

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

1. They are formed by weathering of crude oil in marine environments
2. The presence of several tarballs might indicate an oil spill

**Select the correct statements**

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

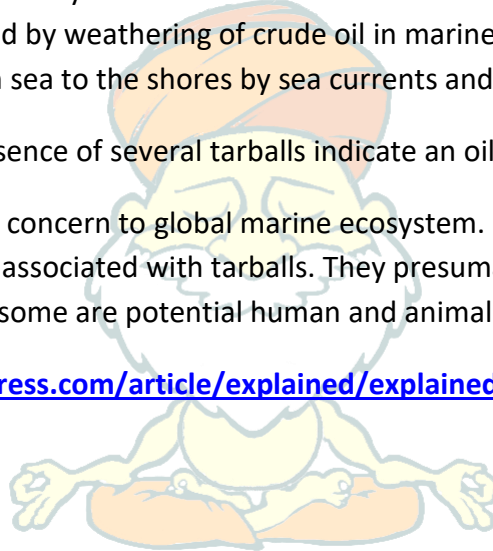
**Q.1) Solution (c)**

Tarballs are dark-coloured, sticky balls of oil that form when crude oil floats on the ocean surface. Tarballs are formed by weathering of crude oil in marine environments. They are transported from the open sea to the shores by sea currents and waves.

Most of the times, the presence of several tarballs indicate an oil spill.

Tarball pollution is a major concern to global marine ecosystem. Microbes such as bacteria and fungi are known to be associated with tarballs. They presumably play an important role in tarball degradation and some are potential human and animal pathogens.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-are-tarballs-5871982/>



**Q.2) 'Time Release Study (TRS)' is associated with**

- a) World Bank
- b) World Customs Organisation
- c) World Trade Organisation
- d) World Economic Forum

**Q.2) Solution (b)**

The revenue department is conducting India's first national Time Release Study (TRS) at 15 ports, including sea and air, with an aim to identify and address bottlenecks in the cross border trade flow process. TRS is an internationally recognised tool advocated by World Customs Organisation.

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The WCO Time Release Study is a strategic and internationally recognized tool to measure the actual time required for the release and/or clearance of goods, from the time of arrival until the physical release of cargo, with a view to finding bottlenecks in the trade flow process and taking necessary measures to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of border procedures.

The WCO TRS is specifically referenced in Article 7.6 of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) as a tool for Members to measure and publish the average release time of goods.

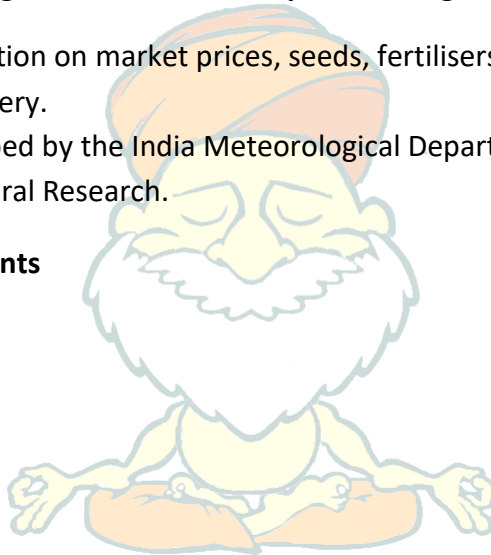
Source: <https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/revenue-department-conducting-time-release-study-to-identify-trade-flow-bottlenecks-at-ports/1663174/>

**Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Meghdoot App'**

1. It provides information on market prices, seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and agricultural machinery.
2. It has been developed by the India Meteorological Department and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

**Select the correct statements**

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



**Q.3) Solution (b)**

The Ministries of Earth Sciences and Agriculture have launched a mobile application that will provide location, and crop and livestock-specific weather-based agro advisories to farmers in local languages.

To begin with, the service would be available for 150 districts in different parts of the country. It will be extended to rest of the country in a phased manner over the next one year.

It will provide forecast relating to temperature, rainfall, humidity, and wind speed and direction, which play critical roles in agricultural operations and advisories to the farmers on how to take care of their crops and livestock.

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It has been developed by experts from the India Meteorological Department and Indian Institute of Tropical meteorology and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/agriculture/new-mobile-app-launched-to-assist-farmers-65994>

**Q.4) 'Sardine run' primarily occurs near which of the following countries?**

- a) Japan
- b) South Africa
- c) Croatia
- d) Norway

**Q.4) Solution (b)**

The sardine run of southern Africa occurs from May through July when billions of sardines – or more specifically the Southern African pilchard *Sardinops sagax* – spawn in the cool waters of the Agulhas Bank and move northward along the east coast of South Africa. Their sheer numbers create a feeding frenzy along the coastline. The run, containing millions of individual sardines, occurs when a current of cold water heads north from the Agulhas Bank up to Mozambique where it then leaves the coastline and goes further east into the Indian Ocean.

In terms of biomass, researchers estimate the sardine run could rival East Africa's great wildebeest migration.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/wildlife-biodiversity/we-tracked-south-africa-s-sardine-run-over-66-years-here-s-what-we-found-65919>

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

**Ports      Country**

- 1. Gwadar - Pakistan
- 2. Hambantota - Maldives
- 3. Kyaukpyu – Myanmar

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1 and 2

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

**Q.5) Solution (b)**

Gwadar - Pakistan

Hambantota – Sri Lanka

Kyaukpyu – Myanmar

