

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

1. It is a United Nations body.
2. It is an intergovernmental body established to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an independent intergovernmental body established by States to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development. It was established in Panama City, on 21 April 2012 by 94 Governments. It is not a United Nations body. However, at the request of the IPBES Plenary and with the authorization of the UNEP Governing Council in 2013, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES.

**Q.2) Consider the following statements**

1. Bodo is the only tribal language that is listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
2. Bodo Language is only spoken in Assam.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.2) Solution (a)**

Estimated to have 1.5 million speakers (Census 2011), Bodo is the only tribal language that is listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. It is spoken in Assam, where the Bodo tribe

constitutes about 5-6% of the population, and in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, and West Bengal.

**Q.3) 'Narayan Sarovar Wildlife Sanctuary' is located in**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Gujarat

**Q.3) Solution (d)**

Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary also popularly known as Narayan Sarovar Wildlife Sanctuary or Narayan Sarovar Chinkara Sanctuary notified as such in April 1981 and subsequently denotified in 1995 with reduced area, is a unique eco-system near Narayan Sarovar in the Lakhpat taluka of Kutch district in the state of Gujarat.

**Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Jerdon's courser'.**

1. It is only found in the Western Ghats.
2. It is listed as 'Critically Endangered' by 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.4) Solution (b)**

Jerdon's courser (*Rhinoptilus bitorquatus*) is a nocturnal bird belonging to the pratincole and courser family Glareolidae endemic to India. The bird was discovered by the surgeon-naturalist Thomas C. Jerdon in 1848 but not seen again until its rediscovery in 1986. This courser is a restricted-range endemic found locally in India in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh. It is currently known only from the Sri Lankamalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary, where it inhabits sparse scrub forest with patches of bare ground.

IUCN – Critically Endangered

**Q.5) The 'Tishreen Revolution' is associated with**

- a) Iraq
- b) Hong Kong
- c) Tibet
- d) Bolivia

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

The 2019 Iraqi protests, also named the Tishreen Revolution (October Revolution) and Iraqi Intifada, are an ongoing series of protests that consisted of demonstrations, marches, sit-ins and civil disobedience. They started on 1 October 2019, a date which was set by civil activists on social media, spreading over the central and southern provinces of Iraq, to protest 16 years of corruption, unemployment and inefficient public services, before they escalated into calls to overthrow the administration and to stop Iranian intervention in Iraq.

**Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)'**

1. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India.
2. It insures all bank deposits, such as saving, fixed, current, recurring deposit for up to the limit of Rs. 10,00,000 of each deposits in a bank.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.6) Solution (a)**

The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), a subsidiary of the RBI, gives insurance cover up to Rs one lakh deposits in banks. Banks will now insure deposits up to Rs 5 lakh per customer with the DICGC as per the Budget proposal.

**Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Ujh River'**

1. It is a tributary of the Satluj River
2. It originates in the Pira Panjal Ranges

**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 Ujh river (or Ujjh river) is a tributary of the Ravi River that flows through the Kathua, J&K. The Ujh river originates in Kailash mountains (near Bhaderwah hills, part of the Pir Panjal Range) at an altitude of 4,300 metres (14,100 ft).

**Q.8) 'SFURTI' Scheme is under the aegis of the**

- a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- b) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- c) Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises
- d) Ministry of Minority Affairs

**Q.8) Solution (c)**

SFURTI is Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries. Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Govt. of India has launched this scheme in the year 2005 with the view to promote Cluster development. It enhances production of Khadi industries and artisans. Also, under SFURTI, the scheme for rural industries Service Centre (RISC) is being implemented. The scheme for Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging is also implemented under SFURTI.

**Q.9) 'Santusht' Portal was launched by the**

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) RBI
- c) Ministry of Labour & Employment
- d) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

**Q.9) Solution (c)**

The Portal Santusht is an Implementation Monitoring Cell that was launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in January 2020. The portal addresses delivery of public services, their transparency, accountability, schemes and policies at grass root level.

**Q.10) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Calamity Contingent Duty (NCCD)'**

1. It is imposed on cigarettes, pan masala, beedis, other tobacco products and cellular phones.
2. It was introduced under Finance Act, 2001.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.10) Solution (c)**

The NCCD is tax imposed on pan masala, cigarettes, cellular phones and other tobacco products. It was introduced under Finance Act, 2001.

**Q.11) Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) across India. They are headquartered in?**

1. Nagpur
2. Udaipur
3. Kolkata

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.11) Solution (d)**

To protect, preserve & promote various forms of folk, traditional art and culture throughout the country, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes all over the country on regular basis for which annual grant-in-aid is provided to them.

**Q.12) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Poompuhar'**

1. It is located in Tamil Nadu.
2. It served as the capital of the early Chola kings.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.12) Solution (c)**

Puhar (also known as Poompuhar) is a town in the Nagapattinam district in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It was once a flourishing ancient port city known as Kaveri poompattinam, which for a while served as the capital of the Early Chola kings in Tamilakam. Puhar is located near the end point of the Kaveri river, aside the sea coast. It is mentioned in the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea.

**Q.13) Which of the following countries was reinstated into the Commonwealth as its 54th member state?**

- a) Sudan
- b) Maldives
- c) Madagascar
- d) Mauritius

**Q.13) Solution (b)**

The Maldives re-joined the Commonwealth, more than three years after the Indian Ocean island nation quit the association amid mounting criticism of its human rights record then.

In 2016, the Maldives pulled out of the Commonwealth terming “unjust” the grouping’s decision to penalise the country over former President Mohamed Nasheed’s controversial ouster in 2012.

**Q.14) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Dividend Distribution Tax’**

1. Only a domestic company is liable to pay this tax.
2. Even a company that is not liable to pay any tax on its income has to pay the dividend distribution tax.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.14) Solution (c)**

In the Union Budget presented on Saturday, FM Nirmala Sitharaman proposed to remove the deeply unpopular dividend distribution tax (DDT).

Dividend income from shares and MFs will now be taxable in the hands of the recipient — instead of the company or MF house — at applicable income tax rates.

Dividend distribution tax is a surrogate tax and it obstructs the flow of foreign direct investment. Therefore, doing away with this tax can give a major push to investment.

The abolition of this tax can also boost market sentiment and make Indian equities more attractive.

The clamour had been growing for the abolition of DDT ever since the corporate tax cut in September. The task force on the direct tax code had also recommended scrapping this tax in order to boost investments.

Domestic companies at present are subject to DDT at 15 per cent of the aggregate dividend declared, distributed or paid. As it also includes a 12 per cent surcharge and a 3 per cent education cess, the effective DDT rate comes to 20.35 per cent.

A dividend is the sum that a company pays its shareholders from the profits it earns, and DDT is the tax levied on that dividend. Only a domestic company is liable to pay this tax. Even a company that is not liable to pay any tax on its income has to pay the dividend distribution tax.

The tax on dividends is a triple levy. Dividend basically means the distribution of a company's after-tax profits. The tax paid by a company is the first level. DDT is the second level. The recently-introduced Super Rich Dividend Tax — the 10% tax on anyone who earns dividend income of Rs 10 lakh or above — is the third.

DDT applies to mutual funds as well. Because fund houses deduct DDT at source, dividends from MF schemes are tax-free for shareholders.

The DDT for debt funds is 25% for individuals and 30% for corporates. For equity MFs, the rate is 10% (along with surcharge and cess, it comes to 11.648%).

DDT was introduced for more efficient dividend tax collection from companies rather than shareholders.

**Q.15) 'Shaheen Falcon' is found in**

1. India
2. Sri Lanka
3. Bangladesh

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.15) Solution (d)**

The shaheen is found in South Asia from Pakistan across to India and Bangladesh in the east and to Sri Lanka, central and south-eastern China, and northern Myanmar. In India, it has been recorded in all states mainly from rocky and hilly regions. The shaheen has also been reported from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal.

**Q.16) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Sri Brahadeeswarar Temple'**

1. It was built by the great Chola emperor Raja Raja I.
2. It is a part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site known as the "Great Living Chola Temples".

**Select the correct statements**



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

**Q.16) Solution (c)**

Brihadishvara Temple, also called Rajarajesvaram or Peruvudaiyār Kōvil, is a Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva located in South bank of Kaveri river in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India. It is one of the largest South Indian temples and an exemplary example of a fully realized Dravidian architecture. It is called as Dhakshina Meru (Meru of south). Built by Tamil king Raja Raja Chola I between 1003 and 1010 AD, the temple is a part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site known as the "Great Living Chola Temples", along with the Chola dynasty era Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple and Airavatesvara temple.

**Q.17) 'Vardhavan port' will be set up in**

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

**Q.17) Solution (b)**

Union Cabinet approved to set up the Vardhavan port in Maharashtra. The port is to be developed in "Landlord Model". The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust will act as the lead partner in developing the port.

**Q.18) 'Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme' is associated with**

- a) Direct Taxes
- b) Indirect Taxes
- c) Surcharge and Cess
- d) Carbon Tax

**Q.18) Solution (a)**

The scheme aims to settle the pending cases on direct taxes. aims to resolve 483,000 direct tax disputes. The scheme provides waivers on interest if the disputed tax was paid before 31st March, 2020.

**Q.19) 'Velutheeyam' is an alloy of**

- a) Tin and Aluminum
- b) Aluminum and Copper
- c) Silver and Gold
- d) Copper and Zinc

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

It is an alloy of tin and aluminum.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/healing-christ-statue-enters-urf-book-of-world-records/article30737169.ece>

**Q.20) 'Kasturi manjal' is a type of**

- a) Rice
- b) Turmeric
- c) Wheat
- d) Cotton

**Q.20) Solution (b)**

Kasturi manjal (wild turmeric) or *Curcuma aromatica* is on the verge of extinction and what is being sold in the market isn't authentic.

**Q.21) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Koodiyattam'**

1. It is recognised by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.
2. It relies heavily on the audience interpreting the story being told.

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 Only

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

**Q.21) Solution (c)**

Koodiyattam, recognised by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity is different from other Indian dance forms as it relies heavily on the audience interpreting the story being told. Koodiyattam performances were originally restricted only to temples and took upto 40 days to finish a sequence of storytelling.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/dance/sita-parityagam-dance-and-divinity-the-hindu-friday-review-telangana/article30642298.ece>

**Q.22) 'Pulikkali' is associated with which of the following states?**

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

**Q.22) Solution (c)**

Pulikkali is a recreational folk art from the state of Kerala. It is performed by trained artists to entertain people on the occasion of Onam, an annual harvest festival, celebrated mainly in the Indian state of Kerala.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/watch-pulikkali-keralas-play-of-the-tigers/article29437916.ece>

**Q.23) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Vertical farming'**

1. It uses significantly less water and pesticides than traditional agricultural methods.
2. The crops aren't subject to seasons and hence give high productivity year-round.

**Select the correct statements**

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.23) Solution (c)**

In vertical farming, crops are grown indoors, under artificial conditions of light and temperature.

Crops are grown indoors, under artificial conditions of light and temperature. It aims at higher productivity in smaller spaces. It uses soil-less methods such as hydroponics, aquaponics and aeroponics.

Vertical farming uses significantly less water and pesticides than traditional agricultural methods. Being indoors, the crops aren't subject to seasons and hence give high productivity year-round. Lettuces, tomatoes and green crops can be produced through this practice.

**Q.24) Consider the following statements with respect to 'NavIC'**

1. It is India's own navigation system, similar to the U.S.' GPS.
2. It is designed for a position accuracy better than 20 metres in India, its primary coverage area and an area of 1,500 km from the Indian boundary will also be covered by this system.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.24) Solution (c)**

Smartphones with the latest Qualcomm chipsets can now latch on to NavIC. NavIC is India's own navigation system, similar to the U.S.' GPS. It works based on the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS). There are currently eight IRNSS satellites in geosynchronous and geostationary orbits. The IRNSS-1A launched in 2013 was India's first navigation satellite. NavIC is designed for a position accuracy better than 20 metres in India, its primary coverage area. An area of 1,500 km from the Indian boundary will also be covered by this system. It will provide a Standard Positioning Service to all users and an encrypted Restricted Service to authorised users. NavIC will provide drivers and other users in India with visual and voice navigation. Its primary beneficiaries will be Indian mariners and fishermen, who are being provided with NavIC handsets.

**Q.25) An 'Ad Valorem' Tax is a tax levied on**

- a) The value of commodity
- b) The weight of the commodity
- c) profit on Shares
- d) Surcharge on tax

**Q.25) Solution (a)**

An ad valorem tax (Latin for "according to value") is a tax whose amount is based on the value of a transaction or of property. It is typically imposed at the time of a transaction, as in the case of a sales tax or value-added tax (VAT). An ad valorem tax may also be imposed annually, as in the case of a real or personal property tax, or in connection with another significant event (e.g. inheritance tax, expatriation tax, or tariff). In some countries a stamp duty is imposed as an ad valorem tax.

Note: It is based on the price of commodity and not on Value Addition.

**Q.26) 'Storm Ciara' is associated with**

- a) United Kingdom
- b) Australia
- c) Indonesia
- d) Japan

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

The storm, named 'Ciara' in the UK, is expected to hit Ireland, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Germany. In Germany, it is being referred to as 'Sabine'.

The storm has two names because there isn't yet a pan-European system in place for labeling weather systems.

**Q.27) Consider the following statements**

1. Supreme Court can issue prerogative writs under Article 32 of the Constitution, and the High Courts under Article 226.

2. Under Article 361, mandamus cannot be granted against the President or Governor of a State.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.27) Solution (c)**

Mandamus is among the “prerogative writs” in English common law — meaning the extraordinary writs or orders granted by the Sovereign when ordinary legal remedies are inadequate. These are habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari, and quo warranto.

In India, the Supreme Court can issue prerogative writs under Article 32 of the Constitution, and the High Courts under Article 226.

Mandamus literally means ‘we command’. When issued to a person or body, the writ of mandamus demands some activity on their part. It orders the person or body to perform a public or quasi-public duty, which they have refused to perform, and where no other adequate legal remedy exists to enforce the performance of that duty.

The writ cannot be issued unless the legal duty is of public nature, and to whose performance the applicant of the writ has a legal right.

The remedy is of a discretionary nature — a court can refuse to grant it when an alternative remedy exists. However, for enforcing fundamental rights, the alternative remedy argument does not hold as much weight, since it is the duty of the Supreme Court and the High Courts to enforce fundamental rights.

When a public officer or government does an act that violates the fundamental right of a person, the court would issue a writ of mandamus against such authorities so that the person’s rights are not infringed.

The writ can also be issued against inferior courts or other judicial bodies when they have refused to exercise their jurisdiction and perform their duty.

Under Article 361, mandamus cannot be granted against the President or Governor of a State, “for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of his office or for any act done or purporting to be done by him in the exercise and performance of those powers and duties”.

The writ also cannot be issued against a private individual or body, except where the State is in collusion with the private party for contravening a provision of the Constitution or a statute.

**Q.28) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Indian Pangolin'.**

1. It is only found in the Western Ghats.
2. It is listed as '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.28) Solution (b)**

The Indian pangolin, thick-tailed pangolin, or scaly anteater (*Manis crassicaudata*) is a pangolin found on the Indian subcontinent. It is not common anywhere in its range. Like other pangolins, it has large, overlapping scales on its body which act as armour. It can also curl itself into a ball as self-defence against predators such as the tiger. The colour of its scales varies depending on the colour of the earth in its surroundings.

It is an insectivore, feeding on ants and termites, digging them out of mounds and logs using its long claws, which are as long as its fore limbs. It is nocturnal and rests in deep burrows during the day.

IUCN – Endangered

**Q.29) 'Mudumalai National Park' is located in**

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

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

The Mudumalai National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary also a declared tiger reserve, lies on the northwestern side of the Nilgiri Hills (Blue Mountains), in Nilgiri District, about 150 kilometres north-west of Coimbatore city in Tamil Nadu, India. It shares its boundaries with the states of Karnataka and Kerala.

**Q.30) Which of the following belong to the genus 'Panthera'?**

1. Tiger
2. Lion
3. Snow Leopard

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.30) Solution (d)**

Panthera is a genus within the family Felidae that was named and described by Lorenz Oken in 1816 who placed all the spotted cats in this group. Reginald Innes Pocock revised the classification of this genus in 1916 as comprising the species lion (*P. leo*), tiger (*P. tigris*), jaguar (*P. onca*), and leopard (*P. pardus*) on the basis of common cranial features. Results of genetic analysis indicate that the snow leopard (formerly *Uncia uncia*) also belongs to the Panthera (*P. uncia*), a classification that was accepted by IUCN Red List assessors in 2008.

**Q.31) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Jet streams'**

1. They are narrow bands of strong winds that flow from west to east.
2. The strongest jet streams are the polar jets.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.31) Solution (c)**

Jet streams are fast flowing, narrow, meandering air currents in the atmospheres of some planets, including Earth. On Earth, the main jet streams are located near the altitude of the tropopause and are westerly winds (flowing west to east). Their paths typically have a meandering shape. Jet streams may start, stop, split into two or more parts, combine into one



stream, or flow in various directions including opposite to the direction of the remainder of the jet.

The strongest jet streams are the polar jets, at 9–12 km (30,000–39,000 ft) above sea level, and the higher altitude and somewhat weaker subtropical jets at 10–16 km (33,000–52,000 ft).

**Q.32) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Thwaites Glacier'**

1. Thwaites's melting already contributes 4% to global sea level rise each year.
2. It is located in the Arctic Region.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.32) Solution (a)**

Called the Thwaites Glacier, it is 120 km wide at its broadest, fast-moving and melting fast over the years. Because of its size (1.9 lakh square km), it contains enough water to raise the world sea level by more than half a metre. Studies have found the amount of ice flowing out of it has nearly doubled over the past 30 years. Today, Thwaites's melting already contributes 4% to global sea level rise each year. It is estimated that it would collapse into the sea in 200-900 years. Thwaites is important for Antarctica as it slows the ice behind it from freely flowing into the ocean. Because of the risk it faces — and poses — Thwaites is often called the Doomsday Glacier.

**Q.33) The highest number of Indians abroad are living in the**

- a) United States
- b) United Kingdom
- c) United Arab Emirates
- d) Saudi Arabia

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

The highest number of Indians abroad are living in the United Arab Emirates, where the 34,20,000 Indians comprise about one-fourth of all Indians abroad.

INDIANS ABROAD: TOP 10	
UAE →	34.2 lakh
Saudi Arabia →	25.9 lakh
US →	12.8 lakh
Kuwait →	10.3 lakh
Oman →	7.8 lakh
Qatar →	7.6 lakh
Nepal →	5 lakh
UK →	3.5 lakh
Singapore →	3.5 lakh
Bahrain →	3.2 lakh

**Q.34) 'Ajeya Warrior' is a bilateral military exercise between India and**

- a) United Kingdom
- b) France
- c) Japan
- d) Russia

**Q.34) Solution (a)**

India-UK hold joint exercise called Ajeya Warrior on February 13, 2020. The exercise is being held from 2005.

**THINK!**

- Konkan exercise
- Indra Dhanush Exercise

**Q.35) Consider the following statements with respect to '13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS)'**

1. It will be hosted by India, in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

2. The mascot for CMS COP13 is 'Gibi – The Bengal Florican'.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.35) Solution (a)**

The 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), an environmental treaty under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme, is going to be hosted by India during 17 to 22 February at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

The mascot for CMS COP13 is 'Gibi – The Great Indian Bustard'. It is a critically endangered species which has been accorded the highest protection status under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

As the host, India shall be designated the President for the next three years. The Government of India is Signatory to the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Wild Animals since 1983. The Government of India has been taking necessary actions to protect and conserve migratory marine species. Seven species that include dugong, whale shark, and two species of the marine turtle have been identified for preparation of Conservation and Recovery Action Plan.

India is home to several migratory species of wildlife including snow leopard, Amur falcons, bar-headed geese, black-necked cranes, marine turtles, dugongs, and humpbacked whales.

India has signed a non legally binding MoU with CMS on the conservation and management of Siberian cranes (1998), marine turtles (2007), dugongs (2008) and raptors (2016).

While different countries have sent their proposals, India has proposed to include three species- the Indian elephant, the Great Indian Bustard and the Bengal Florican in the 'Appendix I' of the CMS Convention for 'migratory species threatened with extinction'.

**Q.36) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bhabha Kavach'.**

1. It is India's indigenously developed bullet-proof jacket.
2. It is developed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 Only

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

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

Bhabha Kavach developed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is the lightest level III plus bullet proof jacket (6.8 kgs nominal weight) available in India. The jacket is based on indigenous hot pressed boron carbide and carbon nanotube technologies. Bhabha Kavach is an import substitute and truly a 'Make in India' product. Bhabha Kavach has qualified all the ballistic tests required as per the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the new Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The level III plus Bhabha Kavach bullet proof jacket can stop

**Q.37) 'USTTAD' Scheme is associated with which of the following ministries?**

- a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- b) Ministry of Minority Affairs
- c) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- d) Ministry of Consumer Affairs

**Q.37) Solution (b)**

Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD) is launched by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

**Q.38) 'Mount Aconcagua' is located in**

- a) Chile
- b) Argentine
- c) Uruguay
- d) Paraguay

**Q.38) Solution (b)**

Aconcagua is a mountain in the Principal Cordillera of the Andes mountain range, in Mendoza Province, Argentina.

**Q.39) 'Protected Special Agriculture Zone (PSAZ)' was in news recently. It is associated with which of the following river deltas?**

- a) Cauvery
- b) Ganga
- c) Brahmaputra
- d) Mahanadi

**Q.39) Solution (a)**

Tamil Nadu announced Cauvery delta region comprising of eight districts as Protected Special Agriculture Zone to prevent implementation of oil exploration projects in the state's rice bowl.

**Q.40) 'Chindu Bhagavatam' is primarily associated with which of the following states?**

- a) Telangana
- b) Odisha
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Karnataka

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

It is a drama type art which is very near to Yakshaganam and this is widely performed in Telangana

**Q.41) According to the 'use-based classification' of IIP data, which of the following has highest weightage?**

- a) Consumer Non-durables
- b) Primary Goods
- c) Infrastructure Goods
- d) Capital Goods

**Q.41) Solution (b)**

Within the use-based classification, data is provided for six categories. These are :-

- Primary Goods (consisting of mining, electricity, fuels and fertilisers) — this has a weight of 34%

- Capital Goods (e.g. Machinery items) — this has a weight of 8%
- Intermediate Goods (e.g. yarns, chemicals, semi-finished steel items, etc) — this has a weight of 17%
- Infrastructure Goods (e.g. paints, cement, cables, bricks and tiles, rail materials, etc) — this has a weight of 12%
- Consumer Durables (e.g. garments, telephones, passenger vehicles, etc) — this has a weight of 13%
- Consumer Non-durables (e.g. food items, medicines, toiletries, etc) — this has a weight of 15%

**Q.42) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Private Member's Bill'**

1. The admissibility of a private Bill is decided by the Chairman in the case of the Rajya Sabha and the Speaker in the case of the Lok Sabha.
2. A private member's bill can only be introduced and discussed on Fridays.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.42) Solution (c)**

An MP who is not a minister is a private member and while both private members and ministers take part in the lawmaking process, Bills introduced by private members are referred to as private member's Bills and those introduced by ministers are called government Bills.

Government Bills are backed by the government and also reflect its legislative agenda. The admissibility of a private Bill is decided by the Chairman in the case of the Rajya Sabha and the Speaker in the case of the Lok Sabha.

Before the Bill can be listed for introduction, the Member must give at least a month's notice, for the House Secretariat to examine it for compliance with constitutional provisions and rules on legislation. While a government Bill can be introduced and discussed on any day, a private member's bill can only be introduced and discussed on Fridays.

**Q.43) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty (MLI)'**

1. It is a multilateral convention of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to combat tax avoidance by multinational enterprises (MNEs) through prevention of Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).
2. India has ratified the MLI Treaty.

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

The Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, sometime abbreviated BEPS multilateral instrument, is a multilateral convention of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to combat tax avoidance by multinational enterprises (MNEs) through prevention of Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS). The BEPS multilateral instrument was negotiated within the framework of the OECD G20 BEPS project and enables countries and jurisdictions to swiftly modify their bilateral tax treaties to implement some of the measures agreed.

India has ratified the treaty and the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (MLI) "came into force for India on October 1, 2019, and its provisions will have effect on India's DTAs from FY 2020-21 onwards

**Q.44) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Drugs and Cosmetics Act (DCA)'**

1. The Act was formulated in pursuance of recommendations of Chopra Committee.
2. Any medical device used to treat a patient comes under the ambit of the DCA.

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

The Parliament of India formed an Act which regulates the import, manufacture and distribution of drugs in India. The primary objective of the Act is to ensure that the drugs and cosmetics sold in India are safe, effective and conform to prescribed quality standards. The Drugs Act was formulated in 1940 in pursuance of recommendations of Chopra Committee constituted in 1930 by Government of India.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has brought medical devices within the regulatory ambit, treating them as a category of 'drugs' for the purpose of regulating them under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act (DCA).

The MoHFW has specified that all such devices including instruments, apparatus, appliances, implants or other articles, whether used alone or in combination, including a software or an accessory, intended by its manufacturer to be used specifically on human beings or animals, will be considered for this purpose.

**Q.45) Which of the following species causes 'Soil-transmitted helminth infections'?**

1. Roundworms
2. Hookworms
3. Whipworm

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.45) Solution (d)**

Soil-transmitted helminth infections are among the most common infections worldwide and affect the poorest and most deprived communities. They are transmitted by eggs present in human faeces which in turn contaminate soil in areas where sanitation is poor. The main species that infect people are the roundworm (*Ascaris lumbricoides*), the whipworm (*Trichuris trichiura*) and hookworms (*Necator americanus* and *Ancylostoma duodenale*).

Soil-transmitted helminths are transmitted by eggs that are passed in the faeces of infected people. Adult worms live in the intestine where they produce thousands of eggs each day. In areas that lack adequate sanitation, these eggs contaminate the soil. This can happen in several ways:



- eggs that are attached to vegetables are ingested when the vegetables are not carefully cooked, washed or peeled;
- eggs are ingested from contaminated water sources;
- eggs are ingested by children who play in the contaminated soil and then put their hands in their mouths without washing them.

**THINK!**

- National Deworming Day

**Q.46) Consider the following statements with respect to 'International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)'**

1. It is an international financial institution and specialized United Nations agency.
2. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

It is an international financial institution and a specialised agency of the United Nations that works to address poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.

Its headquarters is in Rome, Italy, and it is a member of the United Nations Development Group.

**Q.47) 'Manasollasa' is associated with which of the following Dynasties/Empires?**

- a) Guptas
- b) Chalukyas
- c) Marathas
- d) Ahom

**Q.47) Solution (b)**

The Mānasollāsa, also known as Abhilashitartha Chintamani, is an early 12th-century Sanskrit text composed by the Kalyani Chalukya king Someshvara III, who ruled in present-day South India. It is an encyclopedic work covering topics such as polity, governance, ethics, economics, astronomy, astrology, rhetoric, veterinary medicine, horticulture, perfumes, food, architecture, sports, painting, poetry and music. The text is a valuable source of socio-cultural information on 11th- and 12th-century India.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/decoding-manuscripts-on-mathematics/article30809672.ece>

**Q.48) ‘Rupe shunyam’ was mentioned by**

- a) Pingala
- b) Panini
- c) Katyayana
- d) Sushroot

**Q.48) Solution (a)**

Pingala (prior to 3rd century BCE) mentions the symbol for zero — ‘rupe shunyam.’

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/decoding-manuscripts-on-mathematics/article30809672.ece>

**Q.49) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Siddhānta Shiromani’**

1. It is a treatise on astronomy and algebra.
2. It was written by Nilakantha Somayaji.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.49) Solution (a)**

Siddhānta Śiromani is the major treatise of Indian mathematician Bhāskara II. He wrote the Siddhānta Śiromani in 1150 when he was 36 years old. The work is composed in Sanskrit Language in 1450 verses.

Leelāvati is the first volume of the Siddhānta Śiromani. The book contains thirteen chapters, 278 verses, mainly arithmetic and measurement.

Bijaganita is the second volume of Siddhānta Shiromani. It is divided into six parts, contains 213 verses and is devoted to algebra.

Ganitadhyaya and Goladhyaya of Siddhanta Shiromani are devoted to astronomy. All put together there are about 900 verses.(Ganitadhyaya has 451 and Goladhyaya has 501 verses).

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/decoding-manuscripts-on-mathematics/article30809672.ece>

**Q.50) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bahlol Lodhi'**

1. He became the first ruler of the Lodhi dynasty in 1451.
2. He annexed Sharqi dynasty based at Jaunpur.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.50) Solution (c)**

Bahlol became the first ruler of the Lodhi dynasty in 1451. He conquered Jaunpur, Dholpur, and Kalpi. The Sarqis of Jaunpur were the lords of the east and their downfall was the Lodhi's biggest gain.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/how-bahlul-lodhi-bought-delhi/article30781918.ece>

**Q.51) 'Niccolao Manucci', an Italian Writer and Traveller, has written a book of**

- a) Guptas
- b) Mughals
- c) Chalukyas

d) Marathas

**Q.51) Solution (b)**

He was an Italian writer and traveller. He wrote a memoir about the Indian subcontinent during the Mughal era. Manucci is famous for his work "Storia do Mogor", an account of Mughal history and life. Manucci had first-hand knowledge of the Mughal court, and the book is considered to be the most detailed account of the Mughal court. It is an important account of the time of the later reign of Shah Jahan and of the reign of Aurangzeb.

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-government-locate-dara-shikoh-tomb-asi-6271332/>

**Q.52) 'Sirr-e-Akbar' is associated with**

- a) Aurangzeb
- b) Darah Shikoh
- c) Jani Begum
- d) Sipihir Shikoh

**Q.52) Solution (b)**

Dara Shikoh subsequently developed a friendship with the seventh Sikh Guru, Guru Har Rai. Dara Shikoh devoted much effort towards finding a common mystical language between Islam and Hinduism. Towards this goal he completed the translation of fifty Upanishads from their original Sanskrit into Persian in 1657 so that they could be studied by Muslim scholars. His translation is often called Sirr-e-Akbar ("The Greatest Mystery").

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-government-locate-dara-shikoh-tomb-asi-6271332/>

**Q.53) Which of the following stars has been dimming for the past few months?**

- a) R Doradus
- b) Betelgeuse
- c) Mu Cephei
- d) VY Canis Majoris

**Q.53) Solution (b)**

Betelgeuse was born as a supermassive star millions of years ago and has been “dramatically” and “mysteriously” dimming for the last six months.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/betelgeuse-star-dimming-very-large-telescope-orion-black-hole-6271273/>

**Q.54) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Nilgiri Tahr'.**

1. It is only found in Tamil Nadu.
2. It is listed as '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.54) Solution (b)**

The Nilgiri tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*) is an ungulate that is endemic to the Nilgiri Hills and the southern portion of the Western & Eastern Ghats in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. It is the state animal of Tamil Nadu.

IUCN – Endangered.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/census-on-problematic-indian-gaur-human-interaction-under-way/article30795421.ece>

**Q.55) 'Prydz Bay' is located in**

- a) Antarctica
- b) Sweden
- c) Canada
- d) New Zealand

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

Prydz Bay is a deep embayment of Antarctica between the Lars Christensen Coast and Ingrid Christensen Coast. The Bay is at the downstream end of a giant glacial drainage systems that originates in the East Antarctic interior. The Lambert Glacier flows from Lambert Graben into the Amery Ice Shelf on the south-west side of Prydz Bay.

Bharati, a permanent Antarctic research station commissioned by India is located in Prydz Bay.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/indian-scientists-antarctic-trip-climate-monsoon-6268763/>

**Q.56) The 'Gallipoli campaign' is associated with which of the following counties?**

- a) United States of America
- b) Turkey
- c) Israel
- d) Germany

**Q.56) Solution (b)**

The Battle of Çanakkale, also known as the Gallipoli campaign or the Dardanelles campaign, is considered to be one of the bloodiest of World War I, during which the Ottoman army faced off against the Allied forces, leading to the slaughter of tens of thousands of soldiers on both sides.

**Q.57) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is moving to which of the following accounting years?**

- a) January-December
- b) April-March
- c) July-June
- d) None of the above

**Q.57) Solution (b)**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is aligning its July-June accounting year with the government's April-March fiscal year in order to ensure more effective management of the country's finances.

When it commenced operations on April 1, 1935, with Sir Osborne Smith as its first Governor, the RBI followed a January-December accounting year. On March 11, 1940, however, the bank changed its accounting year to July-June. Now, after nearly eight decades, the RBI is making another switch: the next accounting year will be a nine-month period from July 2020 to March

31, 2021 and thereafter, all financial years will start from April, as it happens with the central and state governments.

The Bimal Jalan Committee on Economic Capital Framework (ECF) of the RBI had proposed a more transparent presentation of the RBI's annual accounts, and a change in its accounting year to April-March from the financial year 2020-21. It said the RBI would be able to provide better estimates of projected surplus transfers to the government for the financial year for budgeting purposes.

**Q.58) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Gobi bear'.**

1. It is only found in Mongolia.
2. It is listed as critically endangered species.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.58) Solution (c)**

The Gobi bear (*Ursus arctos gobiensis*; known in Mongolian as the Mazalaai (Мазаалай), is a subspecies of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) that is found in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia. It is listed as critically endangered by the Mongolian Redbook of Endangered Species and by the Zoological Society of London. The population included only around 30 adults in 2009, and is separated by enough distance from other brown bear populations to achieve reproductive isolation.

**Q.59) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Persian leopard'**

1. It is now only found in Iran.
2. It is listed as '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.59) Solution (b)**

The Persian leopard, also known as the Caucasian leopard is a leopard population in the Caucasus, Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia. The Persian leopard was previously considered a distinct subspecies, *Panthera pardus saxicolor* or *Panthera pardus ciscaucasica*, but is now assigned to the subspecies *Panthera pardus tulliana*, which also includes the Anatolian leopard in Turkey. The Persian leopard is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, as the population is estimated at fewer than 871–1,290 mature individuals and considered declining.

**Q.60) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Urial'.**

1. It is only found in Central Asia.
2. It is listed as 'Vulnerable' 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.60) Solution (b)**

The urial is found in western central Asia from northeastern Iran and western Kazakhstan to Pakistan's Balochistan and Chitral, and in Ladakh, India.

IUCN – Vulnerable.

**Q.61) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Northern European Enclosure Dam (NEED)'**

1. It involves construction of dams between France and England, and between Scotland and Norway.
2. It is a proposed solution to the problem of rising ocean levels in Northern Europe.

**Select the correct statements**

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



d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.61) Solution (c)**

The Northern European Enclosure Dam (NEED) is a proposed solution to the problem of rising ocean levels in Northern Europe. It would be a megaproject, involving the construction of two massive dams in the North Sea; one between France and England, and another between Scotland and Norway. The concept was conceived by the oceanographers Sjoerd Groeskamp and Joakim Kjellsson. As of 2020, the scheme is largely a thought experiment intended to demonstrate the extreme cost of engineered solutions to the effects of climate change.



**Q.62) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Aditya L1'**

1. It is ISRO's first space-based astronomy mission.
2. It will carry out round-the-clock imaging of the Sun.

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only

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

**Q.62) Solution (b)**

ISRO categorises Aditya L1 as a 400 kg-class satellite, that will be launched using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) in XL configuration. The space-based observatory will have seven payloads (instruments) on board to study the Sun's corona, solar emissions, solar winds and flares, and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), and will carry out round-the-clock imaging of the Sun.

The mission will be undertaken in collaboration between various labs of ISRO, along with institutions like the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune, and Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research (IISER), Kolkata. Aditya L1 will be ISRO's second space-based astronomy mission after AstroSat, which was launched in September 2015.

**Q.63) 'Ratings' Uprising' is associated with**

- a) First War of Independence
- b) RIN Strike
- c) Simon Commission
- d) Rowlatt Act

**Q.63) Solution (b)**

The RIN Revolt started as a strike by ratings of the Royal Indian Navy on 18 February in protest against general conditions. The immediate issues of the revolt were living conditions and food.

It encompasses a total strike and subsequent revolt by Indian sailors of the Royal Indian Navy on board ship and shore establishments at Bombay harbour on 18 February 1946. From the initial flashpoint in Bombay, the revolt spread and found support throughout British India, from Karachi to Calcutta, and ultimately came to involve over 20,000 sailors in 78 ships and shore establishments.

**Q.64) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?****GI Tag - States**

1. Sandur Lambani Embroidery – Karnataka

2. Agate stone crafts – Gujarat
3. Blue Pottery – Rajasthan

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.64) Solution (d)**

Blue Pottery of Jaipur – Handicraft - Rajasthan

Agates of Cambay – Handicraft - Gujarat

Sandur Lambani Embroidery – Handicraft – Karnataka

With an objective to promote Geographical Indication (GI) crafts and heritage of India, the Ministry of Textiles announced today that it is organising 'Kala Kumbh – Handicrafts Thematic Exhibition' in various parts of the country through the Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts). The exhibitions are planned in various major cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai.

In the Bengaluru exhibition, GI crafts like Mysore rosewood inlay, Channapatna lacquerware, Dharwad kasuti embroidery, Kolhapur chappal, Bidriware, Molakalmur handblock printing, Ananthapur leather puppet, Thrissur screwpine, Vishakapatna lacquerware, Sandur lambani embroidery, Jodhpur terracota, Jaipur handprinted textile, bronze casting, Medinipur mat weaving, Birbhum artistic leather, and Khurdah palm leaf engraving are being displayed.

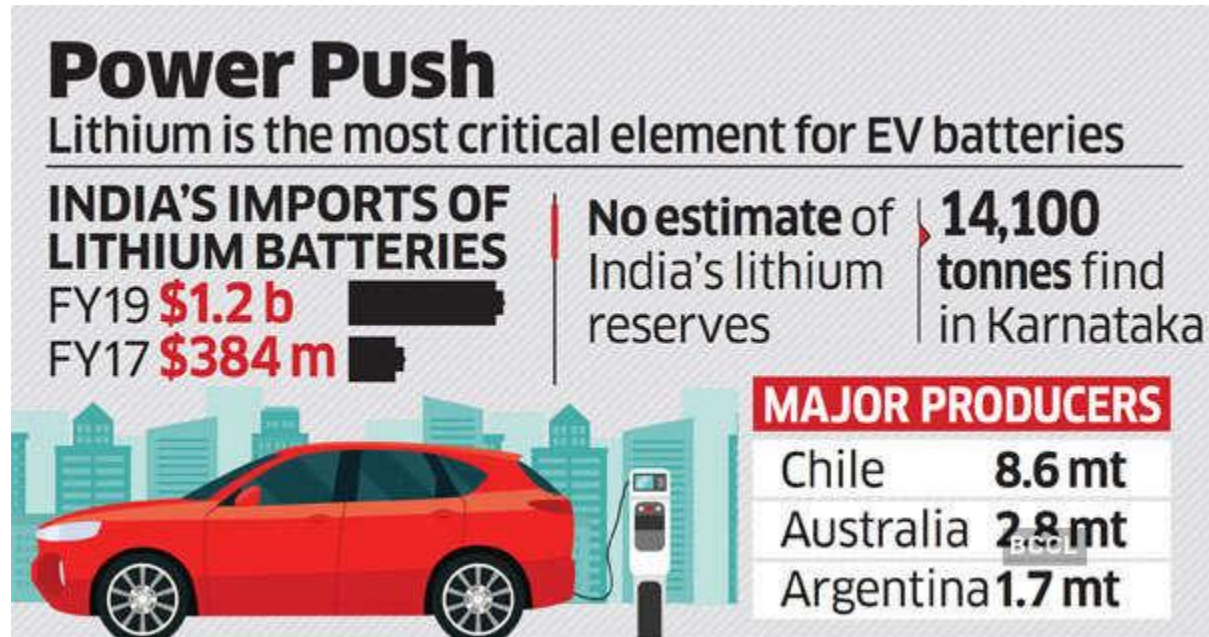
In the Mumbai exhibition, GI crafts like Chittoor kalamkari painting, Thrissur screwpine crafts, Pokharan terracotta crafts, Kutch embroidery & crochet crafts, Pingla patachitra, Birbhum kantha embroidery, Jajpur photachitra painting, Madhubani Mithila painting, Kolhapur chappal, Palghar Worli painting, Kondagaon wrought iron craft, Agate stone crafts and Krishna handblock printing are being displayed.

**Q.65) Recently 'Lithium' Reserves in India have been found in**

- a) Karnataka
- b) Odisha
- c) Assam
- d) Rajasthan

**Q.65) Solution (a)**

Researchers at the Atomic Minerals Directorate, a unit of India's Atomic Energy Commission, have estimated lithium reserves of 14,100 tonnes in a patch of land surveyed in Mandya, 100 km from Bengaluru. The present data provides a total estimation of available Li<sub>2</sub>O as about 30,300 tonnes over an area of 0.5 km x 5 km, which works out to about 14,100 tonnes of lithium metal.

**Q.66) 'Extinction Rebellion (XR)' started in**

- Norway
- Australia
- United Kingdom
- Sweden

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

Extinction Rebellion (abbreviated as XR) is a global environmental movement with the stated aim of using nonviolent civil disobedience to compel government action to avoid tipping points in the climate system, biodiversity loss, and the risk of social and ecological collapse. Extinction Rebellion was established in the United Kingdom in May 2018.

**Q.67) 'Tilhan Mission' is associated with**

- a) Organic Farming
- b) Oilseed Production
- c) Potable Water
- d) Menstrual hygiene

**Q.67) Solution (b)**

Government of India is to launch "TILHAN MISSION" to boost the oil seed production.

**Q.68) 'Call for Action' and 'Monitored Jurisdiction' is associated with**

- a) Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF)
- b) Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the World Trade Organization (WTO)
- c) Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF)
- d) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

**Q.68) Solution (a)**

Since 2000, to fight money laundering and terror financing the FATF maintains the current list of nations: FATF blacklist (formally called the "Call for action") and the "FATF greylist" (formally called the "Other monitored jurisdictions").

**Q.69) 'Ra'ad' Missiles was in news recently. It is developed by which of the following countries?**

- a) Iran
- b) North Korea
- c) Pakistan
- d) Turkey

**Q.69) Solution (c)**

The Ra'ad II missile is developed by Pakistan.

**Q.70) 'Stockholm Convention' is associated with**

- a) Persistent Organic Pollutants
- b) Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
- c) Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides
- d) Ozone Depletion

**Q.70) Solution (a)**

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from highly dangerous, long-lasting chemicals by restricting and ultimately eliminating their production, use, trade, release and storage.

**Q.71) 'A future for the world's children?' report is published by**

- 1. World Health Organization
- 2. UNICEF
- 3. The Lancet

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.71) Solution (d)**

No single country is adequately protecting children's health, their environment and their futures, finds a landmark report released today by a Commission of over 40 child and adolescent health experts from around the world. The Commission was convened by the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and The Lancet.

The report, A Future for the World's Children?, finds that the health and future of every child and adolescent worldwide is under immediate threat from ecological degradation, climate change and exploitative marketing practices that push heavily processed fast food, sugary drinks, alcohol and tobacco at children.

According to the report, India ranked 131 in flourishing index and 77 on sustainability index.

**Q.72) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)'**

1. The district collectors have been empowered to conduct investigations that affect interests of consumer under the aegis of CCPA.
2. It is to be set up under Consumer Protection Act (CPA) 2019.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.72) Solution (c)**

Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) will be set up under Consumer Protection Act 2019, will address issues related to consumer rights, unfair trade practices, misleading advertisements and impose penalties for selling spurious and adulterated products.

Parliament last year approved 'The Consumer Protection Bill 2019', replacing the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The law seeks to revamp the process of administration and settlement of consumer disputes, with strict penalties, including jail term for adulteration and misleading ads by firms.

The district collectors have also been empowered to conduct investigations that affect the interests of the consumer as a class under the new law under the aegis of CCPA. The establishment of a central authority and initiating action as a class comes as an additional mode of relief that can be exercised along with individual consumers filing complaints to address their grievances thereby having two parallel proceedings.

**Q.73) 'Maku He Ngichi' is associated with which of the following states?**

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

**Q.73) Solution (b)**

Maku He Ngichi is a war dance performed by the warriors of the Sangtam tribe (Nagaland).

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/naga-tribal-traditions-kept-alive-by-runway-nagaland-art-collective/article30842733.ece>

**Q.74) 'Sadang Handu' is associated with which of the following states?**

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

**Q.74) Solution (a)**

It is performed and sung by the women to increase confidence in men, by casting away the evil spirits from the village.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/naga-tribal-traditions-kept-alive-by-runway-nagaland-art-collective/article30842733.ece>

**Q.75) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bengal slow loris'**

1. It is listed as "Vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List.
2. It is only found in India and Bangladesh.

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

It is found in Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; India; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Myanmar; Thailand; Viet Nam.

IUCN - Vulnerable

**Q.76) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

1. Latakia – Syria



2. Hama – Iraq
3. Al-Eiss – Syria

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.76) Solution (c)**

Latakia – Syria

Hama – Syria

Al-Eiss – Syria

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/syria-war-idlib-turkey-recep-tayyip-erdogan-6282521/>

**Q.77) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)'**

1. It functions under the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. The Conference of the Parties (CoP) to the CMS was held in India for the first time in 2020.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.77) Solution (c)**

CMS is a treaty agreed by 129 countries plus the European Union, and functions under the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). It works for protection and conservation of species that migrate across frontiers and are facing threats of extinction or require urgent attention. CMS aims to bring together different countries that are part of range of a given species, and facilitate coherent conservation and protection regimes in a group of countries.

13th Conference of the Parties to the CMS (CMS COP13) was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The conference is being held in India for the first time.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/how-india-proposals-at-un-event-can-help-elephants-migratory-birds-6280493/>

**Q.78) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Thai Mangur' Fish**

1. It was banned by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in 2000.
2. It is a cannibal species that impacts the indigenous biodiversity and in-turn reduces the food base for water birds.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.78) Solution (c)**

Thai Magur fish was banned by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in 2000. The presence of Thai Magur in any water body destroys its ecological balance. Thai Magur is a cannibal species that impacts the indigenous biodiversity and in-turn reduces the food base for water birds. The Indian Magur does not engage in cannibalism like the Thai Magur. Thai Magur are fed rotten meat with spinach which pollutes the water bodies. Thai Magur carries diseases like Argulosis, commonly known as fish lice. Thai Magur is also believed to be carcinogenic.

Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/maha-govt-to-destroy-breeding-centres-of-thai-mangur-fish-120022100005\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/maha-govt-to-destroy-breeding-centres-of-thai-mangur-fish-120022100005_1.html)

**Q.79) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Formation and Promotion of Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)'**

1. It will be implemented by Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).
2. FPOs will be promoted under "One District One Product" cluster to promote specialization and better processing, marketing, branding & export by FPOs.

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 Only

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

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

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for 10,000 FPOs to be formed in five years period from 2019-20 to 2023-24 to ensure economies of scale for farmers. Support to each FPO be continued for 5 years from its year of inception.

Benefits - Small and marginal farmers do not have economic strength to apply production technology, services and marketing including value addition. Through formation of FPOs, farmers will have better collective strength for better access to quality input, technology, credit and better marketing access through economies of scale for better realization of income.

A new Central Sector Scheme titled "Formation and Promotion of Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)" to form and promote 10,000 new FPOs with a total budgetary provision of Rs. 4496.00 crore for five years (2019-20 to 2023-24) with a further committed liability of Rs. 2369.00 crore for period from 2024-25 to 2027-28 towards handholding of each FPO for five years from its aggregation and formation.

Initially there will be three implementing Agencies to form and promote FPOs, namely Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (SFAC), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). States may also, if so desire, nominate their Implementing Agency in consultation with DAC&FW.

DAC&FW will allocate Cluster/States to Implementing Agencies which in turn will form the Cluster Based Business Organization in the States.

FPOs will be formed and promoted through Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) engaged at the State/Cluster level by implementing agencies. The CBBOs will have five categories of specialists from the domain of Crop husbandry, Agri marketing / Value addition and processing, Social mobilisation, Law & Accounts and IT/MIS. These CBBOs will be platform for an end to end knowledge for all issues in FPO promotion.

There will be a National Project Management Agency (NPMA) at SFAC for providing overall project guidance, data compilation and maintenance through integrated portal and Information management and monitoring.

Initially the minimum number of members in FPO will be 300 in plain area and 100 in North East & hilly areas. However, DAC&FW may revise the minimum number of membership based on experience/need with approval of Union Agriculture Minister.

Priority will be given for formation of FPOs in aspirational districts in the country with at least one FPO in each block of aspirational districts.

FPOs will be promoted under "One District One Product" cluster to promote specialization and better processing, marketing, branding & export by FPOs.

There will be a provision of Equity Grant for strengthening equity base of FPOs.

There will be a Credit Guarantee Fund of up to Rs. 1,000.00 crore in NABARD with equal contribution by DAC&FW and NABARD and Credit Guarantee Fund of Rs.500.00 crore in NCDC with equal contribution by DAC&FW and NCDC for providing suitable credit guarantee cover to accelerate flow of institutional credit to FPOs by minimizing the risk of financial institutions for granting loan to FPOs.

States/UTs will be allowed to avail loan at prescribed concessional rate of interest under Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund (AMIF) approved for set up in NABARD for developing agriculture marketing and allied infrastructure in GrAMs, by making marketing & allied infrastructure including Common Facilitation Centre / Custom Hiring Centre for FPOs as eligible category for providing assistance to States / UTs.

Adequate training and handholding will be provided to FPOs. CBBOs will provide initial training. Professional training of CEO / Board of Directors / Accountant of FPOs will be provided in organizational training, resource planning, Accounting / management, marketing, processing etc in reputed National / Regional training Institutes.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1603629>

**Q.80) 'Worldwide Educating for the Future Index (WEFFI)' is published by**

- a) The Economist Intelligence Unit
- b) UNICEF
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) None of the above

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

India jumped five ranks in the Worldwide Educating for the Future Index (WEFFI) 2019, as per a report published by The Economist Intelligence Unit.

The index ranks countries based on their abilities to equip students with skill-based education. The report analyses education system from the perspective of skill-based education "in areas such as critical thinking, problem-solving, leadership, collaboration, creativity and entrepreneurship, as well as digital and technical skills."

India ranked 35th on the overall index in 2019 with a total score of 53, based on three categories – policy environment, teaching environment and overall socio-economic environment. The country ranked 40th with an overall score of 41.2 across categories in 2018.

Among the world's largest economies, the US, UK, France and Russia all fell back in the index, while China, India and Indonesia took steps forward.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/education/india-jumps-5-ranks-to-35th-in-worldwide-education-for-the-future-index-2019/article30851541.ece#>

**Q.81) The 'Varman Dynasty' was spread over the present day**

- a) Assam
- b) Odisha
- c) Jammu and Kashmir
- d) Karnataka

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

The Varman dynasty (350-650) was the first historical dynasty of the Kamarupa kingdom. It was established by Pushyavarman, a contemporary of Samudragupta. The earlier Varmans were subordinates of the Gupta Empire, but as the power of the Guptas waned, Mahendrarvarman (470-494) performed two horse sacrifices and status of Kamarupa as Independent state remained unimpaired.

The 7th and 8th century extent of Kamarupa kingdom, located on the eastern region of the Indian subcontinent, what is today modern-day Assam, Bengal and Bhutan. Kamarupa at its height covered the entire Brahmaputra Valley, North Bengal, Bhutan and northern part of Bangladesh, and at times portions of West Bengal and Bihar.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/the-viharas-minaret/article30880903.ece>

**Q.82) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

1. Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve – Maharashtra
2. Kabini Wildlife Sanctuary – Karnataka
3. Pench National Park - Uttar Pradesh

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1 and 2

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

**Q.82) Solution (a)**

Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve – Maharashtra

Kabini Wildlife Sanctuary – Karnataka

Pench National Park – Madhya Pradesh

**Q.83) 'Northern river terrapin' is found in**

- 1. India
- 2. Bangladesh
- 3. Sri Lanka

Select the correct code:

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

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

The northern river terrapin (*Batagur baska*) is a species of riverine turtle native to Southeast Asia. It is classified Critically Endangered by the IUCN and considered extinct in much of its former range.

The species is currently found in Bangladesh (in the Sundarbans), Cambodia, India (parts- West Bengal & Odisha), Indonesia and Malaysia. It is regionally extinct in Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/monsoon-in-sunderbans-likely-to-get-longer-warn-climate-experts/article30890907.ece>

**Q.84) The 'Financial Secrecy Index (FSI)' is brought out by**

- a) Tax Justice Network

- b) Transparency International
- c) Oxfam International
- d) World Economic Forum

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

The Financial Secrecy Index (FSI) is a qualitative scoring of financial secrecy indicators, weighted by the economic flows of each country. It is brought out by the Tax Justice Network.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/making-the-super-rich-pay-their-fair-share/article30897602.ece>

**Q.85) 'Tharu Community' was in news recently. They primarily live in which of the following areas?**

- a) Western Ghats
- b) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- c) Lakshadweep Islands
- d) Indian Terai

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

**Tharu Community**

- The Tharu people are an ethnic group indigenous to the southern foothills of the Himalayas; most of the Tharu people live in the Nepal Terai.
- The word 'thāru' is thought to be derived from sthavir meaning follower of Theravada Buddhism.
- Some Tharu groups also live in the Indian Terai, foremost in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- The Tharus are recognized as an official nationality by the Government of Nepal. The Government of India recognizes the Tharu people as a scheduled tribe.

**Q.86) 'Rangarajan Committee' is associated with**

- a) Poverty
- b) Primary Education
- c) Primary Health Care

- d) Sustainable Farming

**Q.86) Solution (a)**

Six official committees have so far estimated the number of people living in poverty in India — the working group of 1962; V N Dandekar and N Rath in 1971; Y K Alagh in 1979; D T Lakdawala in 1993; Suresh Tendulkar in 2009; and C Rangarajan in 2014. The government did not take a call on the report of the Rangarajan Committee; therefore, poverty is measured using the Tendulkar poverty line. As per this, 21.9% of people in India live below the poverty line.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/president-donald-trump-on-poverty-in-india-india-visit-narendra-modi-6286716/>

**Q.87) 'World Air Quality Report' is released by**

- a) Greenpeace
- b) UNEP
- c) WHO
- d) WEF

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

India accounts for two-thirds of the world's most polluted cities — 21 of the most polluted 30 cities; 14 of the highest 20; and 6 of the highest 10 — in the 2019 World Air Quality Report released by the pollution tracker IQAir and Greenpeace.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/two-thirds-of-most-polluted-cities-are-in-india-global-report-6286708/>

**Q.88) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Blue Dot network'**

1. It is jointly launched by India and the US.
2. It primarily deals with infrastructure development.

**Select the correct statements**

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



**Q.88) Solution (b)**

Led by the US's International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the Blue Dot network was jointly launched by the US, Japan (Japanese Bank for International Cooperation) and Australia (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) in November 2019 on the sidelines of the 35th ASEAN Summit in Thailand.

It is meant to be a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to bring governments, the private sector and civil society together to promote "high quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development".

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-is-the-blue-dot-network-on-the-table-during-trump-visit-to-india-6286524/>

**Q.89) 'Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary' is located in**

- a) Odisha
- b) West Bengal
- c) Assam
- d) Karnataka

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

Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary is a marine wildlife sanctuary located in Odisha. It is the world's largest nesting beach for Olive Ridley Turtles. It extends from Dhamra River mouth in the north to Brahmani river mouth in the south. It is very famous for its nesting beach for olive ridley sea turtles. It is the one of world's most important nesting beach for turtles.

**Source:** <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/wildlife-biodiversity/dolphin-population-in-odisha-s-gahirmatha-halves-annual-census-69441>

**Q.90) 'B K Sharma Committee' is associated with**

- a) Assam Accord
- b) National Population Register
- c) Foreign Direct Investment
- d) Genetically Modified Crops

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

Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/panel-submits-report-on-clause-6-of-assam-agreement-to-sonowal-120022500631\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/panel-submits-report-on-clause-6-of-assam-agreement-to-sonowal-120022500631_1.html)

**Q.91) Consider the following statements with respect to 'InSight Mission'**

1. It is the first mission dedicated to looking deep beneath the Martian surface.
2. The InSight mission is part of NASA's Discovery Program.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.91) Solution (c)**

InSight is the first mission dedicated to looking deep beneath the Martian surface. Among its science tools are a seismometer for detecting quakes, sensors for gauging wind and air pressure, a magnetometer, and a heat flow probe designed to take the planet's temperature.

The InSight mission is part of NASA's Discovery Program. It is being supported by a number of European partners, which include France's Centre National d'Études Spatiales (CNES), the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and the United Kingdom Space Agency (UKSA).

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/what-insight-has-told-us-about-mars-so-far-6288659/>

**Q.92) 'Elysium Planitia' is associated with which of the following planets?**

- a) Mars
- b) Jupiter
- c) Venus
- d) Neptune

**Q.92) Solution (a)**

Elysium Planitia, located in the Elysium and Aeolis quadrangles, is a broad plain that straddles the equator of Mars.

**Q.93) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)'.**

1. It is a non-statutory body.
2. District Collectors have the power to investigate complaints of violations of consumer rights, unfair trade practices, and false or misleading advertisements.

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

The authority is being constituted under Section 10(1) of The Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The Act replaced The Consumer Protection Act, 1986, and seeks to widen its scope in addressing consumer concerns. The new Act recognises offences such as providing false information regarding the quality or quantity of a good or service, and misleading advertisements. It also specifies action to be taken if goods and services are found "dangerous, hazardous or unsafe".

The CCPA, introduced in the new Act, aims to protect the rights of the consumer by cracking down on unfair trade practices, and false and misleading advertisements that are detrimental to the interests of the public and consumers.

The CCPA will have the powers to inquire or investigate into matters relating to violations of consumer rights or unfair trade practices suo motu, or on a complaint received, or on a direction from the central government.

The CCPA will have an Investigation Wing that will be headed by a Director General. District Collectors too, will have the power to investigate complaints of violations of consumer rights, unfair trade practices, and false or misleading advertisements.

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/ram-vilas-paswan-food-and-public-distribution-central-consumer-protection-act-6288654/>

**Q.94) Consider the following statements with respect to 'MH-60 Romeo helicopters'**

1. It is one of the most advanced naval helicopters manufactured by Mikoyan.
2. India will purchase it directly from the Russian government under a Foreign Military Sales (FMS) agreement.

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

The MH-60 Romeo Seahawk, made by defence giant Lockheed Martin, is one of the most advanced naval helicopters in the world, used by the US Navy among others. It will be purchased directly from the US government under a Foreign Military Sales (FMS) agreement with the US Department of Defence (DoD).

It is the most capable and mature Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Anti-Surface Warfare (ASuW) multi-mission helicopter available in the world today, the makers say.

The MH-60 is designed to hunt down submarines and will add to the strategic depth and combat capability of the Indian Navy. It is capable of launching Hellfire missiles from the right and left extended pylons.

It also has an advanced system for passive detection, location, and identification of emitters. It can not only track and hunt ships, but is also used by the US Navy as an anti-submarine weapon.

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-are-the-mh-60r-naval-choppers-and-ah-64e-apaches-that-india-has-bought-6288005/>

**Q.95) 'Exercise Indradhanush' is bilateral air force exercise between India and**

- a) Russia
- b) France
- c) Japan
- d) United Kingdom

**Q.95) Solution (d)**

Exercise Indradhanush is a joint air force exercise conducted by the Royal Air Force and the Indian Air Force. The exercise is tasked to enhance mutual operational understanding between the two air forces via close interaction.

**Q.96) '2020 CD3' was in news recently. What is it?**

- a) It is an asteroid orbiting around the Sun.
- b) It is an asteroid orbiting around the Earth.
- c) It is a new type of coronavirus, discovered in China
- d) None of the above

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

2020 CD3, also known by its internal designation C26FED2, is a tiny near-Earth asteroid and temporary satellite of Earth.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/express-explained-what-is-mini-moon-6290115/>

**Q.97) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)'**

- 1. It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- 2. It provides information about algal blooms and swell waves.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.97) Solution (c)**

Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) is an autonomous organization of the Government of India, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, located in Pragathi Nagar, Hyderabad. ESSO-INCOIS was established as an autonomous body in 1999 under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and is a unit of the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO). ESSO-INCOIS is mandated to provide the best possible ocean information and advisory services to

society, industry, government agencies and the scientific community through sustained ocean observations and constant improvements through systematic and focussed research.

It has launched three ocean-based specialised products/services — the Small Vessel Advisory and Forecast Services System (SVAS), the Swell Surge Forecast System (SSFS) and the Algal Bloom Information Service (ABIS).

While SVAS is aimed at improving the operations of numerous small marine vessels, particularly fishing vessels, the SSFS forewarns the coastal population about swell waves. The coastal region experiences frequent damages caused by swell waves that originate from the distant Southern Indian Ocean.

The ABIS provides information on harmful algal blooms that are detrimental to coastal fisheries and also tend to cause respiratory problems in the coastal population.

The SVAS is an innovative impact-based advisory and forecast service system for small vessels operating in Indian coastal waters, said an Incois release. It warns users about potential zones where vessel overturning can take place, 10 days in advance. The advisories are valid for small vessels of beam width up to 7 m. This limit covers the fishing vessels used in all the nine coastal States and Union Territories.

The warning system is based on the Boat Safety Index (BSI) derived from wave model forecast outputs such as significant wave height, wave steepness, directional spread and the rapid development of wind at sea, which is boat-specific.

The SSFS is designed to predict the kallakkadal, or swell surge, that occurs along the Indian coast, particularly the West. These are flashflood events that take place without any noticeable advance change in local winds or any other apparent signature in the coastal environment. Kallakkadal is a colloquial term used by Kerala fishermen to refer to the 'freaky' flooding episodes.

The ABIS tracks the increasing frequency of algal blooms, a major concern due to its ill-effects on fishery, marine life and water quality. This service helps fishermen, marine fishery resource managers, researchers, ecologists and environmentalists.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/incois-launches-three-ocean-based-services/article30913932.ece>

**Q.98) 'Badagu thittu' is associated with**

- a) Yakshagana
- b) Kuchipudi
- c) Kathak
- d) Odissi

**Q.98) Solution (a)**

Towards the south from Udupi to Kasaragod of Tulu Nadu region, the form of Yakshagana called as 'Badagu thittu' and towards north upto Uttara Canara it's called 'Thenku Thittu'. Both of these forms equally played all over the region.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/breaking-barriers-with-yakshagana/article30891127.ece>

**Q.99) 'Market Intelligence and Early Warning System (MIEWS) Web Portal' is associated with**

- a) National Stock Exchange
- b) Multi Commodity Exchange
- c) Operation Greens
- d) None of the above

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

MIEWS Dashboard and Portal is a 'first-of-its-kind' platform for 'real time monitoring' of prices of tomato, onion and potato (TOP) and for simultaneously generating alerts for intervention under the terms of the Operation Greens (OG) scheme. The portal would disseminate all relevant information related to TOP crops such as Prices and Arrivals, Area, Yield and Production, Imports and Exports, Crop Calendars, Crop Agronomy, etc in an easy to use visual format.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1604442>

**Q.100) 'Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary' is located in**

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Nagaland
- c) Odisha
- d) Uttarakhand

**Q.100) Solution (a)**

It is located in the East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.

