

**Q.1) 'Liberica' and 'Robusta' is associated with**

- a) Silk
- b) Coffee
- c) Tea
- d) Cotton

**Q.1) Solution (b)**

Arabica, Liberica and Robusta are types of coffee.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/coffee-exports-flat-at-238-lakh-tonnes-in-january-july-2019/article28769093.ece>

**Q.2) 'TOI 270' refers to a**

- a) Malware
- b) Planetary system
- c) Regulatory Sandbox
- d) Seed Vault

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

It is the name of the dwarf star and the planetary system recently discovered by NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS). TOI 270 is about 73 light years away from Earth, and is located in the constellation Pictor.

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/toi-270-new-planetary-system-about-73-light-years-away-from-earth-nasa-5864907/>

**Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Innovating for Clean Air (IfCA)'**

1. It is funded by the World Bank
2. It is a joint initiative between Indian and the United Kingdom

**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 Innovating for Clean Air (IfCA), a two-year UK-India joint initiative providing Indian and UK stakeholders opportunities to test interventions related to air quality and EV integration.

The programme is led by Innovate UK -- part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) -- and is funded by the Newton Fund with matched resources from various partners in Karnataka and India.

Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/india-uk-launch-clean-air-initiative-in-bengaluru-119073101299\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/india-uk-launch-clean-air-initiative-in-bengaluru-119073101299_1.html)

**Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS)'**

1. It is being implemented by Department of Fertilizers, under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
2. It ensures sufficient quantity of P&K is available at farmer's disposal at statutory controlled prices.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.4) Solution (c)**

Under it fixed amount of subsidy is decided by Government on annual basis and is provided on each grade of subsidized P&K fertilizers, except for Urea, based on the nutrient content present in them.

It was launched 2010. It is being implemented by Department of Fertilizers, under Ministry of Fertilizers.

**Objectives**

- Ensure sufficient quantity of P&K is available at farmer's disposal at statutory controlled prices.
- Ensure balanced use of fertilizers for improving agricultural productivity, promoting growth of indigenous fertilizers industry and also reducing burden of subsidy

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/politics/news/cabinet-approves-hike-in-subsidy-for-sulphur-based-fertilisers-1564570303564.html>

**Q.5) Consider the following statements about Anti-dumping duty**

1. The Department of Commerce recommends the anti-dumping duty, while Ministry of Finance levies such duty
2. It is imposed on both exports and imports
3. The use of anti-dumping is not permitted by the WTO

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.5) Solution (a)**

Dumping is said to occur when the goods are exported by a country to another country at a price lower than its normal value. This is an unfair trade practice which can have a distortive effect on international trade. Anti-dumping is a measure to rectify the situation arising out of the dumping of goods and its trade distortive effect. Thus, the purpose of anti-dumping duty is to rectify the trade distortive effect of dumping and re-establish fair trade. The use of anti-dumping measure as an instrument of fair competition is permitted by the WTO. In fact, anti-dumping is an instrument for ensuring fair trade and is not a measure of protection per se for the domestic industry. It provides relief to the domestic industry against the injury caused by dumping.

Anti-dumping duty is recommended by Ministry of Commerce and imposed by Ministry of Finance.

**Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to PRAGATI:**

1. It is aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments
2. It involves Digital data management, video-conferencing and geo-spatial technology

**Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.6) Solution (c)**

**PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation)**

- It is an ICT-based multi-modal platform for monthly interaction by the PM with top officials of the states via video-conferencing.
- The platform is aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.
- The PRAGATI platform uniquely bundles three latest technologies: Digital data management, video-conferencing and geo-spatial technology. It also offers a unique combination in the direction of cooperative federalism since it brings on one stage the Secretaries of Government of India and the Chief Secretaries of the States.

**Source:** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/pm-modi-chairs-30th-interaction-through-pragati-platform-119073101419\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/pm-modi-chairs-30th-interaction-through-pragati-platform-119073101419_1.html)

**Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to 'External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)'**

1. It is governed by the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)
2. A limited liability partnership (LLP) cannot raise ECBs

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.7) Solution (c)**

External commercial borrowing (ECBs) are loans in India made by non-resident lenders in foreign currency to Indian borrowers. They are used widely in India to facilitate access to foreign money by Indian corporations and PSUs (public sector undertakings).

Transactions on account of External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) and Trade Credits (TC) are governed by clause (d) of sub-section 3 of section 6 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA).

As LLPs are not eligible to receive FDI, they cannot raise ECBs.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/rbi-eases-end-use-norms-for-external-commercial-borrowings-by-corporates-nbfcs-1564495376661.html>

**Q.8) Consider the following statements about 'Public Accounts Committee (PAC)'**

1. It was first set up in the wake of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms
2. It is formed every year with all the members from Rajya Sabha

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.8) Solution (a)**

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is a committee of selected members of Parliament, constituted by the Parliament of India, for the auditing of the revenue and the expenditure of the Government of India.

The PAC is formed every year with a strength of not more than 22 members of which 15 are from Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Parliament, and 7 from Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament. The term of office of the members is one year. The Chairman is appointed by the Speaker of Lok Sabha. Since 1967, the chairman of the committee is selected from the opposition. Earlier, it was headed by a member of the ruling party. Its chief function is to examine the audit report of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) after it is laid in the Parliament. CAG assists the committee during the course of investigation. None of the 22 members shall be a minister in the government.

The PAC website says the Committee on Public Accounts was first set up in 1921 in the wake of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms. W M Hailey was its first president, and Bhupendra Nath Mitra its first Indian president. The last president before Independence was Liaquat Ali Khan.

With the Constitution coming into force on January, 26, 1950, the Committee became a Parliamentary Committee functioning under the Speaker with a non-official Chairman appointed by the Speaker from among the Members of Lok Sabha elected to the Committee. But even then, a member from the ruling party continued to be Chairman.

**Source:** <https://www.news18.com/news/politics/congress-leader-adhir-ranjan-chowdhury-to-head-public-accounts-committee-in-lok-sabha-2246131.html>

**Q.9) Consider the following statements with respect to 'equalisation levy'**

1. It is aimed at taxing business-to-business transactions in the digital advertising space
2. It is an indirect tax which was introduced through Finance Act, 2016

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.9) Solution (a)**

The equalisation levy of 6% is aimed at taxing business-to-business transactions in the digital advertising space - that is, the income accruing to foreign ecommerce companies from within India. It's a direct tax which is withheld at the time of payment by the recipient of the services.

Equalisation Levy is a direct tax, which is withheld at the time of payment by the service recipient.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/start-ups-write-to-govt-on-equalisation-levy/article28777984.ece>

**Q.10) 'Distance to Frontier' score is associated with which of the following organisations?**

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) World Trade Organisation
- d) International Monetary Fund

**Q.10) Solution (b)**

**Distance to Frontier**

- The distance to frontier score helps assess the absolute level of regulatory performance over time.
- It measures the distance of each economy to the "frontier," which represents the best performance observed on each of the indicators across all economies in the Doing Business sample since 2005.
- One can both see the gap between a particular economy's performance and the best performance at any point in time and assess the absolute change in the economy's regulatory environment over time as measured by Doing Business.
- An economy's distance to frontier is reflected on a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 represents the lowest performance and 100 represent the frontier. For example, a score of 75 in 2017 means an economy was 25 percentage points away from the frontier constructed from the best performances across all economies and across time. A score of 80 in 2018 would indicate the economy is improving. Read the methodology, explaining how the ease of doing business rankings and the distance to frontier measure are calculated (PDF).
- Distance to Frontier scores were introduced in the Doing Business 2015 report.

**Q.11) 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.11) 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.12) 'Time Release Study (TRS)' is associated with**

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

**Q.12) 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.

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.13) 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.13) 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.

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

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

**Q.14) 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.15) 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
- b) 1 and 3
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) 1 Only

**Q.15) Solution (b)**

Gwadar - Pakistan

Hambantota – Sri Lanka

Kyaukpyu – Myanmar

**Q.16) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Mehi River'**

- 1. It is a tributary of the Brahmaputra River
- 2. It is a trans-boundary river flowing through China and India

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.16) Solution (d)**

The Mechi River is a trans-boundary river flowing through Nepal and India. It is a tributary of the Mahananda River.

The Mechi originates in the Mahabharat Range in Nepal. It flows through Nepal, forms the boundary between India and Nepal and then flows through Bihar to join the Mahananda in Kishanganj district.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/kosi-mechi-linking-project-gets-centres-green-signal/articleshow/70516748.cms>

Q.17) English Channel is between England and

- a) France
- b) Spain
- c) Ireland
- d) Wales

Q.17) Solution (a)



Q.18) Which of the following are member countries of 'Mekong–Ganga Cooperation'?

- 1. Thailand
- 2. Malaysia
- 3. Cambodia

4. India

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.18) Solution (b)**

The Mekong–Ganga Cooperation (MGC) was established in, 2000, at Vientiane, Laos at the First MGC Ministerial Meeting. It comprises six member countries, namely India (Look-East connectivity projects), Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

**Source:** <https://www.business-standard.com/multimedia/video-gallery/world/eam-jaishankar-attends-10th-mekong-ganga-cooperation-in-bangkok-88454.htm>

**Q.19) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Global Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators'**

1. It was formed in 2016 to follow up on the findings of IPBES assessment on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production
2. India is a founder member of the Coalition

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.19) Solution (a)**

The Coalition was formed in 2016 to follow up on the findings of IPBES assessment on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production, which found that many of the world's pollinator species are in decline.

The coalition now has 28 signatories including 17 European countries, five from Latin America and the Caribbean and four from Africa.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/agriculture/nigeria-becomes-fourth-african-nation-to-join-global-coalition-to-protect-pollinators-65916>

**Q.20) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)'**

1. It is the nodal agency for implementing Bilateral Social Security Agreements with other countries on a reciprocal basis.
2. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Labour and Employment

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.20) Solution (c)**

**Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)**

- It is an Organization tasked to assist the Central Board of Trustees, a statutory body formed by the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952
- It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Labour and Employment
- It assists the Central Board in administering a compulsory contributory Provident Fund Scheme, a Pension Scheme and an Insurance Scheme for the workforce engaged in the organized sector
- It is the nodal agency for implementing Bilateral Social Security Agreements with other countries on a reciprocal basis.
- The EPFO's apex decision making body is the Central Board of Trustees (CBT)

Q.21) The 'Pacific Ring of Fire' wraps which of the following countries?

1. Canada
2. New Zealand
3. Japan
4. Chile

Select the correct code:

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 2, 3 and 4
- c) 1, 3 and 4
- d) All of the above

Q.21) Solution (d)



**Q.22) Consider the following statements about National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**

1. Environment Protection Act provides for creating the National Tiger Conservation Authority
2. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
3. Project Tiger is administered by the National Tiger Conservation Authority

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.22) Solution (b)**

The National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it under the said Act.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has been fulfilling its mandate within the ambit of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for strengthening tiger conservation in the country by retaining an oversight through advisories/normative guidelines, based on appraisal of tiger status, ongoing conservation initiatives and recommendations of specially constituted Committees. 'Project Tiger' is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Environment, Forests and Climate Change, providing funding support to tiger range States, for in-situ conservation of tigers in designated tiger reserves, and has put the endangered tiger on an assured path of recovery by saving it from extinction, as revealed by the recent findings of the All India tiger estimation using the refined methodology.

**Objective of the NTCA**

- Providing statutory authority to Project Tiger so that compliance of its directives become legal.
- Fostering accountability of Center-State in management of Tiger Reserves, by providing a basis for MoU with States within our federal structure.
- Providing for an oversight by Parliament.



- Addressing livelihood interests of local people in areas surrounding Tiger Reserves
- Powers and Functions of the NTCA

**Q.23) Consider the following statements about 'Jhum Cultivation'**

1. It is the process of growing crops by first clearing the land of trees and vegetation and burning them thereafter.
2. It is a primitive practice of cultivation in States of Southern India

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.23) Solution (a)****Jhum Cultivation**

- The practice involves clearing vegetative/forest cover on land/slopes of hills, drying and burning it before onset of monsoon and cropping on it thereafter.
- After harvest, this land is left fallow and vegetative regeneration is allowed on it till the plot becomes reusable for same purpose in a cycle.
- Meanwhile, the process is repeated in a new plot designated for Jhum cultivation during next year.
- Initially, when Jhum cycle was long and ranged from 20 to 30 years, the process worked well.
- However, with increase in human population and increasing pressure on land, Jhum cycle reduced progressively (5-6 years) causing problem of land degradation and threat to ecology of the region at large.
- This practice is considered as an important mainstay of food production for a considerable population in northeast India in States like Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur.

**Q.24) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

1. AGMARK – Agriculture
2. RERA – Real Estate
3. NPPA – Medicines

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.24) Solution (d)**

AGMARK is a certification mark employed on agricultural products in India, assuring that they conform to a set of standards approved by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, an agency of the Government of India.

The RERA seeks to protect the interests of home buyers and also boost investments in the real estate sector.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is a government regulatory agency that controls the prices of pharmaceutical drugs in India.

**Q.25) Which of the following can be considered as an import duty?**

1. Countervailing Duty
2. Safeguard Duty
3. Anti-Dumping Duty

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.25) Solution (d)**

Import duties are generally of the following types:

- Basic duty
- Additional Customs duty
- True Countervailing duty or additional duty of customs
- Anti-dumping duty/Safeguard duty

### **Countervailing Duty (CVD)**

This duty is imposed by the Central Government when a country is paying the subsidy to the exporters who are exporting goods to India. This amount of duty is equivalent to the subsidy paid by them. This duty is applicable under Sec 9 of the Customs Tariff Act.

### **Additional Customs Duty or Special CVD**

In order to equalize imports with locals taxes like service tax, VAT and other domestic taxes which are imposed from time to time, a special countervailing duty is imposed on imported goods. Hence, is imposed to bring imports on an equal track with the goods produced or manufactured in India. This is to promote fair trade & competition practices in our country.

### **Safeguard Duty**

In order to make sure that no harm is caused to the domestic industries of India, a safeguard duty is imposed to safeguard the interest of our local domestic industries. It is calculated on the basis of loss suffered by our local industries.

### **Anti-Dumping Duty**

Often, large manufacturer from abroad may export goods at very low prices compared to prices in the domestic market. Such dumping may be with intention to cripple domestic industry or to dispose of their excess stock. This is called 'dumping'. In order to avoid such dumping, Central Government can impose, under section 9A of Customs Tariff Act, anti-dumping duty up to margin of dumping on such articles, if the goods are being sold at less than its normal value. Levy of such anti-dumping duty is permissible as per WTO agreement. Anti-dumping action can be taken only when there is an Indian industry producing 'like articles'.

### **Q.26) 'Antiretroviral therapy (ART)' is concerned with**

- a) Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- b) Tuberculosis
- c) Parkinson's' Disease

d) Leprosy

**Q.26) Solution (a)**

Antiretroviral therapy (ART) is the combination of several antiretroviral medicines used to slow the rate at which HIV makes copies of itself (multiplies) in the body. A combination of three or more antiretroviral medicines is more effective than using just one medicine (monotherapy) to treat HIV.

National Health Policy 2017 seeks to achieve '90:90:90' global target by 2020, implying that 90% of all people living with HIV know their HIV status, 90% of those diagnosed with HIV infection receive sustained antiretroviral therapy and 90% of those receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/faltering-steps-in-the-anti-aids-march/article28691834.ece>

**Q.27) 'United Nations Security Council Resolution 47' is associated with**

- a) Kashmir
- b) Sudan
- c) Palestine
- d) Korean Peninsula

**Q.27) Solution (a)**

United Nations Security Council Resolution 47, adopted on 21 April 1948, concerns the resolution of the Kashmir conflict.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-UNSC-resolution-47-india-pakistan-on-kashmir-article-370-bifurcation-special-status-i5882939/>

**Q.28) The 'Pearl River Delta' includes which of the following regions?**

- 1. Guangdong
- 2. Hog Kong

3. Macau

Select the correct statements

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

**Q.28) Solution (d)**

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

**Regions**

- Guangdong
- Hong Kong
- Macau

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/hong-kong-adrift-and-china-without-an-anchor/article28872172.ece>

**Q.29) Which of the following statements about 'Glyphosate' is/are correct?**

- a) It is used to regulate plant growth and
- b) It is used to ripen fruit
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

**Q.29) Solution (c)**

**Glyphosate**

- It is an herbicide.
- It is applied to the leaves of plants to kill both broadleaf plants and grasses.
- The sodium salt form of glyphosate is used to regulate plant growth and ripen fruit.

- It is a herbicide which is extensively used in Punjab to control a wide variety of weeds in almost all the crops.
- It has been observed to be a Group 2A cancer-causing material
- It is also known for causing other health problems and has the potential to damage human DNA

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/farmers-groups-call-for-urgent-action-against-illegal-gm-crops/article28436429.ece>

**Q.30) Resource Assistance for Colleges with Excellence or RAC is a higher education model launched for distribution of faculties and movable assets among government colleges at district level so as to rationalise availability of resources. It is launched by which state?**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Gujarat
- d) Karnataka

**Q.30) Solution (b)**

Rajasthan has launched a new higher education model titled- Resource Assistance for Colleges with Excellence or RACE, for distribution of faculties and movable assets among government colleges at district level so as to rationalise availability of resources.

With the adoption of this new model, all colleges would get equal opportunities for imparting quality education. RACE will give autonomy to small colleges and help them find solutions to their problems at local level. It will also help colleges situated in small towns facing shortage of faculties and infrastructure.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/rajasthan-launches-new-higher-education-model/article28828237.ece>

**Q.31) 'Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas' is released by the**

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Resources Institute
- c) UN Environment

d) IUCN

**Q.31) Solution (b)**

India is placed thirteenth among the world's 17 'extremely water-stressed' countries according to the Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas released by the World Resources Institute (WRI)

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/water/india-world-s-13th-most-water-stressed-country-wri-66066>

**Q.32) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Pashu Aadhaar'**

1. It is being developed by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).
2. It is aimed at enhancing traceability of our livestock and their products, such as milk or meat.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.32) Solution (c)**

Information Network for Animal Productivity and Health (INAPH), which will be known as Pashu Aadhaar, is being introduced with the aim of enhancing traceability of our livestock and their products, such as milk or meat. This will also help farmers and animal husbandry officials devise better strategies to manage livestock in the country. In fact, one of the major causes behind zoonotic diseases is the difficulty faced in identifying and tracing affected animals.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/now-also-an-aadhaar-card-for-cattle-and-buffaloes/>

**Q.33) 'Dzükou Valley' is a valley located at the border of**

- a) Punjab and Pakistan

- b) Nepal and China
- c) Nagaland and Manipur
- d) Arunachal Pradesh and China

**Q.33) Solution (c)**

The Dzukou Valley is a valley located at the border of the states of Nagaland and Manipur. This valley is well known for its natural environment, seasonal flowers and flora and fauna.

**Q.34) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)'**

1. It is chaired by the Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
2. Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) are members of the FSDC

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.34) Solution (b)**

**Chairperson:** The Union Finance Minister of India

**Members:**

- Governor Reserve Bank of India (RBI),
- Finance Secretary and/ or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA),
- Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS),
- Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs,
- Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance,
- Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI),
- Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA),
- Chairman, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA),



- Chairman, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

**Q.35) National Waterway 1 passes through which of the following states?**

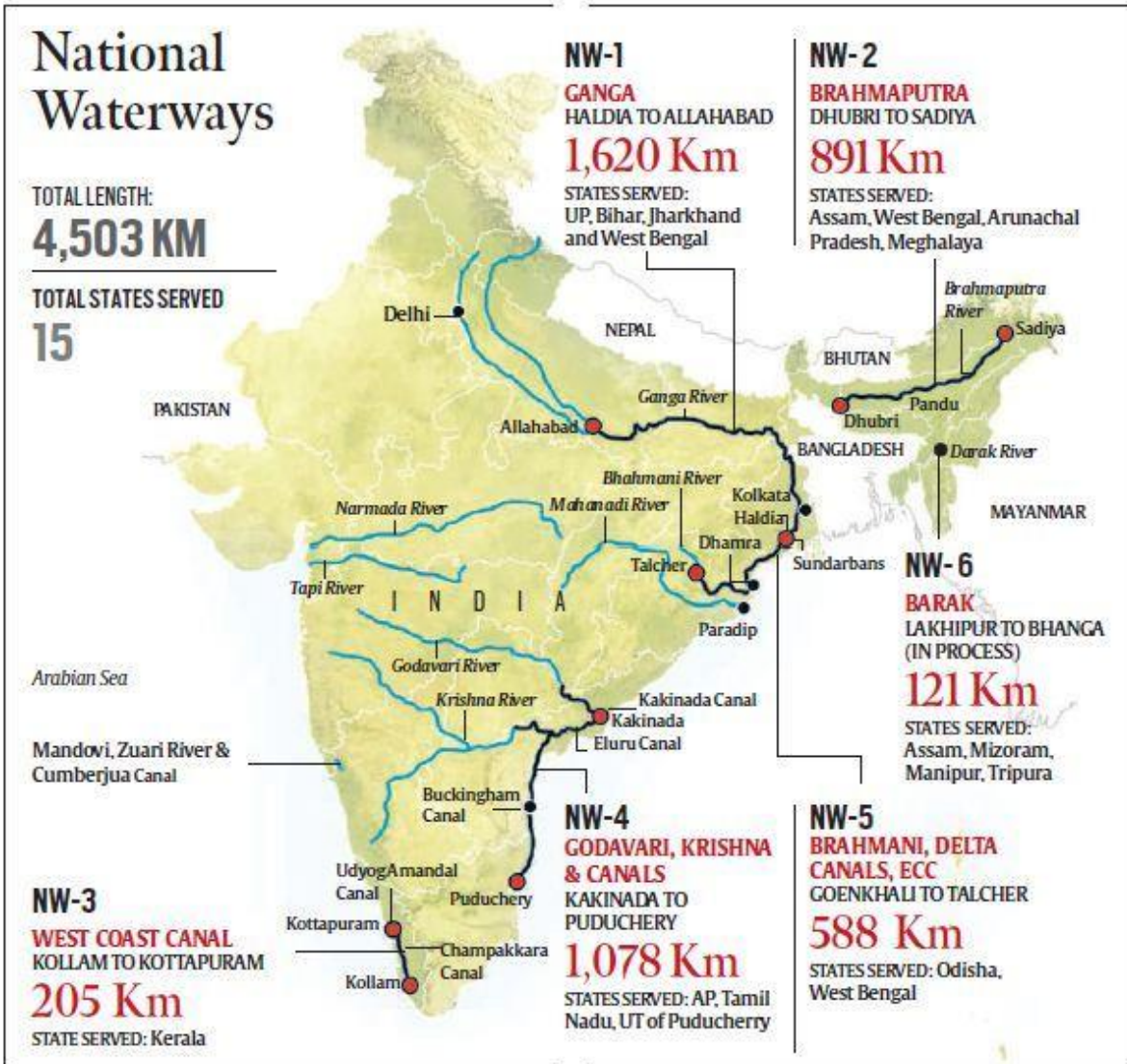
1. West Bengal
2. Jharkhand
3. Bihar
4. Uttar Pradesh

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 2, 3 and 4
- c) 1, 3 and 4
- d) All of the above

**Q.35) Solution (d)**

The NW-1 passes through West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.



**Q.36) 'Strangers to Justice' Report is published by**

- International Court of Justice (ICJ)
- International Criminal Court (ICC)
- Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)
- The Justice Project

**Q.36) Solution (c)**

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/bringing-home-closer-to-jailed-foreigners/article28979789.ece>

**Q.37) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

**Dams                  State**

1. Idukki - Kerala
2. K.R.Sagar – Tami Nadu
3. Srisailam – Andhra Pradesh

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.37) Solution (c)**

Idukki - Kerala

K.R.Sagar – Karnataka

Srisailam – Andhra Pradesh

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rains-shore-up-fortunes-of-reservoirs-in-10-days/article28979616.ece>

**Q.38) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Truthfully labelled seeds'**

1. It refers to self-certified seeds by cultivators and private seed companies.
2. It is banned in India under the Seed Act 1966

**Select the correct statements**

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.38) Solution (a)**

**Truthfully labelled seeds**

It is the category of seed produced by cultivators, private seed companies and is sold under truthful labels. This type of seeds does not come under the purview of the Department of Seed Certification, but field standard and seed standard should be maintain as per seed act and certified seed stage. Under the seed act, the seed producer and seed seller are responsible for the seed. Truthful labelling is compulsory for notified kind of varieties and it is tested for physical purity and germination.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/agri-business/certification-of-seeds-to-be-made-mandatory-to-step-up-farm-output/article28979417.ece>

**Q.39) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) under the ambit of the goods and services tax (GST) for big commercial jetliners is capped at 18%.
2. GST for airlines that operate on routes chosen for the Udey Desh ka Aam Naagarik (UDAN) scheme is capped at 5%.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.39) Solution (d)**

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) is not under the GST regime.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/draft-policy-on-logistics-ignores-express-industry/article28977685.ece>

**Q.40) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Holding together federalism'**

1. A country decides to divide its power between the constituent States and the national government is known as holding together federalism.
2. United States of America is an example of 'Holding together federalism'.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.40) Solution (a)**

When a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent States and the national government, it is known as Holding together federalism (INDIA). Independent states come together on their own to form a bigger unit, it is known as Coming together federalism (USA).

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/the-forms-of-federalism-in-india/article28977671.ece>

**Q.41) 'Repurpose Used Cooking Oil (RUCO) initiative' is launched by the**

- a) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- d) World Health Organisation

**Q.41) Solution (a)**

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched the Repurpose Used Cooking Oil (RUCO) initiative to collect and convert used cooking oil into bio-fuel.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/state-run-oil-marketing-companies-to-buy-biodiesel-made-from-used-cooking-oil/article28979554.ece>

**Q.42) 'Total Polar Compounds (TPC)' is primarily associated with monitoring of the quality of**

- a) Seafood
- b) Oil
- c) Water
- d) Air

**Q.42) Solution (b)**

Total Polar Compounds. The estimation of Total Polar Compounds (TPC) is a widely accepted parameter to decide whether the oil is safe for further use or not.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/bakeries-sweet-shops-restaurants-can-now-sport-trans-fat-free-logo/article28712040.ece>

**Q.43) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Tardigrades'**

1. They can survive extremes of temperature and pressure.
2. It can survive the frigid vacuum of space.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.43) Solution (c)**

Tardigrades can survive extremes of temperature and pressure, including the frigid vacuum of space. They don't seem to mind being exposed to radiation and are all-round tough little creatures. When dehydrated, they roll up into a spore-like state that slows down their metabolic rate by about a hundred-fold, enabling them to survive for potentially over 100 years.

But to live their life to the fullest requires water. It's where they get their oxygen and food, typically colonising clumps of algae or burrowing into sediment to ingest nutrients from the fluid of other living creatures, even other tardigrades.

Source: <https://phys.org/news/2019-08-tardigrades-polluting-moon-indestructible-creatures.html>

**Q.44) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX)'**

1. It is regulated by Securities and Exchange Board of India.
2. It is a public limited company incorporated in 2003 under the Companies Act, 1956.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.44) Solution (c)**

NCDEX is a public limited company incorporated on April 23, 2003 under the Companies Act, 1956.

NCDEX is a nation-level, technology driven de-mutualised on-line commodity exchange with an independent Board of Directors and professional management - both not having any vested interest in commodity markets. It is committed to provide a world-class commodity exchange platform for market participants to trade in a wide spectrum of commodity derivatives driven by best global practices, professionalism and transparency.

NCDEX is regulated by Securities and Exchange Board of India. NCDEX is subjected to various laws of the land like the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, Companies Act, Stamp Act, Contract Act and various other legislations.

NCDEX headquarters are located in Mumbai and offers facilities to its members from the centres located throughout India.

**Q.45) Which of the following National Parks is unique in being a swamp with floating vegetation that supports a rich biodiversity?**

- a) Bhitarkanika National Park
- b) Keibul Lamjao National Park
- c) Keoladeo Ghana National Park
- d) Sultanpur National Park

**Q.45) Solution (b)**

The Keibul Lamjao National Park is a national park in the Bishnupur district of the state of Manipur in India. It is 40 sq. km in area, the only floating park in the world, located in North East India, and an integral part of Loktak Lake.

**Q.46) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

- 1. Kobani – Syria
- 2. Deir ez-Zor – Yemen
- 3. Raqqa – Palestine

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.46) Solution (a)**

All the places are located in Syria.

**Q.47) 'Warsaw International Mechanism' is associated with**

- a) Climate Change
- b) Disaster Risk Reduction
- c) Proliferation of missile and unmanned aerial vehicle technology



- d) Chemical and biological weapons

**Q.47) Solution (a)**

At COP19 (November 2013) in Warsaw, Poland, the COP established the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (Loss and Damage Mechanism), to address loss and damage associated with impacts of climate change, including extreme events and slow onset events, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

At the 19th Conference of the Parties meeting of the UNFCCC in 2013 in Warsaw, Poland, the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts was established. At the 20th Conference of the Parties in Lima, Peru (2014), the work plan of the executive committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism was approved.

Read More - [http://unfccc.int/adaptation/workstreams/loss\\_and\\_damage/items/8134.php](http://unfccc.int/adaptation/workstreams/loss_and_damage/items/8134.php)

**Q.48) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

**Water Bodies    Country**

1. Aral Sea – Turkey
2. Lake Baikal – Hungary
3. Markermeer Lake – Netherlands

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.48) Solution (d)**

**Markermeer Lake**

- It is located in The Netherlands.
- The Markermeer is one of Europe's largest freshwater lakes.

**Aral Sea**

- It is an endorheic lake (one with no outflow) lying between Kazakhstan (Aktobe and Kyzylorda Regions) in the north and Uzbekistan (Karakalpakstan autonomous region) in the south.

**Lake Baikal**

- It is a rift lake in Russia, located in southern Siberia, between Irkutsk Oblast to the northwest and the Buryat Republic to the southeast.

**Q.49) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Criminal Tribes Act'**

1. The term, 'De-notified and Nomadic Tribes', can be traced to this Act
2. It was repealed in 1952 and the Habitual Offenders Act was enacted in its place.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.49) Solution (c)****Denotified Tribes (DNT)**

- The term, 'De-notified and Nomadic Tribes', can be traced to the Criminal Tribes Act (CTA) of 1871.
- The colonial government notified nearly 200 tribal communities to be hereditary criminals, cementing their societal identity as outcasts and subjecting them to constant harassment by the administration.
- After India gained Independence, these tribes were 'de-notified' from the list of Criminal Tribes, and, hence, the term.

**Criminal Tribes Act, 1871**

- Several reasons can be ascribed to state-sanctioned stigmatisation of the DNTs in India under British rule, including the strategy to identify their allies and at the same time, subdue and monitor activities of rebellious tribal communities in India.

- The CTA allowed for close supervision and control over the mobility of the tribes which were notified by the provincial governments.
- The Act was amended in 1897, 1908 and 1911 to give sweeping powers to the authorities, some as draconian as allowing the state to remove any child of the age of six and above from its 'criminal' parents.
- By 1924, certain provisions were amended, and the Act was finally applicable to the whole of British India.

**Habitual Offenders Act, 1952**

- After Independence, the Indian government replaced CTA with the Habitual Offenders Act, 1952.
- The National Human Rights Commission has recommended the repeal of the Habitual Offenders Act, 1952.

**Q.50) Mokedatu dam project' which is often seen in news is being built across which of the following rivers?**

- a) Cauvery
- b) Mandovi
- c) Krishna
- d) Godavari

**Q.50) Solution (a)**

Mekedatu dam project is near Mekedatu, in Ramanagaram district, across the river Cauvery from Tamil Nadu.

Its primary objective is to supply drinking water to Bengaluru and recharge the groundwater table in the region.

**Q.51) 'Golden Butterfly' which was in news recently is a variety of**

- a) Tea
- b) Coffee
- c) Cotton
- d) Rice

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

The Golden Butterfly is made of tea buds, not tea leaves. It is the bud which lends the tea liquor a full-bodied, bright-yellowish colour — unlike the usual leaf-based tea from Assam which gives the brew a black colour.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/assam-tea-at-rs-75000-kg-how-is-it-valued-how-is-it-sold-5905707/>

**Q.52) Consider the following statements with respect to 'AKRUTI'**

1. It enables and empowers villages with eco-sustainable Science & Technology based work plan for Techno-economic growth.
2. It is an initiative by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.52) Solution (c)**

Advance Knowledge & RUral Technology Implementation (AKRUTI)

To set up rural based technology centers (AKRUTI) in the village itself, in-housed with the farm and non-farm technologies useful to rural areas including modern technologies, providing access to all villagers including all nearby villages.

The purpose of this program is to enable and empower villages with Eco-sustainable Science & Technology based work plan for Techno-economic growth.

The program aims to create structured and scalable network of rural based technology centers providing access to modern technology to nearby villages. It's implementation will be done through a proposed functional unit called AKRUTI, which is an acronym for "Advance Knowledge and RUral Technology Implementation" initiative and which would be equipped with utilities needed by villagers, technology, demonstration units and field staff. These

technologies will be taken to different villages around the AKRUTI via working centers spread in different villages attached to AKRUTI. These working centers are called KRUTI KENDRA viz. KRUTIK (Knowledge and RUrAl Technology Implementation Kendra) in fields. KRUTIK will work with villagers and farmers' group, known as FORCE (Farmers' Organization for Rural Creative Entrepreneurship). Each FORCE group will be made familiar with technologies in-housed in AKRUTI through KRUTIK.

The structured program called “AKRUTI-KRUTIK-FORCE” has been formulated by BARC, Mumbai.

Partner Institutes -B.A.R.C.- a premier multidisciplinary R&D organization under the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India and Rajiv Gandhi Science & Technology Commission (RGS&TC), Maharashtra.

**Q.53) Consider the following statements**

1. Operation Thunderbird is code-name of INTERPOL's multinational and multi-species enforcement operation for wildlife protection
2. Operation Save Kurma is a specific operation on Mangroves

**Select the correct statement**

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

**Q.53) Solution (a)**

Operation Save Kurma: It was species specific operation on turtles.

**Q.54) Sigur Plateau' was recently in news. Where is it located?**

- a) South Karnataka
- b) Southern Slope of Vindhyas
- c) Vidarbha region of Maharashtra
- d) Nilgiris

**Q.54) Solution (d)**

Sigur Plateau (Segur Plateau) is a plateau in the north and east of Nilgiri District in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu.

The Sigur Plateau is notable as an important wildlife corridor maintaining connectivity between the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats to sustain elephant and tiger numbers and their genetic diversity.

It is an important link between several contiguous protected areas forming the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, the largest protected forest area in India. This area supports over 6,300 elephants, that represents the largest single population of elephants and tigers in India.

The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, which includes Sigur Plateau and the Nilgiri Hills, is part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

**Q.55) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Raibenshe'**

1. It is a genre of Indian folk martial dance performed by male only
2. It is primarily performed in Arunachal Pradesh

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.55) Solution (a)****Raibenshe**

- It is a genre of Indian folk martial dance performed by male only.
- This genre of dance was once very popular in West Bengal.
- Presently, it is performed mostly in Birbhum, Bardhaman and Murshidabad districts.
- Traditionally, this dance involves vigorous and manly movements of the body along with the acrobatics of a raibansh (a long bamboo stick), from which its name originated.

- During the performance, the performers enact the actions of drawing a bow, throwing a spear and waving a sword.
- The performers wear a brass anklet (nupur) on their right ankle. This dance is accompanied by dhols (drums) and Kanshis (cymbals).
- This dance was traditionally performed by Bagdi community, who worked as the bodyguards of the landlords in medieval Bengal.

**Q.56) 'Operation Golden Victory' is associated with**

- a) Yemen
- b) Djibouti
- c) Sudan
- d) Venezuela

**Q.56) Solution (a)**

The Battle of Al Hudaydah, codenamed as Operation Golden Victory, is a major Saudi-led coalition assault on the port city of Al Hudaydah in Yemen. It is spearheaded by the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia and has been considered as the largest battle since the start of Saudi Arabian-led intervention in Yemen in 2015

**Q.57) Yemen borders which of the following countries?**

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Oman
3. United Arab Emirates

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.57) Solution (a)**



**Q.58) 'Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha' was established by**

- a) Mahatma Gnadhi
- b) Sardar Vallabhai Patel
- c) Jawaharlal Nehru
- d) Lokmanya Tilak

**Q.58) Solution (a)**

Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha is an organisation whose main goal is to improve Hindi literacy among the non-Hindi speaking people of South India. It was established in the year 1918 by Mahatma Gandhi.

**Q.59) 'Nalbana Bird Sanctuary' is located near**

- a) Kolleru Lake
- b) Dal Lake
- c) Chilika Lake
- d) Nal Sarovar



**Q.59) Solution (c)**

Nalbana Bird Sanctuary or Nalbana Island is the core area of the Ramsar designated wetlands of Chilika Lake. It was declared a bird sanctuary under the Wildlife Protection Act in 1972. In the heart of the park, one can see thousands of birds descending during the migratory season.

**Q.60) 'Lambhraun lava field' was in news recently. Where is it located?**

- a) Iceland
- b) Chile
- c) Japan
- d) New Zealand

**Q.60) Solution (a)**

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/watch-nasa-tests-new-mars-rover-on-icelands-lava-field/article29091323.ece>

**Q.61) 'Cher Chera festival' is associated with**

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Odisha
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Telangana

**Q.61) Solution (a)**

The local tribals of Bastar, which is in the Chhota Nagpur region of Chhattisgarh, celebrate the Sankranti Festival as Cher Chera festival. It is a harvest festival, a thanks giving to the sun, the field and the cattle that helped in bringing forth the harvest. In some parts, it is also called the Cherta festival, Cherta meaning "to give, to part with."

**Q.62) Which of the following are recognised 'Sikh takhts'?**

1. Akal Takht (Amritsar)
2. Takht Hazur Sahib (Nanded)
3. Takht Patna Sahib (Bihar)

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.62) Solution (d)**

Takht is a Persian word that means imperial throne. At present Sikhs recognise five places as takhts. Three are in Punjab — Akal Takht (Amritsar); Takht Keshgarh Sahib (Anandpur Sahib); Takht Damdama Sahib (Talwandi Sabo) — and the other two are Takht Patna Sahib (Bihar) and Takht Hazur Sahib (Nanded, Maharashtra).

Akal Takht (Throne of the Timeless One) is the oldest of the takhts, and considered supreme among the five. It was set up in 1606 by Guru Hargobind, whose succession as the sixth Guru after the execution of his father, Guru Arjan Dev, is considered a turning point in Sikh history. The Akal Takht, a raised platform that he built in front of the causeway leading to the sanctum sanctorum of the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple), symbolised the coming together of the temporal authority and the political sovereignty of the Sikh community (miri) with the spiritual authority (piri). It is seen as the first marker of Sikh nationalism. The Akal Takht is a five-storey building today; the first storey houses the Guru Granth Sahib.

The other four takhts are linked to Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru. It was at Keshgarh Sahib that Guru Gobind Singh raised Khalsa, the initiated Sikh warriors, in 1699. Patna Sahib is his birthplace, and he spent several months in Damdama Sahib and his final days in Hazur Sahib, where he was cremated in 1708.

Takhts are known to issue hukumnamas from time to time on issues that concern the community. Akal Takht is supreme because it is the oldest and was created by a Sikh guru himself, say Sikh historians and scholars. Any edict or order concerning the entire community is issued only from Akal Takht. Also, it is from Akal Takht that Sikhs found to be violating the Sikh doctrine and code of conduct are awarded religious punishment (declared tankhaiya) and even excommunicated, depending on the degree of violation and failure of adherence to directives of the highest temporal seat of Sikhs.

**Q.63) Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) is often in news in the context of India and**

- a) USA
- b) Israel
- c) Japan
- d) France

**Q.63) Solution (a)**

The DTTI aims to:

- Transform the bilateral defence relationship into one that is limited only by independent strategic decisions, rather than bureaucratic obstacles or inefficient procedures
- Strengthen India's defence industrial base by moving away from the traditional "buyer-seller" dynamic toward a more collaborative approach
- Explore new areas of technological collaboration from science and technology cooperation through co-development and co-production
- Expand U.S.-Indian business ties

**Q.64) Consider the following statements about Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)**

1. It was developed and sites are identified by BirdLife International
2. IBAs are places of international significance for the conservation of birds and other biodiversity
3. A site can be listed as an IBA only if it holds a population of a species categorized by the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.64) Solution (b)**

An Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) is an area identified using an internationally agreed set of criteria as being globally important for the conservation of bird populations.

IBA was developed and sites are identified by BirdLife International.

**Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) are:**

- Places of international significance for the conservation of birds and other biodiversity
- Recognised world-wide as practical tools for conservation
- Distinct areas amenable to practical conservation action
- Identified using robust, standardised criteria
- Sites that together form part of a wider integrated approach to the conservation and sustainable use of the natural environment

**To be listed as an IBA, a site must satisfy at least one of the following rating criteria**

**Globally threatened species**

- The site qualifies if it is known, estimated or thought to hold a population of a species categorized by the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable. In general, the regular presence of a Critical or Endangered species, irrespective of population size, at a site may be sufficient for a site to qualify as an IBA. For Vulnerable species, the presence of more than threshold numbers at a site is necessary to trigger selection.

**Restricted-range species**

- The site forms one of a set selected to ensure that all restricted-range species of an Endemic Bird Area (EBA) or a Secondary Area (SA) are present in significant numbers in at least one site and preferably more.

**Biome-restricted species**

- The site forms one of a set selected to ensure adequate representation of all species restricted to a given biome, both across the biome as a whole and for all of its species in each range state.

**Q.65) Consider the following statements about Nuclear Command Authority (NCA)**

1. Executive Council is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary
2. Political Council is chaired by the Prime Minister

3. The directives of the NCA are to be operationalised by the Strategic Forces Command under the control of a Commander-in-Chief of the rank of Air Marshal

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.65) Solution (b)**

NCA is responsible for command, control and operational decisions regarding India's nuclear weapons programme. Organisational structure of NCA includes Political Council and Executive Council. Executive Council is headed by National Security Advisor and Political Council is headed by Prime Minister. The Executive Council gives its opinion to the Political Council, which authorises a nuclear attack when deemed necessary. Strategic Forces Command is a part of Nuclear Command Authority, responsible to operationalize the directives of NCA and for the management and administration of the country's tactical and strategic nuclear weapons stockpile. SFC is headed by Commander-in-chief of the rank of Air Marshal. It will have the sole responsibility of initiating the process of delivering nuclear weapons and warheads, after acquiring explicit approval from the NCA.

**Q.66) 'Okjokull glacier' was in news recently. It is associated with**

- a) New Zealand
- b) Sweden
- c) Iceland
- d) Russia

**Q.66) Solution (c)**

Okjokull is 1st Icelandic glacier to lose its status as glacier and in next 200 years countries all main glaciers are expected to follow same path.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/iceland-commemorates-first-glacier-lost-to-climate-change/article29131161.ece>

**Q.67) "SATAT" initiative is under the aegis of**

- a) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
- b) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- c) Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
- d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

**Q.67) Solution (a)**

Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)

Petroleum Minister to launch SATAT initiative to promote Compressed Bio-Gas as an alternative, green transport fuel.

Source: <http://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1582294>

**Q.68) The mandate of 'BASIC countries' is Climate Change**

- a) UNSC Reforms
- b) Climate Change
- c) WTO Negotiations
- d) Anti-Protectionism

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

The BASIC countries (also Basic countries or BASIC) are a bloc of four large newly industrialized countries – Brazil, South Africa, India and China – formed by an agreement on 28 November 2009. The four committed to act jointly at the Copenhagen climate summit, including a possible united walk-out if their common minimum position was not met by the developed nations.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-who-are-basic-the-climate-change-alliance-whose-meeting-india-just-attended-5914424/>

**Q.69) Consider the following statements with respect to 'NISHTHA', which was recently in news.**

1. It is aimed at training non-engineering graduates for jobs in the market.
2. It is launched by the Ministry of Skill Development

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.69) Solution (d)**

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) is going to launch the "world's biggest project" for teacher training on August 22, 2019, to train over 42 lakh teachers across the country.

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/hrd-ministry-to-launch-world-s-biggest-teacher-training-programme-to-train-over-42-lakh-teachers-1581961-2019-08-18>

**Q.70) Ashok Chawla Committee is concerned with**

- a) Army Pay Scales
- b) Long Term Food Policy
- c) Banking Supervision
- d) Allocation of Natural Resources

**Q.70) Solution (d)**

Ashok Chawla committee on Allocation of Natural Resources had recommended placing water in the concurrent list.

**Q.71) 'Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA)' is associated with**

- a) BIMSTEC
- b) BBIN
- c) ASEAN
- d) SASEC

**Q.71) Solution (b)**

The BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) was signed on 15 June 2015 at the BBIN transport ministers meeting in Thimpu, Bhutan. The agreement will permit the member states to ply their vehicles in each other's territory for transportation of cargo and passengers, including third country transport and personal vehicles. Each vehicle would require an electronic permit to enter another country's territory, and border security arrangement between nations' borders will also remain. Cargo vehicles will be able enter any of the four nations without the need for trans-shipment of goods from one country's truck to another's at the border. Under the system, cargo vehicles are tracked electronically, permits are issued online and sent electronically to all land ports. Vehicles are fitted with an electronic seal that alerts regulators every time the container door is opened.

**Q.72) The term 'Public Charge' in relation with immigration was in news recently. It is associated with**

- a) Poland
- b) United States of America
- c) France
- d) Australia

**Q.72) Solution (b)**

Public charge is a term used in immigration law to refer to a person who is primarily dependent on the government for support.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/new-rules-can-deny-green-cards-for-immigrants-using-public-benefits/article29030541.ece>

**Q.73) International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was set up by**

1. United Nations Environment Programme
2. World Economic Forum
3. World Meteorological Organization
4. Food and Agricultural Organization



**Select the correct code**

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

**Q.73) Solution (d)**

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the international body for assessing the science related to climate change. The IPCC was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

**Q.74) Which of the following products/services were developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)?**

- 1. RuPay
- 2. BHIM
- 3. Unified Payments Interface
- 4. Immediate Payments Service (IMPS)
- 5. \*99#

**Select the correct code**

- a) 1, 2, 4, and 5
- b) 2, 3, 4 and 5
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 5
- d) All of the above

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

The corporation service portfolio now and in the future include:

- National Financial Switch (NFS) - network of shared automated teller machines in India.

- Unified Payment Interface (UPI) - Single mobile application for accessing different bank accounts
- BHIM App - Smartphone app built using UPI interface
- Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) - Real time payment with mobile number.
- \*99# - mobile banking using USSD
- National Automated Clearing House (NACH)
- Cheque Truncation System -online image-based cheque clearing system
- Aadhaar Payments Bridge System (APBS)
- RuPay - card scheme
- Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) - integrated bill payment system

**Q.75) The end aim of 'helicopter money' is to**

1. Increase inflation
2. Decrease inflation
3. Boost consumer demand and spending

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.75) Solution (a)**

Helicopter money implies free and irreversible distribution of money to the end consumers. It can be achieved by literally transferring money to individuals' accounts for free or by reducing taxes universally to all households enabling more disposable money in their hands. Such measures are utilized when the economy is in slowdown or in recession and interest rates are hovering around zero or even turning negative.

The end aim of helicopter money is to boost consumer demand and spending, and increase inflation to optimum levels, thereby leading to economic recovery. It has emerged as a possible alternative to the widely followed Quantitative Easing (QE) methodology.

**Q.76) Chogyal Dynasty is associated with**

- a) Sikkim
- b) Karnataka
- c) Nagaland
- d) Haryana

**Q.76) Solution (a)**

The Chogyal were the monarchs of the former kingdoms of Sikkim and Ladakh in present-day India, which were ruled by separate branches of the Namgyal dynasty. The Chogyal was the absolute monarch of Sikkim from 1642 to 1975, when the monarchy was abolished and its people voted in a referendum to make Sikkim India's 22nd state.

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-sikkim-chogyal-rule-to-indian-state-sdf-bjp-5921574/>

**Q.77) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Biosimilars'**

1. They are also called as 'Generic Drugs'
2. They are copies of synthetic drugs.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.77) Solution (d)**

Biosimilars and generics are very different.

Generic drugs are identical to the original in chemical composition, biosimilar drugs are "highly similar," but close enough in duplication to accomplish the same therapeutic and clinical result.

Another key difference is that generics are copies of synthetic drugs, while biosimilars are modeled after drugs that use living organisms as important ingredients.

Read More – <https://www.cancercenter.com/community/blog/2018/12/whats-the-difference-biosimilar-and-generic-drugs>

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/dr-reddys-launches-cancer-drug-in-india/article29161239.ece>

**Q.78) Which one of the following statements appropriately describes the “fiscal stimulus”?**

- a) It is a massive investment by the Government in manufacturing sector to ensure the supply of goods to meet the demand surge caused by rapid economic growth
- b) It is Government’s intensive action on financial institutions to ensure disbursement of loans to agriculture and allied sectors to promote greater food production and contain food inflation
- c) It is an extreme affirmative action by the Government to pursue its policy of financial inclusion
- d) It is an intense affirmative action of the Government to boost economic activity in the country

**Q.78) Solution (d)**

Fiscal stimulus refers to increasing government consumption or transfers or lowering taxes. Effectively this means increasing the rate of growth of public debt, except that particularly Keynesians often assume that the stimulus will cause sufficient economic growth to fill that gap partially or completely.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/opinion/columns/opinion-is-india-headed-for-its-worst-growth-recession-in-a-decade-1566320477197.html>

**Q.79) The Amazon rainforest is spread over which of the following countries?**

- 1. Brazil
- 2. Peru
- 3. Colombia
- 4. Uruguay

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.79) Solution (b)**

The majority of the forest is contained within Brazil, with 60% of the rainforest, followed by Peru with 13%, Colombia with 10%, and with minor amounts in Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and France (French Guiana).

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/amazon-burning-brazil-reports-83-increase-in-forest-fires/article29192993.ece>

**Q.80) Doyang Lake, famous as a roosting site for longest travelling raptors Amur Falcons is located in which state?**

- a) Nagaland
- b) Manipur
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

**Q.80) Solution (a)**

Pangti village in Nagaland as the world's Amur Falcon capital,

Centre to develop Doyang lake (in Wokha district of Nagaland )every year, during their flight from Mongolia to Africa., famous for Amur falcons, as an eco-tourism spot.

**Q.81) Consider the statements regarding Indian Ocean Dipole and select the correct one**

- a) Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is when the western Indian Ocean becomes alternately warmer and then colder than the eastern part of the ocean
- b) Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is when the eastern Indian Ocean becomes alternately warmer and then colder than the western part of the ocean

- c) Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is when the western Indian Ocean becomes alternately colder and then warmer than the eastern part of the ocean
- d) Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is when the eastern Indian Ocean becomes alternately colder and then warmer than the eastern part of the ocean

**Q.81) Solution (a)**

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), also known as the Indian Niño, is an irregular oscillation of sea-surface temperatures in which the western Indian Ocean becomes alternately warmer and then colder than the eastern part of the ocean.

**Q.82) National income does not include**

- a) Income from government expenditure.
- b) Payments by the households to firms for the purchase of goods and services.
- c) Undistributed profits.
- d) Earnings of shareholders from the sale of shares.

**Q.82) Solution (d)**

Earnings of shareholders from the sale of shares will not be included in the national income as it is a financial claim and does not contribute to any productive activity.

**Q.83) 'Koodiyattam', a Sanskrit theatre form performed in the state of**

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

**Q.83) Solution (b)**

Koodiyattam, also transliterated as Kutiyattam, is a traditional performing artform in Kerala.

It is a combination of ancient Sanskrit theatre with elements of Koothu, a Tamil/Malayalam performing art which is as old as Sangam era.

**Q.84) Which is the Indian classical dance form that got revitalised as a result of the fusion of Mughal influence with Indian culture?**

- a) Kathak
- b) Kuchupudi
- c) Manipuri
- d) Odissi

**Q.84) Solution (a)**

Kathak is the Hindustani name for one of the eight major forms of Indian classical dance. The origin of Kathak is traditionally attributed to the traveling bards of ancient northern India known as Kathakars or storytellers. The term Kathak is derived from the Vedic Sanskrit word Katha which means "story", and Kathakar which means "the one who tells a story", or "to do with stories".

Kathak as a performance art has survived and thrived as an oral tradition, innovated and taught and from one generation to another verbally and through practice. It transitioned, adapted and integrated the tastes of the Mughal courts in the 16th and 17th century particularly Akbar, was ridiculed and declined in the colonial British era, then was reborn as India gained independence and sought to rediscover its ancient roots and a sense of national identity through the arts.

**Q.85) Under the constitution of India, which one of the following is not a fundamental duty?**

- a) To develop the scientific temper.
- b) To safeguard public property.
- c) To abide by the constitution and respect its ideals.
- d) To vote in public elections.

**Q.85) Solution (d)**

The exact duties of every citizen of India according to the Constitution are:

- to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;
- to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;
- to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
- to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
- to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;
- to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;
- to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures;
- to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
- to safeguard public property and to abjure violence;
- to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement;
- who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years

**Q.86) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Gravitational lens'**

1. It has a single focal point
2. It is capable of bending the light from the source as the light travels towards the observer.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.86) Solution (b)**

A gravitational lens is a distribution of matter (such as a cluster of galaxies) between a distant light source and an observer, that is capable of bending the light from the source as the light travels towards the observer. This effect is known as gravitational lensing, and the amount of bending is one of the predictions of Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity.



Unlike an optical lens, a gravitational lens produces a maximum deflection of light that passes closest to its center, and a minimum deflection of light that travels furthest from its center. Consequently, a gravitational lens has no single focal point, but a focal line.

The term "lens" in the context of gravitational light deflection was first used by O.J. Lodge, who remarked that it is "not permissible to say that the solar gravitational field acts like a lens, for it has no focal length"

**Q.87) 'TEMPLATES' programme is associated with**

- a) NASA
- b) ISRO
- c) DRDO
- d) JAXA

**Q.87) Solution (a)**

Targeting Extremely Magnified Panchromatic Lensed Arcs and Their Extended Star Formation (TEMPLATES)

Source: <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2019/where-are-new-stars-born-nasa-s-webb-telescope-will-investigate>

**Q.88) 'Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)' was in news recently. It is associated with**

- a) International Monetary Fund
- b) International Solar Alliance
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) Financial Action Task Force

**Q.88) Solution (a)**

Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) is an International Monetary Fund standard to guide member countries in the dissemination of national statistics to the public.

**Q.89) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Girmityas'**

1. They are indentured Indian labourers who left the country in the middle and late 19th century to serve as labours in the then British colonies.
2. They were primarily brought to work in Diamond Mines in Africa

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.89) Solution (a)**

Girmitya or Jahajis are indentured Indian labourers that were brought to Fiji, Mauritius, South Africa, East Africa, and the Caribbean to work on sugarcane plantations for the prosperity of the European settlers and save the Fijians from having to work on these plantations and thus to preserve their culture.

**Q.90) 'U.K. Sinha Committee' was constituted to deal with**

- a) MSMEs
- b) E-Vehicles
- c) Corporate Social Responsibility
- d) Eco Sensitive Zones

**Q.90) Solution (a)**

RBI-appointed U.K. Sinha-led committee to study the problems faced by MSMEs.

**Q.91) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF)'**

1. It will function as the first level of examination of all large fraud cases before recommendations or references are made to the investigative agencies by the respective Public Sector Banks.
2. It is set up by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

**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 Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has constituted Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF) to examine bank fraud of over 50 crore rupees and recommend action. The panel in its previous avatar called the Advisory Board on Bank, Commercial and Financial Frauds.

The ABBF headed by former Vigilance Commissioner T M Bhasin has been formed in consultation with the RBI and it will function as the first level of examination of all large fraud cases before recommendations or references are made to the investigative agencies by the respective Public Sector Banks.

In its order, the CVC said the four-member board's jurisdiction will be confined to those cases involving officers of General Manager level and above in the PSBs in respect of an allegation of a fraud in a borrowal account. The banks will refer all large fraud cases above 50 crore rupees to ABBF and on receipt of its recommendation, they concerned will take further action in such matter.

**Source:** <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/banking/cvc-sets-up-panel-to-examine-bank-fraud-above-rs-50-cr/articleshow/70827816.cms>

**Q.92) 'Chukotka Peninsula' is part of**

- a) Mexico
- b) Portugal
- c) Russia
- d) Mongolia

**Q.92) Solution (c)**

The Chukchi Peninsula (also Chukotka Peninsula or Chukotski Peninsula, is the easternmost peninsula of Asia. Its eastern end is at Cape Dezhnev near the village of Uelen. It is bordered by the Chukchi Sea to the north, the Bering Sea to the south, and the Bering Strait to the east. The peninsula is part of Chukotka Autonomous Okrug of Russia. The peninsula is traditionally the home of tribes of the indigenous peoples of Siberia as well as some Russian settlers.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-49446235>

**Q.93) Mesovelia is a genus of**

- a) Frogs
- b) Water Treader
- c) Butterflies
- d) Snakes

**Q.93) Solution (b)**

Mesovelia is a genus of water treaders in the family Mesoveliidae.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/7-new-species-of-insects-that-can-walk-on-water-discovered/article29247171.ece>

**Q.94) 'Order of Zayed' is**

- a) Highest civilian award of Afghanistan.
- b) Highest civilian honour of Saudi Arabia.
- c) Highest honour of Palestine, given to foreign dignitaries.
- d) Highest civil honour of UAE.

**Q.94) Solution (d)**

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/uae-confers-order-of-zayed-to-pm-modi/articleshow/70817695.cms>

**Q.95) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Press Council of India'**

1. It is a statutory, adjudicating organization in India formed in 1966 by its parliament.
2. The Chairman of the PCI is nominated by the Chief Justice of India

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.95) Solution (a)**

The Press Council of India is a statutory, adjudicating organization in India formed in 1966 by its parliament. It is the self-regulatory watchdog of the press, for the press and by the press, that operates under the Press Council Act of 1978. The Council has a chairman – traditionally, a retired Supreme Court judge, and 28 additional members of which 20 are members of media, nominated by the newspapers, television channels and other media outlets operating in India. In the 28 member council, 5 are members of the lower house (Lok Sabha) and upper house (Rajya Sabha) of the Indian parliament.

The Act provides for selection of the Chairman by a Committee consisting of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the Speaker of Lok Sabha and a person elected by the members of the Council from among themselves.

**Read More - [http://presscouncil.nic.in/Content/29\\_3\\_History.aspx](http://presscouncil.nic.in/Content/29_3_History.aspx)**

**Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/on-the-wrong-side/article29254013.ece>**

**Q.96) Which of the following Conventions aims to conserve terrestrial, Marine and Avian migratory species?**

- a) Rotterdam Convention
- b) Bonn Convention
- c) Ramsar Convention
- d) Washington Convention

**Q.96) Solution (b)****Bonn Convention**

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals -- more commonly abbreviated to just the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) or the Bonn Convention -- aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range. It is an intergovernmental treaty, concluded under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme, concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale. Since the Convention's entry into force, its membership has grown steadily to include over 120 Parties from Africa, Central and South America, Asia, Europe and Oceania. The Convention was signed in 1979 in Bad Godesberg, a suburb of Bonn (hence the name), and entered into force in 1983. The depositary is the government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The CMS is the only global and UN-based intergovernmental organization established exclusively for the conservation and management of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range. CMS and its daughter agreements determine policy and provide further guidance on specific issues through their Strategic Plans, Action Plans, resolutions, decisions and guidelines. All maintain on their websites a list of all decisions taken, guidelines issues and Action Plans adopted by the Member States.

**Q.97) The 'Golden Triangle' of South-East Asia refers to**

- a) The shallow seas near Straits of Malacca where high-density fishing is done
- b) An area infested with insurgency, terrorism and trafficking
- c) An area prone to maximum cyclone and Tsunami hits
- d) An extensive opium producing area

**Q.97) Solution (d)**

The Golden Triangle is one of Asia's two main opium-producing areas. It is an area of around 950,000 square kilometres (367,000 sq mi) that overlaps the mountains of three countries of Southeast Asia: Myanmar, Laos and Thailand.



Along with Afghanistan in the Golden Crescent, it has been one of the most extensive opium-producing areas of Asia and of the world since the 1950s. Most of the world's heroin came from the Golden Triangle until the early 21st century when Afghanistan became the world's largest producer.

**Q.98) Which of the following statement is INCORRECT about 'Biosimilars'?**

- a) Biosimilars are less costly imitations of drugs known as biologics
- b) Biosimiliar and Generic drugs are same and used interchangeably.
- c) Biosimilars can help cut drug costs
- d) Biologic drugs are made using living cells that treat disease, usually by genetically modifying cells

**Q.98) Solution (b)**

Biosimilars are less costly imitations of drugs known as biologics, which are used to treat a range of diseases including cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes, and anemia. But they are different from generics in that they are not exact copies.

Generic drugs are copies of brand-name drugs, have the same active ingredient, and are the same as those brand name drugs in dosage form, safety, strength, route of administration, quality, performance characteristics and intended use. That means the brand-name and the generic are bioequivalent. Biosimilars are highly similar to the reference product they were compared to, but have allowable differences because they are made from living organisms. Biosimilars also have no clinically meaningful differences in terms of safety, purity, and potency from the reference product.

Biologic drugs are made using living cells that treat disease, usually by genetically modifying cells. They are big and very complex molecules, often 200 to 1,000 times the size of more

common small-molecule drugs. For example, aspirin, part of a common category of medicine known as small-molecule drugs, is made of up only 21 atoms. While the biologic drug Enbrel, which is used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and plaque psoriasis, consists of more than 20,000 atoms.

**Q.99) 'Garole, Malpura, Patanwadi' breed refers to -**

- a) Cow
- b) Buffalo
- c) Sheep
- d) Goat

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

All the above mentioned breeds describe sheep breeds. Other breeds are provided in table below.

Wool	Quality	State
Lohi	Superior quality wool	Rajasthan, Punjab
Rampur bushair.	Brown fleece	UP & Himanchal Pradesh
Patanwadi.	Hosiery material wool.	Gujarat
Marwari	Coarse wool	Gujarat

**Q.100) Logistics Performance Index is released by**

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) United Nations Development Programme
- c) World Trade Organisation
- d) World Bank

**Q.100) Solution (d)**

The Logistics Performance Index is an interactive benchmarking tool created to help countries identify the challenges and opportunities they face in their performance on trade logistics and what they can do to improve their performance. The LPI is based on a worldwide survey of operators on the ground (global freight forwarders and express carriers), providing feedback on



the logistics “friendliness” of the countries in which they operate and those with which they trade. It is published by World Bank.

**Q.101) ‘Guldasta-E-Haqiqat’ is a lyrical Urdu translation of the**

- a) Ramayana
- b) Bhagvad Gita
- c) Mahabharat
- d) Bijak

**Q.101) Solution (b)**

Nargistan is a Persian translation of the Ramayana

Guldasta-E-Haqiqat is a lyrical Urdu translation of the Bhagavad Gita in the form of a ghazal.

**Q.102) Which of these cities is the capital of a BIMSTEC country?**

- a) Naypyidaw
- b) Kuala Lumpur
- c) Vientiane
- d) Hanoi

**Q.102) Solution (a)**

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an international organisation of seven nations of South Asia and South East Asia, housing 1.5 billion people and having a combined gross domestic product of \$3.5 trillion (2018).

The BIMSTEC member states—Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan are among the countries dependent on the Bay of Bengal.

Naypyidaw is capital of Myanmar.

**Q.103) Bahubali festival is associated with which of the following religions?**

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

**Q.103) Solution (c)**

Bahubali a much revered figure among Jains, was the son of Rishabhanatha, the first tirthankara of Jainism, and the younger brother of Bharata Chakravartin. He is said to have meditated motionless for twelve years in a standing posture (kayotsarga) and that during this time, climbing plants grew around his legs. After his year of meditation, Bahubali is said to have attained omniscience (Kevala Gyana).

**Q.104) China has been blamed for purposive devaluation. Consider the following statements in this regard.**

1. Price of country's products in international market may fall due to devaluation of currency
2. Appreciation of currency is always a good thing for the economy

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.104) Solution (a)**

With devaluation the price of exports reduces in the market. This makes them more attractive and hence promotes exports.

Appreciation of currency is not sustainable in the long term as India has to establish a healthy balance between imports and exports.

An appreciation can help improve living standards – it enables consumers to buy cheaper imports.

If the appreciation is a result of improved competitiveness, then the appreciation is sustainable, and it shouldn't cause lower growth.

An appreciation could be a problem if the currency appreciates rapidly during difficult economic circumstances.

**Q.105) Federalism is important to Indian economy's diverse nature. In regard to federalism what is not ideal for the economy?**

1. Dynamic and cooperative federalism
2. Cooperative but not competitive federalism
3. States as models and magnets for resources and ideas.

**Select the appropriate code:**

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

**Q.105) Solution (b)**

Competitive federalism is innate in the idea of cooperative federalism that states have a healthy competition for opportunities and in turn raise standards.

**Q.106) Bhagoria Haat Festival is celebrated by which of the tribes of India?**

- a) Bhils
- b) Munda
- c) Khasi
- d) Angami

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

Bhagoria Fest is a festival celebrated by the tribal people of the Indian state Madhya Pradesh (originally known as 'Malwa'). Also known as Bhagoria Haat Festival, during this festival, young

boys and girls are allowed to elope after choosing their partners. The Bhagoria Haat Festival belongs to the local tribes called Bhils and Bhilalas.

**Q.107) Who appoints Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India?**

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Government of India
- c) Reserve Bank Governor
- d) President of India

**Q.107) Solution (b)**

Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/n-s-vishwanathan-re-appointed-deputy-governor-rbi-for-one-year-119070100584\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/n-s-vishwanathan-re-appointed-deputy-governor-rbi-for-one-year-119070100584_1.html)

**Q.108) Which among the below is a constitutional body?**

- a) National Development Council
- b) Central Information Commission
- c) Central Vigilance Commission
- d) Finance Commission

**Q.108) Solution (d)**

Finance Commission is a Constitutional body. Article 280 of the Constitution of India provides for a Finance Commission as a quasi judicial body. It is constituted by the president of India every fifth year or at such earlier time as he considers necessary.

**Q.109) Who of the following social reformers published a set of notes on “Infant Marriage and Enforced Widowhood.”?**

- a) Ishwarchand Vidyasagar
- b) Raja Rammohun Roy
- c) Bahramji Malabari

d) Swami Dayananada

**Q.109) Solution (c)**

In August 1884, Malabari published a set of Notes on Infant Marriage and Enforced Widowhood, that he sent to 4,000 leading Englishmen and Hindus. In it, Malabari deplored the "social evil" of "baby marriage" and demanded legislature to prevent it. Similarly on the issue of remarriage for widows, Malabari criticised the Hindu practice of prohibiting it, and he placed the blame squarely with that religion's "priestly class" and the "social monopolists" (i.e. the Brahmin caste) for their "vulgar prejudices."

**Q.110) Consider the following**

1. Market Borrowings
2. Special securities issued to RBI
3. Treasury Bills

**Which among the above is / are components of Internal Debt?**

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

**Q.110) Solution (d)**

Internal debt is that part of the total debt that is owed to lenders within the country. It is the money the government borrows from its own citizens.

The government borrows by issuing the government Bonds and T- bills, it is also including the market borrowings by the Government.