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Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to 'IndSpaceEx'

1. It is being conducted to identify key challenges and shortfalls if a conflict escalates in space dimension
2. It is being conducted by the tri-Service integrated defence staff under the defence ministry

Select the correct statements

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

Q.1) Solution (c)

The exercise aims to assess "imminent threats" to the nation beyond earth. It also plans on drafting a joint space doctrine for future battles.

The tri-service integrated defence staff, or the IDS, plans on conducting two-day IndSpaceEx with all the stakeholders involved.

Source: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/trends/current-affairs-trends/indias-first-space-war-drill-indspaceex-to-kickstart-this-week-report-4241341.html>

Q.2) 'Distributed ledger technology (DLT)' is primarily associated with

- a) Blockchain
- b) Genome Sequencing
- c) Internet of Things
- d) Virtual Reality

Q.2) Solution (a)

Blockchain is one type of a distributed ledger. Distributed ledgers use independent computers (referred to as nodes) to record, share and synchronize transactions in their respective electronic ledgers (instead of keeping data centralized as in a traditional ledger).

Read More - <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/financialsector/brief/blockchain-dlt>

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Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to 'SPPEL Scheme'

1. The scheme was instituted by Ministry of Human Resource Development
2. The objective of the Scheme is to document and archive the country's languages that have become endangered or likely to be endangered in the near future

Select the correct statements

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

Q.3) Solution (c)

Galvanized by the grim situation of lesser known languages in the country, the Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages (SPPEL) was instituted by Ministry of Human Resource Development (Government of India) in 2013. The sole objective of the Scheme is to document and archive the country's languages that have become endangered or likely to be endangered in the near future. The scheme is monitored by Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) located in Mysuru, Karnataka. The CIIL has collaborated with various universities and institutes across India for this mission.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1579890>

Q.4) 'Nandankanan Zoological Park' was in news recently. Where is it located?

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

Q.4) Solution (a)

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/odisha-renews-effort-to-revive-gharial-population/article28665064.ece>

Q.5) The 'Model Concessionaire Agreement (MCA)' is associated with

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

Q.5) Solution (a)

Model Concession Agreement (MCA)

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

