

Q.1) 'Mitra Shakti' is a joint military exercise between India and

- a) Sri Lanka
- b) Seychelles
- c) Maldives
- d) Mauritius

Q.1) Solution (a)

The Mitra Shakti exercise was started in 2013 and is conducted annually as a part of military diplomacy and interaction between the armies of India and Sri Lanka.

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Commercial Paper (CP)'

1. CP can be issued in denominations of Rs.1 lakh or multiples thereof.
2. Only a scheduled bank can act as an Issuing and Paying Agent (IPA) for issuance of CP.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (b)

Commercial Paper (CP) is an unsecured money market instrument issued in the form of a promissory note.

CP can be issued in denominations of Rs.5 lakh or multiples thereof.

Only a scheduled bank can act as an IPA for issuance of CP.

Read More - <https://m.rbi.org.in/Scripts/FAQView.aspx?Id=25>

Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Code for Responsible Lending (CRL)'

1. It was launched by Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) and Sa-Dhan along with FIDC.
2. The code bars lending to a borrower whose loan has turned non-performing.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.3) Solution (c)

Three self-regulatory organisations jointly released a code for responsible lending for the micro-credit industry with an aim at bringing more transparency and address customer-centric issues.

The Code for Responsible Lending (CRL) was launched by Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) and Sa-Dhan along with FIDC.

The code is aimed at keeping indebtedness of poor borrowers under check which would in turn improve the quality of loan assets for lenders. The code bars lending to a borrower whose loan has turned non-performing. No lending will also be allowed without update credit bureau report.

One of the major guidelines in CRL mandates that only three microcredit entities can lend to a client at the same time.

This means that if a client has three active loans from any provider, then a fourth entity will not be able to lend to the client.

Q.4) Consider the following statements

1. A microfinance customer is a person who has annual household income of Rs 1 lakh in rural areas and Rs 1.6 lakh in urban areas.
2. Microfinance in India is governed by SEBI and SIDBI.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.4) Solution (a)

Reserve Bank of India defines a microfinance customer as a person who has annual household income of Rs 1 lakh in rural India and Rs 1.6 lakh in urban India.

MFIN is a primary representative body and the Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO) for Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFC) Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Q.5) The 'Marakkar' community is associated with which of the following regions?

- a) Vidarbha
- b) Rayalaseema
- c) Mewar
- d) None of the above

Q.5) Solution (d)

Marakkar/Marrikkar is a South Asian Muslim community found in parts of Tamil Nadu (the Palk Strait)/Kerala in India and in Sri Lanka. The Marakkars speak Tamil in Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka, and Malayalam in Kerala.

THINK!

- Kulasekharapatnam

Q.6) Which of the following has the most Global Warming Potential (GWP) over a time horizon of 100 years?

- a) Carbon tetrafluoride (CF₄)
- b) Nitrous oxide (N₂O)
- c) Methane
- d) HFC-134a (hydrofluorocarbon)

Q.6) Solution (a)

Global warming potential (GWP) is a measure of how much heat a greenhouse gas traps in the atmosphere up to a specific time horizon, relative to carbon dioxide. It compares the amount of heat trapped by a certain mass of the gas in question to the amount of heat trapped by a similar mass of carbon dioxide and is expressed as a factor of carbon dioxide (whose GWP is standardized to 1).

A GWP is calculated over a specific time horizon, commonly 20, 100, or 500 years. User related choices such as the time horizon can greatly affect the numerical values obtained for carbon dioxide equivalents. In the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

Change, methane has a lifetime of 12.4 years and with climate-carbon feedbacks a global warming potential of 86 over 20 years and 34 over 100 years in response to emissions. For a change in time horizon from 20 to 100 years, the GWP for methane therefore decreases by a factor of approximately 2.5.

The GWP depends on the following factors:

- the absorption of infrared radiation by a given species
- the spectral location of its absorbing wavelengths
- the atmospheric lifetime of the species

A substance's GWP depends on the timespan over which the potential is calculated. A gas which is quickly removed from the atmosphere may initially have a large effect, but for longer time periods, as it has been removed, it becomes less important. Thus methane has a potential of 34 over 100 years but 86 over 20 years; conversely sulfur hexafluoride has a GWP of 22,800 over 100 years but 16,300 over 20 years (IPCC Third Assessment Report). The GWP value depends on how the gas concentration decays over time in the atmosphere. This is often not precisely known and hence the values should not be considered exact. For this reason when quoting a GWP it is important to give a reference to the calculation.

Carbon tetrafluoride (CF₄) - 7350

Nitrous oxide (N₂O) - 298

Methane - 34

HFC-134a (hydrofluorocarbon) – 1550

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/why-new-zealand-is-trying-to-breed-sheep-that-will-emit-less-methane-6145109/>

Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Antarctic Treaty System (ATS)'

1. The Antarctic Treaty Secretariat headquarters has been located in Chile.
2. The treaty was the first arms control agreement established during the Cold War.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.7) Solution (b)

The Antarctic Treaty and related agreements, collectively known as the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS), regulate international relations with respect to Antarctica, Earth's only continent without a native human population. For the purposes of the treaty system, Antarctica is defined as all of the land and ice shelves south of 60°S latitude. The treaty entered into force in 1961 and currently has 54 parties. The treaty sets aside Antarctica as a scientific preserve, establishes freedom of scientific investigation, and bans military activity on the continent. The treaty was the first arms control agreement established during the Cold War. Since September 2004, the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat headquarters has been located in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-how-to-have-a-holiday-in-antarctica-and-what-it-will-cost-6144379/>

Q.8) 'Harvesting and Transportation (HnT) charges' is often seen in news with respect to which of the following crops?

- a) Sugarcane
- b) Cotton
- c) Soybean
- d) Lentils

Q.8) Solution (a)

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/why-sugar-crushing-season-operations-in-maharashtra-may-never-be-the-same-6144991/>

Q.9) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Agni-III'

1. It is an intercontinental ballistic missile with a strike range of over 8,000 kms.
2. It is capable of carrying both conventional, nuclear warheads weighing up to 1.5 tonnes.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.9) Solution (b)

The Agni-III has a strike range of 3,000 km to 5,000 km and is capable of carrying both conventional, nuclear warheads weighing up to 1.5 tonnes.

The missile is powered by a two-stage solid propellant engine. It is 17 metres long with two-metre diameter and weighs around 2,200 kg.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-conducts-1st-night-trial-of-nuclear-capable-agni-iii-missile-11575169616977.html>

Q.10) Recently India has decided to sign a 'Polar Science Cooperation Agreement' with which of the following countries?

- a) Sweden
- b) Norway
- c) Canada
- d) Finland

Q.10) Solution (a)

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-sweden-to-sign-mou-for-polar-science-cooperation/article30131446.ece>

Q.11) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Vanilla Alliance'

1. It is an airline alliance formed to improve air connectivity within the Indian Ocean region.
2. India is one of the founding member of the Alliance.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.11) Solution (a)

The Vanilla Alliance is an airline alliance formed in September 2015 to improve air connectivity within the Indian Ocean region by strengthening cooperation between the airlines of Indian Ocean Commission members.

In August 2010, Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar, the Comoros, Réunion, Mayotte and the Maldives united under the brand "Vanilla Islands" to promote tourism to the entire region. The initial goals of the Vanilla Alliance include increased air service between the islands, more attractive fares, and optimisation of codesharing.

Vanilla Islands is an affiliation of the island nations Seychelles, Madagascar, Réunion, Mauritius, Comoros, Mayotte in the Indian Ocean to form a new travel destination brand. Aim of the co-operation that has been founded on August 4, 2010 at La Réunion is to pool forces and jointly market the region compared to the solely individual marketing of each island in the past.

Q.12) Which of the following countries is not a member of the (Indian Ocean Commission)?

- a) Maldives
- b) Mauritius
- c) Comoros
- d) Seychelles

Q.12) Solution (a)

The Indian Ocean Commission is an intergovernmental organization that was created in 1982 at Port Louis, Mauritius and institutionalized in 1984 by the Victoria Agreement in Seychelles. The COI is composed of five African Indian Ocean nations: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion (an overseas region of France), and Seychelles.

Q.13) The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a triennial international survey which aims to evaluate education systems worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old students. It is conducted by

- a) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- b) United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) UNICEF

Q.13) Solution (a)

PISA

- The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a worldwide study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in member and non-

member nations intended to evaluate educational systems by measuring 15-year-old school pupils' scholastic performance on mathematics, science, and reading.

- It was first performed in 2000 and then repeated every three years.
- Its aim is to provide comparable data with a view to enabling countries to improve their education policies and outcomes. It measures problem solving and cognition in daily life.
- India has participated in the PISA test only once before, in 2009. In this round of PISA, where students from Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu sat for the test, India ranked 72nd out of 73 countries.
- Approximately 1.75 lakh students from government schools in Chandigarh, along with 600 Navodaya Vidyalayas and 3,000 Kendra Vidyalayas will take the three-hour long PISA test in 2021.

Q.14) The criteria for identifying Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups are: -

1. Low level of literacy
2. Economic backwardness
3. A declining or stagnant population

Select the correct code:

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

Q.14) Solution (d)

The criteria for identifying Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups are

- Pre-agricultural level of technology
- Low level of literacy
- Economic backwardness
- A declining or stagnant population

Q.15) Consider the following statement with respect to 'Tiger Corridors' recently mapped by the National Tiger Conservation Authority in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India.

1. A total of thirty-two corridors have been mapped across four landscapes.
2. 'Central India & Eastern Ghats' has the most number of mapped corridors.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.15) Solution (c)

The National Tiger Conservation Authority in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India has published a document titled "Connecting Tiger Populations for Long-term Conservation", which has mapped out 32 major corridors across the country, management interventions for which are operationalised through a Tiger Conservation Plan, mandated under section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Shivalik Hills & Gangetic Plains – 3

Central India & Eastern Ghats – 11

Western Ghats – 8

North East – 10

Read More - <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1594508>

Q.16) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana'

1. It is available to people in the age group of 18 to 50 years having a bank account.
2. Risk coverage under this scheme is for Rs. 10 Lakh in case of death of the insured, due to any reason with a monthly premium of Rs. 330.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.16) Solution (a)

The PMJJBY is available to people in the age group of 18 to 50 years having a bank account who give their consent to join / enable auto-debit. Aadhar would be the primary KYC for the bank

account. The life cover of Rs. 2 lakhs shall be for the one year period stretching from 1st June to 31st May and will be renewable. Risk coverage under this scheme is for Rs. 2 Lakh in case of death of the insured, due to any reason. The premium is Rs. 330 per annum which is to be auto-debited in one installment from the subscriber's bank account as per the option given by him on or before 31st May of each annual coverage period under the scheme. The scheme is being offered by Life Insurance Corporation and all other life insurers who are willing to offer the product on similar terms with necessary approvals and tie up with banks for this purpose.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1594902>

Q.17) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana'

1. The risk coverage under the scheme is Rs. 2 lakh for accidental death and full disability and Rs. 1 lakh for partial disability.
2. The scheme can be offered by Public Sector General Insurance Companies only.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.17) Solution (a)

The Scheme is available to people in the age group 18 to 70 years with a bank account who give their consent to join / enable auto-debit on or before 31st May for the coverage period 1st June to 31st May on an annual renewal basis. Aadhar would be the primary KYC for the bank account. The risk coverage under the scheme is Rs. 2 lakh for accidental death and full disability and Rs. 1 lakh for partial disability. The premium of Rs. 12 per annum is to be deducted from the account holder's bank account through 'auto-debit' facility in one installment. The scheme is being offered by Public Sector General Insurance Companies or any other General Insurance Company who are willing to offer the product on similar terms with necessary approvals and tie up with banks for this purpose.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1594902>

Q.18) 'Operation Chammal' is associated with which of the following countries?

- a) France

- b) Turkey
- c) Russia
- d) USA

Q.18) Solution (a)

Opération Chammal is a French military operation in Iraq and Syria in an attempt to contain the expansion of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and to support the Iraqi Army. Its name comes from the Shamal (Chammal in French), a northwesterly wind that blows over Iraq and the Persian Gulf states.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/iaf-may-get-no-escape-meteor-missiles-in-may/articleshow/72376375.cms>

Q.19) 'Kokborok community' is associated with which of the following states?

- a) Tripura
- b) Mizoram
- c) Nagaland
- d) Manipur

Q.19) Solution (a)

Kokborok is the Sino-Tibetan native language of the Borok (Tripura) people of the Indian state of Tripura and neighbouring areas of Bangladesh. The name comes from kok, meaning "language", and borok, meaning "human". Kokborok is closely related to the Bodo, Dimasa and Kachari languages of the neighbouring state of Assam.

Q.20) 'e-Urvarak' Platform is associated with

- a) Coal Mining
- b) Cotton
- c) Oilseeds and Copra
- d) Fertilizers

Q.20) Solution (d)

Department of Fertilizers (DoF) has developed a dashboard which can be accessed at <https://urvarak.nic.in>. The dashboard is developed to facilitate easy monitoring by various Stake holders viz. State Agriculture Departments, District Collectors and State Marketing Federations.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1594674>

Q.21) 'Chhau Dance' is associated with which of the following states?

1. Odisha
2. Jharkhand
3. West Bengal

Select the correct code:

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

Q.21) Solution (d)

Chhau dance, also spelled as Chau or Chhaau, is a semi classical Indian dance with martial, tribal and folk traditions, with origins in eastern India. It is found in three styles named after the location where they are performed, i.e. the Purulia Chau of Bengal, the Seraikella Chau of Jharkhand, and the Mayurbhanj Chau of Odisha.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/dance/the-dimensions-of-divinity/article30188557.ece>

Q.22) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Sattriya'

1. It was introduced by Mahapurusha Sankaradeva in the 15th Century.
2. Ankiya Nat is a subgenre consisting of one-act plays of Sattriya.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.22) Solution (c)

The Sattriya dance form was introduced in the 15th century A.D by the great Vaishnava saint and reformer of Assam, Mahapurusha Sankaradeva as a powerful medium for propagation of the Vaishnava faith. The dance form evolved and expanded as a distinctive style of dance later on. This neo-Vaishnava treasure of Assamese dance and drama has been, for centuries, nurtured and preserved with great commitment by the Sattras i.e. Vaishnava maths or monasteries. Because of its religious character and association with the Sattras, this dance style has been aptly named Sattriya.

One-act plays of Sattriya are called Ankiya Nat, which combine the aesthetic and the religious through a ballad, dance and drama. The plays are usually performed in the dance community halls (namghar[6]) of monastery temples (sattras). The themes played relate to Krishna and Radha, sometimes other Vishnu avatars such as Rama and Sita.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/dance/sattriya-on-centre-stage/article30188731.ece>

Q.23) 'Ojapali' folk dance is associated with which of the following states?

- a) Assam
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Manipur
- d) Tripura

Q.23) Solution (a)

Ojapali is a traditional folk dance from the Assam region of India. Ojapali is believed to have evolved from Kathakata tradition and is performed in a group; it is believed to be one of the oldest art forms of Assam. Originally evolved in the Kamata state the western and northern part of river Brahmaputra later limited to Darang area under the patronisation of Darangi King Dharmanarayana. The repertoire of this performance consists of songs, dialogues, gesture, improvised acting and dramatisation etc. The group member consisted of an Oja, who lead the performance and four or five palies, who supplements the performance with continuous rhythm by playing cymbal. Among the Palies Daina pali who stand on the right-hand side of the Oja is the active one and he and Oja gets the performance forward. Many beliefs that Shankardeva also takes the inspiration from Ojapali to create his Ankiya Bhaona. More over he also create his own Sattriya Ojapali. Generally Darangi Suknanni Ojapali sings the lyrics written by Sukabi Narayanadeva in Padmapurana. Padma Purana covers the story of serpent goddess Manasha.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/dance/sattriya-on-centre-stage/article30188731.ece>

Q.24) 'Prambanan Temple' was in news recently. Where is it located?

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

Q.24) Solution (c)

Prambanan or Rara Jonggrang is a 9th-century Hindu temple compound in Special Region of Yogyakarta, Indonesia, dedicated to the Trimūrti, the expression of God as the Creator (Brahma), the Preserver (Vishnu) and the Transformer (Shiva). The temple compound is located approximately 17 northeast of the city of Yogyakarta on the boundary between Central Java and Yogyakarta provinces.

The temple compound, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is the largest Hindu temple site in Indonesia and the second-largest in Southeast Asia.

Read More - <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/642/>

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/dance/the-everlasting-relevance-of-natya-sastra/article30187209.ece>

Q.25) 'Atiranachanda Mandapa' is associated with

- a) Ajanta Caves
- b) Kanheri Caves
- c) Ellora Caves
- d) Cave Temples of Mahabalipuram

Q.25) Solution (d)

Sixth century Atiranachanda Mandapa in the Tiger Cave complex in Mamallapuram.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/dance/the-everlasting-relevance-of-natya-sastra/article30187209.ece>

Q.26) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Dengue'.

1. The dengue virus belongs to the genus Flavivirus.
2. Aedes aegypti mosquito is the main vector that transmits the viruses that cause dengue.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.26) Solution (c)

The dengue virus (DEN) comprises four distinct serotypes (DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3 and DEN-4) which belong to the genus Flavivirus, family Flaviviridae.

Distinct genotypes have been identified within each serotype, highlighting the extensive genetic variability of the dengue serotypes. Among them, "Asian" genotypes of DEN-2 and DEN-3 are frequently associated with severe disease accompanying secondary dengue infections.

The Aedes aegypti mosquito is the main vector that transmits the viruses that cause dengue. The viruses are passed on to humans through the bites of an infective female Aedes mosquito, which mainly acquires the virus while feeding on the blood of an infected person.

Q.27) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Pyrolysis'

1. It involves a change of chemical composition and is irreversible.
2. Pyrolysis products always produce solid, liquid and non-condensable gases.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.27) Solution (c)

Pyrolysis is the thermal decomposition of materials at elevated temperatures in an inert atmosphere. It involves a change of chemical composition and is irreversible.

Pyrolysis products always produce solid (charcoal, biochar), liquid and non-condensable gases (H₂, CH₄, C_nH_m, CO, CO₂ and N).

Read More - <http://www.biogreen-energy.com/what-is-pyrolysis/>

Q.28) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Second Battle of Panipat was fought between Babur and Ibrahim Lodi.
2. The Third Battle of Panipat was fought between the Maratha Empire and the Durrani Empire backed by the Rohillas.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.28) Solution (b)

First Battle of Panipat (1526) fought between Babur and Ibrahim Lodi

Second Battle of Panipat (1556), fought between Hemu and Akbar

Third Battle of Panipat (1761), fought between the Maratha Empire and the Durrani Empire backed by the Rohillas

Q.29) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)'

1. It was set up on the recommendations by the Santhanam Committee.
2. The Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners shall be appointed by the President on recommendation of Chief Justice of India (CJI).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.29) Solution (a)

The Central Vigilance Commission was set up by the Government in February, 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by Shri K. Santhanam, to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the field of vigilance.

The Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners shall be appointed by the President on recommendation of a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister (Chairperson), the Minister of home affairs (Member) and the Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People.

Q.30) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG)'

1. It acts as the Red List Authority for the Asian Elephant, carrying out Red List assessments for inclusion in the IUCN Red List
2. It consists of specialists from 18 countries across the globe as member of the group with diverse skill sets.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.30) Solution (c)

The Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG) is a global network of specialists concerned with the study, monitoring, management, and conservation of Asian Elephants (*Elephas maximus*) in its 13 Range States across Asia. The overall aim of the AsESG is to promote the long-term conservation of Asia's elephants and, where possible, the recovery of their populations to viable levels.

The AsESG acts as the Red List Authority for the Asian Elephant, carrying out Red List assessments for inclusion in the IUCN Red List

Group members have also helped in the development of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) system for Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and The Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) .

The AsESG consist of 110 specialists from 18 countries across the globe as member of the group with diverse skill sets.

Q.31) Which of the following are the thematic circuits under the 'Swadesh Darshan Scheme'

1. Rural Circuit
2. Spiritual Circuit
3. Eco Circuit

Select the correct code:

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

Q.31) Solution (c)

Thematic Circuits

- Buddhist circle
- Coastal circle
- Desert circle
- Eco circle
- Heritage circle
- Himalayan circle
- Krishna circle
- North-East circle
- Ramayana circle
- Rural circle
- Spiritual circle
- Sufi circle
- Tirthankar circle
- Tribal circle
- Wildlife circle

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1595586>

Q.32) Consider the following statements with respect to 'International Financial Services Centres'

1. The first IFSC in India has been set up at the Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai.
2. The banking, capital markets and insurance sectors in IFSCs are regulated by RBI only.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.32) Solution (d)

The first IFSC in India has been set up at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar.

The banking, capital markets and insurance sectors in IFSC are regulated by multiple regulators, i.e. RBI, SEBI and IRDAI. But with the passage of International Financial Services Centres Authority Bill, 2019, it will provide for the establishment of an Authority to develop and regulate the financial services market in the International Financial Services Centres in India.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-the-bill-to-set-up-a-unified-authority-to-regulate-financial-products-6155664/>

Q.33) Article 331 of the Constitution of India provides for

- a) Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People.
- b) Representation of the Anglo-Indian community in the House of the People.
- c) Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assemblies of the States.
- d) Representation of the Anglo-Indian community in the Legislative Assemblies of the States.

Q.33) Solution (b)

Representation of the Anglo Indian community in the House of the People Notwithstanding anything in Article 81, the President may, if he is of opinion that the Anglo Indian community is not adequately represented in the House of the people, nominate not more than two members of that community to the House of the People.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/anglo-indians-left-out-as-bill-to-extend-quota-in-legislature-gets-nod-6152837/>

Q.34) Consider the following statements with respect to 'WTO Appellate Body'

1. It is a standing body of seven persons that hears appeals from reports issued by panels in disputes brought on by WTO members.
2. It was established in 1995 and has its seat in Geneva, Switzerland.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.34) Solution (c)

The Appellate Body was established in 1995 under Article 17 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU). It is a standing body of seven persons that hears appeals from reports issued by panels in disputes brought by WTO Members. The Appellate Body can uphold, modify or reverse the legal findings and conclusions of a panel, and Appellate Body Reports, once adopted by the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), must be accepted by the parties to the dispute. The Appellate Body has its seat in Geneva, Switzerland.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-the-wtos-dispute-settlements-mechanism-is-all-but-dead-this-is-why-india-should-worry-6158502/>

Q.35) 'Republic of The Gambia' is surrounded by

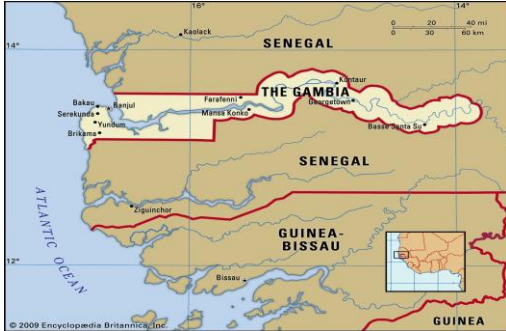
1. Senegal
2. Guinea
3. Guinea-Bissau

Select the correct statements

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

Q.35) Solution (a)

The Gambia, officially the Republic of The Gambia, is a country in West Africa that is almost entirely surrounded by Senegal with the exception of its western coastline along the Atlantic Ocean. It is the smallest country within mainland Africa.



Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/nobel-laureate-aung-san-suu-kyi-icj-hague-defending-myanmar-rohingya-6158564/>

Q.36) Which of the following Waterfall was in news due to worst drought in a century?

- Niagara Falls
- Victoria Falls
- Iguazu Falls
- Jog Falls

Q.36) Solution (b)

Victoria Falls is a waterfall in southern Africa on the Zambezi River at the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-why-victoria-falls-are-down-to-a-trickle-6156281/>

Q.37) Consider the following statements

- Paika Rebellion was led by Bakshi Jagabandhu.
- Paikas were essentially the peasant militias of the Gajapati rulers of Odisha.

Select the correct statements

- 1 Only
- 2 Only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q.37) Solution (c)

Paikas were essentially the peasant militias of the Gajapati rulers of Odisha who rendered military service to the king during times of war while taking up cultivation during times of peace.

In 1817, some 400 Kondhs, who belonged to the state of Ghumsur, banded together to revolt against the British. Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar Mohapatra Bharamarbar Rai, the highest-ranking military general of King of Khorda Mukund Dev II, led the Paikas to join the uprising.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-who-were-paikas-odisha-and-what-will-memorial-celebrate-6156664/>

Q.38) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Adaptation Fund (AF)'

1. It is set up under the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
2. The Fund is financed in part by government and private donors.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.38) Solution (c)

The Adaptation Fund was established under the Kyoto Protocol of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Fund is financed in part by government and private donors, and also from a two percent share of proceeds of Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) issued under the Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism projects.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/climate-change/climate-emergency-cop-25-the-adaptation-fund-is-perfectly-fit-to-serve-the-paris-agreement-68318>

Q.39) Consider the following statements with respect to 'International Mountain Day'

1. It has its roots in the Agenda 21 of the Conference on Environment and Development.
2. The first international day was celebrated for the first time in 2013

Select the correct statements

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

Q.39) Solution (a)

International Mountain Day has its roots in the document “Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development” (called Chapter 13), adopted in 1992 as part of the action plan Agenda 21 of the Conference on Environment and Development.

The increasing attention to the importance of mountains led the UN declare to 2002 the UN International Year of Mountains. The first international day was celebrated for the first time the following year, 2003.

Q.40) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Treaty of Paris of 1856’

1. It made the Black Sea neutral territory, closed it to all warships and prohibited fortifications and the presence of armaments on its shores.
2. It settled the Crimean War between the Russian Empire and France, the United Kingdom, the Ottoman Empire, and Sardinia Piedmont on the other side.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.40) Solution (c)

The Treaty of Paris of 1856 settled the Crimean War between the Russian Empire and an alliance of the Ottoman Empire, the British Empire, the Second French Empire and the Kingdom of Sardinia.

The treaty, signed on 30 March 1856 at the Congress of Paris, made the Black Sea neutral territory, closed it to all warships and prohibited fortifications and the presence of armaments on its shores.

The treaty marked a severe setback to Russian influence in the region. Conditions for the return of Sevastopol and other towns and cities in the south of Crimea to Russia were clear, as it could not establish any naval or military arsenal on the coast of the Black Sea.

Q.41) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Nehru-Liaquat Agreement'

1. It is a bilateral agreement signed between India and Pakistan in order to provide a framework for the treatment of minorities in the two countries.
2. It is also known as the Shimla Agreement.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.41) Solution (a)

The Nehru-Liaquat Pact, also known as the Delhi Pact, was a bilateral agreement signed between India and Pakistan in order to provide a framework for the treatment of minorities in the two countries.

The need for such a pact was felt by minorities in both countries following Partition, which was accompanied by massive communal rioting. In 1950, as per some estimates, over a million Hindus and Muslims migrated from and to East Pakistan (present day Bangladesh), amid communal tension and riots such as the 1950 East Pakistan riots and the Noakhali riots.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-was-the-nehru-liaquat-agreement-of-1950-referred-to-in-the-cab-debate-6162191/>

Q.42) Which of the following counties is the world's largest producer of rare earth elements?

- a) USA
- b) Australia
- c) China
- d) Kazakhstan

Q.42) Solution (c)

China is by far the world's largest producer of rare earths. China's Rare Earths deposits account for 80% of identified global reserves.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/us-army-will-fund-rare-earths-plant-for-weapons-development/articleshow/72475315.cms?from=mdr>

Q.43) 'Rare Earths' have application in which of the following segments?

1. Clean energy
2. Consumer electronics
3. Healthcare

Select the correct code:

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

Q.43) Solution (d)

These elements are important in technologies of consumer electronics, computers and networks, communications, clean energy, advanced transportation, healthcare, environmental mitigation, and national defence, among others.

Scandium is used in televisions and fluorescent lamps, and yttrium is used in drugs to treat rheumatoid arthritis and cancer.

Rare Earth elements are used in space shuttle components, jet engine turbines, and drones. Cerium, the most abundant Rare Earth element, is essential to NASA's Space Shuttle Programme.

According to the Rare Earth Technology Alliance (RETA), the estimated size of the Rare Earth sector is between \$10 billion and \$15 billion. About 100,000-110,000 tonnes of Rare Earth elements are produced annually around the world.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-are-rare-earths-and-why-is-us-military-getting-involved-in-their-processing/>

Q.44) Which of the following statements correctly describes 'Carbon Offsetting'?

- a) It is a tax imposed for releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere

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

Q.44) Solution (c)

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

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/fate-of-indian-carbon-credits-worth-thousands-of-crores-hangs-in-balance/article30212789.ece>

Q.45) 'Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)' is associated with

- a) Kyoto Protocol
- b) Cartagena Protocol
- c) Bonn Agreement
- d) Nagoya Protocol

Q.45) Solution (a)

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is one of the Flexible Mechanisms defined in the Kyoto Protocol (IPCC, 2007) that provides for emissions reduction projects which generate Certified Emission Reduction units (CERs) which may be traded in emissions trading schemes.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/fate-of-indian-carbon-credits-worth-thousands-of-crores-hangs-in-balance/article30212789.ece>

Q.46) 'Climate Neutrality Plan' which was in news recently is associated with

- a) MERCOSUR
- b) European Union
- c) Climate Vulnerable Forum
- d) BIMSTEC

Q.46) Solution (b)

European Green Deal

The EU will aim to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, a goal that will be enshrined in a 'climate law' to be presented in March 2020. That means updating the EU's climate ambition for 2030, with a 50-55% cut in greenhouse gas emissions to replace the current 40% objective. The 55% figure will be subject to a cost-benefit analysis.

Read More - <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2019/12/12/eu-releases-green-deal-key-points/>

Q.47) Consider the following statements

1. The 'Gross Budgetary Support (GBS)' includes the tax receipts and other sources of revenue raised by the Government.
2. The Central Plan includes the GBS and the spending of the public enterprises that do not figure in the Budget.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.47) Solution (c)

The government's support for the Central Plan is called the gross budgetary support (GBS). This is an important component of the Central Plan of the government.

Budgetary support is earmarked for meeting the planned outlays of the central government in a financial year.

The GBS includes the tax receipts and other sources of revenue raised by the government.

The Central Plan includes the GBS and the spending of the public enterprises that do not figure in the Budget.

Q.48) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvITs)'

1. It enables direct investment of money from individual and institutional investors in infrastructure projects to earn a small portion of the income as return

2. The InvITs are regulated by the SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.48) Solution (c)

An Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvITs) is Collective Investment Scheme similar to a mutual fund, which enables direct investment of money from individual and institutional investors in infrastructure projects to earn a small portion of the income as return.

The InvIT is designed as a tiered structure with Sponsor setting up the InvIT which in turn invests into the eligible infrastructure projects either directly or via special purpose vehicles (SPVs).

The InvITs are regulated by the SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014.

InvITS are like mutual funds in structure. InvITs can be established as a trust and registered with Sebi. An InvIT consists of four elements: 1) Trustee, 2) Sponsor(s), 3) Investment Manager and 4) Project Manager.

Q.49) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Subramania Bharathi'

1. His poetry not only includes works on Hindu deities, Allah and Jesus.
2. He started an edited a journal called 'Swadesamitran'.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.49) Solution (a)

"India" saw the light of the day in May, 1906. It declared as its motto the three slogans of the French Revolution, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. It blazed a new trail in Tamil Journalism. In

order to proclaim its revolutionary ardour, Bharathi had the weekly printed in red paper. "India" was the first paper in Tamil Nadu to publish political cartoons. He also published and edited a few other journals like "Vijaya".

His poetry not only includes works on Hindu deities like Shakti, Kali, Vinayagar, Murugan, Sivan, Kannan(Krishna), but also on other religious gods like Allah and Jesus.

Q.50) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Green Windows'

1. It is a financing approach designed leverage limited government funds to attract private capital to achieve climate and clean energy goals.
2. It helps lower the risk for traditional banks to finance green energy.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.50) Solution (c)

To meet India's massive 450 gigawatts of clean energy target, Indian officials announced new financing approach to boost investment in clean energy during the climate talks in Madrid this week. The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), the country's premier public finance institution, is considering an allocation of \$20 million in seed funding to set up its pioneering "Green Window" aimed toward catalyzing private investment and expanding the Indian clean energy market.

A green window is a financing approach designed leverage limited government funds to attract private capital to achieve climate and clean energy goals. The IREDA Green Window builds on the globally successful green bank model. Green banks across the world have supported projects worth \$50 billion in the last five years.

The aim of the IREDA Green Window is to drive investment into underserved segments of the clean energy market. Under MNRE and IREDA's leadership, the Green Window is based on extensive market research and stakeholder discussions involved in financing clean energy.

A green window would lower the risk for traditional banks to finance green energy and tap into international capital to help India power its cities and rural communities.

Q.51) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Investigation Agency'

1. It is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
2. It is established under The Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.51) Solution (d)

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is a state agency established by the Indian Government to combat terror in India. It acts as the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency. The agency is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states. The Agency came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act 2008 by the Parliament of India on 31 December 2008.

It is under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Q.52) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Indian Skimmer'.

1. It is listed as 'Vulnerable' under the IUCN Red List.
2. It is found in the Indian Peninsular Region.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.52) Solution (a)

It is found in parts of Pakistan in the Indus river system of Kashmir and northern and central India along the Ganges, Bangladesh and Burma and formerly occurred in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. It is a scarce non-breeding visitor to Nepal and has occurred as a vagrant in Oman and central Thailand with old records from Iran and China.

IUCN – Vulnerable.

Q.53) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)'

1. It is under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It implements and enforces the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order in accordance with the powers delegated to it.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.53) Solution (b)

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is a government regulatory agency that controls the prices of pharmaceutical drugs in India. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) was constituted vide Government of India Resolution dated 29th August, 1997 as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers as an independent Regulator for pricing of drugs and to ensure availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.

Functions

- To implement and enforce the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order in accordance with the powers delegated to it.
- To deal with all legal matters arising out of the decisions of the Authority.
- To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps.
- To collect/ maintain data on production, exports and imports, market share of individual companies, profitability of companies etc, for bulk drugs and formulations.
- To undertake and/ or sponsor relevant studies in respect of pricing of drugs/ pharmaceuticals.
- To recruit/ appoint the officers and other staff members of the Authority, as per rules and procedures laid down by the Government.
- To render advice to the Central Government on changes/ revisions in the drug policy.
- To render assistance to the Central Government in the parliamentary matters relating to the drug pricing

Q.54) Consider the following statements with respect to '2I/Borisov'

1. It is the first observed interstellar comet.
2. It was observed by the Pan-STARRS telescope.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.54) Solution (a)

2I/Borisov, originally designated C/2019 Q4 (Borisov), is the first observed interstellar comet and the second observed interstellar interloper after 'Oumuamua.

It was observed by the NASA's Hubble Space Telescope.

Q.55) NASA's 'OSIRIS-Rex' Mission is associated with

- a) Oumuamua
- b) Bennu
- c) Pluto
- d) Mars

Q.55) Solution (b)

The OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer) is a NASA asteroid study and sample-return mission. The mission's main goal is to obtain a sample of at least 60 grams from 101955 Bennu, a carbonaceous near-Earth asteroid, and return the sample to Earth for a detailed analysis.

Q.56) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Climate Ambition Alliance'

1. It will focus on the submission of enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions; reaching new commitments to achieve Net Zero by 2050; and the implementation of measures to strengthen the protection of forests and oceans.
2. It was launched at the Climate Action Summit in New York and is led by Chile.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.56) Solution (c)

Led by Chile, the Climate Ambition Alliance was launched at the Climate Action Summit in New York

'Climate Ambition Alliance' aims to accelerate the transformation needed to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change and stabilize the global average temperature rise at 1.5°C above preindustrial levels.

For mitigation, the Climate Ambition Alliance will focus on the submission of enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions; reaching new commitments to achieve Net Zero by 2050; and the implementation of measures to strengthen the protection of forests and oceans.

For adaptation, the Climate Ambition Alliance, will focus on strong actions to improve the management of water, resilience in infrastructure and the sustainability of cities.

Q.57) 'JAGA' Mission was in news recently. It is associated with which of the following states?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Odisha

Q.57) Solution (d)

Odisha Liveable Habitat Mission "JAGA" is a society under Housing & Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha, headed by the Chief Secretary, Odisha as Chairman and Principal Secretary, H&UD as Member Secretary. Odisha Liveable Habitat Mission (OLHM) - "JAGA" aims at transforming the slums into liveable habitat with all necessary civic infrastructure and services at par with the better off areas within the same urban local body (ULB) and to continuously improve the standard of the infrastructure and services and access to livelihood opportunities. This Mission also aims at leveraging and converging various schemes/ programs/ funding opportunities by strengthening collaboration among various Departments/ Urban Bodies/ Non-Government Organisations/ Financial Institutions/ International Agencies/ Trusts/ Communities and other Stakeholders. It will also provide advisory support to

Government of Odisha to examine options for policy reforms required for the sustainable transformation of lives of urban poor.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/crime/how-odishas-slum-rehabilitation-project-is-transforming-lives-winning-awards-6168930/>

Q.58) 'East Mediterranean Gas Forum' was not signed by

- a) Israel
- b) Turkey
- c) Egypt
- d) Jordan

Q.58) Solution (b)

In July a new "East Mediterranean Gas Forum" (EMGF) was launched by those three countries, plus Egypt, Jordan, Italy and the Palestinian Authority. However, Turkey was excluded.

The Eastern Mediterranean is reckoned to be rich in natural gas: the US Geological Survey estimates the deposits to run into trillions of cubic metres, worth hundreds of billions of dollars, besides millions of barrels of oil.

Source (Applied): <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/turkey-to-sign-off-on-military-pledge-to-libya/article30315243.ece>

Q.59) 'Thomas Committee' is associated with

- a) Prevention of Damage to Public Property
- b) Foreign Exchange Management and Regulation
- c) Prevention of Money Laundering
- d) Prevention of Terrorist and Disruptive Activities

Q.59) Solution (a)

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/destruction-of-public-property-what-law-says-what-top-court-directed-6170546/>

Q.60) 'The Global Gender Gap Report' is published by

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) International Labour Organisation
- c) UN Women
- d) UNDP

Q.60) Solution (a)

India has moved down the ladder from its 108th position last year on the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Report.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-slips-to-112th-place-on-gender-gap-in-bottom-5-on-health-economic-fronts-6170999/>

Q.61) The 'Hong Kong Convention' is associated with

- a) Ship Recycling
- b) Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- c) Laws of war and war crimes
- d) Status of Refugees

Q.61) Solution (a)

The Hong Kong Convention) is aimed at ensuring that ships, when being recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives, do not pose any unnecessary risk to human health and safety or to the environment.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1596730>

Q.62) Consider the following statements with respect to 'BrahMos'.

1. It is a joint venture of the DRDO of India and the NPOM of Russia.
2. It is regarded as the fastest supersonic cruise missile in the world and is operational with the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.62) Solution (c)

BrahMos is a joint venture of the DRDO of India and the NPOM of Russia.

It is a medium-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarine, ships, aircraft, or land. It is the fastest supersonic cruise missile in the world.

The missile is operational with the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/brahmos-missile-successfully-test-fired-from-odishas-chandipur/articleshow/72820984.cms>

Q.63) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Global Refugee Forum'

1. It is guided by the Global Compact on Refugees and is held in Geneva, Switzerland.
2. The inaugural 'GRF' was held in 2016 at the backdrop of the Syrian Refugee Crisis.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.63) Solution (a)

Guided by the Global Compact on Refugees, the Global Refugee Forum is an opportunity to translate the principle of international responsibility-sharing into concrete action. The Forum will showcase impactful pledges and contributions and the exchange of good practices.

The first Global Refugee Forum, took place on 17 and 18 December 2019 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, and focused on the following areas: arrangements for responsibility sharing, education, jobs and livelihoods, energy and infrastructure, solutions and protection capacity.

It is jointly hosted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Refugee Agency, and the government of Switzerland, aims to debate and discuss the response of the world's countries to the global refugee situation.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/imran-peddled-falsehoods-at-world-refugee-forum-mea/article30334048.ece>

Q.64) Consider the following statements with respect to 'African swine fever (ASF)'

1. It is a disease listed in the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code and must be reported to the OIE.
2. ASF is not a risk to human health.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.64) Solution (c)

African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious haemorrhagic viral disease of domestic and wild pigs, which is responsible for serious economic and production losses.

It is caused by a large DNA virus of the Asfarviridae family, which also infects ticks of the genus Ornithodoros.

Although signs of ASF and classical swine fever (CSF) may be similar, the ASF virus is unrelated to the CSF virus.

ASF is a disease listed in the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code and must be reported to the OIE.

ASF is not a risk to human health.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/china-responds-slowly-and-a-pig-disease-becomes-a-lethal-epidemic-6172751/>

Q.65) 'Himalayan gold' was in news recently. It is referred to

- a) Caterpillar Fungus
- b) Sal Tree
- c) Rhododendron
- d) Cannabis ruderalis

Q.65) Solution (a)

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/wildlife-biodiversity/himalayan-gold-rush-growing-livelihood-reliance-on-lucrative-and-vulnerable-trade-68453>

Q.66) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana'

1. Following the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, the scheme is funded by both the central government (60%) and states (40%).
2. It is under the aegis of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.66) Solution (a)

The scheme was launched in 2000. It was completely funded by the central government. In 2015, under the recommendation of the 14th finance commission, the project was funded by both centre and state in the ratio 60:40.

It is under the Ministry of Rural Development.

Q.67) 'Santamasa', was in news recently. What is it?

- a) Exoplanet
- b) Constellation
- c) Comet
- d) Asteroid

Q.67) Solution (a)

HD 86081 b or Santamasa, meaning 'clouded' in Sanskrit, is a gas giant exoplanet that orbits close to its host star, completing its orbit for only 2.1375 days. With such a short orbit, it belongs to the class of exoplanets known as hot Jupiters. Like most hot Jupiters, the orbit is nearly circular, with an eccentricity of 0.008.

Source: <http://vigyanprasar.gov.in/isw/A-star-and-its-planet-gets-Indian-names.html>

Q.68) The 'Silver Line Railway Project' is associated with which of the following states?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Kerala

- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Assam

Q.68) Solution (b)

It aims to connect major districts and towns with semi high-speed trains that will run on their own tracks. The 532-km corridor is projected to be built at a cost of Rs 56,443 crore. Trains would complete the journey at four hours instead of 12, with a maximum speed of 200 km/h.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/how-an-end-to-end-railway-line-can-help-kerala-6173892/>

Q.69) Highest number of refugees come from which of the following countries?

- a) South Sudan
- b) Syria
- c) Myanmar
- d) Afghanistan

Q.69) Solution (b)

Globally, more two-thirds of all refugees come from five countries: Syria (6.7 million), Afghanistan (2.7 million), South Sudan (2.3 million), Myanmar (1.1 million), and Somalia (0.9 million).

Countries in the developed regions host 16 per cent of refugees; one-third of the refugee population (6.7 million people) are in the Least Developed Countries.

The largest host countries are Turkey (3.7 million), Pakistan (1.4 million), Uganda (1.2 million), Sudan (1.1 million), and Germany (1.1 million).

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-in-numbers-and-dimensions-the-global-refugee-crisis-6173621/>

Q.70) 'Trastuzumab' is biosimilar launched by WHO to treat

- a) HIV/AIDS
- b) Breast Cancer
- c) Rotavirus
- d) Japanese encephalitis

Q.70) Solution (b)

WHO launched a biosimilar medicine “Trastuzumab” in order to treat breast cancers. It is an antibody that shows high efficacy in curing early stages of breast cancers. It was included in the WHO Essential Medicines List in 2015.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/who-moves-step-closer-to-cheaper-breast-cancer-treatment/article30345252.ece>

Q.71) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Pinaka Missile’.

1. The system has a maximum range of 40 km for Mark-I and 75 km for Mark-II.
2. It is developed by the Reliance Naval and Engineering Limited (R-Naval).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.71) Solution (a)

Pinaka is a multiple rocket launcher produced in India and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Army. The system has a maximum range of 40 km for Mark-I and 75 km for Mark-II, and can fire a salvo of 12 HE rockets in 44 seconds.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/upgraded-version-of-pinaka-guided-rocket-system-successfully-test-fired-from-base-on-odisha-coast/articleshow/72883504.cms>

Q.72) ‘Pollution and Health Metrics: Global, Regional and Country Analysis’ 2019 report is published by

- a) World Health Organisation (WHO)
- b) Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP)
- c) UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- d) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Q.72) Solution (b)

The 2019 Pollution and Health Metrics: Global, Regional and Country Analysis report from the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP) updates findings from The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health, and provides a ranking of pollution deaths on global, regional and country levels. The report uses the most recent Global Burden of Disease data from the Institute of Health Metrics Evaluation.

India had most deaths caused by pollution in 2017. The report includes three lists on pollution-induced deaths. India is the only country that features in the top 10 in all three lists (right).

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/telling-numbers-india-had-most-deaths-caused-by-pollution-in-2017-new-report/>

Q.73) Which of the following are transboundary rivers between India and Bangladesh?

1. Teesta
2. Ganga
3. Brahmaputra

Select the correct code:

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

Q.73) Solution (d)

India and Bangladesh share 54 rivers, but there is a limited water sharing treaty only on one – the Ganga.

Some of the major transboundary rivers between the countries are Ganga, Brahmaputra, Teesta and Surma-Kushiara.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-bangla-technical-talks-on-sharing-of-river-water-cancelled/>

Q.74) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Exercise 'Apharan'

1. It is a large-scale humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise.

2. It is conducted by the Indian Navy in collaboration with Indian Coast Guard.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.74) Solution (b)

Exercise 'Apharan' is a large-scale Anti Hijacking Exercise conducted recently by the Indian Navy in collaboration with Indian Coast Guard. This year it was conducted in Kerala.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/anti-hijacking-exercise-conducted-off-kochi-port-119121801206_1.html

Q.75) Consider the following statements with respect to 'MacQueen's bustard'

1. It is also known as the 'African Houbara'.
2. It is listed as 'Critically Endangered' under the IUCN Red List.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.75) Solution (d)

IUCN – Vulnerable

MacQueen's bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*) is a large bird in the bustard family. It was earlier included as a subspecies of the houbara bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*) and sometimes known as the "Asian houbara".

The population of the Asian houbara bustards extends from northeast Asia, across central Asia, the Middle East, and the Arabian Peninsula to reach the Sinai desert.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-is-the-houbara-bustard-6174381/>

Q.76) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Hunar Haat'

1. It is under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development.
2. It is organized under the 'USTTAD' scheme.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.76) Solution (b)

It is under the aegis of Ministry of Minority Affairs.

It is organized under the 'USTTAD' scheme.

Q.77) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Institute of Oceanography'

1. It is one of the constituent laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
2. It is headquartered in Goa.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.77) Solution (c)

The National Institute of Oceanography, founded on 1 January 1966 as one of 37 constituent laboratories of the CSIR, is an autonomous research organization in India to undertake scientific research and studies of special oceanographic features of the Northern Indian Ocean. Headquartered in Goa, it has regional centres in Kochi, Mumbai and Vizag.

Q.78) 'Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)' is headed by

- a) Prime Minister

- b) Home Minister
- c) National Security Adviser
- d) Defence Minister

Q.78) Solution (a)

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) of the Central Government of India discusses, debates and is the final decision-making body on senior appointments in the national security apparatus, defence policy and expenditure, and generally all matters of India's national security. The CCS is chaired by the Prime Minister of India.

Q.79) 'Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)' is headquartered in

- a) United Arab Emirates
- b) Saudi Arabia
- c) Kuwait
- d) Qatar

Q.79) Solution (b)

It is headquartered in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Q.80) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Xinjiang Province of China'

1. The Uyghurs are recognized as native to this province.
2. It shares its border with India.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.80) Solution (c)

It is home to a number of ethnic groups, including the Uyghur, Han, Kazakhs, Tibetans, Hui, Tajiks, Kyrgyz, Mongols, Russians and Xibe.



Q.81) The places 'Shahid Kalantari' and 'Shahid Beheshti' are located in which of the following countries?

- a) Iran
- b) Oman
- c) Yemen
- d) Pakistan

Q.81) Solution (a)

Chabahar Port is a seaport in Chabahar located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman. It serves as Iran's only oceanic port, and consists of two separate ports named Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti, each of which has five berths.

Q.82) 'Eco' currency is associated with

- a) West African Monetary Zone
- b) Mercosur
- c) Central African Economic and Monetary Community
- d) Eurasian Economic Union

Q.82) Solution (a)

The eight West African nations have agreed to change the name of their common currency from 'CFA franc' to 'Eco', after they jointly severed the CFA franc's links to former colonial ruler France.

The 8 West African countries namely- Ivory Coast, Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Guinea-Bissau currently use CFA France as their currency. All these countries, except Guinea-Bissau, are former French colonies.

Q.83) The term 'Chillai-Kalan' is generally associated with

- a) Jammu & Kashmir
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Goa
- d) Rajasthan

Q.83) Solution (a)

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' – the 40-day harshest period of winter when the chances of snowfall are maximum and the temperature drops to its lowest.

Q.84) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Nirbhaya Fund'

1. It is a dedicated fund for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security of women in the country.
2. Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal authority for appraisal of the schemes/proposals received under Nirbhaya Fund.

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only

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

Q.84) Solution (a)

Government of India has set up a dedicated fund called Nirbhaya Fund for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security of women in the country. Under the Nirbhaya Fund, the proposed projects should have the features like direct impact on safety and security concerns of women, optimum use of existing infrastructure, innovative use of technology, no duplication of existing government schemes/ programmes, provision for real time intervention as far as possible. strict privacy and confidentiality of women's identity and information and defined monitoring mechanism.

The Central Ministries/Departments, States/UTs, Autonomous and other Government Bodies can submit proposals as per the prescribed procedure. As per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal authority for appraisal of the schemes/proposals received under Nirbhaya Fund. An Empowered Committee of officers (EC) under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development has been set up for appraising various schemes/ projects proposed to be funded from the Nirbhaya Fund.

Q.85) Consider the following statements with respect to 'SHe-Box'

1. It has been developed with the objective to facilitate the registration of complaints related to sexual harassment of women at workplace.
2. It is under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.85) Solution (c)

Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India has developed an online complaint management system titled Sexual Harassment electronic-Box (SHe-Box) for registering complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace by women, including

government and private employees. Once a complaint is submitted to the SHe-Box portal, it directly reaches to the concerned authority having jurisdiction to take action in the matter.

Q.86) 'Kazakhstan' is not bordered by

- China
- Tajikistan
- Uzbekistan
- Turkmenistan

Q.86) Solution (b)

Kazakhstan shares borders with Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan, and also adjoins a large part of the Caspian Sea.



Q.87) Which of the following statements with respect to 'Vaikom Satyagraha'

1. It was a struggle of the backward class people of Kerala for establishing their right to walk through the temple roads of Vaikom.
2. It was led by Mahatma Gandhi.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.87) Solution (a)

Vaikom Satyagraha (1924–25) was a satyagraha (social protest) in Travancore, India (now part of Kerala) against untouchability in Hindu society. The movement was centered at the Shiva temple at Vaikom, near (present district) Kottayam. The Satyagraha aimed at securing freedom to all sections of society through the public roads leading to the Sri Mahadeva Temple at Vaikom.

T. K. Madhavan (2 September 1885 – 27 April 1930) was an Indian social reformer, journalist and revolutionary who was involved with the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana (SNDP).[2] He came from Kerala and led the struggle against untouchability which was known as Vaikom Satyagraha.

He met Gandhi at Tirunelveli, and persuaded him to visit Vaikom.

Q.88) 'AIS-155' is associated with which of the following industries?

- a) Organic Grains and Vegetables.
- b) Packaged Food and Drinks.
- c) Automotive Industry.
- d) Cosmetic Industry

Q.88) Solution (c)

AIS-155 is an Indian standard for Microdot identifiers which are affixed on the motor vehicles and their parts, components, assemblies, sub-assemblies through amendment in Rule 92 of the Central Motor vehicles.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=196052>

Q.89) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bar-headed Goose'

1. It is listed as 'Critically Endangered' under the IUCN Red List.
2. It is found in North East Region of India only.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.89) Solution (d)

The bar-headed goose (*Anser indicus*) is a goose that breeds in Central Asia in colonies of thousands near mountain lakes and winters in South Asia, as far south as peninsular India.

IUCN – Least Concern.

Q.90) 'Sivaramakrishnan committee' is associated with

- a) Capital Punishment
- b) Protection of Minorities
- c) Panchayati Raj
- d) None of the above

Q.90) Solution (d)

Sivaramakrishnan committee constituted by the Union Government to suggest the place to build the capital city of Andhra Pradesh.

Q.91) 'Good Governance Index' was topped by

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Gujarat
- d) Telangana

Q.91) Solution (a)

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/tn-tops-in-good-governance/article30397206.ece>

Q.92) “Run Through Files” mechanism is launched by

- a) Haryana
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Karnataka

Q.92) Solution (a)

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/haryana-devises-scheme-to-clear-files-quickly/article30390825.ece>

Q.93) ‘Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth (CCIG)’ is chaired by

- a) Finance Minister
- b) Cabinet Secretary
- c) Prime Minister
- d) RBI Governor

Q.93) Solution (c)

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/pm-chairs-first-meet-on-investment/article30383165.ece>

Q.94) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Atal Jal Yojana’

1. It focuses on promoting panchayat led ground water management and behavioural change with primary focus on demand side management.
2. It is being partially funded by the World Bank.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.94) Solution (c)

ATAL JAL has been designed with the principal objective of strengthening the institutional framework for participatory groundwater management and bringing about behavioral changes at the community level for sustainable groundwater resource management in seven States, viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Implementation of the scheme is expected to benefit nearly 8350 Gram Panchayats in 78 districts in these States. ATAL JAL will promote panchayat led ground water management and behavioural change with primary focus on demand side management

Out of the total outlay of Rs. 6000 crore to be implemented over a period of 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25), 50% shall be in the form of World Bank loan, and be repaid by the Central Government. The remaining 50% shall be through Central Assistance from regular budgetary support. The entire World Bank's loan component and Central Assistance shall be passed on to the States as Grants.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1597570>

Q.95) 'Afghanistan' is NOT bordered by

- a) Turkmenistan
- b) Uzbekistan
- c) Tajikistan
- d) Kazakhstan

Q.95) Solution (d)

Afghanistan, is a landlocked country in Asia. Afghanistan is bordered by Pakistan to the east and south; Iran to the west; Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to the north; and China to the northeast.



Q.96) 'K Vijay Raghavan' Committee is associated with

- a) 5G Mobile Network
- b) Funding of NGOs
- c) Adjusted Gross Revenue
- d) Patent licensing

Q.96) Solution (a)

Principal scientific adviser K Vijay Raghavan, who heads a high-level committee on 5G, said India should 'go for (5G) trials immediately with all, except for Chinese vendors.

Q.97) Consider the following statements

1. The westernmost state of India is Rajasthan.
2. The easternmost state of India is Nagaland.

Select the correct statements

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.97) Solution (d)

The westernmost state of India is Gujarat. The easternmost state of India is Arunachal Pradesh.

Q.98) 'Caspian Sea' is NOT bordered by

- a) Kazakhstan
- b) Uzbekistan
- c) Azerbaijan
- d) Turkmenistan

Q.98) Solution (b)

It is bounded by Kazakhstan to the northeast, Russia to the northwest, Azerbaijan to the west, Iran to the south, and Turkmenistan to the southeast.



Q.99) India will be developing a strategic port in 'Sabang'. Where is it located?

- a) Kra Canal
- b) Torres Strait
- c) Strait of Malacca
- d) Strait of Hormuz

Q.99) Solution (c)

India is developing its maiden deep-sea port in Indonesia's Sabang, not far from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, amid China's attempts to have a greater say in the region through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The port will be key to India's Indo-Pacific strategy.

The port will give India better access to the South East Asian markets and provide a strategic hedge at a time China is increasing its presence in the Strait of Malacca (as also the larger Indian Ocean).

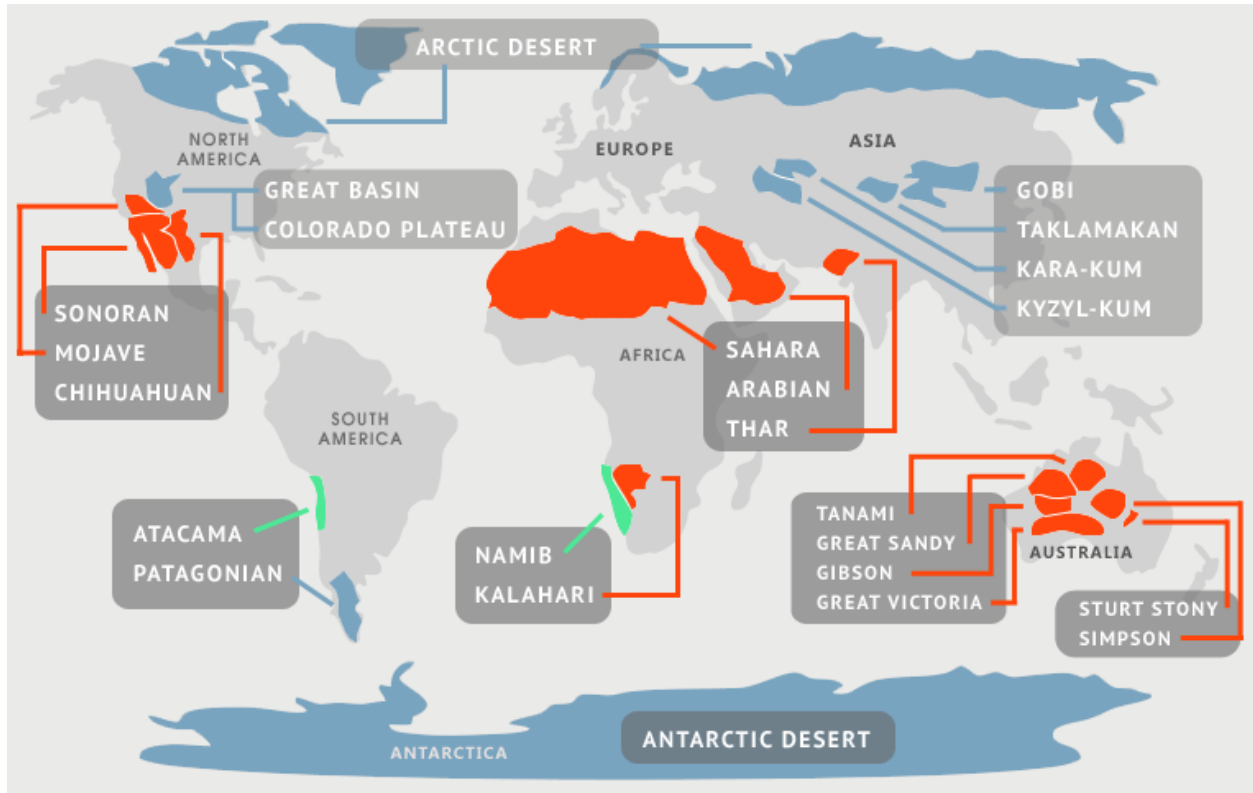
Q.100) Arrange the following deserts from North to South

- 1. Patagonia
- 2. Mojave
- 3. Tanami
- 4. Thar

Select the correct code:

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

Q.100) Solution (d)



Q.101) 'Somalia' is not bordered by

- a) Eritrea
- b) Djibouti
- c) Ethiopia
- d) Kenya

Q.101) Solution (a)



Q.102) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)'

1. It was originally constituted as the Crown Representative Police in 1939.
2. The Parliament Duty Group is an elite CRPF unit tasked with providing armed protection to Parliament House.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.102) Solution (c)

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is the premier central police force of the Union of India for internal security. Originally constituted as the Crown Representative Police in 1939, it is one of the oldest Central para military forces (now termed as Central Armed Police Force). CRPF was raised as a sequel to the political unrest and the agitations in the then princely States of India following the Madras Resolution of the All-India Congress Committee in 1936 and the ever-growing desire of the Crown Representative to help the vast majority of the native States to preserve law and order as a part of the imperial policy.

The Parliament Duty Group is an elite CRPF unit tasked with providing armed protection to Parliament House. It comprises 1,540 personnel drawn from various units of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). PDG members are trained in combating nuclear and bio-chemical attacks, rescue operations and behavioural management.

Q.103) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)'

1. India has an observer status at the OIC.
2. Only African and Asian countries are members of the OIC.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.103) Solution (d)

Members Apart from Asian and African countries.

- Europe - Albania
- South America – Guyana, Suriname

A few countries with significant Muslim populations, such as Russia and Thailand, sit as Observer States.

Q.104) Drake Passage connects

- a) Pacific Ocean and Atlantic Ocean
- b) Arctic Ocean and Atlantic Ocean
- c) Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean
- d) Arctic Ocean and Pacific Ocean

Q.104) Solution (a)

The Drake Passage or Mar de Hoces—Sea of Hoces—is the body of water between South America's Cape Horn, Chile and the South Shetland Islands of Antarctica. It connects the

southwestern part of the Atlantic Ocean (Scotia Sea) with the southeastern part of the Pacific Ocean and extends into the Southern Ocean.



Q.105) 'Avangard missile' is developed by

- a) USA
- b) Russia
- c) Israel
- d) North Korea

Q.105) Solution (b)

Russia's military deployed a new intercontinental weapon, the Avangard hypersonic missile system that can fly 27 times the speed of sound. This will be the Russian military's first Avangard hypersonic intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

