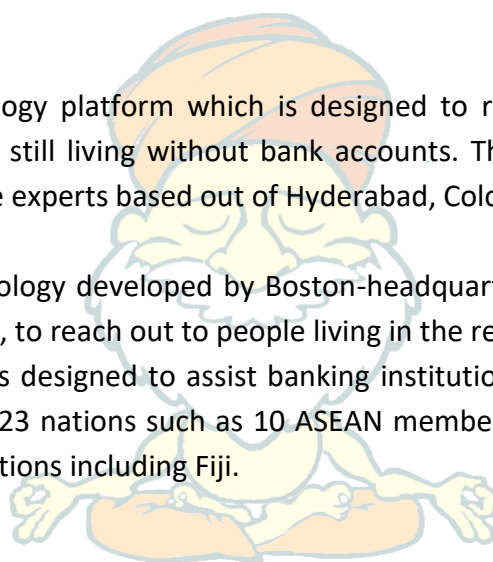
- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.24) Solution (a)

APIX is a banking technology platform which is designed to reach two billion people all across the world who are still living without bank accounts. The technology platform has been designed by software experts based out of Hyderabad, Colombo and London.

It is a sophisticated technology developed by Boston-headquartered Virtusa, especially for smaller banks, Tier 3 and 4, to reach out to people living in the remote regions.

The technology platform is designed to assist banking institutions to reach out the people without bank accounts in 23 nations such as 10 ASEAN members as well as major markets such as India, and small nations including Fiji.



Q.25) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Advanced Motor Fuels Technology Collaboration Programme (AMFTCP)'

1. It works under the framework of International Energy Agency (IEA)
2. Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas is a contracting party of the 'AMFTCP', representing India

Select the correct statements

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

Q.25) Solution (c)

AMFTCP is an international platform for co-operation among countries to promote cleaner and more energy efficient fuels and vehicle technologies.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas joined AMFTCP as its 16th member.

The primary goal of joining AMFTCP by the Ministry of Petroleum is to facilitate the market introduction of advanced motor fuels/ alternate fuels with an aim to bring down emissions and achieve higher fuel efficiency in the transport sector.

AMF TCP works under the framework of International Energy Agency (IEA) to which India has "Association" status since 30th March, 2017.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184644>

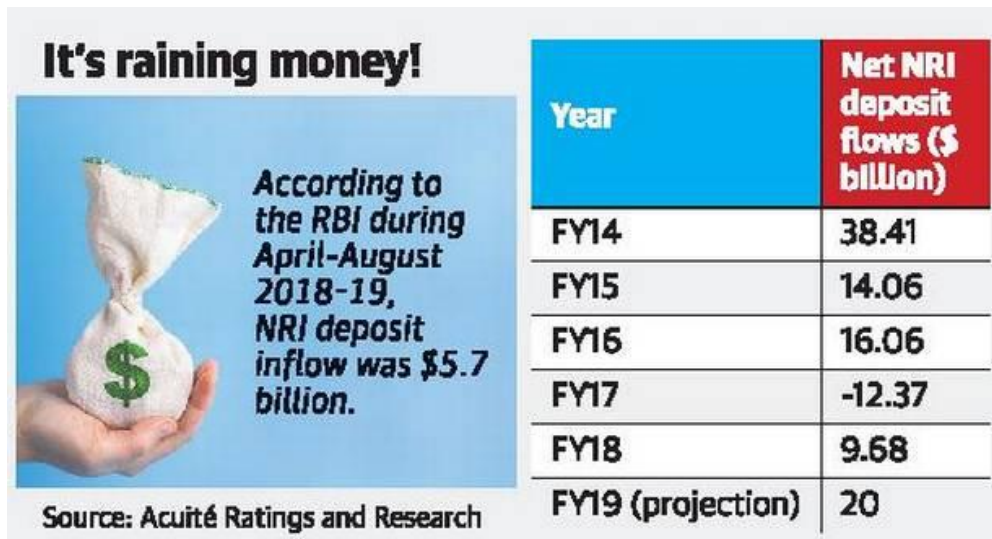
Q.26) Consider the following regarding Non-resident Indian (NRI) deposits:

1. As per recent report by RBI, NRI deposits have been steadily increasing in the last 5 years.
2. The rise in NRI deposits is attributed to the sliding rupee and to higher oil prices.

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.26) Solution (b)



Statement 1 is incorrect. It is not steady in the last five years.

Non-resident Indian (NRI) deposits jumped to \$5.7 billion in the first five months of this fiscal compared to \$0.5 billion in the same period last year. The rise is attributed to the sliding rupee, which makes deposits in the currency attractive for NRIs, and to higher oil prices which have prompted inflows from NRIs in the Middle-east to increase.

The UAE is the top source of inward remittances into India, with Kerala receiving the maximum funds sent from abroad, according to the RBI's survey of inward remittances for 2016-17.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/nris-deposits-surge-as-rupee-slides-and-oil-prices-rise/article25394060.ece>

Q.27) Consider the following statements about Global Cooling Innovation Summit:

1. It is a first of its kind summit focusing on means and pathways to address the climate threat that comes from the growing demand from room air conditioners.
2. It was held in Switzerland
3. All UN members are its participants

Which of the given statements is/are INCORRECT?

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

d) 1 and 2

Q.27) Solution (c)

Two-day Global Cooling Innovation Summit was inaugurated by Union Science & Technology Minister in **New Delhi** on 12th November 2018.

- The Summit is a first-of-its-kind solutions-focused event that will bring together leaders from around the world to explore **concrete means and pathways to address the climate threat that comes from the growing demand from room air conditioners.**
- The event is jointly organized by **the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, along with Rocky Mountain Institute, Alliance for An Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE), Conservation X Labs and CEPT University.**
- The summit will also see the launching of Global Cooling Prize— Mission Innovation challenge that aims to spur development of a residential cooling solution that has at least five times (5x) less climate impact than today's standard.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184666>

Q.28) Himalayan State Regional Council has been recently constituted by:

- a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- b) Ministry of Rural Development
- c) Ministry of Ayush
- d) NITI Ayog



Q.28) Solution (d)

NITI Aayog has constituted the 'Himalayan State Regional Council' to ensure sustainable development of the Indian Himalayan region. The Council has been constituted to review and implement identified action points based on the Reports of five Working Groups, which were established along thematic areas to prepare a roadmap for action.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184781>

Q.29) Recently a team of biologists from Delhi University, University College Dublin (Ireland) and the National Museum (UK) have discovered four new species of horned frogs from

- a) Himalayan regions of Northeast
- b) Western Ghats
- c) Eastern Ghats
- d) Aravali Hills in Delhi region

Q.29) Solution (a)

A team of biologists from Delhi University, University College Dublin (Ireland) and the National Museum (UK) have discovered four new species of horned frogs from the Himalayan regions of Northeast India. The team also comprised S D Biju from DU's Department of Environmental Studies, known as the 'Frogman of India'.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/research/four-new-horned-frogs-discovered-by-delhi-university-team-5454585/>

Q.30) Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), is a highly contagious viral disease that afflicts:

- a) Rats
- b) Mouse
- c) Goats
- d) Bats

Q.30) Solution (c)

Goat plague, or peste des petits ruminants (PPR), is a highly contagious viral disease that afflicts goats and sheep in many parts of the country. The disease kills small ruminants in large numbers unless they are vaccinated.

According to the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), PPR costs farmers anywhere between \$1.4-2.1 billion a year globally. Apart from India, goat plague is prevalent in many African countries, West Asia, China and Mongolia.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/india-uk-team-develops-a-smart-vaccine-for-goat-plague/article25579680.ece>

Q.31) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Karma Kagyu'

1. The Karma Kagyu school belongs to the Vajrayana branch of Mahayana Buddhism

2. The central teaching of the Karma Kagyu is the doctrine of Mahamudra
3. The supreme lama of the Karma Kagyu is the Karmapa

Select the correct statements

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

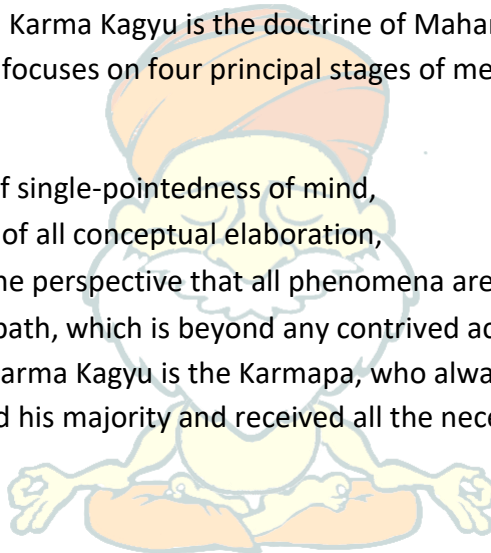
Q.31) Solution (d)

The Karma Kagyu school belongs to the Vajrayana branch of Mahayana Buddhism. It conceives itself as a member of the third turning of the dharmacakra and participates in the Rimé movement.

The central teaching of the Karma Kagyu is the doctrine of Mahamudra, also known as the "Great Seal". This doctrine focuses on four principal stages of meditative practice (the Four Yogas of Mahamudra):

- The development of single-pointedness of mind,
- The transcendence of all conceptual elaboration,
- The cultivation of the perspective that all phenomena are of a "single taste",
- The fruition of the path, which is beyond any contrived acts of meditation.

The supreme lama of the Karma Kagyu is the Karmapa, who always presides as lineage holder once he has reached his majority and received all the necessary training and dharma transmissions.



Q.32) 'Hiawatha Glacier' was seen in news recently. Where is it located?

- a) Alaska
- b) Greenland
- c) Argentina
- d) Finland

Q.32) Solution (b)

Hiawatha Glacier is a glacier in northwest Greenland, near Inglefield Land.

Hiawatha Glacier attracted attention in 2018 because of the discovery of a crater beneath the surface of the ice sheet in the area.

Q.33) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘HysIS Mission’

1. It is an earth observation satellite developed by NASA
2. It is launched to study the earth’s surface in the visible, near infrared and shortwave infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.
3. It is placed in the sun-synchronous polar orbit (SSPO)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.33) Solution (c)

HysIS

- The satellite is known as Hyper Spectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS)
- HysIS is an earth observation satellite developed by ISRO.
- It is the primary satellite of the PSLV-C43 mission.
- The satellite will be placed in 636 km polar sun synchronous orbit (SSO) with an inclination of 97.957 deg.
- The mission life of the satellite is five years
- The primary goal of HysIS is to study the earth’s surface in visible, near infrared and shortwave infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.
- A hyperspectral imaging camera in space can provide well-defined images that can help to identify objects on Earth far more clearly than regular optical or remote sensing cameras

Q.34) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Jenkins's shrew’

1. It is found only in India
2. It is listed as ‘Critically Endangered’ under the IUCN Red List

Select the correct statements

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.34) Solution (c)

The Jenkins's shrew (*Crocidura jenkinsi*) is a critically endangered species of mammal in the family Soricidae. It is endemic to South Andaman Island.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/andaman-nicobar-islands-home-to-a-tenth-of-indias-fauna-species/article25592134.ece>

Q.35) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges'

1. It is set up under POSHAN Abhiyaan
2. It is chaired by the Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog
3. It facilitates extra funding from the private sector to meet the targets set under POSHAN Abhiyaan

Select the correct statements

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



Q.35) Solution (a)

The Council which has been set up under POSHAN Abhiyaan is the apex body to formulate overall policies, guide and monitor all nutrition based schemes. The mandate of the Council is:

- To provide policy directions to address India's Nutrition Challenges through coordinated inter-sectoral action
- To coordinate and review convergence among ministries
- To review programmes for nutrition on a quarterly basis

The Council will submit its report to the Prime Minister every six months.

Q.36) The total reserves with the RBI stand at Rs 9.6 lakh crore, up from Rs 8.38 lakh crore in FY17. Arrange the following RBI's Reserves in increasing order of their share:

1. Contingency Fund

2. Currency and Gold Revaluation Account
3. Asset Development Fund
4. Investment Revaluation Account- Rupee

Select the correct code:

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

Q.36) Solution (c)

The total reserves with the RBI stand at Rs 9.6 lakh crore, up from Rs 8.38 lakh crore in F17. The RBI reserves are divided under several heads.

It holds contingency fund worth Rs 2.32 lakh crore, up from Rs 2.28 lakh crore in FY17. Under currency and gold revaluation account, the RBI holds Rs 6.92 lakh crore, up from 5.3 lakh crore in FY17.

It has 0.23 lakh crore under asset development fund, same as in FY17. Under investment revaluation account for rupee, it holds Rs 0.13 lakh crore, down from Rs 0.57 lakh crore in FY17.

1) THE RBI'S RESERVES			2) HOW DOES RBI BUILD ITS RESERVES?	
Various Funds (₹ lakh crore)			1 RBI earns income from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1] Interest on government bonds held for conducting open market operations 2] Fees from government's market borrowing programme 3] Income from investment in foreign currency assets 	2 Earnings retained after giving dividends to govt are parked in reserves 3 Revaluation of foreign assets and gold goes to revaluation reserves
	FY17	FY18		
Contingency fund	2.28	2.32		
Currency and gold revaluation account	5.3	6.92		
Asset development fund	0.23	0.23		
Investment revaluation account-rupee	0.57	0.13		
TOTAL	8.38	9.6		

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/battle-over-reserves-heres-how-much-money-rbi-sits-on-can-part-with-and-how-it-builds-the-funds/articleshow/66625456.cms>

Q.37) Consider the following statements regarding 'Access to Safe Drinking Water' as per National Rural Drinking Water Programme in Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation:

1. More than 50 per cent of rural habitations and 85 per cent of Government schools and anganwadis have been provided with access to safe drinking water.
2. More than 40 per cent of rural population has been provided potable drinking water by piped water supply.
3. More than 30 per cent of rural households have been provided with household connections.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Q.37) Solution (d)

NRDWP is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at providing every person in rural India with “adequate, safe water” for drinking, cooking and other domestic basic needs in a “sustainable manner”.

National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) was launched in 2009.

Underperformance of the scheme:

By 2017, NRDWP aimed to achieve certain objectives. However, by December 2017, these objectives were not completely attained. It aimed to provide all rural habitations, government schools, and anganwadis access to safe drinking water. Of this, only 44% of rural households and 85% of government schools and anganwadis were provided access. It also aimed to provide 50% of rural population potable drinking water (55 litres per capita per day) by piped water supply. Of this, only 18% of rural population was provided potable drinking water. It also sought to give household connections to 35% of rural households. Of this, only 17% of rural households were given household connections.

Dire situation

Close to 82 crore people do not have access to piped water. 70% of water in the country is contaminated



Performance vs Targets of NRDWP# as reported by the CAG

Issue	Achieved	NRDWP Target*
Access to drinking water in rural habitations	44%	100%
Access provided to drinking water by govt. schools & anganwadis	85%	100%
Population provided with potable water through pipes	18%	50%
Households given water connections	17%	50%

Presence of **Districts affected by ground water contamination**

Nitrate	386	21
Fluoride	335	20
Iron	301	26
Salinity	212	15
Arsenic	153	21
Lead	93	14
Chromium	30	10
Cadmium	24	9

■ No. of affected districts
 ● Affected State/UTs
 * (2012-17)
 # National Rural Drinking Water Programme

Summary of CAG Report-

[https://cag.gov.in/sites/default/files/audit_report_files/Executive Summary of Report No 15 of 2018 -](https://cag.gov.in/sites/default/files/audit_report_files/Executive_Summary_of_Report_No_15_of_2018_-)

[Performance Audit on National Rural Drinking Water Programme in Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.pdf](https://cag.gov.in/sites/default/files/audit_report_files/Executive_Summary_of_Report_No_15_of_2018_-Performance_Audit_on_National_Rural_Drinking_Water_Programme_in_Ministry_of_Drinking_Water_and_Sanitation.pdf)

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/why-govt-s-rural-drinking-water-programme-failed-despite-spending-rs-800-bn-11811260094_1.html

Q.38) 'India Skills Report 2019' aims to bridge the skills gap in India. It is a joint initiative of:

- NABARD and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- UNDP and Government of India
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and CII
- CII and Wheebox

Q.38) Solution (d)

India Skills Report is a joint initiative of Wheebox, a Global Talent Assessment Company, PeopleStrong, a leading HR Tech Company and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

It is supported and backed by renowned partners like

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and
- Association of Indian Universities (AIU),

Stated that Employability continues to rise thus reaching a new high of 47% this year - An incremental change of almost 2-3 percentage points since last year and a huge change of over 15% points in the past 5 years.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/india-skills-report-2019-employability-increases-from-37-to-47-38-in-5-years-118112200634_1.html

<https://cii.in/PublicationDetail.aspx?enc=tudKNn66INehqGyVloSEsS3Tz8C3WQCKCvrCWTBhllwZRF3ofpz2bVo8DTPFOniObfRUiyc1D8UXwpWLBMLyZmdbINDuo7eF5SqxJYombe/oqhj5kn8XpTiG7Wb2iFkybey/grWkwCi/P07Uci4VQsPNuLmLw61IKDIL9r6+jbgF/RtFA5i6/o9UHqNSNLXK>

Q.39) Consider the following statements about Jute farming:

1. Jute crop requires humid climate with temperature fluctuating between 25 degree Celsius and 30 degree Celsius.
2. Minimum rainfall required for jute cultivation is 100 mm.
3. A basic PH range of little over 7 is best suited for its cultivation

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Q.39) Solution (a)

Jute crop requires humid climate with temperature fluctuating between 25 degree Celsius and 30 degree Celsius.

Minimum rainfall required for jute cultivation is 1000 mm. New grey alluvial soil of good depth receiving silt from annual floods is most suitable for jute growth.

However, jute is grown widely in sandy looms and clay loams.

PH range between 4.8 to 5.8 (acidic) is best suited for its cultivation.

In news: The CCEA approved that 100% of the food grains and 20% of the sugar shall be mandatorily packed in diversified jute bags. The decision to pack sugar in diversified jute bags will give an impetus to the diversification of the jute industry.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=185884>

Q.40) 'Babina Field Ranges', recently in news is located in:

- a) Andaman and Nicobar
- b) Wheeler Island
- c) Jhansi, UP
- d) Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

Q.40) Solution (c)

INDRA-2018 military exercise between India and Russia was conducted here.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184717>

<https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/gk-current-affairs/story/india-russia-will-host-joint-military-exercise-in-jhansi-up-1389016-2018-11-15>

Q.41) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Ganymede is Jupiter's largest moon
- 2. Io is Jupiter's volcanically active moon
- 3. Juno is a NASA space probe orbiting the planet Jupiter

Select the correct statements

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

Q.41) Solution (d)

Juno is a NASA space probe orbiting the planet Jupiter. It was built by Lockheed Martin and is operated by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Juno's mission is to measure Jupiter's composition, gravity field, magnetic field, and polar magnetosphere. It will also search for clues about how the planet formed, including whether it has a rocky core, the amount of water present within the deep atmosphere, mass distribution, and its deep winds.

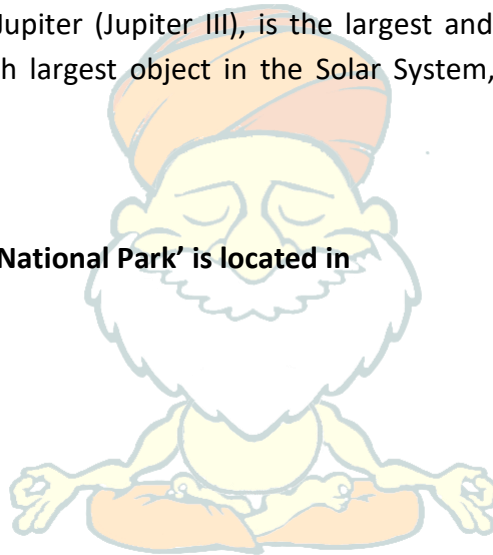
Io (Jupiter I) is the innermost of the four Galilean moons of the planet Jupiter. It is the fourth-largest moon, has the highest density of all the moons, and has the least amount of water of any known astronomical object in the Solar System. It was discovered in 1610 and was named after the mythological character Io, a priestess of Hera who became one of Zeus' lovers.

With over 400 active volcanoes, Io is the most geologically active object in the Solar System.

Ganymede, a satellite of Jupiter (Jupiter III), is the largest and most massive of the Solar System's moons. The ninth largest object in the Solar System, it is the largest without a substantial atmosphere.

Q.42) 'Mathikettan Shola National Park' is located in

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



Q.42) Solution (d)

Mathikettan Shola National Park is a 12.82 km² national park in Poopara village of Udumbanchola taluk in Idukki district of Kerala state.

Q.43) 'SpiNNaker' was recently in news. What is it?

- a) Anti-Ballistic Missile System
- b) International Space Station Payload to clear Space Debris
- c) A Supercomputer used for Neuromorphic computing
- d) Alternative to Stubble Burning

Q.43) Solution (c)

SpiNNaker (Spiking Neural Network Architecture) is a massively parallel, manycore supercomputer architecture designed by the Advanced Processor Technologies Research Group (APT) at the School of Computer Science, University of Manchester.

SpiNNaker is being used as one component of the neuromorphic computing platform for the Human Brain Project

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/miscellaneous/worlds-largest-brain-like-supercomputer-switched-on-for-first-time/spinnaker-worlds-largest-brain-like-supercomputer/slideshow/66586789.cms>

Q.44) The term 'Le Grand K' was in news recently. It is associated with

- a) Metrology
- b) Cosmology
- c) Cartography
- d) Geology

Q.44) Solution (a)

Scientists have agreed to define a kilogram in terms of an electric current instead of "Le Grand K," a metal cylinder kept in a Paris vault.

Read More - <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-46143399>

Q.45) The term 'Samguk Yusa' was in news recently. What is it associated with?

- a) Kishengarh Paintings
- b) Manipuri Martial Art
- c) Dravidian temple architecture
- d) None of the above

Q.45) Solution (d)

Korean connection of Ayodhya

- As per Korean folklore, Queen Suriratna was a princess in ancient Ayodhya who travelled to Korea 2,000 years ago and married a king (Kim Suro) of the Kim community.

- According to the Ministry of External Affairs, princess Suriratna travelled to Korea in 48 CE, proving Ayodhya and Korea had “a deep historical connection.”
- A popular South Korean book comprising fables and historical stories, Samguk Yusa (Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms), mentions that Queen Hwang-ok was the princess of "Ayuta" kingdom.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/s-korean-first-lady-arrives-in-new-delhi/article25421412.ece>

Q.46) Which of the following is correct regarding ‘Samruddhi Scheme’?

- a) It is a Government of India backed saving scheme targeted at the parents of girl children.
- b) It is the rural entrepreneurship programme for Scheduled Castes (ST) and Scheduled Tribes (SC) launched by Government of Karnataka.
- c) It is a pension scheme launched by Government of Uttar Pradesh for Indian Army personals.
- d) It is a rural entrepreneurship programme for Women

Q.46) Solution (b)

Samruddhi Scheme- the rural entrepreneurship programme for Scheduled Castes (ST) and Scheduled Tribes (SC) was launched by Minister for Social Welfare, **Government of Karnataka**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/entrepreneurship-scheme-samruddhi-launched/article25374088.ece>

Q.47) The recently concluded ‘Dubai Declaration’ is based on:

- a) Sustainable Development Goals
- b) Renewable Energy
- c) Cyber Crime
- d) Human Trafficking

Q.47) Solution (a)

The 2018 UN World Data Forum in Dubai concluded with adoption of the **Dubai Declaration that detailed measures to boost funding for data and statistical analysis for monitoring and speeding up progress towards the 2030 SDGs.**

Q.48) 'Soura Jalanidhi Scheme' recently in news is launched by:

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Karnataka
- d) Odisha

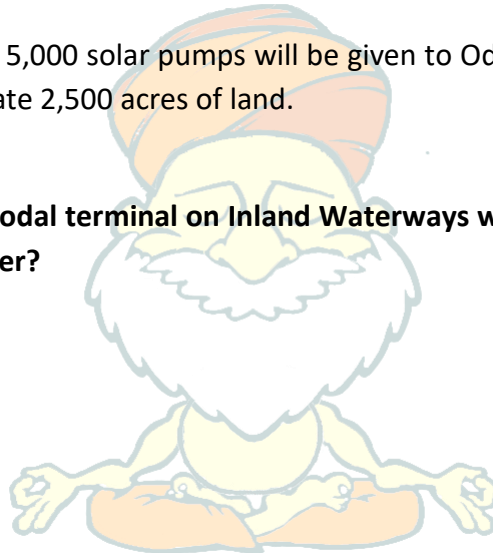
Q.48) Solution (d)

Odisha Government launched the Soura Jalanidhi scheme that aims to increase use of solar energy for helping farmers in irrigating their land.

- 'Soura Jalanidhi', is a dug well-based solar pump irrigation system in convergence mode.
- Under the scheme, 5,000 solar pumps will be given to Odisha farmers at a subsidy of 90 per cent to irrigate 2,500 acres of land.

Q.49) India's first Multi-Modal terminal on Inland Waterways was recently inaugurated on which of the following River?

- a) Brahmaputra
- b) Krishna
- c) Ganga
- d) Cauvery



Q.49) Solution (c)

Prime Minister inaugurated India's first multi-modal terminal on the Ganga River in Varanasi and received the country's first container cargo transported on inland waterways from Kolkata.

This is the first of the four multi-modal terminals being constructed on the National Waterway-1 (River Ganga) as part of the World Bank-aided 'Jal Marg Vikas Project' of the Inland Waterways Authority of India. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs 5,369.18 crore, which will be equally shared between the Government of India and the World Bank.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/pm-modi-inaugurates-indias-first-multi-modal-terminal-on-inland-waterways/article25476376.ece>

Q.50) The term 'Bhungroo', recently in news is a:

- a) A very famous weaving technique in Southern India.
- b) Water harvesting system
- c) Preservation technique followed by tribals living in Odisha
- d) It is the other name of 'slash and burn' technique

Q.50) Solution (b)

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/agriculture/bhungroo-brings-hope-where-dry-spells-prevail/article25419896.ece>

Q.51) 'Chitmahal Agreement' recently seen in news is associated with which of the following countries?

- a) Pakistan
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Bangladesh
- d) Nepal

Q.51) Solution (c)

Enclave exchange

- Bangladesh and India had exchanged a total of 162 enclaves on August 1, 2015, ending one of the world's most-complex border disputes that had lingered for seven decades since Independence.
- As per the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) 1974 and Protocol of 2011, 51 erstwhile Bangladeshi enclaves in India and 111 erstwhile Indian enclaves in Bangladesh were physically transferred to the other country.
- They are also known as the chitmahals
- It settled the question of citizenship for over 50,000 people in these enclaves.
- The enclaves were part of West Bengal, Tripura, Assam and Meghalaya.

Q.52) Which of the following are examples of 'over-the-top (OTT) services'?

1. Netflix
2. WhatsApp
3. HotStar

Select the correct code:

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

Q.52) Solution (c)

Over the top is a term used to refer to content providers that distribute streaming media as a standalone product directly to viewers over the Internet, bypassing telecommunications, multichannel television, and broadcast television platforms that traditionally act as a controller or distributor of such content.

OTT television, usually called internet television or streaming television, remains the most popular OTT content. This signal is received over the internet or through a cell phone network, as opposed to receiving the television signal from a terrestrial broadcast or satellite. Access is controlled by the video distributor, through either an app or a separate OTT dongle or box, connected to a phone, PC or television set.

OTT messaging is defined as instant messaging services or online chat provided by third parties, as an alternative to text messaging services provided by a mobile network operator. An example is the Facebook-owned mobile application WhatsApp, that serves to replace text messaging on Internet connected smartphones. Other providers of OTT messaging include Viber, WeChat, Skype, Telegram and Google Allo.

OTT voice calling, usually called VOIP, capabilities, for instance, as provided by Skype, WeChat, Viber, and WhatsApp use open internet communication protocols to replace and sometimes enhance existing operator controlled services offered by mobile phone operators.

Q.53) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Sea surface temperature in the Indian and Pacific Oceans has no effect on the heat waves
2. Duration and area of spread of heat waves in India is steadily decreasing over the past decade

Select the correct statements

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

Q.53) Solution (d)**Heat wave**

- A Heat Wave is a period of abnormally high temperatures, more than the normal maximum temperature that occurs during the summer season in the North-Western parts of India. Heat Waves typically occur between March and June, and in some rare cases even extend till July.
- The extreme temperatures and resultant atmospheric conditions adversely affect people living in these regions as they cause physiological stress, sometimes resulting in death.
- It is considered if maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C or more for Plains, 37°C or more for coastal stations and at least 30°C or more for Hilly regions.

Following criteria are used to declare heat wave:**Based on Departure from Normal**

- Heat Wave: Departure from normal is 4.5°C to 6.4°C
- Severe Heat Wave: Departure from normal is >6.4°C

Based on Actual Maximum Temperature (for plains only)

- Heat Wave: When actual maximum temperature $\geq 45^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Severe Heat Wave: When actual maximum temperature $\geq 47^{\circ}\text{C}$

To declare heat wave, the above criteria should be met at least in 2 stations in a Meteorological sub-division for at least two consecutive days and it will be declared on the second day

From 2014-2017, the average length of heatwaves in India ranged from 3-4 days compared to the global average of 0.8-1.8 days

More Info

- Heatwaves are associated with increased rates of heat stress and heat stroke, worsening heart failure and acute kidney injury from dehydration.
- The time series of frequency, duration and maximum duration clearly suggests a link between the El Nino events and heat wave events over India.

- The years that record above-normal heat wave activity in India are also the years that follow El Nino events
- Sea surface temperature in the Indian and Pacific Oceans play a large role in the creation of heat waves, adding that increases in greenhouse gas emissions can also lead to further warming of the oceans.
- With warming of the tropical Indian Ocean and increasing frequency of extreme El Nino events, more frequent and long lasting heat wave events are likely over the Indian sub-continent in near future.
- In India, the frequency of heat waves has increased by one event in 20 years and that the average duration of heat waves has risen by two days per decade.

Q.54) Which of the following statement is/are correct?

1. Individuals born in India to parents on temporary visas are Indian citizens.
2. India follows 'Jus soli' system of citizenship

Select the correct statements

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

Q.54) Solution (d)

Most countries follow one of the two following systems: jus soli or jus sanguinis. Jus soli is a Latin term meaning law of the soil. Many countries follow jus soli, more commonly known as birthright citizenship. Under this concept, citizenship of an individual is determined by the place where the individual was born. So a child of an immigrant is a citizen as long as he/she is born in the country of immigration. The US follows the jus soli system to determine citizenship. Therefore, whoever is born in the US and is subject to its jurisdiction is automatically granted US citizenship.

Jus sanguinis is when a person acquires citizenship through descent, i.e. through their parents or ancestors independent of where he/she is born. For example, a child born in India must have at least one parent who is an Indian citizen to be conferred citizenship.

Q.55) Which of the following countries opens out to 'Ionian Sea'?

- a) Croatia

- b) Greece
- c) Slovenia
- d) Kosovo

Q.55) Solution (b)

Ionian Sea is an elongated bay of the Mediterranean Sea, south of the Adriatic Sea. It is bounded by Southern Italy including Calabria, Sicily, and the Salento peninsula to the west, southern Albania to the north, and the west coast of Greece.



Q.56) With reference to term 'Annualised Slippage Ratio', which of the following is correct?

- a) The percentage of fresh NPAs as percentage of standard advances at the beginning of the quarter.
- b) Percentage of equity minus net NPA divided by total assets minus intangible assets.
- c) The differential (surplus or deficit) between non-interest income and non-interest expenses as a percentage to average total assets.
- d) None of the above is correct

Q.56) Solution (a)

The annualised slippage ratio (i.e. the percentage of fresh NPAs as percentage of standard advances at the beginning of the quarter) has also witnessed a declining trend over the past two quarters, which is again reflective of the improving credit discipline- **RBI REPORT**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/npas-on-downhill-path-since-march-peak-says-rbi/article25608250.ece>

Q.57) Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) is a:

- a) Chinese experiment based on nuclear fusion that has generated more energy than Sun.
- b) A reactor developed by NASA that works on nuclear fusion.
- c) It is World's first successful experiment for harnessing substantial energy through geothermal process.
- d) A joint initiative of NASA and EU based on nuclear fusion that has generated more energy than Sun.

Q.57) Solution (a)

China's "artificial sun" (EAST) has for the first time achieved a plasma central electron temperature of 100 million degrees celsius, marking a key step in China's future fusion reactor experiment.

A Chinese team operating the **Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST)** managed to heat the reactor's internal plasma to 100 million degrees Celsius (212 million Fahrenheit). **That's six times hotter than the sun**, but it doesn't have any net power generation.

Additional Information

In stars, hydrogen fuses into helium, and eventually into heavier elements. The fusion process releases large amounts of energy, and the byproducts of fusion aren't radioactive. The only nuclear power we've managed to utilize on Earth is fission, which requires dangerous radioactive materials and comes with the risk of a reactor meltdown.

It's easy to see why there's so much interest in fusion, but it's hard to coax atoms together in a reactor. Once you get fission going, it's self-sustaining. Fusion requires constant energy input because we don't have the concentrated gravity of the sun to smash atoms together. The best way we've found to do it is with a tokamak-style reactor — that's what EAST is.

A tokamak heats hydrogen (usually a deuterium isotope) to high temperatures until it becomes plasma. Magnetic fields then squeeze the plasma together inside the reactor's toroidal internal chamber. Some of the molecules will fuse and release energy. However, all tokamak reactors thus far have consumed more power than they created.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/world/china-watch/technology/nuclear-fusion-reactor/>

Q.58) The term BDR-10, recently in news correctly defines:

- a) A new vaccine developed for Tuberculosis
- b) A new variety of soil-borne bacteria for natural insect control.
- c) Tropical Tasar Silkworm race
- d) The new hybrid of cotton

Q.58) Solution (c)

Tropical Tasar Silkworm (BDR-10) race developed by the Central Silk Board have 21% more productivity than the traditional Daba breed.

Farmers can get upto 52 kg cocoons per 100 disease free layings (dfIs).

This silkworm breed will help the tribal farmers of Jharkhand, Chattishgarh, Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Maharastra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

Q.59) The term 'Oumuamua' has been making a lot of buzz in recent times. What is it?

- a) It is the first and currently only interstellar object detected passing through the Solar System.
- b) It is an undocumented species found only in Amazon forests that closely resemble humans.
- c) It is an only artificial satellite that crossed solar system.
- d) It is an asteroid that is projected to hit Earth in 100 years.

Q.59) Solution (a)

Scientists pointed NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope toward the object known as '**Oumuamua** - **the first known interstellar object to visit our solar system**. The infrared Spitzer was one of many telescopes pointed at 'Oumuamua.

Q.60) The term ‘Heavenly Palace’ recently in news correctly defines:

- a) Chinese International Space Station
- b) NASA’s International Space Station to be launched in 2020
- c) First crew based mission on Moon by NASA
- d) It is World’s first crew based mission to Mars

Q.60) Solution (a)

China revealed some life-sized replicas of components going into a space station of its own making. The new station ‘Tiangong-2’ or ‘Heavenly Palace’ in Chinese was unveiled at China’s largest aerospace exhibition.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/china-unveils-new-heavenly-palace-space-station-as-iss-days-numbered/article25437361.ece>

Q.61) ‘Climate Finance Shadow Report’ is published by

- a) Climate Vulnerable Forum
- b) Oxfam International
- c) Under 2 Coalition
- d) WWF Climate Savers

Q.61) Solution (b)

Read More - https://www-cdn.oxfam.org/s3fs-public/file_attachments/bp-climate-finance-shadow-report-030518-en.pdf

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/still-on-the-last-chance-saloon/article25682710.ece>

Q.62) Consider the following statements with respect to the term ‘Loss and Damage Mechanism’

1. It was established by the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP19 in 2013.
2. It addresses loss and damage associated with impacts of climate change, including extreme events and slow onset events in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.62) Solution (c)**Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage**

- The L&D Mechanism was established at the 19th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 19) in Warsaw, Poland, which took place in November 2013.
- The aim of the L&D Mechanism is to address loss and damage associated with impacts of climate change, including extreme events (such as hurricanes, heat waves, etc.) and slow onset events (such as desertification, sea level rise, ocean acidification, etc.) in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

The L&D Mechanism will promote the implementation of approaches to addresses loss and damage in three ways:

- Enhancing knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches;
- Strengthening dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among relevant stakeholders;
- Enhancing action and support, including finance, technology and capacity–building.

The L&D Mechanism will facilitate:

- Action to address gaps in the understanding of various topics related to addressing loss and damage, for example, the risk of slow onset events, non-economic loss and damage, how impacts of climate change are affecting patterns of migration, displacement and human mobility, etc.;
- Collection, sharing, management and use of relevant data and information;
- Provision of overviews of best practices, challenges, experiences and lessons learned.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/climate-talks-deliver-rule-book/article25758735.ece>

Q.63) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Hebbagodi Lake – Chennai
2. Ameenpur Lake – Hyderabad

3. Lonar Lake – Nagpur

Select the correct statements

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

Q.63) Solution (b)

Hebbagodi Lake – Bengaluru

Ameenpur Lake – Hyderabad

Lonar Lake – Buldhana

Q.64) The term "Cold Classical" is associated with

- a) Kuiper belt Objects
- b) Blockchain Technology
- c) Prompt Corrective Action Framework
- d) Artificial Intelligence

Q.64) Solution (a)

The second group of Kuiper belt objects, known as the cold classicals, have nearly circular orbits and lie almost on the same plane as the planets. That suggests they have been largely undisturbed since the birth of the solar system. Ultima Thule, the target of New Horizons, is a cold classical Kuiper belt object.

Q.65) The term 'Troubled Asset Relief Programme (TARP)' is often seen in news with respect to

- a) European Union
- b) ASEAN
- c) RBI's PCA Framework
- d) None of the above

Q.65) Solution (d)

The Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) is a program of the United States government to purchase toxic assets and equity from financial institutions to strengthen its financial sector that was passed by a Democratic Party controlled Congress and signed into law by Republican Party President George W. Bush on October 3, 2008. It was a component of the government's measures in 2008 to address the subprime mortgage crisis.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/why-the-road-ahead-for-brexit-is-going-to-be-hard/article25643539.ece>

Q.66) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has notified a water conservation fee (WCF) that entities will need to pay on groundwater extraction. Which of the following are exempted from paying WCF?

- a) Individual households and Agricultural sector
- b) Defence establishments and Agricultural sector
- c) Industries and individual households
- d) None of the above

Q.66) Solution (b)

In a bid to promote conservation of groundwater, the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has notified a water conservation fee (WCF) that industries will need to pay on groundwater extraction starting from June.

As per the notification, industries extracting groundwater including mining-dewatering units and those that use groundwater for packaged drinking water would also need to apply for a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the government. Individual households that draw groundwater using a delivery pipe of a greater than 1" diameter, too, would need to pay a WCF.

However, the **agriculture sector** the largest consumer of groundwater in the country will be exempt from the fees. **Defence establishments** and users who don't use electricity to extract water have also been granted exemption from the requirement of obtaining NOCs and having to pay the WCF.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/government-to-levy-fee-on-ground-water-use-118121301190_1.html

Q.67) ECO Niwas Samhita 2018 was launched by:

- a) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- b) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- c) Ministry of Rural Development
- d) Ministry of Power

Q.67) Solution (d)

Ministry of Power has launched the ECO Niwas Samhita 2018, an Energy Conservation Building Code for Residential Buildings (ECBC-R).

The Code was launched on the occasion of National Energy Conservation Day 2018.

Implementation of this Code expected to save 125 Billion Units of electricity per year by 2030, which is equivalent to 100 million ton of CO2 emission 26 industrial units get National Energy Conservation Awards for excellent performance in energy efficiency.

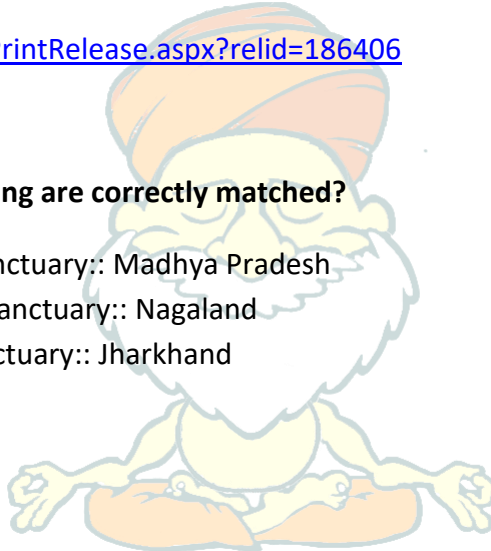
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=186406>

Q.68) Which of the following are correctly matched?

- 1. Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary:: Madhya Pradesh
- 2. Singphan Wildlife Sanctuary:: Nagaland
- 3. Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary:: Jharkhand

Select the correct code:

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

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

Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in Maharashtra

Q.69) 'Vhali Utsav' recently in news is related to:

- a) Conservation of Whale Sharks
- b) Tribal festival in Andaman and Nicobar island
- c) Festival organized by Government of India overseas
- d) It is a government supported festival organized for artisans

Q.69) Solution (a)

“Whale Shark Day” or fondly known as “Vhali Utsav” was declared in February, 2007, by the Government of Gujarat to mark the efforts of conserving the gentle giant of the sea.

Wildlife Trust of India and its partners the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) supported by Tata Chemicals Ltd, Gujarat Heavy Chemicals Ltd and the Gujarat Forest Department initiated the Whale Shark Campaign in the year 2004, to spread awareness among the fishing community in the state, on the endangered status of this fish.

Q.70) Banks are in the process of replacing the existing magnetic strip debit and credit cards with latest EMV chip cards, to comply with Reserve Bank of India guidelines. Which of the following has developed EMV Chip Cards?

- a) RBI
- b) National Payments Corporation
- c) Europay Mastercard and Visa
- d) World Bank

Q.70) Solution (c)

EMV chip technology is the latest global standard for card payments. EMV is an acronym for Europay Mastercard and Visa, who developed this technology.

EMV cards are chip-based payment cards with enhanced safety features that are designed to prevent fraudulent practices such as card skimming and cloning.

Q.71) The term ‘Regulatory Sandbox’ is often seen in news with respect to

- a) Space Debris
- b) Fintech
- c) Primary Education
- d) Environmental Impact Assessment

Q.71) Solution (b)

The Sandbox policy will allow companies to test products in a closed environment, a particular geography or among a set of users, before they are allowed roll out commercially meeting all regulations.

The concept is also being used in the digital economy arena, to refer to regulatory sandboxes: testing grounds for new business models that are not protected by current regulation, or supervised by regulatory institutions.

These testing grounds are especially relevant in the fintech world, where there is a growing need to develop regulatory frameworks for emerging business models. The purpose of the sandbox is to adapt compliance with strict financial regulations to the growth and pace of the most innovative companies, in a way that doesn't smother the fintech sector with rules, but also doesn't diminish consumer protection.

SEBI has also set up a committee to look into the concept of a regulatory sandbox in the country.

Q.72) The 'Diamond Triangle of Odisha' refers to

- a) Olive Ridley Nesting Sites
- b) Buddhism
- c) Tiger Reserves
- d) Satellite Launch Centres

Q.72) Solution (b)

Diamond Triangle in Odisha consists of The 3 places Udaygiri, Lalitgiri and Ratnagiri. These excavated sites have Buddhist heritage and relics.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/pm-to-open-buddhist-site-museum-at-lalitgiri-in-odisha/article25814287.ece>

Q.73) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

1. Miramshah – Iraq
2. Wanna – Syria
3. Hebron – Palestine

Select the correct code:

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

- c) 3 Only
- d) 1 Only

Q.73) Solution (c)

Miramshah – North Waziristan

Wanna – South Waziristan

Hebron – Palestine

Q.74) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Katas Raj'

1. It is a Sikh Pilgrimage Site
2. It is located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 or 2

**Q.74) Solution (d)****Katas Raj**

- Katas Raj, also known as Qila Katas, is a Hindu pilgrimage site comprising several temples linked to one another by walkways.
- The pond is named Katas (Raj temple) after Kataksha, a Sanskrit word meaning 'tearful eyes'.
- It is a complex of ancient temples that is among the most important Hindu pilgrimage centres in Pakistan.
- The Katas Raj temple in Chakwal district of Punjab province is one of the Hindu community's most well-known places of worship.
- According to a legend, the pond was formed as Lord Shiva wept upon the death of wife Satti.
- The temple complex consisting of seven shrines, is located around the Katas lake, considered sacred by pilgrims of multiple faiths.
- Apart from the temples, the area is renowned for its Buddhist remains and architecture.

Q.75) Which of the following statement is/are correct with respect to ‘Partners’ Forum’?

1. The 2018 edition of the forum was co-hosted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Partnership of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH).
2. It was launched to accelerate efforts to reduce child and maternal mortality, improve adolescent, child, newborn and maternal health.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.75) Solution (c)

Partners’ Forum

News: India in association with the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) is hosting the fourth Partners’ Forum

About

- It is a global health partnership launched in September 2005 to accelerate efforts to reduce child and maternal mortality, improve adolescent, child, newborn and maternal health.
- This partnership is an alliance of more than 1,000 plus members, across 10 constituencies in 92 countries: academic, research and teaching institutions; donors and foundations; health care professionals; multilateral agencies; non-governmental organizations; partner countries; global financing mechanisms and the private sector.
- The invited countries have been selected from across all regions and income levels and include countries that are currently chairing key global and regional bodies (e.g. G7, G20, BRICS, etc.).
- The previous chapters were held in Johannesburg, South Africa (2014), New Delhi, India (2010) and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (2007). This is the second time India is hosting the Partners’ Forum.
- This is the fourth in a series of global high-level multi-country, multi-stakeholder events aimed at sustaining global momentum for issues related to health of women, children and adolescents.

- PMNCH's mission is to support the global health community to work successfully towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly the health related SDGs as articulated in the Strategy for Women's Children's and Adolescents' Health in support of 'Every Woman Every Child' (EWEC) movement.
- From India, Intensified Mission Indradhanush has been selected as one of the case studies under Quality, Equity and Dignity (QED) in Services theme.

Q.76) Match the following

1. Ajrakh Block Printing:: Rajasthan
2. Talari:: Odisha
3. Pheran:: Kashmir

Select the correct match:

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

Q.76) Solution (b)

Ajrak is the name of a block printed cloth with deep crimson red and indigo blue background, bearing symmetrical patterns with interspersed unprinted sparkling white motifs. An ancient craft, the history of the Ajrak can be traced back to the civilizations of the Indus Valley that existed around 2500 BC-1500 BC.

The highly valued Ajrak has also been made in **Kutch (Gujarat)** for the Maldharis or cattle herders' communities since the time Khatri migrated from Sindh in the 16th century.

'Talari' is a large hat made of bamboo or cane that protects agricultural labourers from the sun and rain when they work in the fields. **It is used in the villages of Odisha** during rainy season. It is very convenient to use and keeps both the hands free.

The traditional outfit for both males and females in Kashmir is the phiran or pheran

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/what-is-the-row-over-the-kashmiri-pheran-5500109/>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/a-modern-makeover-for-the-traditional-hat/article25705094.ece>

Q.77) 'Kangla Fort' recently in news is located in?

- a) Jammu and Kashmir
- b) Gujarat
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Manipur

Q.77) Solution (d)

Situated close to the banks of the Imphal River, the **Kangla Fort or Kangla Palace is a symbol of Manipur's glory.**

Kangla was where the royal seat was established by Pakhangba in 33 AD. After that the place functioned as the capital for several Manipuri kings.

<https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/these-hills-reverberated-with-valour/article25680181.ece>

Q.78) Consider the following statements regarding Amir Khusro:

1. Hazarat Nizamuddin Aulia was his contemporary
2. Khusrow is regarded as the "father of qawwali".
3. Duval Rani - Khizr Khan was written by him

Which of the given statements are correct?

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

Q.78) Solution (d)

All the statements are correct

<https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/khusraus-rich-legacy/article25763031.ece>

Q.79) Consider the following statements

1. It used to have a vault where the famous Koh-i-Noor and Hope diamonds were once stored along with other diamonds
2. It was being used generically by English speakers to refer to any particularly rich mine and later to any source of great wealth.

Which of the following place is being referred here?

- a) Mahabalipuram
- b) Golconda
- c) Virupaksha
- d) Konark

Q.79) Solution (b)

Golconda is a citadel and fort in Southern India and was the capital of the medieval sultanate of the Qutb Shahi dynasty (c.1512–1687), is situated 11 km (6.8 mi) west of Hyderabad. It is also a tehsil of Hyderabad district, Telangana, India. The region is known for the mines that have produced some of the world's most famous gems, including the Koh-i-Noor, the Hope Diamond, Nassak Diamond and the Noor-ul-Ain.

Golkonda is renowned for the diamonds found on the south-east at Kollur Mine near Kollur, Guntur district, Paritala and Atkur in Krishna district and cut in the city during the Kakatiya reign.

By the 1880s, "Golkonda" was being used generically by English speakers to refer to any particularly rich mine, and later to any source of great wealth.

During the Renaissance and the early modern eras, the name "Golkonda" acquired a legendary aura and became synonymous for vast wealth. The mines brought riches to the Qutb Shahis of Hyderabad State, who ruled Golkonda up to 1687, then to the Nizam of Hyderabad, who ruled after the independence from the Mughal Empire in 1724 until 1948, when the Indian integration of Hyderabad occurred.

<https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/rebuilding-the-glory-of-golconda-fort/article25809449.ece>

Q.80) 'The Parani Genre' is associated with:

- a) Parasi Literature
- b) Kannada Literature
- c) Sanskrit Literature

d) Tamil Literature

Q.80) Solution (d)

Parani (Tamil literature genre) Parani is one of the 96 minor literary genres collectively known as 'Sittirilakkiyam' in Tamil. The earliest examples of Parani Ilakkiyam (grammar) are traced to the 11th century A.D

<https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/of-chola-literature-and-inscriptions/article25840970.ece>

Q.81) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Places in News Countries

1. Jebel Jais – Saudi Arabia
2. Tijuana - Venezuela
3. Hajin – Syria

Select the correct code:

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



Q.81) Solution (d)

Jebel Jais is a mountain of the North-Western Hajar range in Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates and also in the Musandam Governorate of Oman. The summit has an elevation of 1,934 m (6,345 ft). The highest point of this mountain is located on the Omani side, but a secondary hill (in the same mountain) west of this peak is considered the highest point of the United Arab Emirates, at 1,892 m (6,207 ft) above sea level. Since the summit is in the Omani side, Jabal Yibir at 1,527 m (0.949 mi) is the highest peak in the UAE.

Tijuana is the largest city of both Baja California State and the Baja Peninsula (Mexico).

Hajin is a small city in eastern Syria, administratively part of the Deir ez-Zor Governorate, located along the Euphrates River, south of Deir ez-Zor.

Q.82) Consider the following statements with the term 'Timberline'

1. Timberline can climb up as well as climb down.
2. An alpine timberline is the highest elevation that sustains trees.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.82) Solution (c)

The tree line is the edge of the habitat at which trees are capable of growing. It is found at high elevations and high latitudes. Beyond the tree line, trees cannot tolerate the environmental conditions (usually cold temperatures or associated lack of available moisture). The tree line is sometimes distinguished from a lower timberline or forest line, which is the line below which trees form a forest with a closed canopy.

Timberline can climb up as well as climb down. Due to the effects of global warming, the timberline in Canadas Arctic is much higher than it was in the past.

Sometimes, the timberline can be lowered by natural causes such as fire. Other times, the timberline can be lowered by human activity.

Pollution can also lower the timberline. Trees need air, water, and soil to survive. If one of those elements is contaminated, entire groves of trees can die. The copper and nickel smelter on the Kola Peninsula in Russia is one of the largest producers of heavy metals in Europe.

The alpine timberline marks the point where the elevation is too high, and usually too cold, for tree growth.

Q.83) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘World Food Programme’

1. It is the UN agency focused on hunger alleviation and food security.
2. It is governed by a 36-member Executive Board.
3. It implements school feeding programmes worldwide.

Select the correct statements

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

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

Q.83) Solution (d)

World Food Programme is the UN agency focused on hunger alleviation and food security. Globally, it responds to emergencies making sure food reaches where it is needed, especially in times of civil strife and natural disasters. In India, WFP has moved from providing direct food aid to providing technical assistance and capacity building services to the Government of India. WFP is focusing on enabling the country's food-based social safety nets to function more efficiently and effectively in providing food to their target population.

WFP is the largest humanitarian organisation implementing school feeding programmes worldwide and has been doing so for over 50 years. Each year, WFP provides school meals to 18.3 million children across 65 countries, often in the hardest-to-reach areas.

WFP is governed by a 36-member Executive Board. It works closely with its two Rome-based sister organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. WFP partners with more than 1,000 national and international NGOs to provide food assistance and tackle the underlying causes of hunger.

Q.84) Recently India signed an agreement to join 'Trans Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN). Consider the following statements.

1. It will give India the access to information on ships which pass through the Indian Ocean region
2. It works under the ambit of TIR Carnets

Select the correct statements

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

Q.84) Solution (a)

India Monday signed an ascension pact to the 30-member Trans Regional Maritime Network that will give it an access to the information on ships passing through the Indian Ocean Region.

The multilat (sic) construct comprises 30 countries & is steered by Italy.

The pact will give India the access to information on ships which pass through the Indian Ocean region that will greatly help the security forces in keeping a tab on any suspicious activity,

The Convention on International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) is a multilateral treaty to simplify and harmonise the administrative formalities of international road transport.

Q.85) 'ENSURE Portal' is concerned with

- a) Educational Loans
- b) Financial Inclusion
- c) Digital Literacy
- d) Direct Benefit Transfer

Q.85) Solution (d)

ENSURE Portal for subsidy payment for activities related to poultry, small ruminants, pigs etc. through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). It comes under the Entrepreneurship Development and Employment Generation (EDEG) component of National Livestock Mission and was developed by NABARD.

Q.86) Where will you find the maximum production of Rubber in India?

- a) Chotanagpur Plateau Region
- b) Marathwada Region
- c) Dharwad Region
- d) Malabar Region

Q.86) Solution (d)

Kerala accounts for close to 80% of the overall rubber production in the country followed by Tamil Nadu and North-eastern states.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/rubber-goes-for-a-swap/article25808743.ece>

Q.87) The term 'Putul Parampara' recently in news is related to?

- a) Painting
- b) Pottery
- c) Puppetry
- d) Folk Song

Q.87) Solution (c)

Sangeet Natak Akademi has organised a five-day long '**Putul Parampara -- India Puppetry Festival**', to showcase the significance of the country's traditional folk culture.

"Putul Parampara" is a series focusing on developing the classics of puppetry into the northeastern region.

Puppet dance, popularly known as 'Putula Nach', was once the most popular form of entertainment, especially for children, but the folk-culture has struggled against the onslaught of modern popular culture.

It was organised in Tripura.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/putul-parampara-india-s-puppetry-festival-begins-in-tripura-118122000845_1.html

Q.88) Polymetallic Nodules (PMN) are potato-shaped, largely porous nodules found in:

- a) Deep Sea
- b) Continental Slope
- c) Continental Shelf
- d) Lagoon

Q.88) Solution (a)

Polymetallic nodules (PMN) are also known as manganese nodules. They are potato-shaped, largely porous nodules found in abundance carpeting the sea floor in the deep sea of the world oceans.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/india-plans-deep-dive-for-seabed-minerals/article25711278.ece>

Q.89) The term 'Great Dying', recently in news form boundary between which geological period?

- a) Permian–Triassic
- b) Jurassic-Triassic
- c) Permian-Jurassic
- d) Permian-Devonian

Q.89) Solution (a)

The mass extinction, known as the “great dying”, occurred around 252m years ago and marked the **end of the Permian geologic period**. The study of sediments and fossilized creatures show the event was the single greatest calamity ever to befall life on Earth, eclipsing even the extinction of the dinosaurs 65m years ago.

The Permian–Triassic (P–Tr or P–T) extinction event, colloquially known as the Great Dying, the End-Permian Extinction or the Great Permian Extinction, occurred about 252 Ma (million years) ago, forming the **boundary between the Permian and Triassic geologic periods, as well as between the Paleozoic and Mesozoic eras**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/hot-ocean-water-led-to-mass-extinction-study/article25699084.ece>



Q.90) The term 'Barnard's star b' recently in news is:

- a) Supernova
- b) Exo-planet
- c) Artificial Satellite
- d) Asteroid

Q.90) Solution (b)

Astronomers have discovered a frozen planet with a mass over three times that of the Earth, orbiting the closest solitary star to the Sun.

Barnard's star b is the second closest known exoplanet to our Sun. The closest lies just over four light-years from Earth. That exoplanet, Proxima b, orbits around the red dwarf Proxima Centauri.

Barnard's star b orbits around its host star once every 233 days.

Q.91) What are the benefits of using 'Glass Fibre Reinforced Gypsum' I construction of houses?

1. Reduction in the structural weight of the building
2. No plastering requirement for walls and ceiling
3. Increased speed of construction with lesser manpower

Select the correct code:

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

Q.91) Solution (d)

Glass Fibre Reinforced Gypsum building technology

News: IIT Madras is carrying significant research on the uses of Gypsum in order to introduce affordable mass housing construction in India.

About

- The technology recycles gypsum — a major waste product of the fertilizer industry and coal fired power plants — to produce low-cost, environment-friendly housing which is also resistant to earthquake damage.
- Formed as an evaporite mineral and as a hydration product of anhydrite, gypsum is a crucial eco-friendly component used in the construction. Its industrial wastes are conventionally called 'green materials'.

GFRG

- Manufacture of GFRG (Glass Fibre Reinforced Gypsum) panels from the raw material gypsum, viz., natural gypsum, mineral gypsum, phospho-gypsum or chemical gypsum, with purity more than 90 per cent, entails less energy in comparison to energy-intensive conventional building materials like, brick, concrete, etc

- GFRG panels have been approved as a green material by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) under Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
- The manufacture of GFRG panels from phospho-gypsum (fertilizer industry waste) is another green material. It eliminates the use of bricks.
- Increased thermal resistance of gypsum, reduces the air conditioning load on the buildings, thus reducing the operational energy need in GFRG buildings
- Although gypsum is not water resistant, advancement of the mineral as GFRG panels have made it load bearing, water-resistant property, enabling it to be used as structural part (internal and external walls) in building assemblies.

Benefits

- Substantial reduction in the structural weight of the building (panels weigh only 44 kg/m²) contributing to savings in foundation and reduction in earthquake design forces, particularly in multi-storeyed construction
- No plastering requirement for walls and ceiling
- Increased speed of construction with lesser manpower
- Save fertile agricultural land and energy intensive burnt clay bricks
- Saving of 8-10 per cent built-up area for the same carpet area
- It is expected that GFRG buildings are more durable than similar conventional buildings, as the concrete and steel are encased by the GFRG shell.

DO YOU KNOW?

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the Government of India, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has recently approved standards for the structural design of GFRG buildings

Q.92) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)'

1. It was introduced through the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 1991-95
2. Incentives under MEIS are not available to units located in Special Economic Zones

Select the correct statements

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

Q.92) Solution (d)**Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)****About**

- It was introduced through the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20.
- It seeks to promote export of notified goods manufactured/ produced in India.
- The government provides duty benefits depending on product and country.
- MEIS is a major export promotion scheme of GOI implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Incentives

- Rewards under MEIS are payable as a percentage (2, 3 or 5%) of realized FOB value of covered exports, by way of the MEIS duty credit scrip.
- The scrip can be transferred or used for payment of a number of duties/taxes including the customs / excise duty / service tax.
- Scrips and inputs imported under the scrips are fully transferable.
- All scrips issued under MEIS and the goods imported against these scrips fully transferable.
- Incentives under MEIS are available to units located in SEZs also.

Q.93) 'Ujung Kulon National Park' was in news recently. Where is it located?

- a) Myanmar
- b) Indonesia
- c) Cambodia
- d) Malaysia

Q.93) Solution (b)

Ujung Kulon National Park is at the westernmost tip of Java, in Banten province of Indonesia. It includes the volcanic island group of Krakatoa in Lampung province, and other islands including Panaitan, as well as smaller offshore islets such as Handeuleum and Peucang in the Sunda Strait

Q.94) 'Bahuda River' flows through

1. Odisha
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Chattisgarh

Select the correct code:

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

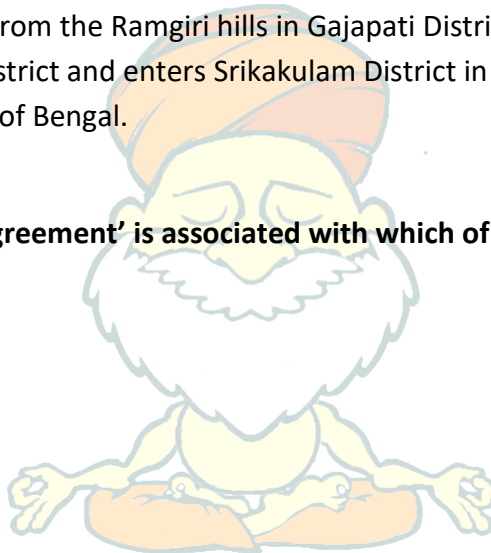
Q.94) Solution (b)

Bahuda River

- Bahuda originates from the Ramgiri hills in Gajapati District (Odisha). It then passes through Ganjam District and enters Srikakulam District in Andhra Pradesh, where it drains into the Bay of Bengal.

Q.95) 'Stockholm peace agreement' is associated with which of the following countries?

- a) Yemen
- b) South Sudan
- c) Libya
- d) Venezuela



Q.95) Solution (a)

Stockholm peace agreement

- The delegations from the two parties, the Government of Yemen and Ansar Allah, in the 'Stockholm Agreement' to a ceasefire in the port city of Hodeidah.
- The parties have agreed to withdraw their troops from Hodeidah and for the port to be managed and monitored with UN support, which will enable the import of vital provisions to the country.
- The Stockholm Agreement also includes a prisoner exchange and steps towards a ceasefire in the city of Taiz.

Please go through this article (IMPORTANT) - <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/explainer-all-you-need-to-know-about-the-new-peace-agreement-on-yemen/article25782579.ece>

Q.96) Consider the following ‘Space Launch Facilities’ around the World and associated countries and select the correct match:

1. Baikonur Cosmodrome:: Uzbekistan
2. Guiana Space Centre:: United Kingdom
3. Woomera:: Russia

Select the correct code:

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

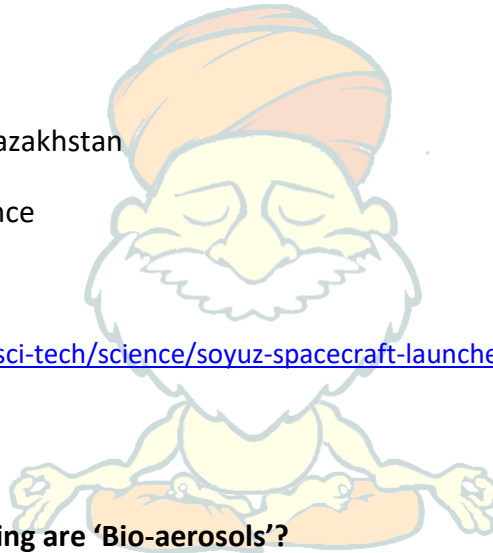
Q.96) Solution (d)

Baikonur Cosmodrome:: Kazakhstan

Guiana Space Centre:: France

Woomera:: Australia

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/soyuz-spacecraft-launches-for-first-time-since-aborted-mission/article25663789.ece>



Q.97) Which of the following are ‘Bio-aerosols’?

1. Fungi
2. Bacteria
3. Viruses
4. Pollen

Select the correct code:

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

Q.97) Solution (d)

All of them are bio-aerosols

Bioaerosols (short for biological aerosols) are a subcategory of particles released from terrestrial and marine ecosystems into the atmosphere. They consist of both living and non-living components including organisms, dispersal methods of organisms, and excretions.

Bioaerosols include fungi, bacteria, viruses, and pollen. Their concentrations are greatest in the planetary boundary layer (PBL) and decrease with altitude. Survival rate of bioaerosols depends on a number of biotic and abiotic factors which include climatic conditions, ultraviolet (UV) light, temperature and humidity, as well as resources present within dust or clouds.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/bioaerosols-on-the-rise-in-the-city/article25814416.ece>

Q.98) Which of the following is correct regarding 'House Sparrow'?

- 
- a) It is an endangered species listed in Schedule 1 of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
 - b) It is listed as Least Concern in IUCN Red List
 - c) It is an endemic species of India.
 - d) None of the statement is correct

Q.98) Solution (b)

House sparrow is listed as Least Concern in IUCN Red List.

It is not included in Schedule of Wildlife Protection Act.

- The house sparrow is widespread across the world, inhabiting every continent, except Antarctica, China and Japan.
- It is native to Eurasia and North Africa, and was introduced to South Africa, North and South America, Australia, New Zealand, Middle East, India and Central Asia, where its population thrived under a variety of environmental and climatic conditions.
- Within India, it is found throughout the country, up to the Assam valley and lower parts of the Assam hills. Towards the eastern Himalayas, the species is replaced by the Eurasian tree sparrow.
- It is known to stay close to human habitations, and is therefore among the most commonly found bird species in urban cities. Flocks of sparrows are a common sighting near residential colonies, gardens, farms, agricultural fields, office buildings, and even highways with fast-moving traffic.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/ganjam-takes-the-lead-in-house-sparrow-conservation/article25720676.ece>

<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/103818789/129643357>

Q.99) Consider the following statements regarding, Bio-luminescence and Bio-fluorescence and select the correct one:

- While bio-luminescence is a naturally occurring phenomenon, bio-fluorescence is an artificially occurring phenomenon.
- Bioluminescence is where the animal emits light from within its body due to chemical reactions, whereas biofluorescence is where the animal absorbs a high-energy light and gives off a lower-energy light such as green or red light due to loss of heat energy.
- While bio-fluorescence is a naturally occurring phenomenon, bio-luminescence is an artificially occurring phenomenon.
- Bio-fluorescence is where the animal emits light from within its body due to chemical reactions, whereas bioluminescence is where the animal absorbs a high-energy light and gives off a lower-energy light such as green or red light due to loss of heat energy.

Q.99) Solution (b)

Bioluminescence and biofluorescence are naturally occurring phenomena seen within certain animals, and generally involve the production or emission of light.

- Bioluminescence, or living light, is produced by a chemical reaction churning in the bodies of thousands of different organisms from terrestrial and marine environments around the planet.
- This remarkable “cold” reaction is highly efficient, so despite radiant results, it generates almost no heat – nearly 100% of the energy consumed in the reaction is given off as the signature “cold light” of glowing organisms.
- The illuminating phenomenon of bioluminescence is scattered across the tree of life
- Biofluorescence, on the other hand, is not a chemical reaction and biofluorescent organisms do not give off light from their own power source.
- Instead, biofluorescent organisms absorb light, transform it, and eject or “re-emit” it as a different color.

- When specialized fluorescent molecules are “excited” by high-energy light (like blue light), they lose a fragment of the light energy and release the rest at a lower-energy wavelength (like green).

Q.100) First human-to-human blood transfusion happened roughly:

- a) 50 years ago
- b) 100 years ago
- c) 150 years ago
- d) 200 years ago

Q.100) Solution (d)

It has been 200 years since the first human-to-human blood transfusion was carried out on a man suffering from carcinoma.

It was on December 22, 1818, when obstetrician James Blundell carried out the first human-to-human blood transfusion.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/blood-transfusion-200-years-on/article25867601.ece>

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

1. Ground water extraction in India is primarily for Industrial use
2. Government infrastructure is exempted from the Water Conservation Fee (WCF), as per the guidelines by Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.101) Solution (d)

Ground water extraction in India is primarily for irrigation in agricultural activities, accounting for nearly 228 BCM (Billion Cubic Meter), which amounts to 90% of the annual ground water extraction. The remaining 10% of extraction (25 BCM) is for drinking &

domestic as well as industrial uses. Industrial use is estimated to account for only about 5% of the annual ground water extraction in the country.

As per these revised guidelines, Water Conservation Fee (WCF) would be levied for use of ground water depending on the category of area, type of industry and quantum of ground water withdrawal. There was no provision for exemption from WCF to Government infrastructure, water supply agencies and mining projects.

Q.102) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Innovators Growth Platform’

1. It is a tripartite initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, Lockheed Martin and Tata Trusts
2. It provides mentoring, funding and handholding assistance to over 400 innovators coming from diverse sectors from across the country every year

Select the correct statements

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

Q.102) Solution (d)

The ‘Institutional Trading Platform’ created by SEBI to list start-ups was renamed as ‘Innovators Growth Platform’.

The regulator has said the IGP can be designated as the main board platform. Further, start-ups listing on IGP should get an option to trade under regular category on the main board after completion of one year of listing. At present, ITP companies are allowed to migrate to the main board only after three years of listing. Also, the ITP is part of the SME platform and not the main board.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/sebi-to-relax-listing-norms-for-start-ups-rename-it-innovators-growth-platform/articleshow/67009665.cms>

Q.103) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Mandana Paintings’

1. Liquid past made with rice powder and water is used.
2. It is mainly practices in West Bengal and Odisha.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.103) Solution (d)

Mandana paintings are wall and floor paintings of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, India. Mandana are drawn to protect home and hearth, welcome gods into the house and as a mark of celebrations on festive occasions. Village women in the Sawai Madhopur area of Rajasthan possess skill for developing designs of perfect symmetry and accuracy. The ground is prepared with cow dung mixed with rati, a local clay, and red ochre. Lime or chalk powder is used for making the motif. Tools employed are a piece of cotton, a tuft of hair, or a rudimentary brush made out of a date stick. The design may show Ganesha, peacocks, women at work, tigers, floral motifs, etc. Such paintings are also called Mandala in most of the parts of Nepal.

Q.104) 'Munroe Thuruthu' is an inland located in

- a) Assam
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Kerala
- d) Odisha

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

- It is an island in Kollam district, Kerala, which is sinking
- The island's decline began with the construction of the Thenmala dam.
- Located 70 km away and constructed in the 1960s under the Kallada Irrigation Project, the dam blocked the flow of fresh water as a result of sediments from the Kallada river — the main determinant of the land's fertility. Today the whole area has turned saline.

Q.105) 'Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)' is constituted under

- a) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974

- b) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- c) Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
- d) Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Q.105) Solution (b)

Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act of 1986 has the mandate of regulating ground water development and management in the country.

CGWA has been regulating ground water development for its sustainable management in the country through measures such as issue of advisories, public notices, and grant of No-Objection Certificates (NOC) for ground water withdrawal.

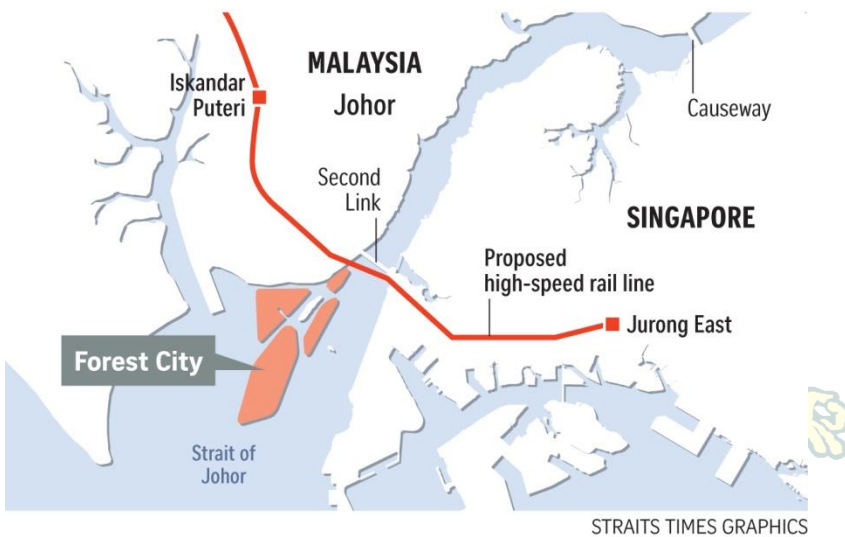
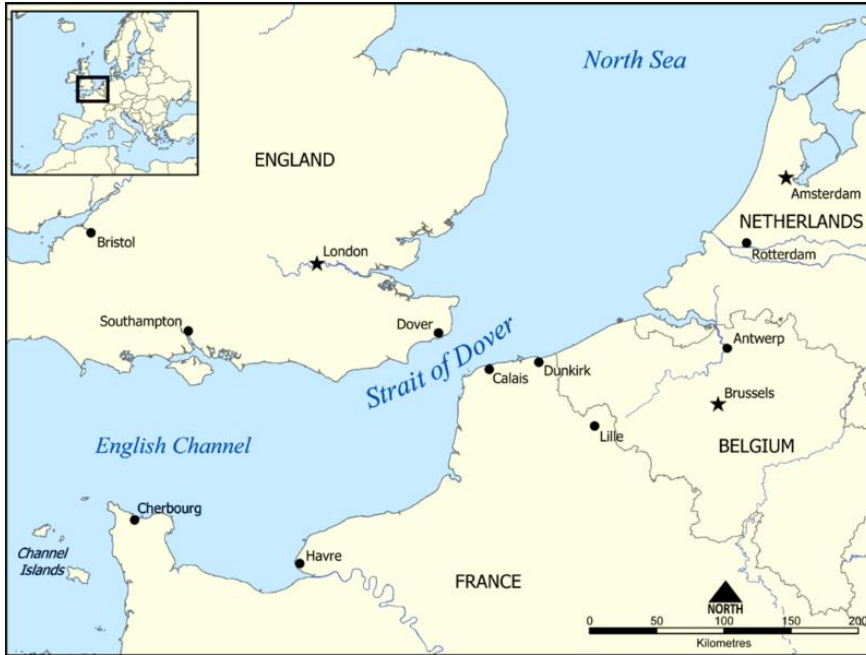
Q.106) Which of the following are correctly matched?

1. Strait of Dover:: Great Britain and Europe
2. Strait of Taiwan:: South China Sea and East China Sea
3. Strait of Johor:: Singapore and Indonesia

Select the correct code:

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

**Q.106) Solution (a)**





Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-taiwan-card/article25674348.ece>

Q.107) RBI has recently announced 'External benchmarks for loans' by banks. It has been planned to be implemented in which of the following sectors:

1. Home
2. Automobile
3. Personal loans
4. Small and Medium Term Enterprises

Select the correct code:

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

Q.107) Solution (d)

To improve transparency, RBI has said in the recent policy announcement that all the **retail loans including home, auto, personal loans and small and medium term enterprises** be linked to external benchmarks effective 1st April 2019.

The proposed external benchmarks are repo rate, 91 days treasury bill yield produced by the Financial Benchmarks India Private Ltd (FBIL), 182 days treasury bill yield produced by FBIL or any other benchmark market interest rate produced by the FBIL.

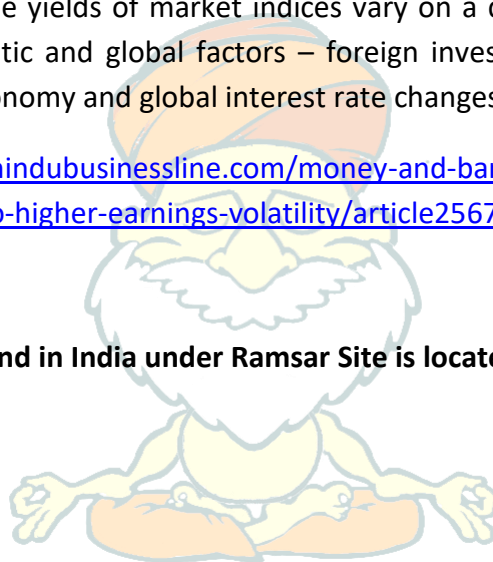
In order to ensure transparency, standardisation, and ease of understanding of loan products by borrowers, a bank must adopt a uniform external benchmark within a loan category; in other words, the adoption of multiple benchmarks by the same bank is not allowed within a loan category. Also banks are supposed to decide a spread on the benchmark and keep it constant for the life of the loan.

This move will indeed improve transparency for the consumers, however it may add a volatility component as the yields of market indices vary on a daily basis. These yields are impacted by many domestic and global factors – foreign investors' investments in Indian market, liquidity in the economy and global interest rate changes and so on.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/external-benchmarks-for-retail-loans-will-lead-to-higher-earnings-volatility/article25673557.ece>

Q.108) Rudra Sagar Wetland in India under Ramsar Site is located in:

- a) Haryana
- b) Assam
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Tripura



Q.108) Solution (d)

Rudra Sagar Wetland is in Tripura.

There are 27 Indian Wetlands as Wetland of International Importance under Ramsar Sites.

India has designated Sundarban Wetland as a Wetland of International Importance, its 27th.

Q.109) Kerch Strait recently in news separates:

- a) Ukraine and Russia
- b) Crimea and Ukraine

- c) Russia and Crimea
- d) Turkey and Bulgaria

Q.109) Solution (c)

The Kerch Strait is a strait connecting the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, separating the **Kerch Peninsula of Crimea** in the west from the **Taman Peninsula of Russia's Krasnodar Krai** in the east.



Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/ukraine-resumes-grain-shipments-from-azov-sea/article25665700.ece>

Q.110) As per recent UNICEF Report consider the following statements:

1. Adolescent boys account for two out of every three new HIV infections in the 15-19 age group.
2. The estimated number of children under 5 years old, newly diagnosed with HIV has increased to more than 50% as compared to last estimate.

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.110) Solution (d)**Children, HIV and AIDS: The world today and in 2030**

The situation is particularly dire for adolescent girls and adolescents who are members of key populations. Worldwide, an adolescent girl (15-19) was infected every three minutes in 2017.

Adolescent girls account for two out of every three new HIV infections in the 15-19 age group.

Adolescents generally, and adolescent girls and adolescent members of key populations in particular, tend to be the groups at most risk of contracting HIV. They are also least likely to have access to treatment. "Key populations" refers to men who have sex with men, injecting drug users, sexually exploited youth workers, and adolescents who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex.

In 2017, the estimated number of children under 5 years old newly diagnosed with HIV was 43% lower than the comparable estimate in 2010, **a decline greater than the 35% recorded globally.**

India has highest number of children and adolescents living with HIV in South Asia: UNICEF report.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/india-has-highest-number-of-children-and-adolescents-living-with-hiv-in-south-asia-unicef-report/article25631057.ece>

Q.111) 'Pygmy falcon' was in news recently. It is naturally found in

1. Kerala
2. Karnataka
3. Andhra Pradesh
4. Maharashtra

Select the correct code:

- a) 1, 2 and 4
- b) 1 and 2 Only
- c) 3 Only
- d) None of the above

Q.111) Solution (d)

The pygmy falcon, or African pygmy falcon (*Polihierax semitorquatus*), is a falcon that lives in eastern and southern Africa and is the smallest raptor on the continent. As a small falcon, only 19 to 20 cm long, it preys on insects, small reptiles, and small mammals.

IUCN Status- Least Concern

Q.112) The Global Human Footprint Dataset is produced by

- a) UN Environment
- b) Climate Vulnerable Forum
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) Wildlife Conservation Society

Q.112) Solution (d)

It is produced by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Columbia University Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN).

Q.113) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)'

1. It is a statutory body
2. It monitors the implementation of 'The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013'
3. It is chaired by the person in the rank and status of the Union Minister for States

Select the correct statements

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

Q.113) Solution (b)

The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) was constituted on 12th August, 1994 as a statutory body by an Act of Parliament viz. 'National Commission for Safai

Karamcharis Act, 1993', for a period of three years i.e. up to 31st March, 1997. As per sub-section (4) of Section 1 of the Act, it was to cease to exist after 31.3.1997. However, validity of the Act was extended up to March, 2002, and then up to February, 2004 vide Amendment Acts passed in 1997 and 2001 respectively.

With the lapsing of the "The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993" w.e.f. 29.2.2004, the Commission is acting as a Non-Statutory body of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis comprises one Chairman (in the rank and status of the Union Minister for States) and four members, including a lady member (in the rank and status of the Secretary to the Government of India) and the Secretary (in the rank of Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India) along with other supporting staff.

With the enactment of "The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013", the mandate and scope of the Commission has also been enlarged. As per Section 31(1) of the said Act, the Commission shall perform the following functions, namely:-

- To monitor the implementation of the Act.
- To enquire into complaints regarding contravention of the provisions of the Act, and to convey its findings to the concerned authorities with recommendations requiring further action.
- To advise the Central and the State Governments for effective implementation of the provisions of the Act.
- To take suo motu notice of matter relating to non-implementation of the Act.

Read More - <https://ncsk.nic.in/about-us/about-ncsk>

Q.114) Hojagiri is a folk dance performed in

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Tripura
- c) Odisha
- d) Kerala

Q.114) Solution (b)

Hojagiri is a folk dance, performed in the state of Tripura, India by the Bru(Reang) people. It is performed by women and young girls, about 4 to 6 members in a team, singing, balancing on an earthen pitcher and managing other props such as a bottle on the head and earthen lamp on the hand.

Q.115) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Angel Tax'

1. It refers to the income tax payable on capital raised by unlisted companies via issue of shares where the share price is seen in excess of the fair market value of the shares sold.
2. It was introduced in the 2012 Union Budget to fight money laundering

Select the correct statements

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

Q.115) Solution (c)

Angel tax is a term used to refer to the income tax payable on capital raised by unlisted companies via issue of shares where the share price is seen in excess of the fair market value of the shares sold. The excess realisation is treated as income and taxed accordingly. The tax was introduced in the 2012 Union Budget by then finance minister Pranab Mukherjee to arrest laundering of funds. It has come to be called angel tax since it largely impacts angel investments in start-ups.

The government issued a notification in April this year to give exemption to start-ups under Section 56 of the Income Tax Act in cases where the total investment including funding from angel investors did not exceed Rs 10 crore. For the exemption, start-ups were also required to get approval from an inter-ministerial board and a certificate of valuation by a merchant banker. According to the notification, the exemption would apply only when the angel investor had a minimum net worth of Rs 2 crore or an average returned income of over ₹25 lakh in the preceding three financial years.

Q.116) Where will you find Kharsang gas fields and Kumchai oilfields?

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

Q.116) Solution (b)

They are located in Arunachal Pradesh

Oilfields of Assam are relatively inaccessible and are distantly located from the main consuming areas. Oil from Assam is, therefore, refined mostly in the refineries located at Digboi, Guwahati, Bongaigaon, Barauni and Nomaligarh.

Arunachal Pradesh has oil reserves at Manabhum, Kharsang (Nigreu Oil-fields) and Charali. In Tripura, promising oilfields have been discovered at Mamunbhanga, Baramura-Deotamura Subhang, Manu, Ampu Bazar, Amarpur-Dambura areas. Nagaland also has some oil bearing rock strata. In Nagaland oil-fields are at Borholla on the border between Nagaland and Assam.

Q.117) 'Carmichael Mine' recently in news is located in:

- a) New Zealand
- b) Russia
- c) Vietnam
- d) Australia

Q.117) Solution (d)

The Carmichael coal mine is a proposed thermal coal mine in the north of the Galilee Basin in Central Queensland, Australia. Mining is planned to be conducted by both open-cut and underground methods. The mine is proposed by Adani Mining, a wholly owned subsidiary of India's Adani Group.

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/mining/adani-to-fully-finance-controversial-oz-carmichael-mine-62336>

Q.118) The first global map of the distribution of atmospheric ammonia (NH₃), has been published by:

- a) UNFCCC
- b) UNEP
- c) IPCC
- d) None of the above

Q.118) Solution (d)

The first global map of the distribution of atmospheric ammonia (NH₃), prepared by analysing measurements taken by satellites between 2008 and 2016 is out.

The map has been prepared by a team of scientists from the Centre national de la recherche scientifique or CNRS, Paris and the Universite Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) in Brussels. Their findings have been published in the journal Nature.

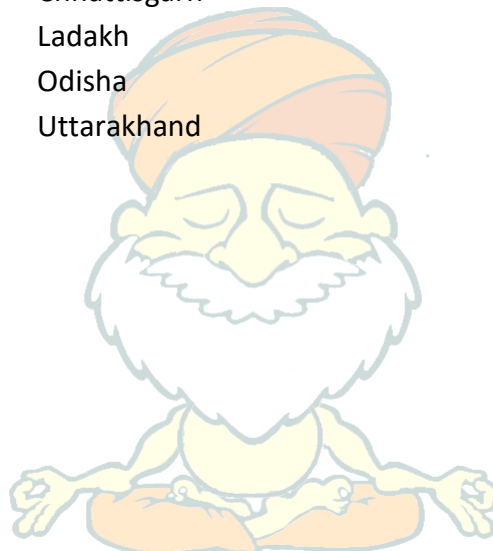
<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/air/first-global-map-of-atmospheric-ammonia-distribution-published-62402>

Q.119) Identify the correct match:

Geothermal Fields	Region
1. Tattapani::	Chhattisgarh
2. Puga Valley::	Ladakh
3. Manikaran::	Odisha
4. Tapoban::	Uttarakhand

Select the correct code:

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



Q.119) Solution (c)

Manikaran Geothermal Field is located in the Parvati Valley on river Parvati, northeast of Bhuntar in the Kullu District of **Himachal Pradesh**.

A new analysis of available data on all such sites has shown that Puga geothermal field in Ladakh could be a good site for further exploration.

A team of researchers from Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani, have used nine parameters to analyse data relating to **Puga in Ladakh, Chhumathang in Jammu and Kashmir, Manikaran in Himachal Pradesh, Tattapani in Chhattisgarh, Unhaverkhed in Maharashtra and Tapoban in Uttarakhand**.

Based on this analysis, they have concluded that Puga has the most potential.

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/energy/new-analysis-says-ladakh-s-puga-has-highest-geothermal-potential-62383>

Q.120) The recently published 'India Exclusion Report' is released by:

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) National Skill Development Corporation
- c) Centre for Equity Studies
- d) Finance Commission of India

Q.120) Solution (c)

India Exclusion Report 2017-18 released by Centre for Equity Studies (CES).

This report look into evidences which shows whether Indian states succeeded or failed in fulfilling the constitutional mandate established by the country's founding fathers.

These reports assemble evidence about the success of governments in India to ensure equitable access to what we call public goods to all segments of people, especially those who are most disadvantaged by class, caste, gender, religious identity, disability, age, ethnicity, language, education or geography.

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/governance/niti-aayog-ineffective-in-curbing-inequality-report-62385>

