

Q.1) The term 'Paris Call' was in news recently. It is associated with

- a) Sustainable Architecture
- b) Cyber Security
- c) Gun Violence and Terrorism
- d) Climate Change

Q.1) Solution (b)

French President Emmanuel Macron announced the "Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace," a new initiative designed to establish international norms for the internet, including good digital hygiene and the coordinated disclosure of technical vulnerabilities.

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Kyasanur Forest disease (KFD)'

- 1. It is a mosquitoes-borne zoonotic disease
- 2. It is endemic to South Asia
- 3. It is also known as 'Monkey Fever'

Select the correct statements

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



Q.2) Solution (c)

Kyasanur Forest Disease

- It is a tick-borne viral hemorrhagic fever endemic to South Asia.
- The virus belongs to the Flaviviridae family, whose other members are responsible for causing Yellow Fever, Zika and Dengue.
- Better known as 'Monkey Fever', KFD is primarily transmitted through ticks — in short, a tick-borne zoonotic disease.
- Multiple species of ticks of the genus Haemaphysalis are the principal vectors. Infections peak between November and March, which coincides with the larva-nymph cycles of ticks
- Doctors treat only the symptoms, for KFD has no known cure.

- The disease was first noted at Kyasanur village near Sagar in Shivamogga district of Karnataka.
- The virus has been detected in monkeys in parts of Bandipur National Park (Chamarajnar) and parts of the Nilgiris.
- Human infection occurred in Bandipur through handling of dead monkeys that were infected.

Q.3) 'Sustainable Catchment Forest Management (SCATFORM) Project' was launched by

- a) Sikkim
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Odisha
- d) Tripura

Q.3) Solution (d)

Sustainable Catchment Forest Management (SCATFORM) Project

- The Project was launched by Tripura
- It aims to improve quality of forest in the catchment area by sustainable forest management, soil and moisture conservation and livelihood development.
- The Tripura Forest Department (TFD) is the Executing Agency of the Project.
- It is jointly funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and GoI

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)'

1. It provides financial assistance to NGOs working for education and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities
2. It is under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

Select the correct statements

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

Q.4) Solution (c)

Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)

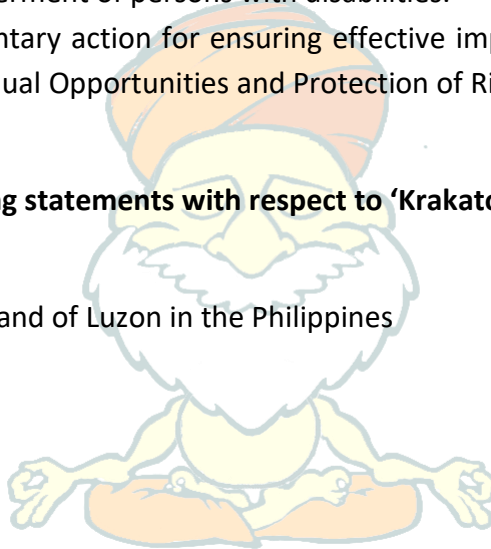
- It is a Central Sector Scheme of Government of India which is being implemented since 1999 for providing financial assistance to NGOs working for education and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.
- This scheme was revised in 2018 and the revised scheme is being implemented since 1st April 2018.
- The approach of this Scheme is to provide financial assistance to voluntary organizations to make available the whole range of services necessary for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities including early intervention, development of daily living skills, education, skill-development oriented towards employability, training and awareness generation.
- Ministry - Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

Objectives

- To create an enabling environment to ensure equal opportunities, equity, social justice and empowerment of persons with disabilities.
- To encourage voluntary action for ensuring effective implementation of the People with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities and Protection of Rights) Act of 1995.

Q.5) Which of the following statements with respect to 'Krakatoa' is/are correct?

- a) It is a caldera
- b) It located on the island of Luzon in the Philippines
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)



Q.5) Solution (a)

Krakatoa

- It is a volcanic island situated in the Sunda Strait between the islands of Java and Sumatra in the Indonesian province of Lampung.
- The name is also used for the surrounding island group comprising the remnants of a much larger island of three volcanic peaks which were obliterated in a cataclysmic 1883 eruption.
- In 1927, a new island, Anak Krakatau, or "Child of Krakatoa", emerged from the caldera formed in 1883 and is the current location of eruptive activity.
- The island is part of the Ujung Kulon National Park

Q.6) 'Innovation with a Purpose: Improving Traceability in Food Value Chains through Technology Innovations' is related to:

- a) World Bank
- b) FAO
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) ASEAN

Q.6) Solution (c)

Technology innovations, and their supporting enabling environment, have the potential to support positive food system transformation. **This report, developed by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with McKinsey & Company**, focuses on the potential of emerging technologies to improve traceability in food value chains.

The report explores the powerful opportunity for traceability to improve information about the provenance, safety, efficiency and sustainability of food and food supplies.

It also emphasizes that simply applying new technologies for traceability within food systems will not necessarily provide the desired outcome.

Risks, such as the potential exclusion of small-scale value chain actors must be carefully safeguarded against. Collaboration focused on an inclusive economic model, enabling technology infrastructure, harmonized standards, and proper training and support across the value chain will broadly accelerate and amplify potential impact.

This report supports the Innovation with a Purpose Platform, which is curated by the World Economic Forum's System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Food.

<https://www.weforum.org/reports/innovation-with-a-purpose-improving-traceability-in-food-value-chains-through-technology-innovations>

Q.7) 'Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development' is launched by:

- a) WWF
- b) IUCN
- c) Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- d) Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Q.7) Solution (d)

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) in June 2015 launched the “Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development” program also known as the **Global Wildlife Program (GWP)**.

The GWP is World-Bank led global partnership of countries in Asia and Africa to promote the conservation and sustainable development by combating trafficking in wildlife.

Q.8) The Invest4Climate platform is a joint partnership of:

- a) World Bank Group and UNDP
- b) World Bank Group and UNEP
- c) UNDP and IUCN
- d) WWF and UNDP

Q.8) Solution (a)

The Invest4Climate platform aims to further mobilize, coordinate, and deliver the finance needed to close the climate financing gap and help countries make the transition to a low-carbon resilient future that supports jobs and growth. **It is a joint World Bank Group and UNDP** partnership co-launched by the United Nations Secretary General and World Bank President in September 2017.

Q.9) ‘People-first Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)’ for UN Sustainable Goals is launched by:

- a) UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- b) National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)
- c) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- d) United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

Q.9) Solution (a)

Following the second session of the **UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Working Party on Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)**, UNECE is launching a call for “people-first” **PPPs**, in view of the gap in infrastructure funding and investment **needed to meet the SDGs**.

People-first Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) ensure that out of all stakeholders, ‘people’ are on the top.

Its focus is on improving the quality of life of the communities, particularly those that are fighting poverty, by creating local and sustainable jobs, those that fight hunger and promote well-being, promote gender equality, access to water, energy, transport, and education for all, and that promote social cohesion, justice and disavow all forms of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, creed and culture. People-first PPPs must expand in scale, speed, and spread with more people having access to better services at affordable prices.

Q.10) Elm, botanically known as *Ulmus wallichiana*, is a native tree species that is distributed across the western Himalayas. It is a type of:

- a) Deciduous Trees
- b) Evergreen Trees
- c) Coniferous Trees
- d) Alpine Trees

Q.10) Solution (a)

Elm, botanically known as *Ulmus wallichiana*, is a native deciduous tree species that is distributed across the western Himalayas and belongs to the Ulmaceae family.

The characteristic greyish-brown bark with longitudinal furrows make the tree easily identifiable. This species can be utilised for a variety of purposes, including fuel, fodder and medicines purposes. Limited population and restricted distribution has resulted in the species being listed as vulnerable.

Barot Valley is located in Himachal Pradesh.

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/agriculture/mushroom-growing-elm-trees-can-empower-barot-village-communities-62787>

Q.11) 'Kuchinoerabujima Island' was in news recently. Where is it located?

- a) Madagascar
- b) Papua New Guinea
- c) Indonesia
- d) Japan

Q.11) Solution (d)

Kuchinoerabu-jima, is one of the Satsunan Islands, usually classed with the Ōsumi Islands belonging to Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/volcano-erupts-in-southern-japan-no-evacuation-warning/article26010498.ece>

Q.12) Consider the following statements

1. 'Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)' will be funded and managed by a 'Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)'
2. 'Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)' has been formed as a 'not for profit' company as per Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013

Select the correct statements

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

Q.12) Solution (c)

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) launched by the Government in April 2018, primarily aims at creation of an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes & academia, and provide them grants/funding and other support to carry out R&D which has good potential for future adoption for Indian defence and aerospace needs.

iDEX will be funded and managed by a 'Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)' which has been formed as a 'not for profit' company as per Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013 for this purpose, by the two founder members i.e. Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) - HAL & BEL. iDEX will function as the executive arm of DIO, carrying out all the required activities while DIO will provide high level policy guidance to iDEX.

Q.13) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Global Solar Council'

1. It is an intergovernmental organization of tropical countries
2. It was launched during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UN COP 24)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.13) Solution (d)

Global Solar Council is an international non-profit association of the national, regional and international associations in solar energy and the world.

The Global Solar Council (GSC) was launched on December 6, 2015, following the historic United Nations Climate Change Conference (UN COP 21). The GSC came into being as International Coalition of more than 30 nations, utilising maximum solar energy, decided to harness the renewable energy for the greater good.

Q.14) 'Operation Kabaddi' is associated with

- a) HIV AIDS
- b) Tuberculosis
- c) Cross Border Infiltration
- d) Model Code of Conduct during Elections

Q.14) Solution (c)

Operation Kabaddi' in the post-Kargil scenario, aimed at preventing cross-border infiltration.

Q.15) The term 'Quadrantids' was in news recently. What is it associated with

- a) Symbiotic Relationship
- b) Coral Bleaching
- c) Meteor Shower
- d) Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles

Q.15) Solution (c)

The Quadrantids (QUA) are a January meteor shower. The zenithal hourly rate (ZHR) of this shower can be as high as that of two other reliably rich meteor showers, the Perseids in August and the Geminids in December, yet Quadrantid meteors are not seen as often as meteors in these other two showers, because the peak intensity is exceedingly sharp,

sometimes lasting only hours. Additionally, the meteors are quite faint (mean magnitude 3-6 mag).

Q.16) One of the prominent mudras of Lord Shiva is said to be 'Cin Mudra or Chin Mudra'. What is the meaning of 'Cin' here?

- a) Consciousness
- b) Divine
- c) Strength
- d) Sorrow and Anger

Q.16) Solution (a)

Jnana mudra and cin mudra are very similar, both consisting of bringing the index finger and thumb together. These mudras are most commonly used during meditation practices.

Jnana means knowledge. When the index finger and thumb are placed together and the hands are placed facing down on the knees this is called Jnana mudra. Cin means consciousness. When the index finger and thumb are placed together and the hands are placed facing up on the knees (or thighs) this is called cin mudra.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/find-the-missing-you/article25898165.ece>

Q.17) The Krishnakriti Festival is the largest and oldest art and culture festival in:

- a) Odisha
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Hyderabad
- d) Tamil Nadu

Q.17) Solution (c)

The Krishnakriti Festival is the largest and oldest art and culture festival in Hyderabad. **(16th edition)**

The theme 'Urban Frames — visual practices and transitions'.

The Krishnakriti Foundation each year organizes the most prominent art and culture festival of Hyderabad in the month of January.

The festival brings together the artists, curators, musicians, dancers, theatre personalities, performers, authors, poets, actors, scholars, academicians and art and cultural enthusiasts from across the country.

'Ahmedabad Walls and Hyderabad Biophilia' exhibition held as part of Krishnakriti Festival 2019 was the most sought one by *Robert Stephens*.

'Ahmedabad Walls' by Mumbai-based architect and artist Robert Stephens has its roots in the study and report of Ahmedabad by Scottish polymath Patrick Geddes in the early 20th century. Patrick Geddes visited Ahmedabad in April 1915. The municipality sought him out for town planning advice. He was asked if the 500-year-old city walls should be demolished or retained. A three-day circumambulation later, Patrick Geddes emphasised that the walls must be preserved and presented his analysis in 'Notes on Ahmedabad'.

A century later, Robert Stephens conceived the tactile travelling exhibition 'Ahmedabad Walls', juxtaposing Geddes's report with aerial photographs of Ahmedabad, covering every portion of the city walls as they exist today.

Robert's similar visual exploration of Hyderabad began in November 2018. Robert tells us that **"Hyderabad Biophilia** is an exploration of man's affinity towards the natural world, in Hyderabad specifically, through the unrealised planning work of **Scottish polymath Patrick Geddes and Indian town planner Mohammed Fayazuddin** (Fayazuddin (1903-1977) was Hyderabad's architect and recognised as India's first town planner. Several landmark buildings, including Ravindra Bharathi, were designed by him).

Note- The biophilia hypothesis also called BET suggests that humans possess an innate tendency to seek connections with nature and other forms of life. Edward O. Wilson introduced and popularized the hypothesis in his book, Biophilia.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/krishnakriti-2019-historical-archives-have-lent-themselves-to-a-dialogue-on-contemporary-urban-spaces/article25898801.ece>

Q.18) Consider the following and select the correct match:

1. Kardameshvara Temple:: Varanasi
2. Sculpture Heritage of Pragjyotishpur:: Assam
3. The Blue City:: Jodhpur

Select from the code below:

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

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

Q.18) Solution (d)

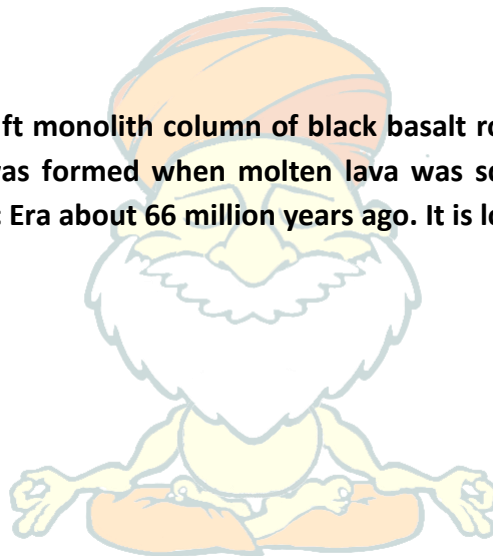
Kardameshvara Temple- Oldest surviving temple of Varanasi

Pragjyotishpur, the present day Guwahati, Assam. Guwahati has always been a center of Art and Culture in the northeastern part of India. **Known as ancient sculptural heritage in and around the city.** Also Guwahati is believed to have been a major school of Art, **the Ambari School of Art.**

Jodhpur is a popular tourist destination, featuring many palaces, forts and temples, set in the stark landscape of the Thar Desert. It is popularly known as Blue city and Sun city among people of Rajasthan and all over India.

Q.19) Gilbert Hill is a 200 ft monolith column of black basalt rock in India. The rock has a sheer vertical face and was formed when molten lava was squeezed out of the Earth's clefts during the Mesozoic Era about 66 million years ago. It is located in:

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

**Q.19) Solution (d)**

Gilbert Hill is a 200 ft (61 m) monolith column of black basalt rock at Andheri, in Mumbai, India. The rock has a sheer vertical face and was formed when molten lava was squeezed out of the Earth's clefts during the Mesozoic Era about 66 million years ago.

Q.20) During the 17th century, Patna became a centre of international trade. In 1620, the English East India Company established a factory in Patna for trade in calico and silk. Soon it became a trading centre for 'X'. Francois Bernier, in Travels in the Mogul Empire, AD 1656–1668, says, "It [X] is carried down the Ganges with great facility, and the Dutch and English send large cargoes to many parts of the Indies, and to Europe". What is X being referred above by Francois Bernier?

- a) Indigo

- b) Gold
- c) Saltpeter
- d) Cocoa

Q.20) Solution (c)

During the 17th century, Patna became a centre of international trade. In 1620, the English East India Company established a factory in Patna for trade in calico and silk. Soon it became a trading centre for **saltpetre**. Francois Bernier, in Travels in the Mogul Empire, AD 1656–1668, says, "**It [saltpetre]** is carried down the Ganges with great facility, and the Dutch and English send large cargoes to many parts of the Indies, and to Europe".

Mahavir Temple and the Rizwan Castle:: The Mahavir Temple was originally established by Swami Balanand around 1730 AD. The Mahavir Mandir Trusts have the second highest budget in North India after the famous Maa Vaishno Devi shrine. The Rizwan Castle is one of the oldest heritage sites in Patna. This structure was built in the year 1890. In 1912, during the Patna Congress, Mahatma Gandhi was known to have stayed in this castle.

Source: Taken from *India Heritage Walk Festival*

The India Heritage Walk Festival, now in its second edition, with its month-long celebration of India's tangible and intangible cultural heritage, **led by Sahapedia in partnership with UNESCO**. With its varied lineup, it explores the diversity that characterises the cultural fabric of our country, such as, food, heritage, nature, art, architecture, and so on. There will be walks, talks, workshops and Instameets across India covering a broad spectrum of Indian heritage and culture. The festival has scaled in its reach through the inclusion of over 35 cities and more than 100 events across the country. Ranging from museums, historically significant monuments and markets, to explorations of interesting natural landscapes and areas known for their rich cuisine, to women-oriented narratives, the programme is curated thematically. The focus has been to encourage and increase different forms of engagement with interesting and important heritage spaces, while also ensuring that these heritage spaces are made accessible to various audience groups. These efforts have also been specially directed towards those groups for whom engagement programmes in heritage spaces are commonly unavailable, such as children, the differently-abled, and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. We have also curated special walks and events with specific user groups in mind, such as students, travellers, local residents, and professional groups such as photographers, conservationists, and so on. Through the festival, Sahapedia and UNESCO aim to highlight these issues to other institutions in the culture space and emphasise the need to make heritage spaces more interesting and inclusive.

Sahapedia is an open online resource on the arts, cultures and histories of India (broadly, South Asia) based on both curated and crowd-sourced content. 'Saha' (Sanskrit for 'together with'), is an invitation to explore together the richness of the Indian cultural landscape.

Q.21) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Gas Hydrates'

1. They are formed naturally under the sea bed and glaciers
2. Methane from gas hydrates may constitute a future source of natural gas.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.21) Solution (c)

Gas hydrates are formed when a gas such as methane gets trapped in well-defined cages of water molecules forming crystalline solids. In terrestrial conditions, gas hydrates are formed naturally under the sea bed and glaciers under high pressure, low temperature conditions. Methane hydrate is a potential source of natural gas.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/iit-madras-team-produces-gas-hydrates-under-space-conditions/article25934300.ece>

Q.22) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA)'

1. It was founded by C.V Raman and Srinivasa Ramanujam
2. It is under the aegis of the Ministry of Science & Technology

Select the correct statements

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

Q.22) Solution (b)

It is a body under Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology.

The Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) owes its origin to the foresight and initiative of two British Chemists, namely, Professor J. L. Simonsen and Professor P.S. MacMahon.

Q.23) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY)'

1. It is a maternity benefit program which provides for nutritional support for women in pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, and over the first two years of the child's life
2. It is under the aegis of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.23) Solution (b)

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW) has launched the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme for nutritional support to tuberculosis patients as Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY).

Ministry has provided detailed guidance to the State/Union Territories (UTs) on how DBT is to be operationalized. State/UTs have been given different payment options as per their convenience for either making payment directly through Public Financial Management System (PFMS) or through the Nikshay PFMS interface

Flexibility of providing the benefit through existing bank account of a blood relative has also been given. State have also been advised to facilitate opening of zero balance accounts for TB patients, if necessary, under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and Indian Postal Bank.

Q.24) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Midday Meal Scheme'

1. It is governed by the National School Lunch Act
2. It envisages providing cooked mid-day meal with 1200 Calories to every child at primary level

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.24) Solution (d)

The Midday Meal Scheme is covered by the National Food Security Act, 2013.

The scheme guidelines envisage to provide cooked mid-day meal with 450 calories and 12 g of protein to every child at primary level and 700 calories and 20 g of protein at upper primary level.

Q.25) 'ABER' is a common digital currency launched by

- a) ASEAN
- b) Gulf Cooperation Council
- c) MERCOSUR
- d) None of the above

Q.25) Solution (d)

It is a common digital currency launched by the central banks of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia.

Q.26) With respect to Indian History and Culture, 'Kunjali Marakkars' are better known as:

- a) India's first bonded labourers
- b) India's first naval heroes
- c) India's first pirates
- d) India's first nomadic herders

Q.26) Solution (b)

The Maraikkayars were seafarers from the Tamil country, and among them, the Kunjalis of the 16th century were renowned for their heroic naval battles with the Portuguese.

Considered to be India's first naval heroes, they led the native resistance on the seas against Portuguese invaders.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/kunjali-maraikkayars-bold-adventurers/article26078569.ece>

Q.27) Which of the following correctly describe 'hypsometry', a term recently in news?

- a) It is essentially a graph that shows the proportion of air above water level.
- b) It is essentially a graph that shows the proportion of land area that exists at various elevations by plotting relative area against relative height.
- c) It is the study of underwater depth of lake or ocean floors.
- d) It is the science of measurement and description of features which affect maritime navigation, marine construction, dredging, offshore oil exploration/offshore oil drilling and related activities.

Q.27) Solution (b)

Hypsometry or Hypsometry Curve- It is essentially a graph that shows the proportion of land area that exists at various elevations by plotting relative area against relative height.

Bathymetry is the study of underwater depth of lake or ocean floors. In other words, bathymetry is the underwater equivalent to hypsometry or topography.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/what-is-hypsometric-curve-in-geology/article26105557.ece>

Q.28) This refers to a graphical representation that shows the relationship between the unemployment rate and the job vacancy rate in an economy:

- a) J- Curve
- b) Beveridge Curve
- c) Kuznet Curve
- d) Lorenz Curve

Q.28) Solution (b)

The Beveridge curve, or UV curve

This refers to a graphical representation that shows the relationship between the unemployment rate (on the horizontal axis) and the job vacancy rate (on the vertical axis) in an economy.

It is named after British economist William Beveridge. The Beveridge curve usually slopes downwards because times when there is high job vacancy in an economy are also marked by relatively low unemployment since companies may actually be actively looking to hire new people. By the same logic, a low job vacancy rate usually corresponds with high unemployment as companies may not be looking to hire many people in new jobs.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/what-is-beveridge-curve-in-economics/article26130968.ece>

Q.29) The Life-Cycle Hypothesis (LCH) quite often in news refers to:

- a) It is a physiological theory that pertains to average life span of an individual across the World.
- b) It is a controversial theory that promotes population explosion.
- c) It is an economic theory that pertains to the spending and saving habits of people over the course of a lifetime
- d) None of the above is correct.

Q.29) Solution (c)

The Life-Cycle Hypothesis (LCH) is **an economic theory that pertains to the spending and saving habits of people over the course of a lifetime.**

The concept was developed by Franco Modigliani and his student Richard Brumberg. LCH presumes that individuals plan their spending over their lifetimes, taking into account their future income.

Accordingly, they take on debt when they are young, assuming future income will enable them to pay the debt off. They then save during middle age in order to maintain their level of consumption when they retire. This results in a "hump-shaped" pattern in which wealth accumulation is low during youth and old age, and high during middle age.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/in-economics-what-is-life-cycle-hypothesis/article25926060.ece>

Q.30) Consider the following:

1. Brihadisvara Temple:: Shaivism, Vaishnavism and Shaktism
2. Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple:: Shaivism and Shaktism but no Vaishnavism

3. Airavatesvara Temple:: Shaivsim and Vaishnavism but no Shaktism

Select the correct code:

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

Q.30) Solution (c)

The Great Living Chola Temples were built by kings of the Chola Empire, which stretched over all of south India and the neighbouring islands.

The site includes three great 11th- and 12th-century Temples: the Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur, the Brihadisvara Temple at Gangaikondacholisvaram and the Airavatesvara Temple at Darasuram.

The Brihadisvara temple at Tanjavur marks the greatest achievement of the Chola architects. Known in the inscriptions as Dakshina Meru, the construction of this temple was inaugurated by the Chola King, Rajaraja I. It included gopura, the main temple, its massive tower, inscriptions, frescoes and sculptures **predominantly related to Shaivism, but also of Vaishnavism and Shaktism traditions of Hinduism.**

The Airavatesvara temple at Tanjavur was built by the Chola king Rajaraja II. The temple is dedicated to **Shiva. It also reverentially displays Vaishnavism and Shaktism** traditions of Hinduism, along with the legends associated with sixty three Nayanars – the Bhakti movement saints of Shaivism.

The Brihadisvara temple at Gangaikondacholapuram in the Perambalur district was built for Siva by Rajendra Chola I. It is **dedicated to Shiva** and based on a square plan, but the temple reverentially **displays Vaishnavism, Shaktism and syncretic equivalence themes of Hinduism** with statues of Vishnu, Durga, Surya, Harihara, Ardhanishvara, and others.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/decoding-chola-art/article26014479.ece>

Q.31) If any religious place bars the entry of menstruating women, which of the following fundamental rights are violated?

- 1. Article 14
- 2. Article 15
- 3. Article 17

Select the correct code:

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

Q.31) Solution (d)

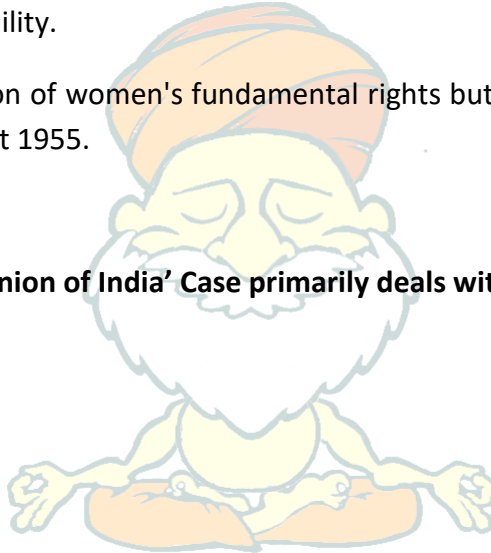
No Entry of women is a violation of Right to equality and equal protection of law (Article 14), Article 15 (3) which says that No laws can be against the women and the term law means not only parliament made laws but also all laws enshrined in Article 13 includes Rules, Regulation, Ordinance, Custom, and Usage, therefore it is contrary to the Article 15 (3).

And It is a untouchability with the specific age group of women while Article 17 talk about the Abolition of untouchability.

And it is not only a violation of women's fundamental rights but also it is a crime under the protection of civil rights Act 1955.

Q.32) 'Shreya Singhal vs Union of India' Case primarily deals with

- a) LGBTQ Community
- b) Freedom of Speech
- c) Right to Privacy
- d) NOTA and VVPAT



Q.32) Solution (b)

The Supreme Court held Section 66A unconstitutional and void on grounds of being excessively vague, open-ended and undefined. Court held that it took away the freedom of speech and the right to descent and hence violated the freedom of speech and expression given under Article 19 (1) (a).

Q.33) '124th Constitutional Amendment Bill' was in news recently. It amends which of the following articles of the Constitution of India?

- 1. Article 21
- 2. Article 15
- 3. Article 16

Select the correct code:

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

Q.33) Solution (b)

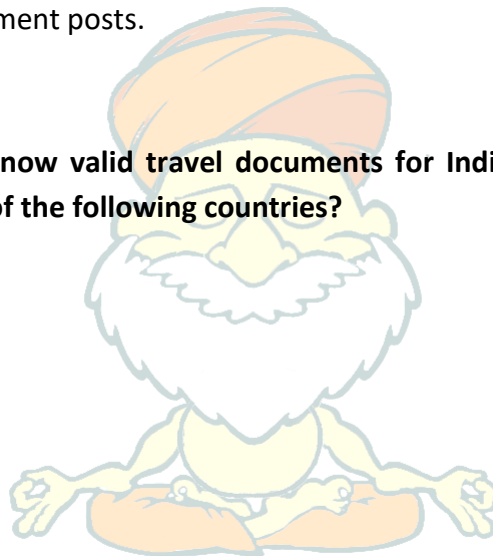
The Bill is brought into to full the commitments under the Directive principles of the state policy listed in the **Article 46** of the Constitution which urges the government to protect the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of society. The Bill amends **Article 15** of the Constitution to provide reservations to economically weaker sections for admission to educational institutions including private educational institutions, whether aided or unaided by the State, other than the minority educational institutions. The Bill also amends **Article 16** of the Constitution to provide reservations to people from economically weaker sections in government posts.

Q.34) Aadhaar cards are now valid travel documents for Indians under 15 and over 65 years travelling to which of the following countries?

1. Bhutan
2. Nepal
3. Bangladesh

Select the correct code:

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

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

Indians over 65, under 15 can use Aadhaar to visit Nepal, Bhutan.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/mha-tweaks-travel-norms-indians-over-65-under-15-can-use-aadhaar-to-visit-nepal-bhutan/article26042576.ece>

Q.35) Which of the following pairs is /are correctly matched?

Dances

State

1. Fusim Dance – Arunachal Pradesh
2. Taakala Folk Dance – Maharashtra
3. Hudka Chhudka – Odisha

Select the correct code:

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

Q.35) Solution (b)

Fusim Dance – Jammu and Kashmir

Taakala Folk Dance – Maharashtra

Hudka Chhudka – Uttarakhand

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=187832>

Q.36) Consider the following statements regarding 'Polar Vortex' and identify the correct one?

- a) Due to Earth's spin and a phenomenon called the Coriolis Effect, Polar Vortex spin counter-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere
- b) Due to Earth's spin and a phenomenon called the Coriolis Effect, Polar Vortex spin clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and counter-clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.
- c) Polar Vortex is found only in Northern Hemisphere.
- d) Polar Vortex has no effect due to Earth's spin.

Q.36) Solution (a)

The polar vortex is part of a low-pressure system, and just like other lows this one spins as winds blow in toward the lower pressure at the center of the system. (A hurricane is another example of a low-pressure system that spins.)

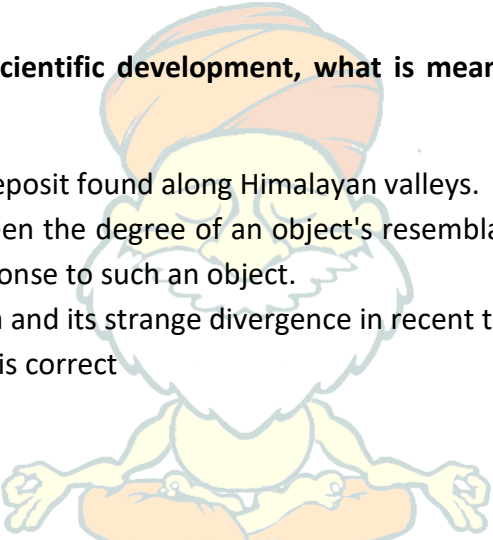
Due to Earth's spin and a phenomenon called the Coriolis effect, these systems spin counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

There are polar vortexes at both the North and South Poles, with the Southern Hemisphere vortex spinning clockwise. In each case, the vortex strengthens during winter and weakens during summer. The vortex at the South Pole is more stable than the one at the North Pole, said Brian Jackson of the National Weather Service, because there are fewer land masses in the Southern Hemisphere.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/the-hindu-explains-what-is-the-polar-vortex/article26140605.ece>

Note- Tens of millions of Americans braved Arctic-like temperatures on January 31 2019 as low as minus 49 degrees Celsius that paralysed the U.S. Midwest and were blamed for 21 deaths. News agencies said warmer than normal weather was on the way, but that offered little comfort to the homeless enduring a chill that caused frostbite in minutes. **The cold has been blamed on a phenomenon called the 'polar vortex'.**

Q.37) With reference to scientific development, what is meaning of 'uncanny valley', a term very often in news?

- 
- a) A recent mineral deposit found along Himalayan valleys.
 - b) Relationship between the degree of an object's resemblance to a human being and the emotional response to such an object.
 - c) Rift valleys in Africa and its strange divergence in recent times.
 - d) None of the above is correct

Q.37) Solution (b)

The uncanny valley is a common unsettling feeling people experience when androids (humanoid robots) and audio/visual simulations closely resemble humans in many respects but are not quite convincingly realistic.

The phenomenon is a consideration in a number of areas of design including robotics, video game art, training simulators and 3-D animation. Depending on the intent, a designer may want to avoid the uncanny valley or exploit it to elicit a particular response.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/what-is-uncanny-valley-in-psychology/article26082398.ece>

Q.38) The condition called 'Sexual Dimorphism' refers to difference in:

1. Sexual orientation
2. Secondary Sex Characteristics
3. Primary Sex Characteristics
4. Cognitive and Behavioural Differences

Select the correct code:

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

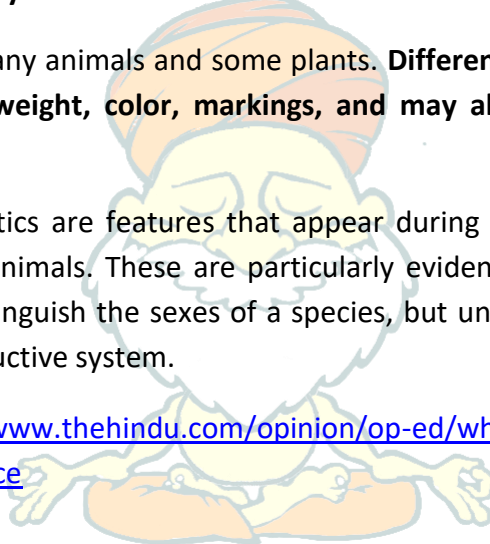
Q.38) Solution (c)

Sexual dimorphism is the condition where the **two sexes of the same species exhibit different characteristics beyond the differences in their sexual organs.**

The condition occurs in many animals and some plants. **Differences may include secondary sex characteristics, size, weight, color, markings, and may also include behavioral and cognitive differences.**

Secondary sex characteristics are features that appear during puberty in humans, and at sexual maturity in other animals. These are particularly evident in the sexually dimorphic phenotypic traits that distinguish the sexes of a species, but unlike the sex organs, are not directly part of the reproductive system.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/what-is-sexual-dimorphism-in-biology/article25892934.ece>



Q.39) Consider the following statements regarding 'Shiva Nataraja' of Lord Shiva, a 10th century Chola dynasty bronze sculpture of Shiva:

1. The face of Shiva is slightly smiling that represents his calmness.
2. The upper left hand has fire to show that he is responsible for dissolution at the time of Pralaya.
3. The lower right hand makes the abhaya mudra gesture of blessing which calms all fear.

Select the correct statement/s

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.39) Solution (d)

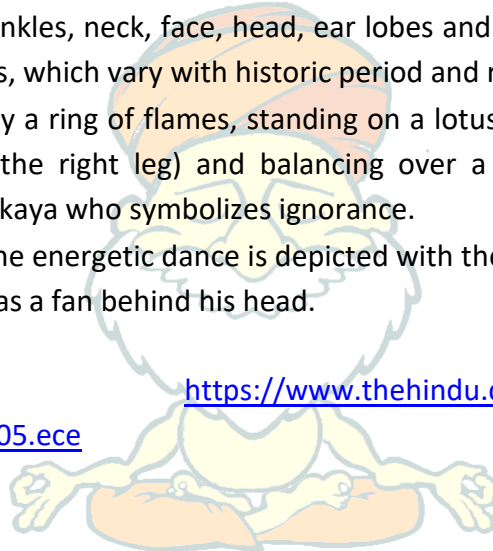
All the statements are correct

Characteristics of Nataraja

- The sculpture is symbolic of Shiva as the lord of dance and dramatic arts, with its style and proportions made according to Hindu texts on arts.
- It typically shows Shiva dancing in one of the Natya Shastra poses, holding Agni (fire) in his left back hand, the front hand in gajahasta (elephant hand) or dandahasta (stick hand) mudra, the front right hand with a wrapped snake that is in abhaya (fear not) mudra while pointing to a Sutra text, and the back hand holding a musical instrument, usually a damaru.
- His body, fingers, ankles, neck, face, head, ear lobes and dress are shown decorated with symbolic items, which vary with historic period and region.
- He is surrounded by a ring of flames, standing on a lotus pedestal, lifting his left leg (or in rare cases, the right leg) and balancing over a demon shown as a dwarf (Apasmara or Mulakaya who symbolizes ignorance).
- The dynamism of the energetic dance is depicted with the whirling hair which spread out in thin strands as a fan behind his head.

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/society/faith/symbolic-significance/article26115605.ece>



Q.40) With reference to Ancient History and Culture of India, 'Karaikal Ammaiyar' was:

- a) A devotee of Shiva and one of the Nayanars of Tamil Nadu
- b) A devotee of Shiva and one of the Alvars of Tamil Nadu
- c) A devotee of Vishnu and one of the Nayanars of Tamil Nadu
- d) A devotee of Vishnu and one of the Alvars of Tamil Nadu

Q.40) Solution (a)

Karaikal Ammaiyar one of the three women amongst the 63 Nayanmars, is one of the greatest figures of early Tamil literature. She was born at Karaikal, South India (Pondichery, TN), and probably lived during the 6th century. She was a devotee of Shiva.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/faith/growth-of-saivism/article25972556.ece>

Q.41) 'Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary' is located in

- a) Odisha
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Kerala

Q.41) Solution (b)

Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary is a bird sanctuary in Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh. It is an important breeding site for spot-billed pelicans.

Q.42) 'Seno Ballena Fjord' was in news recently. Where is it located?

- a) Finland
- b) Norway
- c) Chile
- d) Greenland

Q.42) Solution (c)

Seno Ballena Fjord is in Punta Arenas, at the southernmost part of the Patagonia region of Chile.

In News: Researchers from Austral University of Chile are conducting a study at the Seno Ballena fjord, dubbed as an open-air lab to study effects of climate change.

Q.43) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Global Tiger Recovery Programme (GTRP)'

1. It is an initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
2. It aimed at reversing the rapid decline of tigers, and doubling their numbers by 2022

Select the correct statements

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

Q.43) Solution (b)

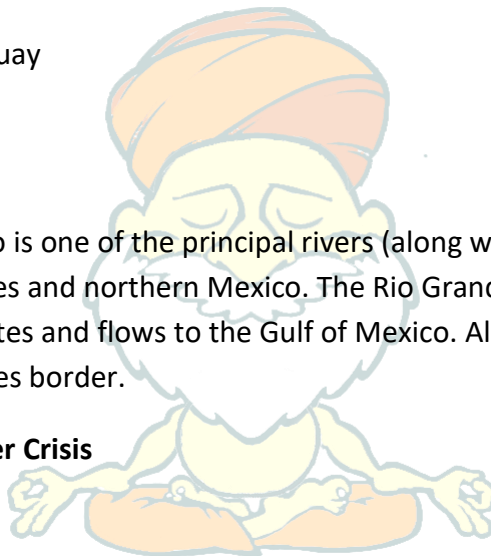
Global Tiger Recovery Programme was endorsed by the Tiger Range Countries (TRCs) in the first “Tiger Summit” in St Petersburg, Russia in November 2010. It aimed at reversing the rapid decline of tigers, and doubling their numbers by 2022. It is a first of its kind where the countries will define priority actions to be taken to deal with the crisis of extinction facing the big cat.

Q.44) ‘Rio Grande’ river flows through

- a) Brazil and Argentina
- b) United States of America and Mexico
- c) Spain and Portugal
- d) Uruguay and Paraguay

Q.44) Solution (b)

The Rio or simply Río Bravo is one of the principal rivers (along with the Colorado River) in the southwest United States and northern Mexico. The Rio Grande begins in south-central Colorado in the United States and flows to the Gulf of Mexico. Along the way, it forms part of the Mexico–United States border.

In News: US-Mexico Border Crisis**Q.45) ‘Lampedusa Island’ is seen in news with respect to Migrant Crisis. The Island is administered by**

- a) Italy
- b) United Kingdom
- c) South Africa
- d) Oman

Q.45) Solution (a)

Lampedusa is the largest island of the Italian Pelagie Islands in the Mediterranean Sea.

In News: The island has become a primary European entry point for migrants

Q.46) Which of the following cities is not located on the Sea Coast?

- a) Tripoli
- b) Alexandria
- c) Algiers
- d) Nairobi

Q.46) Solution (d)

All the cities asked in the question are often in news in relation to international affairs.

Tripoli, Alexandria and Algiers are located along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea in the northern Africa.

Nairobi, capital of Kenya is located far from Sea Coast.

Q.47) Biennial Update Report (BUR), recently in news is related to?

- a) UNFCCC
- b) UNDP
- c) World Bank
- d) IMF

Q.47) Solution (a)

BURs are reports to be submitted by non-Annex I Parties, containing updates of national Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventories, including a national inventory report and information on mitigation actions, needs and support received.

Such reports provide updates on actions undertaken by a Party to implement the Convention, including the status of its GHG emissions and removals by sinks, as well as on the actions to reduce emissions or enhance sinks.

Recently India submitted its second BUR to UNFCCC

In 2012, COP 17 (held in Durban) decided that the first BURs from non-Annex I Parties, consistent with their capabilities and the level of support provided for reporting, are to be submitted by December 2014. The subsequent BURs should be submitted every two years, either as a summary of parts of the national communication in the year when the national communication is submitted or as a stand-alone update report. However, flexibility is given

to Least developed country Parties (LDCs) and Small island developing States (SIDS), which may submit such reports at their discretion.

Q.48) Lower Demwe Hydel Project and Etalin Hydel Project recently in news are located in?

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

Q.48) Solution (c)

In news: The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has virtually cleared the way for at least two proposed mega hydel power projects in Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang Valley and Lohit districts, one of India's most bio-diverse landscapes despite strong protest by various sectors.

A three-year survey conducted by the WII's own researchers reported **sightings of tigers** in the high-altitude forests of the Dibang Valley.

Q.49) The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer entered into force on 1 January 2019, following ratification by 65 countries. Where is Kigali located?

- a) Algeria
- b) Rwanda
- c) Kenya
- d) Uganda

Q.49) Solution (b)

Kigali is the capital city of Rwanda, roughly in the center of the country.

Q.50) Global Risks Perception Survey is related to:

- a) World Bank
- b) UNEP

- c) UNDP
- d) World Economic Forum

Q.50) Solution (d)

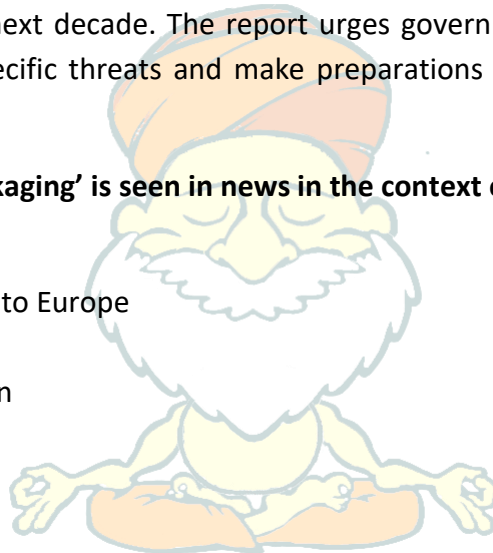
The World Economic Forum (WEF) has published the 14th edition of its annual report ranking global risks, both in terms of impact and likelihood, with environmental threats topping both lists for the third year in a row.

'The Global Risks Report 2019,' assesses the current global risk landscape, and identifies priority areas for action in 2019.

The report presents the results of the WEF's latest Global Risks Perception Survey, which surveyed nearly 1,000 decision makers from the public sector, private sector, academia and civil society who identified extreme weather and climate change policy failures as the gravest threats over the next decade. The report urges governments and organizations to address the impact of specific threats and make preparations to contain potential fallout should they occur.

Q.51) The term 'Plain Packaging' is seen in news in the context of

- a) Tobacco Products
- b) Mangoes exported to Europe
- c) Generic Medicines
- d) Soybean and Cotton

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

- Australia became the first country to introduce plain packaging following the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) guidelines.
- Plain packaging standardises the appearance of tobacco products. Other than brand and product names displayed in a standard colour and font style, it prohibits the use of logos, colours, brand images or promotional information.
- Besides increasing the effectiveness of health warnings, the idea is to reduce the attractiveness of tobacco products, with no scope for using packaging to advertise and promote consumption.
- Thailand and Saudi Arabia are the first in the Asian and Arab regions, respectively, to adopt the tough measure in order to curb tobacco consumption

Q.52) Consider the following statements

1. As per the Assam Accord, any person who came to the state after the midnight of March 24, 1971, will be identified as a foreigner.
2. The Bodo Accord was signed in 2003 which resulted in the establishment of a Bodoland Territorial Council under Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.52) Solution (c)**Clause 6 of the Assam Accord**

News: Cabinet has approved the setting up of a High Level Committee to suggest constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards as envisaged in Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.

About

- After Assam agitation of 1979-1985, Assam Accord was signed on 15th August, 1985.
- Clause 6 of the Assam Accord envisaged that appropriate constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.
- The Committee shall examine the effectiveness of actions since 1985 to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.
- The Committee will hold discussions with all stakeholders and assess the required quantum of reservation of seats in Assam Legislative Assembly and local bodies for Assamese people.
- The Committee will also assess the requirement of measures to be taken to protect Assamese and other indigenous languages of Assam, quantum of reservation in employment under Government of Assam and other measures to protect, preserve and promote cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of Assamese people.
- The committee will also look into issues of the Bodo people, especially the measures mentioned in the Memorandum of Settlement signed between the Government of India, Assam government and the Bodo Liberation Tigers Force in 2003.

Assam Accord

- As per the Assam Accord, any person who came to the state after the midnight of March 24, 1971, will be identified as a foreigner
- Citizenship (Amendment) Bill which proposes to make minority (non-Muslim) immigrants from three neighbouring countries — Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan — eligible for Indian citizenship is seen to violate the Assam Accord by differentiating between migrants on the basis of religion

The Bodo Accord was signed in 2003 which resulted in the establishment of a Bodoland Territorial Council under Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Q.53) Consider the following statement with respect to 'Border Area Development Programme (BADP)'

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Defence through States Governments
2. It is classified as a Core Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.53) Solution (b)

Border Area Development Programme (BADP)

- The Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs has been implementing the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) through the State Governments as part of a comprehensive approach to Border Management.
- The programme aims to meet the special development needs of the people living in remote and inaccessible areas situated near the international border and to saturate the border areas with the essential infrastructure through convergence of Central/State/BADP/Local schemes and participatory approach.
- The Programme was a 100% centrally sponsored gap filling till 2015-16.
- However, from 2016-17, on the recommendations of the Sub- Group of Chief Ministers, it has been classified as a Core Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) and is now part of the National Development Agenda.
- The funding pattern of BADP (like other Core CSSs), in respect of 8 North Eastern States (viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura) & 3 Himalayan States (viz. Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir

and Uttarakhand) is in the ratio 90:10 and in respect of 6 other States (viz. Bihar, Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) is in the ratio 60:40.

Q.54) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB)'

1. It is designed to ensure that banks build up capital buffers outside periods of stress which can be drawn down, as losses are incurred
2. It was introduced in 1991 to improve the ability of banks to withstand adverse economic conditions.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.54) Solution (a)

News: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to extend the deadline for implementing last tranche of an additional 0.625% to be set aside as capital conservation buffer, required under the Basel 3 norms, by a year (up to March 31, 2020).

Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB)

- The CCB is the capital buffer that banks have to accumulate in normal times to be used for offsetting losses during periods of stress.
- It is a relatively new concept, introduced under the international Basel III norms
- The capital conservation buffer (CCB) is designed to ensure that banks build up capital buffers during normal times (i.e. outside periods of stress) which can be drawn down as losses are incurred during a stressed period.
- The requirement is based on simple capital conservation rules designed to avoid breaches of minimum capital requirements.
- It was introduced after the 2008 global financial crisis to improve the ability of banks to withstand adverse economic conditions.
- According to Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB) norms, banks will be required to hold a buffer of 2.5% Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs) in the form of Common Equity, over and above Capital Adequacy Ratio of 9%.

Q.55) 'Persian Gulf Regional Dialogue Forum' is proposed by

- a) Iran
- b) United States of America
- c) United Arab Emirates
- d) Saudi Arabia

Q.55) Solution (a)**Persian Gulf Regional Dialogue Forum**

- In a diplomatic initiative to address the lingering conflicts and mistrust in the Gulf region, Iran has proposed a new platform for regional peace building.

Q.56) Identify the cultural hub, based on the statements given below:

1. It is known for its famous Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple.
2. The rituals and the popular festival of Arubathu Moovar.

Select the correct code:

- a) Mahabalipuram
- b) Konark
- c) Mylapore
- d) Rameswaram

Q.56) Solution (c)

Thirumayilai or Mylapore is one of the most important cultural hubs in the history of Chennai and Tamil Nadu.

Mylapore is known for its famous Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple, the ancient architecture, the rituals and the popular festival of Arubathu Moovar (a procession of bronze images of the 63 Saiva saints).

The temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, has been mentioned in the beautiful hymns of the 7th century saint, Thirugnana Sambandar, in his Devaram, and is well-known for its rich mythological stories.

The seat of music, dance, art and history, the streets around the temple represent the vibrant culture of Tamil Nadu.

Q.57) The Circularity Gap Report 2019 has been released by:

- a) World Bank
- b) IMF
- c) Circular World Forum
- d) Circular Economy

Q.57) Solution (d)

The Circularity Gap Report 2019' by Circle Economy, a self-described "impact organization," highlights the relationship between climate change and material use, warning that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and resource extraction have continued to increase.

The report urges a paradigm shift towards the circular economy to tackle climate change.

Of the 92.8 billion tonnes of biomass, fossil fuels, metals and minerals that enter the global economy annually, **only nine percent are re-used.**

The report calculates that 62 percent of global GHG emissions, excluding those from land use and forestry, are released during extraction, processing and manufacturing of goods compared to 38 percent of GHG emissions from the delivery and use of products and services.

Despite these figures, global use of materials continues to accelerate and could double by 2050 without action.

A circular economy (often referred to simply as "circularity") is an economic system aimed at minimising waste and making the most of resources. This regenerative approach is in contrast to the traditional linear economy, which has a 'take, make, dispose' model of production.

In a circular system resource input and waste, emission, and energy leakage are minimized by slowing, closing, and narrowing energy and material loops; this can be achieved through long-lasting design, maintenance, repair, reuse, remanufacturing, refurbishing, and recycling, all implemented via corporate and social entrepreneurship.

Q.58) The report titled 'Pro-Poor Climate Action in Informal Settlements' is launched by:

- a) UNDP
- b) UN-HABITAT
- c) International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- d) UNESCO

Q.58) Solution (b)

Climate action in informal settlements calls for a “detailed, in-depth and nuanced” understanding of the physical conditions, the demographics and the differentiated vulnerabilities of affected populations, finds a **UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) report titled, ‘Pro-Poor Climate Action in Informal Settlements.’**

Q.59) The first European township in India that is more than 500 year old is:

- a) Fort William
- b) Kochi Fort
- c) Fort St. George
- d) Vattakottai Fort

Q.59) Solution (b)

The first European township in India was built as a Kochi fort city by the Portuguese and then refortified by the Dutch.

The fort city was already close to 300 years old by the time the English came. Their language, religion and culture permeated through the lives of the locals who mixed with them.

When the Portuguese penetrated the Indian Ocean in the late 15th century and reached India’s southwestern coast, **the Portuguese navigator Pedro Álvares Cabral founded the first European settlement on Indian soil at Kochi in 1500.**

Vasco da Gama, discoverer of the sea route to India (1498), established the first Portuguese factory (trading station) there in 1502, and the Portuguese viceroy Afonso de Albuquerque built the first European fort in India there in 1503.

The city remained a Portuguese possession until it was conquered by the Dutch in 1663. Much Portuguese architecture still exists in the city.

Q.60) The Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace (GCSC) is instituted by:

- a) United Nations Security Council
- b) The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS) and the EastWest Institute (EWI).
- c) United Nations Economic and Social Council
- d) Budapest Convention on Cybercrime

Q.60) Solution (b)

The Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace (GCSC) is helping to promote mutual awareness and understanding among the various cyberspace communities working on issues related to international cybersecurity.

The Commission is initiated by two independent think tanks, The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS) and the EastWest Institute (EWI).

Q.61) Which of the following statements correctly describes 'Carbon Offsetting'?

- a) It is a tax imposed for releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere
- b) It refers to the total amount of Greenhouse emissions per year by a particular country
- c) It is the reduction of emission of GHGs to compensate for the emission of GHGs made elsewhere
- d) It is a tradable unused quota of GHG emissions permitted to the countries

Q.61) Solution (c)

A carbon offset is a reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases made in order to compensate for emissions made elsewhere. Carbon offsets are measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalent.

Q.62) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Small Grants Programme'

1. It is a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) which provides financial and technical support to communities and Civil Society Organizations to meet the overall objective of global environmental benefits secured through community-based initiatives and actions.
2. It is implemented by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.62) Solution (a)

The GEF Small Grants Programme is a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) provides financial and technical support to communities and Civil Society Organizations to meet the overall objective of global environmental benefits secured through community-based initiatives and actions.

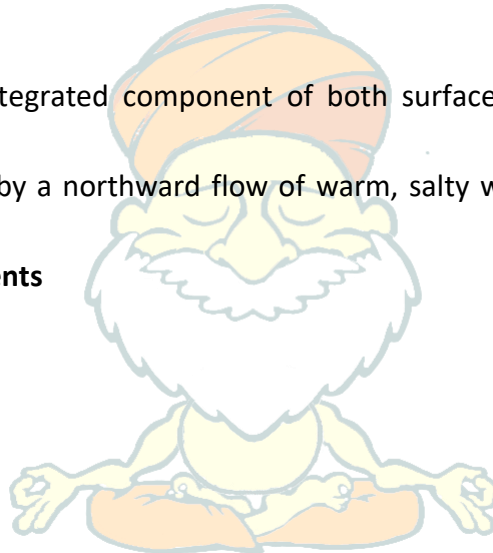
The Small Grants Programme, through a decentralized, national-level delivery mechanism, finances community-led initiatives to address global environmental issues. It is currently **implemented by UNDP** on behalf of the GEF partnership. The Program is specifically designed to mobilize bottom-up actions by empowering local civil society organizations, and poor and vulnerable communities, including women and Indigenous Peoples.

Q.63) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)'

1. It is the zonally-integrated component of both surface and deep currents in the Atlantic Ocean
2. It is characterized by a northward flow of warm, salty water in the upper layers of the Atlantic

Select the correct statements

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



Q.63) Solution (c)

The Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC) is the zonally-integrated component of surface and deep currents in the Atlantic Ocean. It is characterized by a northward flow of warm, salty water in the upper layers of the Atlantic, and a southward flow of colder, deep waters that are part of the thermohaline circulation. These "limbs" are linked by regions of overturning in the Nordic and Labrador Seas and the Southern Ocean. The AMOC is an important component of the Earth's climate system, and is a result of both atmospheric and thermohaline drivers.

Q.64) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Policy on Electronics 2019 (NPE 2019)'

1. It is aimed at achieving a turnover of \$40 billion for the electronics system design and manufacturing (ESDM) sector by 2025
2. It aims at creating a fund to promote the development and acquisition of IPs in ESDM sector

Select the correct statements

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

Q.64) Solution (b)

Promote domestic manufacturing and export in the entire value-chain of ESDM for economic development to achieve a turnover of USD 400 billion (approximately INR 26,00,000 crore) by 2025. This will include targeted production of 1.0 billion (100 crore) mobile handsets by 2025, valued at USD 190 billion (approximately INR 13,00,000 crore), including 600 million (60 crore) mobile handsets valued at USD 110 billion (approximately INR 7,00,000 crore) for export.

The NPE 2019 aims to create a Sovereign Patent Fund (SPF) to promote the development and acquisition of IPs (Intellectual Property) in ESDM sector.

Read More: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1565285>

Q.65) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

Community	State
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1. Dard Aryans – Jammu and Kashmir
2. Chhipa – Arunachal Pradesh
3. Dongria Kondh – Odisha

Select the correct code:

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

Q.65) Solution (c)

Dard Aryans – Jammu and Kashmir

Chhipa – Rajasthan and Gujarat

Dongria Kondh – Odisha

Q.66) Consider the following statements regarding the regulation of Drug prices in India:

1. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), a statutory body under Department of Pharmaceuticals of Ministry of Health is empowered for pricing of drugs and to ensure availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.
2. All the drugs sold in the market are regulated and controlled by NPPA under Drug Price Control Order.

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.66) Solution (d)

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) was constituted by **Government of India Resolution** dated 29th August, 1997 as an attached office of the **Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers** as an **independent Regulator** for pricing of drugs and to ensure availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.

The NLEM 2015 contains 376 medicines on the basis of which the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed prices of over 800 formulations using the provisions of the DPCO.

However, these formulations cover less than 10% of the total pharmaceutical market. The DPCO follows a market-based pricing mechanism. The ceiling price is worked out on the basis of the simple average price of all brands having at least 1% market share of the total market turnover of that medicine.

Till June 2018, 851 medicines (including 4 medical devices i.e. Cardiac stents, drug eluting stents, condoms and intra uterine devices) are regulated under Revised Schedule - I based on National List of Essential Medicines, 2015 (NLEM, 2015).

Essential Medicine List

- As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), Essential Medicines are those that satisfy the priority health care needs of the population. The list is made with consideration to disease prevalence, efficacy, safety and comparative cost-effectiveness of the medicines. Such medicines are intended to be available in adequate amounts, in appropriate dosage forms and strengths with assured quality. They should be available in such a way that an individual or community can afford.
- The first country in the world to compose its EML was Tanzania in 1970.

What is Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs)?

- Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) - As a principle, single medicines are to be preferred. FDCs are included only if the combination is rational and has a proven advantage with respect to therapeutic effect, safety and compliance or in decreasing the emergence of drug resistance. Some examples are, diseases such as malaria, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), where the emergence of antimicrobial resistance is an important issue, which may be partly caused by poor compliance. In these therapeutic categories, certain FDCs have been considered as essential. In certain other cases where FDCs are critical for their optimal efficacy, such FDCs are also considered as essential. For example, FDC of levodopa and carbidopa, and FDC of amoxicillin and clavulanic acid.

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/regulating-drug-prices/article26390045.ece>

Q.67) Which of the following is known as 'Lord of Seven Hills'?

- a) Lord Shiva
- b) Lord Kali
- c) Lord Rama
- d) Lord Venkateswara

Q.67) Solution (d)

Venkateswara Temple is a landmark Vaishnavite temple situated in the hill town of Tirumala at Tirupati in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, India. The Temple is dedicated to Lord Sri Venkateswara, an incarnation of Vishnu, who is believed to have appeared here to save mankind from trials and troubles of Kali Yuga.

The temple is located on seven hills. The presiding deity is also referred to as Sathagirisha or Lord of Seven hills.

- Vrushabhadri—Hill of Nandi, the vahana of Lord Shiva
- Anjanadri—Hill of Lord Hanuman.
- Neeladri—Hill of Neela Devi
- Garudadri or Garudachalam—Hill of Garuda, the vahana of Lord Vishnu
- Seshadri or Seshachalam—Hill of Sesha, the dasa of Lord Vishnu
- Narayanadri—Hill of Narayana. Srivari Padalu are located here
- Venkatadri—Hill of Lord Venkateswara

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/the-king-who-became-a-devotee-of-lord-vishnu/article26330987.ece>

Q.68) With reference to Indian Art and Culture, what is 'Pada and Javali' known as:

- a) They are kinds of love songs using the poetic imagery characteristic of the romantic-devotional movement.
- b) They are a form of devotional folk play performed in Southern India.
- c) They are kinds of ancient painting now extinct in India
- d) None of the above is correct explanation

Q.68) Solution (a)

Pada and javali are two kinds of love songs using the poetic imagery characteristic of the romantic-devotional movement.

The Javali is a quick composition that lasts around one to four minutes which is believed to have originated in the late 19th century. Inherited from the Devdasi tradition, it is erotic in nature and is best known for its attractive music and colloquial language.

Q.69) 'Special Purpose Trust Fund' recently in news is related to:

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

Q.69) Solution (a)

The Special Purpose Trust Fund (SPTF), a specific fund housed within the UN Secretariat, has been established to receive, consolidate, manage and account for all contributions and

financial transactions of the new RC system, in a transparent and effective way. The SPTF web portal, displays in real time all commitments, contributions and expenditures (soon) recorded for the fund. The successful implementation of the development system reform requires a fully-funded and owned Resident Coordinator (RC) system.

Source: <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/un-launches-special-purpose-trust-fund-portal-to-support-rc-system/>

Q.70) A report titled “State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture” (SOW-BFA) is released by:

- a) World Bank
- b) United Nations Development Programme
- c) Food and Agriculture Organization
- d) World Economic Forum

Q.70) Solution (c)

The biodiversity that is the basis for agriculture and food production is declining rapidly. Many cultivated plants, animals and fish species that are the basis of food production are at risk of extinction. The diversity of species providing essential services to agriculture, such as pollinators and soil organisms is decreasing.

These are the key findings of a report titled, “**State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture**” (SOW-BFA), released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN.

Source:

<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/fao-report-sounds-alarm-on-decline-of-biodiversity-for-food-and-agriculture/>

Q.71) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Kelp Forests’

1. They are only found in polar coastal waters
2. They feed on other marine organisms for food and energy

Select the correct code:

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.71) Solution (d)

Kelp thrives in cold, nutrient-rich waters and relies on sunlight to generate food and energy. They occur worldwide throughout temperate and polar coastal oceans. They were also discovered in tropical waters near Ecuador.

Q.72) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Geneva Conventions'

1. It deals with civilians in time of war
2. India is party to the four conventions but not the additional protocols
3. United Nations oversees whether the provisions of the conventions are being followed by the parties in a conflict or not

Select the correct statements

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

Q.72) Solution (d)

The Geneva Conventions have a system of "Protecting Powers" who ensure that the provisions of the conventions are being followed by the parties in a conflict. In theory, each side must designate states that are not party to the conflict as their "Protecting Powers". In practice, the International Committee of the Red Cross usually plays this role.

Conventions

- The First Geneva Convention "for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field" (first adopted in 1864, revised in 1906, 1929 and finally 1949);
- The Second Geneva Convention "for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea" (first adopted in 1949, successor of the Hague Convention (X) 1907);
- The Third Geneva Convention "relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War" (first adopted in 1929, last revision in 1949);

- The Fourth Geneva Convention "relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War" (first adopted in 1949, based on parts of the Hague Convention (II) of 1899 and Hague Convention (IV) 1907).

The 1949 conventions have been modified with three amendment protocols:

- Protocol I (1977) relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts
- Protocol II (1977) relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts
- Protocol III (2005) relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem

Note – India is party to the four conventions but not the additional protocols

Q.73) 'Phen Wildlife Sanctuary' is located in

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

Q.73) Solution (a)

Phen Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is a popular buffer zone of Kanha national park.
- It is located near Mukki entrance gate of Kanha tiger reserve.

Q.74) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP)'

1. The inaugural 'Global Digital Health Partnership Summit' was hosted by India
2. World Health Organization is one of the participants for the GDHP

Select the correct statements

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

Q.74) Solution (b)

The GDHP was initiated by the Australian Digital Health Agency, who will provide the first 18 months of secretariat services for the GDHP and was the host country for the inaugural summit in 2018.

India hosted the '4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit'.

Q.75) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Indian bullfrog'

1. It is an invasive species
2. It is listed as 'Critically Endangered' by the IUCN
3. Its tadpoles are carnivorous

Select the correct statements

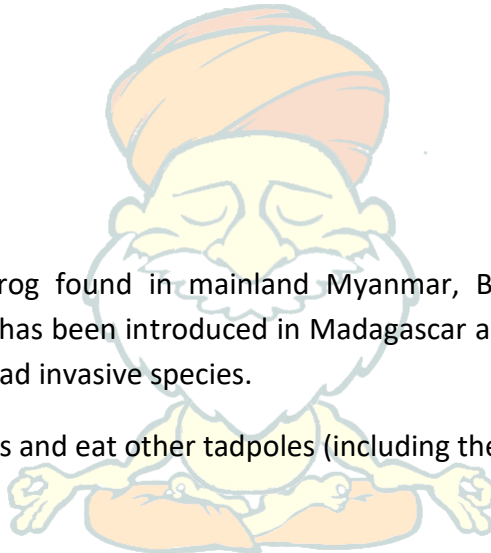
- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1 Only

Q.75) Solution (c)

It is a large species of frog found in mainland Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nepal. It has been introduced in Madagascar and India's Andaman Islands, where it is now a widespread invasive species.

Its tadpoles are carnivorous and eat other tadpoles (including their own species).

IUCN – Least Concern



Q.76) Govind Pashu Vihar National Park and Sanctuary is located in:

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Uttarakhand

Q.76) Solution (d)

Govind Pashu Vihar National Park and Sanctuary is a national park in Uttarakhand, India established initially as a wildlife sanctuary in 1955, and later converted into a national park.

It is named after a prominent Indian freedom fighter and politician Govind Ballabh Pant.

The park lies in the higher reaches of the Garhwal Himalayas.

The **Snow Leopard Project** started by the Government of India is being managed at this sanctuary.

Also, it is one of the remaining strongholds in the Himalayas of the **bearded vulture**, a vital ecological catalyst.

The Bandar Poonch massif in the Garhwal Himalaya consists of three peaks Bandar Poonch I, (6,316 m), Bandar Poonch II (6,102m.) and the Kala Nag, Black Cobra or Black Peak (6,387m).

The River Yamuna originates on the West end of the Bandarpoonch cirque Glacier. The Eastern slopes of the Bandarpoonch Mountain feed the River Ganga.

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/peak-named-after-anjaneva/article26267895.ece>

Q.77) Consider the following and select the correct match:

1. SDGs 12:: Responsible Consumption and Production
2. SDG 14:: Life below Water
3. SDG 15:: Life on Land
4. SDG 13:: Climate Action

Select from the given codes:

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

Q.77) Solution (d)



Source:

<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/adb-unep-report-examines-challenges-in-sdg-implementation-on-sdgs-12-14-and-15/>

Q.78) The term 'Policy Coherence for Development (PCD)' recently in news is related to:

- a) UNESCO
- b) SCO
- c) EU
- d) World Bank

Q.78) Solution (c)

Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) is a “key pillar” of the EU’s efforts to enhance the positive impact and increase effectiveness of development cooperation, and is different from, while contributing to the objectives of, policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD).

The 2019 report is based on contributions from EU member States, the EC and the European External Action Service (EEAS). It is also closely linked to the EC Reflection Paper titled, ‘Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030.’

Source:

<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/ec-reports-on-policy-coherence-for-2030-agenda-implementation/>

Q.79) The original cloths are first soaked and washed in the waters of the Swarnamukhi, dried on its banks and then soaked in milk for a few days and again dried. Flowers, roots, bark and seeds go into making the art so special. Only natural colours are used and no chemicals at all. Which art form is described above?

- a) Bagh
- b) Kalamkari
- c) Phad
- d) Bandhani

Q.79) Solution (b)

Kalamkari is a type of hand-painted or block-printed cotton textile, produced in Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Only natural dyes are used in Kalamkari and it involves twenty three steps.

Kalamkari is an ancient style of hand painting done on cotton or silk fabric with a tamarind pen, using natural dyes. The word Kalamkari is derived from a Persian word where 'kalam' means pen and 'kari' refers to craftsmanship. This art involves 23 tedious steps of dyeing, bleaching, hand painting, block printing, starching, cleaning and more. Motifs drawn in Kalamkari spans from flowers, peacock, paisleys to divine characters of Hindu epics like Mahabharata and Ramayana. Nowadays, this art is primarily done to create Kalamkari sarees.

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/life-and-style/fashion/prasoon-anand-on-her-venture-maggam-that-works-to-revive-original-kalamkari/article26289161.ece>

Q.80) The Baluchar is famous as one of India's:

- a) Most beautiful Pottery Work
- b) Most beautiful Sarees
- c) Most beautiful Carpet Work
- d) Most beautiful Sandstone Work

Q.80) Solution (b)

The Baluchari is famous as one of India's most beautiful sarees, its intricate craft and history interwoven into its stunning folds.

This particular type of sari originated in Bengal and is known for depictions of mythological scenes on the pallu of the sari. It was mainly produced in Murshidabad but presently Bishnupur and its surrounding places of West Bengal is the only place where authentic Baluchari saris are produced. It takes approximately one week to produce one such sari.

The Baluchari Sari has been granted the status of geographical indication in India.

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/the-timeless-beauty-of-baluchari/article26203192.ece>

Q.81) 'International Intellectual Property (IP) Index' is published by

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) United Nations Economic and Social Council
- d) None of the above

Q.81) Solution (d)

It is brought out by the **US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC)**.

Q.82) 'Global Drug Facility' was in news recently. It is primarily associated with which of the following diseases?

- a) Tuberculosis
- b) Measles
- c) HIV/AIDS
- d) Malaria and Dengue

Q.82) Solution (a)

Global Drug Facility was launched by the Stop TB Partnership in 2001 with the aim of using donor funding to consolidate demand from different countries and negotiate lower prices for quality-assured tuberculosis drugs.

The Global Drug Facility (GDF) is a key mechanism of the Stop TB Partnership that offers nations a full range of high quality drugs, diagnostic tools, and other supplies at reasonable prices in order to expand the availability of DOTS (Direct Observed Therapy [Short Course]) therapy.

Q.83) Consider the following statements

1. The 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS) will be hosted in India
2. Forest Owlet is the mascot for the 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the UN Convention on the conservation of migratory species (CMS)
3. India has launched the National Action Plan for conservation of migratory species under the Central Asian Flyway

Select the correct statements

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

Q.83) Solution (c)

Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)

News: The 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS), an environmental treaty under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme, **is going to be hosted by India** during 15th to 22nd February, 2020 at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

About

- India has been a Party to the CMS since 1983. The Conference of Parties (COP) is the decision-making organ of this convention.
- **Great Indian Bustard (GIB) will be its mascot for the 13th Conference of Parties (COP)** of the UN Convention on the conservation of migratory species (CMS)
- Also referred to as the Bonn Convention, it provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats and brings

together the States through which migratory animals pass, the Range States, and lays the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures throughout a migratory range.

- The convention complements and co-operates with a number of other international organizations, NGOs and partners in the media as well as in the corporate sector.
- Under this convention, migratory species threatened with extinction are listed on Appendix I and Parties strive towards strictly protecting these animals, conserving or restoring the places where they live, mitigating obstacles to migration and controlling other factors that might endanger them. Migratory species that need or would significantly benefit from international co-operation are listed in Appendix II of the Convention.
- India has also signed non-legally binding MOU with CMS on the conservation and management of Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008) and Raptors (2016).

DO YOU KNOW?

- The Indian sub-continent is also part of the major bird flyway network, i.e, the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) that covers areas between the Arctic and Indian Oceans, and covers at least 279 populations of 182 migratory water bird species, including 29 globally threatened species.
- India has also launched the National Action Plan for conservation of migratory species under the Central Asian Flyway.

Q.84) 'Mount Merapi' is an active composite volcano located in

- a) Papua New Guinea
- b) Indonesia
- c) Tanzania
- d) Japan

Q.84) Solution (b)

It is an active stratovolcano located on the border between Central Java and Yogyakarta provinces, Indonesia. It is the most active volcano in Indonesia and has erupted regularly since 1548.

Q.85) KUSUM Scheme provides for

- a) Installation of grid-connected solar power plants each of Capacity up to 2 MW in the rural areas
- b) Installation of standalone off-grid solar water pumps to fulfil irrigation needs of farmers not connected to grid
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

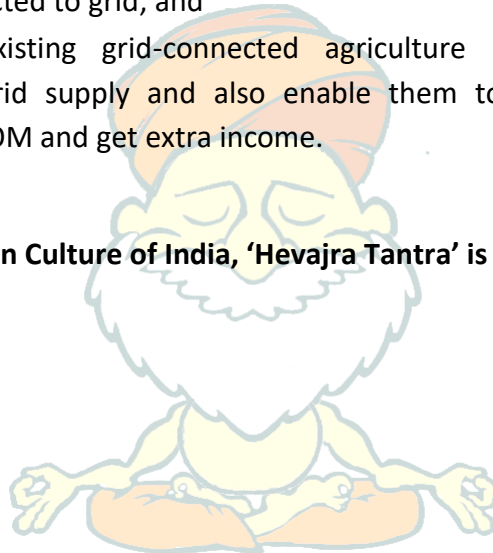
Q.85) Solution (c)

Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) provides for

- installation of grid-connected solar power plants each of Capacity up to 2 MW in the rural areas;
- installation of standalone off-grid solar water pumps to fulfil irrigation needs of farmers not connected to grid; and
- solarisation of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps to make farmers independent of grid supply and also enable them to sell surplus solar power generated to DISCOM and get extra income.

Q.86) As per Ancient Indian Culture of India, 'Hevajra Tantra' is related to?

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

**Q.86) Solution (c)**

A Buddhist Tantra of twenty chapters, thought to have originated in the eighth century. The name is based on the male deity Hevajra, a personified symbol for the Buddhist concept of a supreme being in the state of nonduality.

The Hevajra Tantra teaches the Union of Skillful Means and Profound Cognition; and states that such union is helpful in achieving the powers known as siddhis.

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/the-temple-was-not-a-vedic-institution-manu-v-devadevan/article26149218.ece>

Q.87) This archaeological site has known to have first contact with Romans in southern India has distinction of finding 'Pottery such as amphorae and Arrentine ware'. It is:

- a) Muziris
- b) Poompuhar
- c) Arikamedu
- d) Calicut

Q.87) Solution (c)

Arikamedu, located in today's Puducherry, a union territory of India, is known as the port of Podouke in historical documents.

With mentions in the Periplus Maris Erythraeae and Tamil poems of the Sangam period, Arikamedu is believed to be an active trading port of the region with the Roman Empire as early as second century BC.

Many believe that Arikamedu was a Chola port dedicated to bead making and it was the only port city in the region to have ties with Romans. In addition, textiles, terracotta artefacts, plants, spices and jewellery were also shipped from the Indian port to Roman ports and other eastern destinations. Initially discovered in the 1930's, the excavations in the port city were started in the 1940's. The discovery of several antiquities of Roman origin helped archaeologists to draw the history of the ancient port Arikamedu. The latest excavation was carried out between 1989 and 1992.

Significant findings at Arikamedu include numerous Indo-Pacific beads, which facilitated fixing the period of its origin. Red and black ceramics—known as megalithic stones or Pandukal in Tamil meaning "old stones" and used to mark graves—have existed at the site even prior to and during Roman occupation of the site, and also in later periods.

According to Wheeler the finds from the northern and southern part of the mound belong to the period from the later part of the 1st century BCE to the 1st and 2nd centuries CE. Identified structures include:

- A brick and lime mortar plaster structure of oblong shape 45 metres (148 ft) in length, with a divide wall, used as a storehouse in the southern part.
- Two walled enclosures with ponds and drainage systems in the northern part of the mound that could indicate of dyeing operations that used vats to dye muslin for export
- Pottery, both local and Mediterranean, such as amphorae and Arrentine ware that belonged to the Terra Sigillata (stamped pottery) of the 1st century BCE, which went out of use by 50 CE

- Pink amphorae jars used to store wine or oil with two handles and a yellow slip, found in all layers of excavations

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/finding-an-amphora-in-arikamedu/article26148454.ece>

Q.88) Large Marine Ecosystems (LME): LEARN is a project is a joint initiative of:

- a) International Maritime Organization and UNESCO
- b) Global Environment Facility, UNDP, UNESCO-Inter-government Oceanographic Commission.
- c) UNESCO-Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission and World Bank
- d) UNESCO, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and UNDP

Q.88) Solution (b)

LME:LEARN is a joint project of the GEF, UNDP, UNESCO-IOC and partners that aims to improve global ecosystem-based governance of LMEs and their coasts.

Funded by the Global Environmental Facility, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme and managed by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

LME: LEARN is jointly implemented with IW:LEARN, the umbrella project for LEARN projects, with a common PCU.

The 'Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Approach Toolkit' presents the GEF's revised strategic approach to designing an LME project by incorporating a five-module ecosystem approach on productivity, fish and fisheries, pollution and ecosystem health, socioeconomics and governance.

Source:

<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/gef-lmelearn-releases-toolkits-to-support-coastal-marine-management/>

Q.89) Consider the following statements regarding 'The Ocean Biogeographic Information System' (OBIS) and identify the correct one:

- a) OBIS is a global, open-access data and information clearinghouse on marine biodiversity for science, conservation and sustainable development.
- b) OBIS is a specialized agency under the UN World Ocean Assessment (WOA) for data and information clearinghouse on marine biodiversity for science, conservation and sustainable development.
- c) OBIS is a permanent body under the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) for data and information clearinghouse on marine biodiversity for science, conservation and sustainable development.
- d) None of the above is correct.

Q.89) Solution (a)

The Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) released an updated version of its ocean database. The database's new infrastructure and technology enable new data to be immediately processed, integrated into the database and made publicly available.

OBIS is a global, open-access data and information clearinghouse on marine biodiversity for science, conservation and sustainable development. OBIS aims to be a comprehensive gateway to global ocean biodiversity and biogeographic data and information necessary to tackle coastal and ocean concerns.

Source:

<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/ocean-database-features-updated-marine-status-and-trends/>

Q.90) Financing for Development (FfD) Forum is related to:

- a) UNESCO
- b) IMF
- c) World Bank
- d) UN Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC)

Q.90) Solution (d)

The ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up (FfD Forum) is an intergovernmental process with universal participation mandated to review the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (Addis Agenda) and other financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Source:

<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/ecosoc-president-outlines-structure-of-work-for-2019/>

Q.91) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA)'

1. It is an action-oriented global partnership that is committed to zero turtle extinctions in the 21st century
2. It was formed in 2001 as "an IUCN partnership for sustainable captive management of freshwater turtles and tortoises."

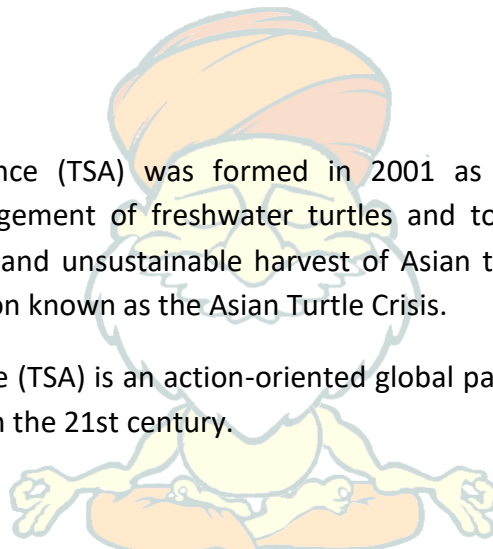
Select the correct statements

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

Q.91) Solution (c)

The Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) was formed in 2001 as "an IUCN partnership for sustainable captive management of freshwater turtles and tortoises." The TSA arose in response to the rampant and unsustainable harvest of Asian turtle populations to supply Chinese markets, a situation known as the Asian Turtle Crisis.

The Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) is an action-oriented global partnership that is committed to zero turtle extinctions in the 21st century.



Q.92) 'Pavoor Uliya' is an island on which of the following rivers?

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

Q.92) Solution (c)

Pavoor Uliya is an island on the Netravathi River and located 12 km from Mangalore.

Q.93) Which of the following medical devices are considered as drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act?

1. Nebulizers
2. Blood pressure monitors
3. Digital thermometers
4. Glucometers

Select the correct code:

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

Q.93) Solution (c)

The Drug Technical Advisory Body (DTAB), the country's highest drug advisory body, had approved the proposal to include nebulizers, blood pressure monitoring devices, digital thermometers and glucometers under the purview of the Drug Law.

Commonly used medical devices such as nebulizers, blood pressure monitors, digital thermometers and glucometers have been notified as drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

The Drug Controller-General of India (DCGI) would regulate the import, manufacture and sale of these devices from January 1, 2020.

Q.94) 'Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary' is located in

- a) Sikkim
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Jammu and Kashmir
- d) None of the above

Q.94) Solution (a)

Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary in East Sikkim. Rich in both flora and fauna, rare, endangered ground orchids and rhododendrons interspersed among tall junipers and taller silver firs are among the important plants present.

Q.95) Mahaydi River flows through which of the following states?

1. Goa

2. Karnataka
3. Maharashtra

Select the correct code:

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

Q.95) Solution (a)

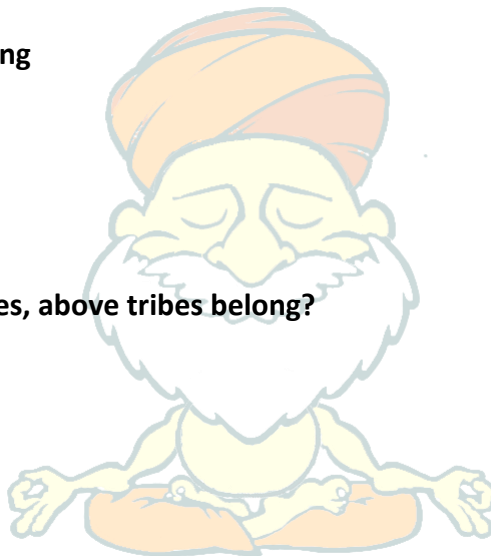
The river flows through Goa and Karnataka only. However the catchment extends to Maharashtra as well.

Q.96) Consider the following

1. Jenu Kuruba
2. Halakki
3. Soligas
4. Yeravas

To which of the given states, above tribes belong?

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



Q.96) Solution (b)

Sl	Tribe name	State population	Major districts inhabited
1	<i>Adiyan</i>	758	Bengaluru Urban, Mysore
2	<i>Barda</i>	266	Bengaluru Urban, Belgaum
3	<i>Bavacha, Bamcha</i>	960	Ramanagara
4	<i>Bhil, Bhil Garasia, Dholi Bhil, Dungri Bhil, Dungri Garasia, Mewasi Bhil, Rawal Bhil, Tadvi Bhil, Bhagalita, Bhilala, Pawra, Vasava, Vasave</i>	6204	Uttara Kannada, Belgaum, Dharwad, Mysore, Scattered in most remaining districts
5	<i>Chenchu, Chenchwar*</i>	954	Yadgir, Kolar
6	<i>Chodhara</i>	117	Bengaluru Urban, Bellari, Uttara Kannada, Scattered in many other districts
7	<i>Dubla, Talavia, Halpati</i>	264	Davangere, Koppal, Belgaum
8	<i>Gamit, Gamta, Gavit, Mavchi, Padvi, Valvi</i>	516	Koppal, Scattered in other districts
9	<i>Gond, Naikpod, Rajgond</i>	158243	Bidar, Gulbarga, Uttar Kannada, Scattered in most remaining districts
10	<i>Gowdalu*</i>	8617	Chikmangalur, Bengaluru Urban, Scattered in most other districts
11	<i>Hakki Pikki, Harnshikari*</i>	11892	Mysore, Shimoga, Ramanagara, Chikballapura, Scattered in many other districts
12	<i>Hasalaru*</i>	24466	Chikmangalur, Shimoga, Hassan, Davangere
13	<i>Irular*</i>	703	Shimoga, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Urban
14	<i>Iruliga*</i>	10259	Ramanagara, Bengaluru Urban
15	<i>Jenu Kuruba*</i>	36076	Mysore, Kodagu, Chamarajanagar, Scattered in all other districts
16	<i>Kadu Kuruba*</i>	11953	Yadgir, Mysore, Bengaluru Urban
17	<i>Kammara</i>	949	Chamarajanagar, Dakshina Kannada
18	<i>Kaniyan, Kanyan</i>	413	Chamarajanagar
19	<i>Kathodi, Katkari, Dhor Kathodi, Dhor, Katkari, Son Kathodi, Son Katkari</i>	274	Belgaum, Yadgir
20	<i>Kattunayakan*</i>	168	Davangere, Bengaluru Urban
21	<i>Kokna, Kokni, Kukna</i>	32	Kodagu
22	<i>Koli Dhor, Tokre Koli, Kolcha, Kolgha</i>	112190	Bidar, Yadgir, Gulbarga, Bijapur
23	<i>Konda Kapus</i>	7438	Bengaluru Urban, Bellari, Hassan, Chikmangalur
24	<i>Koraga*</i>	14794	Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, Haveri
25	<i>Kota*</i>	121	Kodagu, Bengaluru Urban
26	<i>Koya, Bhine Koya, Rajkoya</i>	365	Bidar
27	<i>Kudiya, Melakudi*</i>	2169	Kodagu
28	<i>Kuruba*</i>	3111	Kodagu
29	<i>Kurumans</i>	347	Bengaluru Urban, Ramanagar
30	<i>Maha Malasar</i>	36	Bidar
31	<i>Malaikudi*</i>	9236	Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Chikmangalur
32	<i>Malasar</i>	82	Bengaluru Urban, Chikmangalur
33	<i>Maleyakandi</i>	116	Dakshina Kannada, Udupi
34	<i>Maleru</i>	440	Bengaluru Urban, Chikmangalur, Kodagu
35	<i>Maratha</i>	3396	Kodagu
36	<i>Marati</i>	82447	Dakshina Kannada, Udupi
37	<i>Meda, Medari, Gauriga, Burud</i>	44160	Mysore, Belgaum, Shimoga, Dharwad, Scattered in most other districts
38	<i>Naikda, Nayaka, Cholivala Nayaka, Kapadia Nayaka, Mota Nayaka, Nana Nayaka, Naik, Nayak, Beda, Bedar and Valmiki*</i>	3296354	Bellari, Raichur, Chitradurga, Scattered in most other districts
39	<i>Palliyan</i>	226	Kodagu, Bengaluru Urban
40	<i>Paniyan*</i>	495	Kodagu, Dakshin Kannada, Mysore
41	<i>Pardhi, Advichincher, Phanse Pardhi</i>	10746	Dharwad, Bagalkot, Gadag, Bijapur, Gulbarga
42	<i>Patelia</i>	57	Bengaluru Urban, Gulbarga
43	<i>Rathawa</i>	45	Bidar, Bengaluru Urban
44	<i>Sholaga</i>	52	Bengaluru Urban, Mandya, Ramanagara
45	<i>Sholigaru*</i>	33819	Chamarajanagar, Mysore, Mandya
46	<i>Toda*</i>	147	Udupi
47	<i>Varli</i>	58	Kodagu, Bengaluru Urban, Koppal
48	<i>Vitolia, Kotwalia, Barodia*</i>	23	Koppal, Belgaum, Bengaluru Urban
49	<i>Yerava*</i>	30359	Kodagu, Mysore
50	<i>Siddi*</i>	10477	Uttara Kannada

*Tribes exclusive to or primarily inhabitants of Karnataka

*Tribes classified as "Primitive Tribal Group" by the Government of India

Source: Ref. 2

Source:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mysuru/killer-tiger-captured-tribals-want-it-to-be-shot-dead/articleshow/67799316.cms>

Q.97) Consider the following

Wildlife Sanctuary in News

Associated States

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary:: | Karnataka |
| 2. Gajner Wildlife Sanctuary:: | Rajasthan |
| 3. Tungreshwar Wildlife Sanctuary:: | Maharashtra |
| 4. Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary:: | Bihar |

Select the correct match:

- 1 and 4 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q.97) Solution (b)

Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary::

Goa

Gajner Wildlife Sanctuary::

Rajasthan

Tungreshwar Wildlife Sanctuary::

Maharashtra

Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary::

Jharkhand

Other WLS in news

- Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary:: Sikkim
- Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary:: Bihar and Jharkhand
- Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary:: Tripura
- Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary:: Arunachal Pradesh
- Palkot Wildlife Sanctuary:: Jharkhand
- Lawalong Wildlife Sanctuary:: Jharkhand
- Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary:: Goa

Source:

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/coverage/mining/court-digest-major-environment-hearings-in-january-63274>

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/what-drives-flowering-fruiting-in-sikkims-rhododendrons/article26291088.ece>

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/bullet-train-gets-green-light-via-flamingo-haven-national-park/article26188009.ece>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jamshedpur/dalma-villages-to-use-chilli-powder-to-tackle-jumbo-raids/articleshow/68098726.cms>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/jharkhand-sends-eco-zone-proposals-for-four-sanctuaries-to-centre/articleshow/67856966.cms>

Q.98) 'Sarvamoola Grantha', the 800-year-old literary work is authored by:

- a) Saint Ravi Das
- b) Shankaracharya
- c) Madhvacharya
- d) Ramanuja

Q.98) Solution (c)

Madhvacharya also known as Pūrṇa Prajña and Ānanda Tīrtha, was a Hindu philosopher and the chief proponent of the **Dvaita (dualism) school of Vedanta**.

Madhva called his philosophy **Tatvavāda** meaning "arguments from a realist viewpoint".

Madhvacharya was born on the west coast of Karnataka state in 13th-century.

He was a critic of Adi Shankara's Advaita Vedanta and Ramanuja's Vishishtadvaita Vedanta teachings.

Madhvacharya proclaims himself to be the third avatar or incarnation of Vayu, wind god, the son of Vishnu.

He, thus, asserted himself to be like Hanuman the first avatar of Vayu, and Bhima a Pandava in the Mahabharata and the second avatar of Vayu.

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/new-imaging-technology-to-the-aid-of-manuscripts/article26295405.ece>

Q.99) Continental drift almost 100 million years ago created many species of 'X' in the world's tropics. According to recent development, what is X being referred to here?

- a) Arachnids
- b) Coral Reefs
- c) Ethmostigmus Centipedes
- d) Bees

Q.99) Solution (c)

Fossils and advanced genetic methods to study relationships between species now tell an intriguing story about a group of tropical centipedes.

Continental drift (the moving apart of continents) almost 100 million years ago created many species of **Ethmostigmus centipedes in the world's tropics.**

In the Indian peninsula, these centipedes first originated in the southern and central Western Ghats, and then spread across the ranges here, finds a study published in BMC Evolutionary Biology.

India is home to six, fairly large Ethmostigmus centipedes: four dwell in the Western Ghats, one in the Eastern Ghats and one in north-east India. Africa, south-east Asia and Australia are also home to other species of Ethmostigmus centipedes.

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/moving-continents-created-new-centipede-species/article26224724.ece>

Q.100) Consider the following statements and find the correct answer:

1. The plant has traditional uses in Ayurveda.
2. It is also known as 'False Daisy' and is found across the Indian subcontinent.
3. A present study found that this plant has the highest lead tolerance.

Select the correct code:

- a) Eclipta Prostrata
- b) Eclipta Alba
- c) Eclipta Elliptica
- d) Eclipta Pusilla

Q.100) Solution (a)

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/plants-might-be-able-to-remove-lead-from-soil-study/article26161760.ece>

Q.101) 'N Gopaldaswami Committee' is associated with

- a) Institutions of Eminence
- b) Leather and Apparels Industry
- c) Restructuring of Public Sector Banks
- d) Promoting research on scientific lines in Ayurveda Sciences

Q.101) Solution (a)

N Gopaldaswami Committee – Select Institutions of Eminence

Q.102) The '660-km boundary' was in news with respect to

- a) Israel and Palestine
- b) North Korea and South Korea
- c) North Sudan and South Sudan
- d) None of the above

**Q.102) Solution (d)**

It is a seismic discontinuity at a depth of approximately 660 km as the boundary between upper and lower mantle.

Q.103) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Right to Information Act'

1. It replaced the Freedom of information Act, 2002
2. It has overriding effect over the Official Secrets Act, 1923

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.103) Solution (c)

RTI overrides the Official Secrets Act, 1923.

Freedom of information act 2002 was the precursor to Right to Information Act, 2005.

Q.104) 'Project Rupee Raftar' launched by

- a) Ministry of Railways
- b) Reserve Bank of India
- c) Ministry of Finance
- d) Ministry of Civil Aviation

Q.104) Solution (d)

'Project Rupee Raftar- Aircraft Financing and Leasing from India'

Q.105) Consider the following statements with respect to 'LOFAR' Telescope

1. It is a radio telescope project in Australia and South Africa.
2. A new map of the night sky was created by the LOFAR observations charting the distant galaxies of the Universe.

Select the correct statement

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

Q.105) Solution (b)

A new map of the night sky is prepared using LOFAR telescope that can detect light sources optical instruments cannot see. The map is consists of hundreds of thousands of previously unknown galaxies discovered.

The Low-Frequency Array or LOFAR, is a large radio telescope network located mainly in the Netherlands.

Q.106) The Garo Hills Conservation Area (GHCA) recently in news includes:

1. Nokrek National Park
2. Orang National Park
3. Balpakram National Park
4. Namdapha National Park

Select the correct code:

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

Q.106) Solution (c)

Garo hills is bounded on the North by the Goalpara district of Assam, on the South it shares international boundary with Bangladesh, on East by the District of Khasi Hills, Meghalaya and Kamrup, Assam and on the West by the district of Goalpara, Assam and Bangladesh.

The GHCA comprises of three legally designated Protected Areas - Nokrek National Park (49.44 km²), Balpakram National Park (220 km²) and Siju Wildlife Sanctuary (5.18km²); and the Reserved Forests of Tura Peak (4.19 km²), Imangiri (8.29 km²), Rewak (6.47 km²) and Baghmara (43.9 km²). The total core area of the proposed nomination is 337.48 km².

GHCA is under tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Nokrek National Park (notified in 1986) is the core of Nokrek Biosphere Reserve (820 km²) declared by the Government of India in 1988 and recognized under the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) in 2009. The Nokrek National Citrus Gene Sanctuary demarcated for the in-situ conservation of Citrus indica is located in the buffer area of the MAB.

Q.107) According to a recent research, an Indian Wetland which is supposed to act as a carbon sink, is emitting a whopping 8.4 gigatonnes of methane every year. Which wetland is being referred here?

- a) Kole Wetland

- b) Pallikaranai Wetland
- c) Rudrasagar Wetland
- d) Point Calimere Wetland

Q.107) Solution (b)

Pallikaranai Wetland is a freshwater marsh in the city of Chennai, India. It is situated adjacent to the Bay of Bengal.

A project on 'Inland Wetlands of India' commissioned by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India had prioritised Pallikaranai marsh as one of the most significant wetlands of the country.

It's shocking that Pallikaranai wetland, which is supposed to act as a carbon sink, is emitting a whopping 8.4 gigatonnes of methane every year, **reveals a study conducted by Anna University researchers.**

Among several factors, the main source of methane is the five-decade-old dump yard and this establishes the fact as to why it catches fire often.

Source:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2019/feb/03/ecological-scare-pallikaranai-marsh-emitting-84-gigatonnes-of-methane-every-year-1933586.html>

Q.108) Consider the following regarding 'Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary:

1. It is one of the Wetlands under Ramsar Convention located in Tamil Nadu.
2. It is a well-known sanctuary for conservation of the blackbuck antelope.

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.108) Solution (c)

Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary (PCWBS) is a protected area in Tamil Nadu, South India along the Palk Strait where it meets the Bay of Bengal at Point Calimere at the southeastern tip of Nagapattinam District.

The sanctuary was created in 1967 for conservation of the blackbuck antelope, an endemic mammal species of India. It is famous for large congregations of waterbirds, especially greater flamingos.

PCWBS forms the easternmost and most biologically diverse part of **Ramsar Site** which, on 19 August 2002, **was declared a place of international importance for the conservation of waterbirds and their wetlands habitats.**

Q.109) Thembang Fortified Village is eyeing to be listed under UNESCO's World Heritage Site. Where is it located?

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

Q.109) Solution (d)

The Arunachal Pradesh government has raised the pitch for inclusion of two of its sites in UNESCO's World Heritage list.

The Apatani cultural landscape in Ziro Valley under Lower Subansiri district of the state and Thembang Dzong, a fortified village in West Kameng district, have made it to the tentative list of UNESCO and is now vying for a place in the final list of world heritage sites.

The dzong (fort), surrounding ancient and historical structures, is a traditional settlement of the Monpa tribe. None of the settlers individually own any property inside the village, which is run by a panchayat system.

Ornamental features, including traditional wood carvings, paintings and manuscripts, have been etched on the walls of the dzong.

The Apatani cultural landscape has also made it to the tentative list for the unique agricultural techniques practiced within the community.

The farmers here rear fish in paddy fields and grow millet on the bunds (partitions) between the rice plots.

Q.110) Consider the following and select the correct match:

1. Neora Valley National Park:: Arunachal Pradesh

2. The Sacred Mountain Landscape and Heritage Routes:: Uttarakhand
3. The Historic Ensemble of Orchha:: Madhya Pradesh
4. Ekamra Ksetra:: Odisha

Select the correct code:

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

Q.110) Solution (b)

All are under tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Site

Neora Valley National Park::

The Neora Valley National Park (NVNP) is one of the three PAs in Darjeeling district of West Bengal and the most undisturbed patch of forest of the State. It is unique and ecologically important as it includes a relatively inaccessible patch of late successional forests and with rich diversity and a wide range of environment gradients.

It is the land of the **elegant red panda**.

The southern boundaries of the Park are adjoining to the forests of Jalpaiguri district which have connectivity with the Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary and the Gorumara National Park.

The Sacred Mountain Landscape and Heritage Routes::

The Sacred Mountain Landscape and Heritage Routes are located in the Pithoragarh district in the north-eastern part of Uttarakhand State of India.

The Historic Ensemble of Orchha::

Orchha is a historical town in the Niwari district of Madhya Pradesh, India with a total population of around 12,000 inhabitants. The town encompasses a very dense collection of the historical buildings, gardens and traditional housings. It was the seat of an eponymous former princely state of central India, in the Bundelkhand region. The historical settlement derived its name from the phrase 'Ondo chhe' meaning 'low' or 'hidden'. The site was indeed bowl-like, buffered by bluffs and forests, lying on the Betwa River.

Ekamra Ksetra::

Ekamra Kshetra comprises the area of the old city of Bhubaneswar that forms the centre of this temple architecture and is considered a Hindu holy city.

Bhubaneswar has a unique position among the cities of India. A temple town with series of ancient sandstone temples, heritage ponds and water tanks, its wealth of monuments is testament to an ancient continuous architectural and historical heritage covering over 2,000 years from the 3rd century BC to the 15th century AD representing most of the important dynastic changes over the period. Bhubaneswar is dubbed the “Temple City” – a nom-de-plume earned because of the 700 temples which once stood here. It still boasts of a cluster of magnificent temples, constituting virtually a complete record of Kalinga architecture almost from its nascence to its culmination.

Q.111) ‘Pine Island Glacier’ is located in

- a) Antarctica
- b) Greenland
- c) Norway
- d) Russia

Q.111) Solution (a)

Pine Island Glacier and Thwaites Glacier have been described as part of the "weak underbelly" of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet, due to its apparent vulnerability to significant retreat.

Q.112) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘India’s drone policy’

1. The drone will need a Unique Identification Number (UIN) and Unmanned Aircraft Operator Permit (UAOP) for its operation.
2. Drones weighing below 10 kilograms operating below 50 feet (15 m) in uncontrolled airspace / enclosed premises are exempted from bating a UAOP

Select the correct statements

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

Q.112) Solution (a)

Director General of Civil Aviation has announced its policy for remotely piloted aircraft or drones.

DGCA has defined remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) as an unmanned aircraft piloted from a remote pilot station.

“The remotely piloted aircraft, its associated remote pilot station(s), command and control links and any other components forms a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS),” the policy states.

Also, as per the civil aviation requirements – issued under the provisions of Rule 15A and Rule 133A of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 – these RPAs will need a Unique Identification Number (UIN), Unmanned Aircraft Operator Permit (UAOP) and need to adhere to other operational requirements.

The DGCA has segregated drones into five different categories

- Nano : Less than or equal to 250 grams.
- Micro : From 250 grams to 2kg.
- Small : From 2kg to 25kg.
- Medium : From 25kg to 150kg.
- Large : Greater than 150kg.

Operators of civil drones will need to get a permit from the DGCA. There are exceptions for:

- Nano RPA operating below 50 feet (15 m) in uncontrolled airspace / enclosed premises.
- Micro RPA operating below 200 feet (60 m) in uncontrolled airspace / enclosed premises – but will need to inform local police 24 hours prior.
- RPA owned and operated by NTRO, ARC and Central Intelligence Agencies but after intimating local police.

This UAOP shall be valid for five years and not transferrable. The policy also stipulates that RPAs shall be flown only by someone over 18 years of age, having passed 10th exam in English, and undergone ground/ practical training as approved by DGCA.

RPAs cannot be flown within 5km of the perimeters of the airports in Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad and within 3km from the perimeter of any other airport.

It cannot fly within “permanent or temporary Prohibited, Restricted and Danger Areas” and within 25km from international border which includes the Line of Control (LoC), Line of Actual Control (LAC) and Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL).

It cannot fly beyond 500 m into sea from the coast line and within 3 km from perimeter of military installations.

It also cannot be operated from a mobile platform such as a moving vehicle, ship or aircraft.

Eco-sensitive zones around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries are off-limits without prior permission.

Violations will be acted on under relevant sections of the IPC and the Aircraft Act 1934.

Q.113) Consider the following statements with respect to 'HeliNa Missile'

1. It is a surface to air missile
2. It has a maximum range of 2000 kilometres

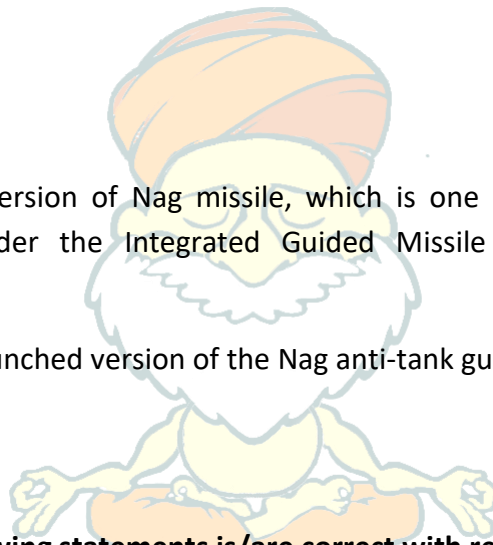
Select the correct statements

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

Q.113) Solution (d)

HeliNa is an air-to-land version of Nag missile, which is one of the five missile systems developed by DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

Helina is the helicopter-launched version of the Nag anti-tank guided missile with a hit range of 7-8 km.



Q.114) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to 'Padmasambhava'

1. He introduced the people of Tibet to the practice of Tantric Buddhism
2. He is widely venerated as a "second Buddha" by adherents of Tibetan Buddhism

Select the correct statements

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

Q.114) Solution (c)

Guru Padmasambhava was also known as Guru Rinpoche is widely venerated as a “second Buddha” by adherents of Tibetan Buddhism in Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, the Himalayan states of India, and elsewhere.

Padmasambhava introduced the people of Tibet to the practice of Tantric Buddhism.

He is regarded as the founder of the Nyingma tradition. The Nyingma tradition is the oldest of the four major schools of Tibetan Buddhism.

Q.115) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Essential Services Maintenance Act’

1. It is an act of Parliament of India which was established to ensure the delivery of certain services, which if obstructed would affect the normal life of the people
2. The discretion on the execution of the Act mostly lies with the State governments.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.115) Solution (c)

Essential Services Maintenance Act

- It is an act of Parliament of India which was established to ensure the delivery of certain services, which if obstructed would affect the normal life of the people.
- This include services like public transport (bus services), health services (doctors and hospitals).
- The ESMA is a central law, that is, a law made by the Parliament of India; but the discretion on the execution of it mostly lies with the State governments.
- Each state in the union of India, hence has a separate state Essential Services Maintenance Act with slight variations from the central law in its provisions.
- This freedom is accorded by the central law itself. Its execution rests entirely on the discretion of the State government.

Q.116) The Report titled ‘Strengthening Legal Frameworks for Licit and Illicit Trade in Wildlife and Forest Products’ has been published by:

- a) The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- b) Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)
- c) UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)
- d) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Q.116) Solution (d)

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has released a report that identifies and analyzes global, regional and national institutions and legal frameworks on legal and illegal trade in wildlife and forest products.

The publication titled, 'Strengthening Legal Frameworks for Licit and Illicit Trade in Wildlife and Forest Products,' focuses on addressing illegal trade in wildlife and forest products across the three sectors of crime prevention and criminal justice, trade regulation and natural resource management.

Source:

<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/unep-report-analyzes-frameworks-legislation-on-legal-and-illegal-trade-in-wildlife-forest-products/>

Q.117) Which of the following is correct regarding Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA):

- a) It is centered upon addressing the challenges faced by landlocked countries.
- b) It is related to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and National Action Plan.
- c) It is related to ozone depleting substances part of Montreal protocol
- d) None of the given statement is correct.

Q.117) Solution (a)

Thirty-two of the world's landlocked countries with a population of about 440 million, face an array of challenges mainly associated with their lack of direct territorial access to the sea and remoteness from world markets. Their dependence on other countries for international trade via transit is an element that adds on to these various challenges.

To address these particular constraints, there has been an increase in recognition of landlocked developing countries and their specific needs at the United Nations.

The Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework For Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked

and Transit Developing Countries and the Almaty Ministerial Declaration, is amongst the first steps adopted in addressing the needs of landlocked developing countries.

The Vienna Programme of Action, the new holistic document centered upon addressing the challenges faced by landlocked countries, aims to contribute to the eradication of poverty stemming from their landlockedness, through the implementation of specific actions in the priority areas of the renowned document.

The VPoA was adopted in November 2014 during the Second UN Conference on LLDCs, and covers the decade 2014-2024. The programme of action addresses the challenges faced by LLDCs by focusing on six priority areas: fundamental transit policy issues; infrastructure development and maintenance; international trade and trade facilitation; regional integration and cooperation; structural economic transformation; and means of implementation.

Source:

<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/governments-regions-un-agencies-preparing-to-review-action-for-lllacs/>

Q.118) Which of the following organizations has recently issued guidelines on 'Environmental flows to assist countries in managing levels of Water Stress?'

- a) UN-Water
- b) World Bank
- c) FAO
- d) UNDP



Q.118) Solution (c)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) has issued guidelines on environmental flows to assist countries in managing levels of water stress. SDG target 6.4 sets out the aim of ensuring sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity, and SDG indicator 6.4.2 measures water stress in terms of freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources.

Source:

<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/fao-provides-guidance-on-environmental-flows-as-a-measure-of-water-stress/>

Q.119) Consider the following statements regarding Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES):

1. It is an independent intergovernmental body administered by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
2. Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services -2019 will be launched by IPBES.

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.119) Solution (c)

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an independent intergovernmental body, established by member States in 2012. The objective of IPBES is to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.

It was established in Panama City, on 21 April 2012 by 94 governments. IPBES is placed under the auspices of four United Nations entities: UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP and administered by UNEP

IPBES is set to launch 1st global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services since 2005.

Source:

<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/ipbes-previews-2019-global-assessment-report-on-biodiversity/>

Q.120) The report “The Economic Outlook” is related to:

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) International Monetary Fund
- d) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Q.120) Solution (d)

Don't confuse it with World Economic Outlook of IMF.

The Economic Outlook by the OECD, published at the end of November 2018, adds to the global picture by showing how, as digitalization spreads, the divide between high-skill, low-routine jobs and low-skill, high-routine work continues to grow, posing the risk of further widening inequalities. The Outlook says strengthening product market competition would not only prompt wider diffusion of new technologies, thereby raising productivity growth, but also help transfer output and efficiency gains to wages.

Source:

<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/imf-world-bank-and-oecd-update-global-economic-forecasts/>

<http://www.oecd.org/eco/outlook/economic-outlook/>

