

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

1. It is a joint mission by ISRO and JAXA.
2. It is aimed at clearing space debris around Indian and Japanese Satellites and make way for Indian workable space station.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.1) Solution (d)

It is NASA's landmark mission that will image regions beyond the Sun's outer corona.

Read More - <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/indian-scientist-to-be-co-i-for-nasas-punch-mission/article28228527.ece>

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to 'United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)'

1. It is legally binding in nature
2. UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) serves as Secretariat for the UNCAC.
3. It does not address the cross-border nature of corruption

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (a)

The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is the only legally binding international anti-corruption multilateral treaty.

Negotiated by member states of the United Nations (UN) it has been adopted by the UN General Assembly in October 2003 and entered into force in December 2005.

The UNCAC recognise the importance of both preventive and punitive measures, addresses the cross-border nature of corruption with provisions on international cooperation and on the return of the proceeds of corruption.

States Parties - countries that have ratified the Convention - are expected to cooperate in criminal matters and consider assisting each other in investigations of and proceedings in civil and administrative matters relating to corruption. The Convention further calls for the participation of civil society and non-governmental organisations in accountability processes and underlines the importance of citizens' access to information.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna serves as Secretariat for the UNCAC.

UNCAC's goal is to reduce various types of corruption that can occur across country borders, such as trading in influence and abuse of power, as well as corruption in the private sector, such as embezzlement and money laundering. Another goal of the UNCAC is to strengthen international law enforcement and judicial cooperation between countries by providing effective legal mechanisms for international asset recovery.

Q.3) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. In India capital punishment is a statutory provision.
2. The 20th Law Commission in 2015 recommended the abolition of death penalty in a swift manner except in terror related cases.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.3) Solution (c)

In India capital punishment is a statutory provision, even though it is used in the rarest of rare cases.

The constitutional validity of the death penalty has been challenged many times. It was first challenged in *Jagmohan v. State of Uttar Pradesh* in which the Hon'ble Supreme Court upheld its validity stating that the capital punishment itself was not unreasonable per se and neither was its abolition in the public interest and hence not violative of the Art. 19 of the Constitution. It has been challenged many times since but the decision has remained same.

One of the most interesting developments that occurred with regard to the future of the death penalty in India was a report of the 20th Law Commission in 2015. The law commission under the chairmanship of Justice A. P. Shah recommended the abolition of death penalty in a swift manner except in terror related cases.

Q.4) NASA's Dragonfly mission is associated with

- a) Mars
- b) Saturn
- c) Jupiter
- d) Bennu Asteroid

Q.4) Solution (b)

Dragonfly mission will fly multiple sorties to sample and examine sites around Saturn's icy moon.

Dragonfly will launch in 2026 and arrive in 2034. The rotorcraft will fly to dozens of promising locations on Titan looking for prebiotic chemical processes common on both Titan and Earth. Dragonfly marks the first time NASA will fly a multi-rotor vehicle for science on another planet; it has eight rotors and flies like a large drone. It will take advantage of Titan's dense atmosphere – four times denser than Earth's – to become the first vehicle ever to fly its entire science payload to new places for repeatable and targeted access to surface materials.

Read More - <https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasas-dragonfly-will-fly-around-titan-looking-for-origins-signs-of-life>

Q.5) 'Aruna Sundararajan Committee' is associated with

- a) Groundwater Recharge
- b) Telecom Sector

- c) Interchange Fee
- d) Disaster Management Policy

Q.5) Solution (b)

Read More - <https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/telecom-reforms-ravi-shankar-prasad-sets-up-panel-to-lower-licence-fee-spectrum-charges/1622779/>

Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to 'International Whaling Commission (IWC)'

1. It allows non-zero whaling quotas for aboriginal subsistence
2. Japan is the only country who opposes a moratorium on commercial whaling adopted by IWC

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 International Whaling Commission (IWC) is an international body set up by the terms of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), which was signed in Washington, D.C. in, 1946 to "provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry".

In 1982 the IWC adopted a moratorium on commercial whaling. Currently, Japan, Canada, and a number of other nations oppose this moratorium. The IWC allows non-zero whaling quotas for aboriginal subsistence and also member nations may issue 'Scientific Permits' to their citizens. Japan has issued such permits since 1986, Norway and Iceland whale under objection to the moratorium and issue their own quotas. In 1994, the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary was created by the IWC.

Q.7) 'Cirrochroa thais' was in news recently. It is a State Butterfly of

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Sikkim
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

Q.7) Solution (b)

Butterfly species Tamil yeoman (*Cirrochroa thais*) has been officially declared as state butterfly of Tamil Nadu.

Q.8) Which of the following countries are members of 'International Security Alliance'?

1. United Arab Emirates
2. France
3. India
4. Singapore

Select the correct code:

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

Q.8) Solution (d)

The International Security Alliance represents an international collaboration of Ministries of Interior and includes working groups working together to combat organized and transnational crime.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the French Republic have resolved to join forces in order to mitigate the risk of this challenge. This was done through the creation of an Alliance of Ministries of Interior from 8 countries:

- United Arab Emirates
- French Republic

- Kingdom of Bahrain
- Kingdom of Morocco
- Italian Republic
- Republic of Senegal
- Republic of Singapore
- Kingdom of Spain

Q.9) 'ISALEX' is joint security exercise of

- a) Shanghai Cooperation organisation
- b) International Security Alliance
- c) European Union
- d) Gulf Cooperation Council

Q.9) Solution (b)

UAE to host International Security Alliance (ISAs) first joint security exercise named ISALEX19.

Q.10) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Strum Ataka'

1. It is an anti-tank missile
2. It is being developed jointly by India and Israel

Select the correct statements

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

Q.10) Solution (a)

Seeking to keep itself battle-ready in situations like the one post-Balakot aerial strikes, India has signed a deal to acquire 'Strum Ataka' anti-tank missile from Russia for its fleet of Mi-35 attack choppers.

Q.11) The terms SWEEKAR and SWAGAT is associated with

- a) Skill Development for engineering graduates
- b) National Common Mobility Card
- c) Rainwater harvesting
- d) Electric & Hybrid Vehicles

Q.11) Solution (b)

The Indigenous Automatic Fare Collection System based on One Nation One Card Model i.e. National Common Mobility Card (NCCM) is the first of its kind in India. India's First Indigenously Developed Payment system for transport consisting of NCCM Card, SWEEKAR (SwachalitKiraya: Automatic Fare Collection System) and SWAGAT (Swachalit Gate) is based on NCCM Standards.

Q.12) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Côte d'Ivoire'

- 1. It is a landlocked country in Central Africa
- 2. It was never colonized by any European country

Select the correct statements

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

Q.12) Solution (d)

Ivory Coast or Côte d'Ivoire, officially the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, is a country located on the south coast of West Africa. Ivory Coast's political capital is Yamoussoukro in the centre of the country, while its economic capital and largest city is the port city of Abidjan. It borders Guinea and Liberia to the west, Burkina Faso and Mali to the north, Ghana to the east, and the Gulf of Guinea (Atlantic Ocean) to the south.

It was colonized by France.

Q.13) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan'

1. It aims at fostering creativity and enquiry within the areas of sciences, mathematics and technology.
2. Under Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan, government schools are mentored by Institutes like IITs/ IIMs/ IISERs and other Central Universities and reputed organisations through innovative programmes, student exchanges, demonstrations, student visits, etc.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.13) Solution (c)

Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan is a unique concept developed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development that aims to inculcate a spirit of inquiry, creativity and love for Science and Mathematics in school children.

Under Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan, government schools will be mentored by Institutes like IITs/ IIMs/ IISERs and other Central Universities and reputed organisations through innovative programmes, student exchanges, demonstrations, student visits, etc to develop a natural sense of passion towards learning of Science and Maths.

Q.14) Consider the following statements with respect to 'fortification of foods'

1. It does not require any changes in eating patterns or food habits of people.
2. It does not alter the characteristics of the food like the taste, aroma or the texture of the food.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.14) Solution (c)

Fortification is the addition of key vitamins and minerals such as Iron, Iodine, Zinc, Vitamins A & D to staple foods such as rice, wheat, oil, milk and salt to improve their nutritional content. These nutrients may or may not have been originally present in the food before processing or may have been lost during processing.

Following are the various benefits of fortification of foods:

- Nutrients are added to staple foods since they are widely consumed. Thus, this is an excellent method to improve the health of a large section of the population, all at once.
- It is a safe method of improving nutrition among people. The addition of micronutrients to food does not pose a health risk to people. The quantity added is small and well under the Recommended Daily Allowances (RDA) and are well regulated as per prescribed standards for safe consumption.
- It is a cost-effective intervention and does not require any changes in eating patterns or food habits of people. It is a socio-culturally acceptable way to deliver nutrients to people.
- It does not alter the characteristics of the food like the taste, aroma or the texture of the food.

Q.15) The Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve extends across the states of

1. Odisha
2. Madhya Pradesh
3. Chhattisgarh

Select the correct code:

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

Q.15) Solution (b)

The Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve is a biosphere reserve in India that extends across the states of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

The reserve is located in the northern part of Bio-Geographic zone 6 and Bio-Geographic province 6 A (Deccan peninsula and Central highlands). About 68.1% of this reserve lies in the Bilaspur district in Chhattisgarh. The other major portions of the reserve are in the Anuppur (16.20%) and Dindori (15.70%) districts of Madhya Pradesh. The protected area of the Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Bilaspur district within the Biosphere Reserve.

Q.16) The term 'INSTEX' was in news recently. It is associated with

- a) Paris Agreement
- b) Kigali Amendment
- c) Iran and Trade
- d) International Solar Alliance

Q.16) Solution (c)

The Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) is a special-purpose vehicle (SPV) established in January 2019 by France, Germany and the United Kingdom to facilitate non-dollar trade with Iran.

Q.17) '38th parallel north' passes through

- 1. Mediterranean Sea
- 2. Aegean Sea
- 3. Yellow Sea

Select the correct code:

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

Q.17) Solution (d)

It passes through all of the above.

Read More - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/38th_parallel_north

Q.18) The 'June War' is associated with

- a) North Korea & South Korea
- b) Russia and Ukraine
- c) North Sudan and South Sudan
- d) Arab Countries & Israel

Q.18) Solution (d)

Six-Day War, also known as the June War, 1967 Arab–Israeli War, or Third Arab–Israeli War, was fought between 5 and 10 June 1967 by Israel and the neighboring states of Egypt (known at the time as the United Arab Republic), Jordan, and Syria.

Q.19) The policy of "one country, two systems", is associated with

- a) China
- b) Spain
- c) Cuba
- d) South Africa

Q.19) Solution (a)

"One country, two systems" is a constitutional principle formulated by Deng Xiaoping, the Paramount Leader of the People's Republic of China (PRC), for the reunification of China during the early 1980s. He suggested that there would be only one China, but distinct Chinese regions such as Hong Kong and Macau could retain their own economic and administrative systems, while the rest of the PRC (or simply "China") uses the socialism with Chinese characteristics system. Under the principle, each of the two regions could continue to have its own governmental system, legal, economic and financial affairs, including trade relations with foreign countries.

Q.20) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

1. Tadoba Tiger Reserve – Maharashtra
2. Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary – Rajasthan
3. Satkosia Tiger Reserve – Jharkhand

Select the correct code:

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

Q.20) Solution (c)

Tadoba Tiger Reserve – Maharashtra

Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary – Rajasthan

Satkosia Tiger Reserve – Odisha

Q.21) 'Katakey Committee' is associated with

- a) Unregulated coal mining in Meghalaya
- b) Fluoride Contamination of water
- c) Uranium Contamination of groundwater in Rajasthan
- d) Protection of Western Ghats

Q.21) Solution (a)

Read more - <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/illegal-unregulated-coal-mining-in-meghalaya-caused-environmental-degradation-says-sc-4166971.html>

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

1. It is the largest south bank tributary of the Brahmaputra
2. It is an interstate river in Northeast India that flows through the states of Meghalaya and Assam

Select the correct statements

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

Q.22) Solution (d)

It is a river in the East Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya.

Q.23) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park'

1. It lies 1 to 10 km away from the west coast of Kerala
2. It includes marine components such as coral reefs, sea grasses, salt marshes and mangroves.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.23) Solution (b)

The Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park is a protected area of India consisting of 21 small islands (islets) and adjacent coral reefs in the Gulf of Mannar in the Indian Ocean. It lies 1 to 10 km away from the east coast of Tamil Nadu.

The park includes estuaries, mudflats, beaches and forests of the near shore environment. It also includes marine components such as coral reefs, seaweed communities, sea grasses, salt marshes and mangroves.

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

1. It is a national-level apex organization functioning under the administrative control of Ministry of Tribal Affairs
2. It was established with core objective of institutionalizing the trade of Minor Forest Produce (MFP)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.24) Solution (c)

It is a national-level apex organization functioning under the administrative control of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India.

It was established with core objective of institutionalizing the trade of Minor Forest Produce(MFP) and Surplus Agriculture Produce (SAP) collected/cultivated by tribals.

Q.25) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Invest India'

1. It was formed in 2009 under the Companies Act 1956 for promotion of foreign investment
2. It is completely owned by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.25) Solution (a)

Invest India was formed in 2009 under Section 25 of the Companies Act 1956 for promotion of foreign investment with 49% equity of the then Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion,

Ministry of Commerce and Industry and 51% shareholding by FICCI. The current shareholding pattern of Invest India is 51 % of Industry Associations (i.e. 17% each of FICCI, CII & NASSCOM) and the remaining 49% of Central and 19 State Governments.

Q.26) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN) objective is to prevent people from acquiring fake indigenous inhabitants' certificates.
2. Inner Line Permit (ILP) is a temporary travel document an Indian citizen has to possess to enter 'protected' areas of the Northeast

Select the correct statements

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

Q.26) Solution (c)

Both the statements are correct.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/nagaland-census-nagaland-want-to-draw-up-a-list-of-all-indigenous-inhabitants-how-will-the-process-evolve/article28306085.ece>

Q.27) Which of the following is/are problems associated with 'RO Desalination'?

1. Deposition of highly concentrated salt water along the shores
2. Reduced availability of fishes along the coast

Select the correct code:

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

Q.27) Solution (c)

Because RO plants convert seawater to fresh water, the major environmental challenge they pose is the deposition of brine (highly concentrated salt water) along the shores. Ever since the Chennai plants have started to function, fishermen have complained that the brine being deposited along the seashore is triggering changes along the coastline and reducing the availability of prawn, sardine and mackerel. Environmentalists second this saying that hyper salinity along the shore affects plankton, which is the main food for several of these fish species. Moreover, the high pressure motors needed to draw in the seawater end up sucking in small fish and life forms, thereby crushing and killing them — again a loss of marine resource. Another unexpected problem, an environmentalist group has alleged, was that the construction of the RO plants required troves of groundwater. This was freshwater that was sucked out and has since been replaced by salt water, rendering it unfit for the residents around the desalination plants.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/is-desalination-realistically-a-help-in-harnessing-potable-water-from-the-sea/article28306470.ece>

Q.28) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

1. Arak - Iran
2. Baku - Azerbaijan
3. Bagan - Laos

Select the correct code:

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

Q.28) Solution (a)

Arak - Iran

Baku - Azerbaijan

Bagan – Myanmar

Q.29) 'Kharnaks' are an ageing tribe from

- a) Jammu & Kashmir
- b) Lakshadweep
- c) Nicobar Islands
- d) Goa

Q.29) Solution (a)

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/meet-the-kharnak-nomads-who-brave-the-harshest-terrains-to-produce-pashmina-wool/article28293649.ece>

Q.30) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Koovagam festival'

1. It is an occasion for the collective expression of transgender identity.
2. It is held to commemorate a story from the Mahabharata, where Aravan, one of the sons of Arjuna, offers himself as sacrifice to ensure victory for the Pandava army in the battle of Kurukshetra

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 festival has gained much popularity, and is nowadays attended by transgender people as well as the larger LGBTQI community from across India, and even Sri Lanka and Southeast Asian countries.

The festival is held to commemorate a story from the Mahabharata, where Aravan, one of the sons of Arjuna, offers himself as sacrifice to ensure victory for the Pandava army in the battle of

Kurukshetra. Aravan is the chief deity of the Kuttantavar cult and a divinity of the Draupadi cult in rural Tamil Nadu. He is also worshipped by the transgender people of the region, where they are known as aravanis or, more specifically, as thirunangai (for transgender women) and thirunambi (transgender men).

Read More - <https://www.sahapedia.org/thousand-weddings-and-funeral-koovagam-festival-and-cult-aravan>

Q.31) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

1. Prosecco Hills – Italy
2. Budj Bim – Papua New Guinea
3. Lyon – France

Select the correct code:

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

Q.31) Solution (c)

Prosecco Hills – Italy

Budj Bim – Australia

Lyon – France

Q.32) 'Prasnottara Ratna Malika' is written by

- a) Adi Shankaracharya
- b) Ramanujacharya
- c) Vallabhacharya
- d) None of the above

Q.32) Solution (a)

Source: <http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=368127>

Q.33) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Operation Sudarshan'

1. It is a joint exercise by the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard
2. It is aimed at protecting the maritime boundary of India and Indian ships from Pirates

Select the correct statements

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

Q.33) Solution (d)

Border Security Force (BSF) has launched a massive exercise, code named as Sudarshan, to fortify Anti-Infiltration Grid along Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu.

Q.34) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Jal Jeevan Mission'

1. It is aimed at piped water supply to all rural households by 2024.
2. It will focus on the creation of local infrastructure for water sustainability.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.34) Solution (c)

Jal Jeevan Mission to ensure HarGharJal (piped water supply) to all rural households by 2024 New Ministry-“Jal Shakti Mantralaya” to manage water resources and water supply in an integrated and holistic manner with the State Governments.

This Mission, under the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, will focus on integrated demand and supply side management of water at the local level, including creation of local infrastructure for source sustainability like rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household wastewater for reuse in agriculture. The Jal Jeevan Mission will converge with other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply management across the country.

Q.35) 'Working on a Warmer Planet – The Impact of Heat Stress on Labour Productivity and Decent Work' is released by

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) International Labour Organization
- c) United Nations Environment Programme
- d) World Bank

Q.35) Solution (b)

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/india-could-lose-the-equivalent-of-34-million-jobs-in-2030-due-to-global-warming-says-ilo/article28259436.ece>

Q.36) Recently, scientists from Mumbai-based Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) developed a new material known as 'Black Gold'. Consider the following statements

1. It can potentially be used for solar energy harvesting and desalinating seawater
2. It was developed using gold nanoparticles and by rearranging size and gaps between them

Select the correct statements

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

Q.36) Solution (c)

Scientists at the Mumbai-based Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) used gold nanoparticles and by rearranging size and gaps between them developed a new material, which has unique properties such as capacity to absorb light and carbon dioxide. Gold does not have these properties, therefore 'black gold' is being called a new material. In appearance it is black, hence the name 'black gold.'

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/indian-scientists-develop-wonder-material-black-gold/article28320764.ece>

Q.37) Consider the following statements with respect to 'World Food Programme'

1. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security.
2. The WFP operations are funded by voluntary donations from governments of the world, corporations and private donors

Select the correct statements

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

Q.37) Solution (c)

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations and the world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security.

It is a member of the United Nations Development Group and part of its executive committee.

The WFP operations are funded by voluntary donations from governments of the world, corporations and private donors.

Q.38) Which of the following is India's first UNESCO heritage city?

- a) Jaipur
- b) Ahmedabad
- c) Varanasi

d) New Delhi

Q.38) Solution (b)

Read More - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/ahmedabad-declared-indias-first-heritage-city-by-unesco/article19244478.ece>

Q.39) Godavari River drains which of the following states?

1. Maharashtra
2. Telangana
3. Andhra Pradesh
4. Chhattisgarh
5. Odisha

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 3
- b) 1, 2 and 3
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Q.39) Solution (d)

The Godavari is India's second longest river after the Ganga. Its source is in Triambakeshwar, Maharashtra.[3] It flows east for 1,465 kilometres (910 mi), draining the states of Maharashtra (48.6%), Telangana (18.8%), Andhra Pradesh (4.5%), Chhattisgarh (10.9%), Odisha (5.7%), ultimately emptying into the Bay of Bengal through its extensive network of tributaries.

Q.40) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Shahtoosh'

1. Shahtoosh shawls are prepared from the fur in the undercoat of Pashmina goats
2. Selling or owning of shahtoosh was made illegal in all countries that signed the CITES Convention

Select the correct statements

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

Q.40) Solution (b)

Shahtoosh (also written shahtush, a Persian word meaning "king of fine wools") is the name given to a specific kind of shawl, which is woven with the down hair of the Tibetan antelope (chiru), by craftsmen and women of Kashmir. The Shahtoosh shawl is now a banned item with possession and sale being illegal in most countries for the Chiru is an endangered species under CITES. However, the weaving of Shahtoosh shawls continues in secret in Kashmir, India due to high demand by western buyers.

Q.41) Which of the following states is the largest producer of Natural Rubber?

- a) Kerala
- b) Tripura
- c) Assam
- d) Tamil Nadu

Q.41) Solution (a)

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1578142>

Q.42) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows have been consistently increasing in the last 3 years
2. The growth of India's Manufacturing Gross Value Added (GVA) have been consistently increasing in the last 3 years

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only

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

Q.42) Solution (a)

Statement 1 (Correct) - <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1578130>

Statement 2 (Incorrect) - <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1578131>

Q.43) Consider the following statements with respect to 'POCSO Act'

1. It defines a child as any person below sixteen years of age
2. It provides for the establishment of Special Courts for trial of offences, keeping the best interest of the child as of paramount importance at every stage of the judicial process.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.43) Solution (b)

The Act defines a child as any person below eighteen years of age, and regards the best interests and well-being of the child as being of paramount importance at every stage, to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the child.

The Act provides for the establishment of Special Courts for trial of offences under the Act, keeping the best interest of the child as of paramount importance at every stage of the judicial process.

The Act incorporates child friendly procedures for reporting, recording of evidence, investigation and trial of offences.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/govt-approves-changes-in-pocso-act-includes-death-penalty-for-sexual-offences-against-children/article28354431.ece>

Q.44) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Indian Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP)'

1. It aims to provide insurance to cover the liability against accidents as prescribed under Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (CLND) Act, 2010
2. It is launched by the General Insurance Corporation of India

Select the correct statements

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

Q.44) Solution (c)

M/s General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC-Re), along with several other Indian Insurance Companies, have launched the India Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP) with a capacity of Rs.1500 crore on 12th June, 2015, to provide insurance to cover the liability as prescribed under Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (CLND) Act 2010. The INIP will address liability related concerns of suppliers under the CLND Act 2010 and will pave the way for Indian as well as foreign suppliers to participate in the Indian Nuclear Power Projects.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=191503>

Q.45) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)'

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development
2. It is aimed at empowering women in agriculture by making systematic investments to enhance their participation and productivity.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.45) Solution (c)

The primary objective of “Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)” implemented by Ministry of Rural Development is to empower women in agriculture by making systematic investments to enhance their participation and productivity, as also create and sustain agriculture based livelihoods of rural women. Under the Pariyojana, projects are conceived in such a manner that the skill base of the women in agriculture is enhanced to enable them to pursue their livelihoods on a sustainable basis.

Q.46) ‘Amrabad Tiger Reserve’ is located in which of the following states?

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

Q.46) Solution (a)

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/wildlife-biodiversity/amrabad-tiger-reserve-an-eden-under-threat-65524>

Q.47) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Pharmexcil’

1. It is the authorized agency for promotion of pharmaceutical exports from India
2. It was set up under the provisions of Foreign Trade Policy by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Select the correct statements

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

Q.47) Solution (c)

Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) is the authorized agency of the government of India for promotion of pharmaceutical exports from India.

It was set up under the provisions of Foreign Trade Policy by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in May 2004.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=191501>

Q.48) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Locust Warning Organisation (LWO)'

1. LWO is amalgamated with the Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage (PPQS) of the Ministry of Agriculture
2. Locust Control and Research scheme is implemented through the Locust Warning Organisation (LWO)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.48) Solution (c)

India has a Locust Control and Research scheme that is being implemented through the Locust Warning Organisation (LWO), established in 1939 and amalgamated in 1946 with the Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage (PPQS) of the Ministry of Agriculture, according to the PPQS. The LWO's responsibility is monitoring and control of the locust situation in Scheduled Desert Areas mainly in Rajasthan and Gujarat, and partly in Punjab and Haryana.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/how-india-controls-dessert-locusts-rajasthan-and-gujarat-5824435/>

Q.49) 'Basel Accords' is associated with

- a) Data Localisation
- b) Banking
- c) Climate Change
- d) Biodiversity

Q.49) Solution (b)

The Basel Accords are three series of banking regulations (Basel I, II and III) set by the Basel Committee on Bank Supervision (BCBS), which provides recommendations on banking regulations in regards to capital risk, market risk and operational risk.

Q.50) 'Teesta River' flows through which of the following Indian States?

1. West Bengal
2. Sikkim
3. Assam

Select the correct code:

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

Q.50) Solution (a)

Teesta River (or Tista River) is a 315 km long river that rises in the eastern Himalayas, flows through the Indian states of West Bengal and Sikkim through Bangladesh and enters the Bay of Bengal. It forms the border between Sikkim and West Bengal.

Q.51) The term 'HR 1044' was in news recently. It associated with which of the following?

- a) European Union
- b) United States of America
- c) Great Britain
- d) China

Q.51) Solution (b)**Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act (HR 1044)**

- It is aimed at lifting the current seven per cent country-cap on issuing Green Cards, a development which would benefit thousands of highly-skilled Indian IT professionals.

Q.52) Which of the following States is the first to have a State Water Policy to ensure conservation of Water?

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Karnataka
- d) Tamil Nadu

Q.52) Solution (a)

Source: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Meghalaya-becomes-1st-state-to-ensure-water-conservation&id=368459>

Q.53) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Merchant Discount Rate'

1. It is the sum total of all the charges and taxes that a digital payment entails.
2. The cost of MDR is transferred and incurred by the customers

Select the correct statements

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

Q.53) Solution (a)

Merchant Discount Rate is the sum total of all the charges and taxes that a digital payment entails.

It is alternatively referred to as the Transaction Discount Rate or TDR.

Customers and merchants don't have to pay MDR.

RBI and Banks will absorb these costs from the savings that will accrue to them on account of handling less cash as people move to these digital modes of payment.

Source: <https://www.financialexpress.com/budget/budget-2019-bid-to-do-away-with-charge-for-digital-payments-baffles-providers/1633682/>

Q.54) 'Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001' talks about which of the following rights?

1. Breeders' Rights
2. Researchers' Rights
3. Farmers' Rights

Select the correct code:

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

Q.54) Solution (d)

Breeders' Rights - Breeders will have exclusive rights to produce, sell, market, distribute, import or export the protected variety.

Researchers' Rights - Researcher can use any of the registered variety under the Act for conducting experiment or research.

Farmers' Rights - A farmer can save, use, sow, re-sow, exchange, share or sell his farm produce including seed of a variety protected under the PPV&FR Act, 2001 in the same manner as he was entitled before the coming into force of this Act provided farmer shall not be entitled to sell branded seed of a variety protected under the PPV&FR Act, 2001.

Q.55) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Draft Model Tenancy Act (MTA)'

1. It provides for its applicability only in urban areas
2. A landowner cannot cut power and water supply in case of a dispute with the tenant

Select the correct statements

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

Q.55) Solution (b)**Draft Model Tenancy Act (MTA)**

- It is a law to regulate the renting of premises.
- The aim of the Act is to balance the interest and rights of both the owners and tenants and to create an accountable and transparent ecosystem for renting the premises.
- A landowner cannot cut power and water supply in case of a dispute with the tenant.
- The Model Act provides for its applicability for the whole of the State that is urban and rural areas.

Q.56) 'Limbuwan Region' is part of which of the following states?

- a) Sikkim
- b) Jammu & Kashmir
- c) Bihar
- d) Madhya Pradesh

Q.56) Solution (a)

Limbuwan is an area of the Himalayan region of the Indian subcontinent, historically made up of 10 Limbu kingdoms, now part of Nepal, northern Sikkim in India and western Bhutan. Limbuwan means "abode of the Limbus" or "Land of the Limbus".

News: A proposal for reservation of seats for Limboo and Tamang communities in Sikkim Legislative Assembly is under consideration of the Government of India. Article 371F(f) and Article 332 of the Constitution of India govern reservation of seats in the Legislative Assembly

of Sikkim and the issue of seat reservation for Limboo and Tamang communities is being considered under these provisions of Constitution of India.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1578783>

Q.57) Uzbekistan is not bordered by which of the following countries?

- a) Kazakhstan
- b) Russia
- c) Tajikistan
- d) Afghanistan

Q.57) Solution (b)

Uzbekistan is bordered by five landlocked countries: Kazakhstan to the north; Kyrgyzstan to the northeast; Tajikistan to the southeast; Afghanistan to the south; and Turkmenistan to the southwest. Along with Liechtenstein, it is one of the world's only two doubly landlocked countries.



Q.58) Which of the following countries are doubly landlocked?

1. Liechtenstein
2. Lesotho
3. Uzbekistan

Select the correct statements

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

Q.58) Solution (c)

A country is "doubly landlocked" or "double-landlocked" when it is surrounded entirely by one or more landlocked countries (requiring the crossing of at least two national borders to reach a coastline). There are two such countries:

- Liechtenstein in Central Europe, surrounded by Switzerland and Austria.
- Uzbekistan in Central Asia, surrounded by Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan

Q.59) Consider the following statements with respect to 'SARFAESI Act'

1. It allows banks and financial institutions to recover their dues exceeding one lakh rupees by proceeding against secured assets of the borrower/guarantor without the intervention of the court/tribunals
2. It allowed the creation of asset reconstruction companies (ARC) and allowed banks to sell their non-performing assets to ARCs.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.59) Solution (c)

The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 (also known as the SARFAESI Act) is an Indian law. It allows banks and other financial institution to auction residential or commercial properties(of Defaulter) to recover loans. The first asset reconstruction company (ARC) of India, ARCIL, was set up under this act.

The law does not apply to unsecured loans, loans below ₹100,000 or where remaining debt is below 20% of the original principal. This law allowed the creation of asset reconstruction companies (ARC) and allowed banks to sell their non-performing assets to ARCs. Banks are allowed to take possession of the collateral property and sell it without the permission of a court.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1578808>

Q.60) The Service Area Approach was implemented under the purview of

- a) Integrated Rural Programme
- b) Lead Bank Scheme
- c) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
- d) National Skill Development Mission

Q.60) Solution (b)

Service area approach (SAA) is an improved version of area approach of Lead Bank Scheme.

Read More - <https://www.bankingschool.co.in/loans-and-advances/information-on-service-area-approach/>

Q.61) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Markandeshwar temple'

- 1. It belongs to the Svetambara sect of Jainism
- 2. It is situated on the bank of River Wainganga

Select the correct statement

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only

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

Q.61) Solution (b)

Known as the “Khajuraho of Vidarbha”, the temple of Markandadeo is situated on the bank of River Wainganga in district Gadchiroli of Maharashtra. The temples belong to the Nagara group of temples of North India. On stylistic grounds, their date ranges in between 9-12th centuries CE. The temples belong to saiva, vaishnava and sakta faith. Most of the temples have a simple plan, with ardhmandapa, mandapa, antarala and garbhagriha forming the component of the entire set up.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1579025>

Q.62) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Bureau of Indian Standards’

1. It has been established as the National Standards Body of India under the BIS Act, 2016.
2. The standards and certification scheme of BIS supports various public policies in areas of product safety, consumer protection, food safety, environment protection, building and construction, etc.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.62) Solution (c)

BIS has been established as the National Standards Body of India under the BIS Act, 2016. The main objectives of BIS is harmonious development of activities of Standardisation, marking and quality certification of goods. The standards and certification scheme of BIS apart from benefitting the consumers and industry also support various public policies especially in areas of product safety, consumer protection, food safety, environment protection, building and construction, etc. New thrust areas identified in standardization are (i) Alternate fuels, (ii) E-

mobility, (iii) Medical Devices, (iv) Smart Cities, (v) Digital Technologies (e.g. Industry 4.0, Artificial Intelligence, Block Chain etc.) and (vi) New and Renewable energy.

Some of the important initiatives taken for effective implementation of the BIS Act, 2016 are:

- Notification of new BIS (Hallmarking) Regulations, 2018 under the Act. The Central Government has also notified “Gold jewellery and gold artefacts” and “Silver jewellery and silver artefacts” to be marked with Hallmark.
- The BIS (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018 has been notified under the Act. The Regulations provide for multiple types of simplified conformity assessment schemes including Self Declaration Of Conformity (SDOC) against any standard which will give multiple simplified options to manufacturers to adhere to the standards and get certificate of conformity, thus improving the “ease of doing business”.
- Penal provisions for better and effective compliance and to enable compounding of offences for violations have been made stringent under new regulation.
- Guideline for procedure to be followed by the line Ministries for making the use of a mark under licence or certificate of conformity compulsory, and also procedure for approving and authorizing any other agency, for carrying out conformity assessment activities under Section 16(1) of BIS Act 2016.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1578906>

Q.63) ‘Pink Bollworm’ primarily affects which of the following crops?

- a) Maize
- b) Paddy
- c) Wheat
- d) Cotton

Q.63) Solution (d)

The pink bollworm is an insect known for being a pest in cotton farming.

The pink bollworm is native to Asia, but has become an invasive species in most of the world's cotton-growing regions.

In parts of India, the pink bollworm is now resistant to first generation transgenic Bt cotton (Bollgard cotton) that expresses a single Bt gene (Cry1Ac).

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1578972>

Q.64) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Financial Action Task Force (FATF)'

1. It is an inter-governmental body
2. It reviews money laundering and terrorist financing measures taken by countries

Select the correct statements

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

Q.64) Solution (c)

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of international financial systems. FATF reviews money laundering and terrorist financing measures taken by countries.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1578950>

Q.65) Broadband Readiness Index (BRI) for Indian States and UTs will be developed by

1. NITI Aayog
2. Department of Telecom
3. Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)
4. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

Select the correct statements

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

Q.65) Solution (b)

The Department of Telecom and the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) signed a MoU to develop a Broadband Readiness Index (BRI) for Indian States and UTs.

The National Digital Communication Policy (NDCP) 2018 acknowledged the need for building a robust digital communications infrastructure leveraging existing assets of the broadcasting and power sectors.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1578920>

Q.66) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)'

1. It assists Central and State Government Agencies for creation of appropriate infrastructure for growth of exports from the States.
2. It provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to Central/State Government owned agencies for setting up or for up-gradation of export infrastructure

Select the correct statements

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

Q.66) Solution (c)

The Government of India has launched a scheme namely, Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) from FY 2017-18 with the objective to assist Central and State Government Agencies for creation of appropriate infrastructure for growth of exports from the States. The Scheme provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to Central/State Government owned agencies for setting up or for up-gradation of export infrastructure as per the guidelines of the Scheme. The scheme can be availed by the States through their Implementing Agencies, for infrastructure projects with overwhelming export linkages like the Border Haats, Land customs stations, quality testing and certification labs, cold chains, trade promotion centres, dry ports, export warehousing and packaging, SEZs and ports/airports cargo terminuses.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1579181>

Q.67) Consider the following statements with respect to “Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana’

1. The scheme provides relief in case the Insured Person (IP) is rendered unemployed
2. It is launched by Employees' State Insurance Corporation

Select the correct statements

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

Q.67) Solution (c)

The ESI Corporation has launched a scheme named ‘Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana’ (ABVKY) which, in case the Insured Person (IP) is rendered unemployed, provides relief to the extent of 25% of the average per day earning during the previous four contribution periods (total earning during the four contribution period/730) to be paid up to maximum 90 days of unemployment once in lifetime of the IP on submission of claim in form of an Affidavit. The Scheme has been made effective from 01-07-2018. The scheme is implemented on pilot basis for a period of two years initially.

Read More - <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1579082>

Q.68) ‘Kihoto Hollohan case’ is associated with which of the following schedules of the Indian Constitution?

- a) Tenth Schedule
- b) Fourth Schedule
- c) Eighth Schedule
- d) Sixth Schedule

Q.68) Solution (a)

Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu And Others commonly referred as the case where the constitution bench of the Supreme Court analyzed in detail the various provisions of the 52nd amendment of the constitution which inserted a new schedule (tenth schedule) elaborating various provisions to protect the parties from defection.

Read More - <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/karnataka-crisis-what-was-scs-kihoto-hollohan-order-of-1992-what-is-the-role-of-speaker-5834547/>

Q.69) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

1. NavIC – India
2. GLONASS - Russia
3. BeiDou – Japan

Select the correct code:

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

Q.69) Solution (a)

NavIC – India

GLONASS - Russia

BeiDou – China

GPS – USA

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-why-you-could-soon-be-checking-your-location-on-navic-instead-of-gps-5833805/>

Q.70) 'Ploonets' refers to

- a) Moon
- b) Comets
- c) Lakes created by a meteor impact

d) Trans-Neptunian Objects

Q.70) Solution (a)

Astronomers named a new class of theorized objects that begin as moons around large planets, but eventually move out on their own. They call them plonets.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/plonnet-what-if-a-moon-went-rogue-and-acted-like-a-planet-5834863/>

Q.71) Consider the following statements with respect to 'International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'

1. It has a membership of governmental and non-governmental organizations.
2. It works on the basis of four-year programs, determined by the membership.
3. It runs field projects for habitat and species conservation around the world.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.71) Solution (d)

IUCN has a membership of over 1400 governmental and non-governmental organizations. Some 16,000 scientists and experts participate in the work of IUCN commissions on a voluntary basis. It employs approximately 1000 full-time staff in more than 50 countries. Its headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland.

IUCN works on the basis of four-year programs, determined by the membership. In the IUCN Programme for 2017–2020 conserving nature and biodiversity is inextricably linked to sustainable development and poverty reduction. IUCN states that it aims to have a solid factual base for its work and takes into account the knowledge held by indigenous groups and other traditional users of natural resources.

IUCN runs field projects for habitat and species conservation around the world. It produces the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems which in a similar way measures risks to ecosystems. The IUCN Red List of Ecosystems is a global standard to assess the conservation status of ecosystems.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-life/7000-species-added-to-iucn-red-list/article28567509.ece>

Q.72) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Doklam'

1. It is strategically located at the tri-junction of Pakistan, Afghanistan and China
2. Hunza Valley is located in this region bordering with the Wakhan Corridor

Select the correct statements

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

Q.72) Solution (d)

Doklam (in Standard Bhutanese), Zhoglam (in Standard Tibetan), or Donglang (in Chinese), is an area with a plateau and a valley, lying between Tibet's Chumbi Valley to the north, Bhutan's Ha Valley to the east and India's Sikkim state to the west. It has been depicted as part of Bhutan in the Bhutanese maps since 1961, but it is also claimed by China. To date, the dispute has not been resolved despite several rounds of border negotiations between Bhutan and China. The area is of strategic importance to all three countries.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-china-maintaining-peace-on-border-rajnath-singh/article28524725.ece>

Q.73) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Ebola'

1. It spreads through direct contact with body fluids
2. It is a viral haemorrhagic fever of humans and other primates

Select the correct statements

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

Q.73) Solution (c)

Ebola virus disease (EVD), also known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever (EHF) or simply Ebola, is a viral hemorrhagic fever of humans and other primates caused by ebolaviruses

The virus spreads through direct contact with body fluids, such as blood from infected humans or other animals. Spread may also occur from contact with items recently contaminated with bodily fluids. Spread of the disease through the air between primates, including humans, has not been documented in either laboratory or natural conditions. Semen or breast milk of a person after recovery from EVD may carry the virus for several weeks to months. Fruit bats are believed to be the normal carrier in nature, able to spread the virus without being affected by it.

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

1. It targets Higher Education Institutions for mentoring with a specific focus on quality as enumerated in the UGC "Quality Mandate".
2. It is a Student Induction Programme to help new students adjust and feel comfortable in the new environment, inculcate in them the ethos and culture of the institution.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.74) Solution (b)

Deeksharambh , a guide to Student Induction Programme is to help new students adjust and feel comfortable in the new environment, inculcate in them the ethos and culture of the

institution, help them build bonds with other students and faculty members, and expose them to a sense of larger purpose and self-exploration.

Read More - <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1579414>

'Paramarsh' – a University Grants Commission (UGC) scheme for Mentoring National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) Accreditation Aspirant Institutions to promote Quality Assurance in Higher Education.

"Paramarsh" scheme will target 1000 Higher Education Institutions for mentoring with a specific focus on quality as enumerated in the UGC "Quality Mandate".

Read More - <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1579415>

Q.75) 'Mauritania' is NOT bordered by

- a) Senegal
- b) Mali
- c) Algeria
- d) Nigeria

Q.75) Solution (d)



Q.76) 'Krishna Raja Sagara' is built on which of the following rivers?

- a) Cauvery
- b) Krishna
- c) Mahanadi
- d) Tapi

Q.76) Solution (a)

Krishna Raja Sagara, also popularly known as KRS, is a lake and the dam that creates it. They are close to the settlement of Krishnarajasagara in Karnataka. The gravity dam made of surki mortar is below the confluence of river Kaveri with its tributaries Hemavati and Lakshmana Tirtha.

Q.77) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)'

1. It is a statutory body of the Ministry, with an overarching supervisory/coordination role, performing functions as provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

2. It is set up under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Environment and Forests

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 Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 was amended in 2006 to provide for constituting the National Tiger Conservation Authority responsible for implementation of the Project Tiger plan to protect endangered tigers. The National Tiger Conservation Authority is set up under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Environment and Forests. The Authority will have eight experts or professionals having qualifications and experience in wildlife conservation and welfare of people including tribals, apart from three Members of Parliament of whom two will be elected by the House of the People and one by the Council of States. The Inspector General of Forests, in charge of project Tiger, will be ex-officio Member Secretary.

Q.78) Which of the following committees is under the 'Standing Committees'?

1. Railway Convention Committee
2. Public Accounts Committee
3. Committee on Public Undertakings

Select the correct statements

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

Q.78) Solution (b)

The Financial Committees, DRSCs and some other Committees come under the category of Standing Committees.

The three financial committees are the Public Accounts Committee, the Estimates Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/whither-house-panels/article28621493.ece>

Q.79) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to 'BlockChain'?

1. It allows designing a secure way to record transactions and circulate it among signatories, or any kind of target group with an Internet connection.
2. Every block in a block chain provides an unalterable document of the history of every transaction.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.79) Solution (c)

Blockchain is a foundational technology or a platform that allows designing a secure way to record transactions and circulate it among signatories, or any kind of target group with an Internet connection. At its core it is an extremely democratic ledger that cannot be arbitrarily manipulated and easily shareable.

Every block in a blockchain is a record of transactions and the more of the latter, the longer the chain. Just as worthless paper transforms into valuable currency with the signature of the RBI governor, blocks are great because they provide an unalterable document of the history of every transaction. In the context of currency, it stores the place, time, value (rupee, for example) and location of a purchase. There is minimal identifying information and every block is linked to a unique 'digital signature' of the transacting participants. Every block is distinguished from another through a unique code which is a string of numbers.

Read More - <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/what-are-the-advantages-blockchain-offers/article28621496.ece>

Q.80) 'KAGRA', is a Gravitational Wave Detector located in

- a) India
- b) Japan
- c) China
- d) South Africa

Q.80) Solution (b)

The Kamioka Gravitational Wave Detector (KAGRA), formerly the Large Scale Cryogenic Gravitational Wave Telescope (LCGT), is a project of the gravitational wave studies group at the Institute for Cosmic Ray Research (ICRR) of the University of Tokyo. It aims to be the world's first major (one with ability to actually detect a gravitational wave) gravitational wave observatory that is built underground, and the first major detector to use cryogenic mirrors. It will also be the first major gravitational wave observatory in Asia.

LIGO - <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/how-will-india-contribute-to-ligo/article28621498.ece>

Q.81) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Colistin'

1. It is an antibiotic for therapeutic purpose in veterinary.
2. One of the reasons for antibiotic resistance in India is due to unwanted use of Colistin in poultry industry.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.81) Solution (c)

Colistin is an antibiotic for therapeutic purpose in veterinary. But the drug is highly misused in poultry industry as a growth promoter for prophylactic purpose. One of the reason for antibiotic resistance in India is due to unwanted use of Colistin in poultry industry.

The antibiotic is being used as a last resort for treatment of patients suffering from infections caused by drug-resistant bacteria.

In exercise of powers conferred by section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 the government hereby prohibits manufacture, sale and distribution of the following drug with immediate effect, Colistin and its formulations for food producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements.

The ministry also directed that manufacturer of the drug and its formulations shall label the container of the drug and mention the words not to be used in food producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements in conspicuous manner on the package insert and promotional literature of the said drug and its formulations.

Q.82) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to 'Chandipura Virus'

1. It was first reported from a forest in Karnataka
2. It is associated with an encephalitic illness in humans

Select the correct statements

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

Q.82) Solution (b)

Named after the Maharashtra village where the virus was first discovered, the likely vector (carrier) of the virus is the female phlebotomine sandfly. It has been detected in sand flies in Senegal and Nigeria, apart from India. The virus is known to cause inflammation of the brain, and as mentioned already, progresses rapidly from influenza-like illness to coma and death.

The Chandipura virus (CHPV) belongs to the Rhabdoviridae family in the order Mononegavirales of the genus Vesiculovirus.

Q.83) Consider the following statements with respect to 'PENCIL Portal'

1. It ensures smooth implementation of the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme

2. It aims at involving Centre, State, District, civil society and the general public in achieving the target of child labour free society.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.83) Solution (c)

To ensure effective enforcement of the provisions of the Child Labour Act and smooth implementation of the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme a separate online portal Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) has been launched.

The Portal connects Central Government to State Government(s), District(s), all Project Societies and the General public. Further, online complaints regarding child labour can also be filed by anybody on the Pencil Portal.

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

1. It is one leading method for the direct detection of gravitational waves.
2. It works by merging two or more sources of light to create an interference pattern, which can be measured and analysed.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.84) Solution (c)

Interferometers are investigative tools used in many fields of science and engineering. They are called interferometers because they work by merging two or more sources of light to create an interference pattern, which can be measured and analyzed; hence 'Interfere-o-meter', or

interferometer. The interference patterns generated by interferometers contain information about the object or phenomenon being studied. They are often used to make very small measurements that are not achievable any other way. This is why they are so powerful for detecting gravitational waves--LIGO's interferometers are designed to measure a distance 1/10,000th the width of a proton!

Q.85) Service voter is a voter having service qualification. According to the provisions of Representation of People Act, 1950, service qualification means –

1. Being a member of the armed Forces of the Union
2. Being a member of an Armed Police Force of a State, and serving outside that state
3. Being a person who is employed under the Government of India, in a post outside India

Select the correct statements

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

Q.85) Solution (d)

According to the provisions of sub – section (8) of Section 20 of Representation of People Act, 1950, service qualification means –

- a) Being a member of the armed Forces of the Union ; or
- b) Being a member of a force to which provisions of the Army Act, 1950 (46 of 1950), have been made applicable whether with or without modification ;
- c) Being a member of an Armed Police Force of a State, and serving outside that state; or
- d) Being a person who is employed under the Government of India, in a post outside India.

Classified Service Voter

- Service voter belonging to Armed Forces or forces to which provisions of Army Act, 1950 are applicable, has option of either voting through postal ballot or through a proxy voter duly appointed by him. A service voter who opts for voting through a proxy is called Classified Service Voter (CSV).

Proxy

A service voter may appoint (by applying to Returning Officer in Form 13 F of Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 – Form available at the website of Election Commission) any person as his / her proxy to give vote on his / her behalf and in his / her name at the polling station. The proxy shall have to be ordinary resident of that constituency. He need not be a registered voter but he / she must not be disqualified to be registered as a voter.

Read more - <https://eci.gov.in/faqs/voter-electors/service-voter/faqs-service-electors-r13/>

Q.86) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bhabha Kavach'

1. It is jointly being developed by India and Israel
2. It is an anti-missile system to protect the military installations at the India-Pakistan border

Select the correct statements

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

Q.86) Solution (d)

Bhabha Kavach, billed as "India's lightest bullet-proof jacket", was launched at the International Police Expo 2019 in New Delhi.

The bullet-proof jacket is developed jointly by the Ordnance Factories Board and the public sector metals and metal alloys manufacturer MIDHANI.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/bhabha-kavach-indias-lightest-bullet-proof-jacket-5843413/>

Q.87) Consider the following statements with respect to 'JATAN'

1. It is used for creating digital collections in various museums and digital archival tools that are used in background for managing National Portal and Digital Repository for Indian Museums.
2. It is developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.87) Solution (a)

The National Portal and Digital Repository for Indian Museums is developed and hosted by Human Centres Design and Computing Group, C-DAC, Pune, as per the agreement with Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Human Centres Design and Computing Group, being a technical expertise, developed JATAN: Virtual Museum software which is used for creating the digital collections in various museums and digital archival tools that are used in background for managing the National Portal and Digital Repository for Indian Museums.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=192077>

Q.88) 'Motihari-Amlekhgunj Petroleum Products Pipeline' is associated with India and

- a) Nepal
- b) Bhutan
- c) Bangladesh
- d) Myanmar

Q.88) Solution (a)

The 69-km long petroleum pipeline from Motihari in Bihar to Amelkhgunj in Nepal has been constructed by India. "The Motihari-Amlekhgunj pipeline will help in tackling the oil storage problem in Nepal and doing away with transportation of petroleum products through tankers. It will ensure smooth, cost-effective and environment-friendly supply of petroleum products to Nepal.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/motihari-amlekhgunj-oil-pipeline-to-start-next-month-india-nepal-5837828/>

Q.89) The annual Joint Military Exercise 'Hand-in-Hand' between India and

- a) China
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Nepal
- d) Bhutan

Q.89) Solution (a)

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-china-to-carry-out-major-military-exercise-hand-in-hand/articleshow/70302866.cms>

Q.90) 'Inn Din massacre' is associated with

- a) Myanmar
- b) Sudan
- c) Hong Kong
- d) Venezuela

Q.90) Solution (a)

The Inn Din massacre was a mass execution of Rohingyas by the Myanmar Army and armed Rakhine locals in the village of Inn Din, in Rakhine State, Myanmar in 2017.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/us-bans-myanmar-military-leaders-over-rohingya-abuses/article28523897.ece>

Q.91) Consider the following statements with respect to 'IndSpaceEx'

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

Select the correct statements

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

Q.91) Solution (c)

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

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

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

Q.92) 'Distributed ledger technology (DLT)' is primarily associated with

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

Q.92) Solution (a)

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

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

Q.93) Consider the following statements with respect to 'SPPEL Scheme'

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

Select the correct statements

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

Q.93) Solution (c)

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

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

Q.94) 'Nandankanan Zoological Park' was in news recently. Where is it located?

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

Q.94) Solution (a)

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

Q.95) The 'Model Concessionaire Agreement (MCA)' is associated with

- a) Public Private Partnership (PPP)
- b) Goods and Services Tax (GST)
- c) Initial Public Offering (IPO)

- d) Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)

Q.95) Solution (a)

Model Concession Agreement (MCA)

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

Q.96) Consider the following statements with respect to 'NavIC'

1. It consists of three satellites located in geostationary orbit (GEO) and four satellites are in inclined geosynchronous orbit (GSO).
2. It covers India and a region extending 1,500 km around it.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.96) Solution (c)

Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), with an operational name of NAVIC (acronym for NAVigation with Indian Constellation, is an autonomous regional satellite navigation system that provides accurate real-time positioning and timing services. It covers India and a region extending 1,500 km (930 mi) around it, with plans for further extension.

The constellation consists of 7 satellites. Three of the seven satellites are located in geostationary orbit (GEO) at 32.5° East, 83° East, and 131.5° East longitude, approximately

36,000 km (22,000 mi) above earth surface. Remaining four satellites are in inclined geosynchronous orbit (GSO). Two of them cross equator at 55° East and two at 111.75° East. The four GSO satellites will appear to be moving in the form of an "8".

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1580252>

Q.97) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The share of India in global textile exports is over 33%.
2. Textile sector exports contribution in India's total exports is around 25%.

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 share of India in global textile exports is 6% in 2017.

Textile sector exports contribution in India's total exports is 12.2% in 2018-19.

Country - Share of Textile Export in Global Textile Exports

1. China - 33.6%
2. USA - 6.3%
3. India - 6%

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1580265>

Q.98) 'POSHAN Abhiyaan' is aimed at reducing

1. The level of stunting in children (0-6 years)
2. Under-nutrition in children (0-6 years)
3. Anaemia among young children (6-59 months)

Select the correct code:

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

Q.98) Solution (d)

Aim to reduce the level of stunting in children (0-6 years), under-nutrition (underweight prevalence) in children (0-6 years) and Low Birth Weight at 2% per annum and reduce anaemia among young children (6-59 months), women and adolescent girls at 3% per annum across the country.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1580266>

Q.99) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram'

1. It aims to tap into the traditional knowledge and skill sets of tribal people by adding technology and Information Technology for upgradation of output at each stage and to convert the tribal wisdom into a remunerative economic activity.
2. Implementation of Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram is done through Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.99) Solution (a)

Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram is an initiative targeting livelihood generation for tribal population by harnessing the wealth of forest i.e. Van Dhan. The programme aims to tap into the traditional knowledge and skill sets of tribal people by adding technology and Information Technology for upgradation of output at each stage and to convert the tribal wisdom into a remunerative economic activity. Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram seeks to promote and leverage the collective strength of tribal people to achieve a viable scale.

Implementation of Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram is through Van Dhan Kendras. Selection of a place for setting up of a Van Dhan Kendra is dependent upon the area's potential and availability of land to be provided by the State Government. The number of Van Dhan Kendras developed depends on the above factors.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1580257>

Q.100) 'Saudi Arabia' is not bordered by

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

Q.100) Solution (c)

Saudi Arabia is bordered by Jordan and Iraq to the north, Kuwait to the northeast, Qatar, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates to the east, Oman to the southeast and Yemen to the south; it is separated from Israel and Egypt by the Gulf of Aqaba.



Q.101) Consider the following statements

1. India has been allotted a site of 75,000 sq. km. in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB) by the UN International Sea Bed Authority for exploitation of polymetallic nodules (PMN).
2. India has an Exclusive Economic zone spread over 2.2 Million sq.kms

Select the correct statements

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

Q.101) Solution (c)

Deep Ocean mission is the Government of India mission to study the various aspects of ocean in an integrated frame work as the Indian space research organisation(ISRO) has been studying the space.

India has been allotted a site of 75,000 sq. km. in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB) by the UN International Sea Bed Authority for exploitation of polymetallic nodules (PMN). These are rocks scattered on the seabed containing iron, manganese, nickel and cobalt. Being able to lay hands on even 10% of that reserve can meet the energy requirement for the next 100 years. It has been estimated that 380 million metric tonnes of polymetallic nodules are available at the bottom of the seas in the Central Indian Ocean. India's Exclusive Economic Zone spreads over 2.2 million sq. km. and in the deep sea, lies "unexplored and unutilised".

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/centre-to-launch-deep-ocean-mission-in-october/article28733519.ece>

Q.102) Consider the following about O-SMART scheme:

1. It is a mission to promote millet cultivation 'as we move towards climate-smart agriculture in the wake of frequent droughts'.
2. The scheme is being piloted by the Union earth sciences ministry.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.102) Solution (b)

“Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-SMART)”

- Implementation period - 2017-18 to 2019-20 at an overall cost of Rs.1623 crore. (by Ministry of Earth Sciences)
- Implementation of O-SMART will help in addressing issues relating to Sustainable Development Goal-14, which aims to conserve use of oceans, marine resources for sustainable development.
- This scheme (O-SMART) also provide necessary scientific and technological background required for implementation of various aspects of Blue Economy.
- The State of Art Early Warning Systems established under the O-SMART Scheme will help in effectively dealing with ocean disasters like Tsunami, storm surges.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-to-launch-its-deep-ocean-mission-by-october/articleshow/70414191.cms>

Q.103) Which of the following best describes the term ‘Gig Economy’ which is sometimes seen in the news?

- a) It is an economy with high prevalence of failing start ups
- b) It is characterized by prevalence of short term contracts and freelance work
- c) It is characterized by export oriented manufacturing
- d) It is characterized by high prevalence of permanent jobs in organized sector

Q.103) Solution (b)

In a gig economy, temporary, flexible jobs are commonplace and companies tend toward hiring independent contractors and freelancers instead of full-time employees. A gig economy undermines the traditional economy of full-time workers who rarely change positions and instead focus on a lifetime career.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/bangalore-startup-engendered-tries-to-establish-gender-equity-in-workplaces/article28649731.ece>

Q.104) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘International Seabed Authority (ISA)’

1. It is an organization established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
2. It has its headquarters in Kingston, Jamaica.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.104) Solution (c)

The International Seabed Authority is an autonomous international organization established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Authority is the organization through which States Parties to the Convention shall, in accordance with the regime for the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (the Area) established in Part XI and the Agreement, organize and control activities in the Area, particularly with a view to administering the resources of the Area.

The Authority, which has its headquarters in Kingston, Jamaica, came into existence on 16 November 1994, upon the entry into force of the 1982 Convention.

Q.105) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Polymetallic nodules'

1. They are rock concretions on the sea bottom formed of concentric layers of iron and manganese hydroxides around a core
2. They are only found in the central Pacific Ocean

Select the corrects statements

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

Q.105) Solution (c)

Polymetallic nodules, also called manganese nodules, are rock concretions on the sea bottom formed of concentric layers of iron and manganese hydroxides around a core. As nodules can be found in vast quantities, and contain valuable metals, deposits have been identified as having economic interest.

They contain varying amounts of manganese, cobalt, copper and nickel. They occur as potato-sized lumps scattered about on the surface of the ocean floor, mainly in the central Pacific Ocean but with some deposits in the Indian Ocean.

Q.106) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Red Mud'

1. It is a waste product of refining bauxite en route to alumina.
2. It is highly acidic in nature causing environmental hazards.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.106) Solution (a)

Bauxite tailings, also known as red mud, red sludge, bauxite residue, or alumina refinery residues (ARR), is a highly alkaline waste product composed mainly of iron oxide that is generated in the industrial production of alumina (aluminium oxide, the principal raw material used in the manufacture of aluminium metal and also widely used in the manufacture of ceramics, abrasives and refractories).

Over 95% of the alumina produced globally is through the Bayer process; for every tonne of alumina produced, approximately 1 to 1.5 tonnes of bauxite tailings/residue are also produced.

Red mud is composed of a mixture of solid and metallic oxides. The red colour arises from iron oxides, which comprise up to 60% of the mass. The mud is highly basic with a pH ranging from 10 to 13. In addition to iron, the other dominant components include silica, unleached residual alumina, and titanium oxide.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=192330>

Q.107) 'Shahab-3', is a Medium-Range Ballistic Missile by

- a) Iran
- b) North Korea
- c) Syria
- d) Afghanistan

Q.107) Solution (a)

It is a liquid-fueled, medium-range ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear weapon. It is backbone of Iran's class of medium-range missiles. It is derived from a North Korean missile called Nodong-A.

Q.108) 'Dracaena cambodiana', a plant which yields a bright red resin was discovered in

- a) Assam
- b) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- c) Kerala
- d) Himachal Pradesh

Q.108) Solution (a)

Dracaena cambodiana is an important medicinal plant as well as an ornamental tree. It is a major source of dragon's blood, a precious traditional medicine in China. Several antifungal and antibacterial compounds, antioxidants, flavonoids, etc., have been extracted from various parts of the plant.

It is a plant that yields dragon's blood — a bright red resin used since ancient times as medicine, body oil, varnish, incense and dye.

This is for the first time that a dragon tree species has been reported from India.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/indias-first-dragon-blood-oozing-tree/article28701517.ece>

Q.109) 'Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary', is located in

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

Q.109) Solution (b)

Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area in the Western Ghats. It is located in Kollam district of Kerala and comes under the control of Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve.

Q.110) _____ is the first species to be officially declared threatened due to deep-sea mining.

- a) Sea Pangolin
- b) Vaquita
- c) Humpback Whale
- d) Narwhal

Q.110) Solution (a)

Scaly-foot Gastropod or Scaly-foot Snail, also known as Sea Pangolin, is a species of deep-sea hydrothermal-vent snail, a marine gastropod mollusc in the family Peltospiridae.

This vent-endemic gastropod is known only from deep-sea hydrothermal vents in the Indian Ocean, where it has been found at depths of about 2,400–2,800 m (1.5–1.7 mi).

Chrysomallon squamiferum differs greatly from other deep-sea gastropods, even the closely related neomphalines.

In 2019, it was declared Endangered on the IUCN Red List, the first species to be listed as such due to risks from deep-sea mining of its vent habitat that also produce high-quality metal ores.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/wildlife-biodiversity/this-indian-ocean-snail-species-may-be-first-victim-of-deep-sea-mining-65799>

Q.111) Highest tiger population is in which of the following states?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Madhya Pradesh

Q.111) Solution (d)

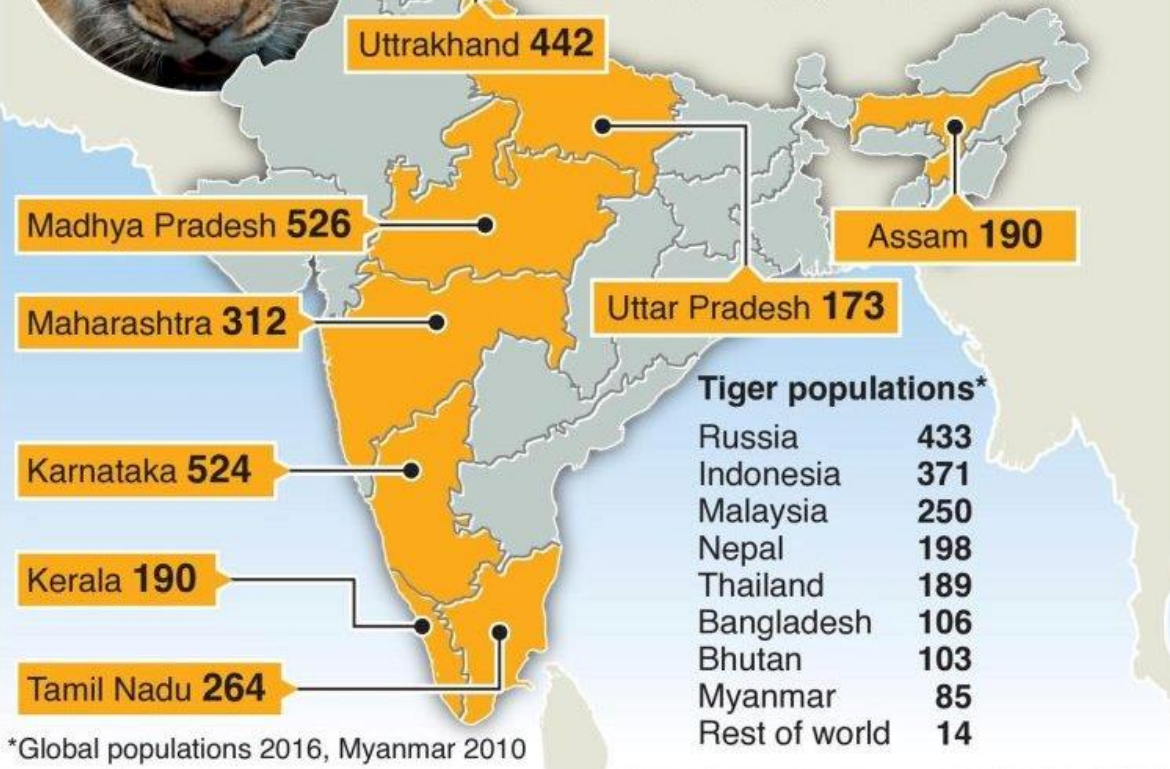
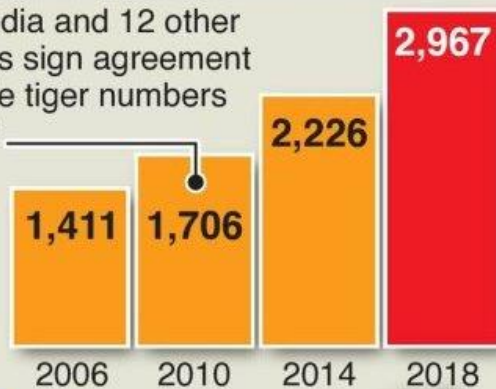
India is home to 2,967 tigers

The total number of tigers in India stands at 2,967, or more than 70 percent of the wild tigers that inhabit the world, according to the All India Tiger Estimation Report for 2018

India's tigers (states with highest populations)



2010: India and 12 other countries sign agreement to double tiger numbers by 2022



Tiger populations*

Russia	433
Indonesia	371
Malaysia	250
Nepal	198
Thailand	189
Bangladesh	106
Bhutan	103
Myanmar	85
Rest of world	14

*Global populations 2016, Myanmar 2010

Q.112) India's seed vault is located in

- Sahyadris
- Aravallis
- Himalayas
- Satpuras

Q.112) Solution (c)

India's Seed Vault is located at Chang La (Ladakh) in the Himalayas, at a height of 17,300 feet, there is a storage facility with over 5,000 seed accessions.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=192286>

Q.113) 'Malai Poondu Garlic' is associated with

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

Q.113) Solution (a)

Malai Poondu also known by its scientific name *Allium Sativum*, this particular garlic is known for its medicinal and preservative properties. It is grown in the Kodaikanal Hills, Dindugul district.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/kodaikanals-hill-garlic-gets-gi-tag/articleshow/70441984.cms>

Q.114) The terms, 'Agent Smith' and 'Janus' is associated with

- a) Cybercrime
- b) Climate Financing
- c) Green Bonds
- d) BEPS Project

Q.114) Solution (a)

Agent Smith is a recently detected malware, any program or file that is harmful to a computer user.

It relies heavily on the Janus vulnerability in replacing apps with their contaminated versions while leaving the hash value, which is like a unique signature for any app, intact.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/cybercrime-officials-suspect-agent-smith-targets-indians/article28741194.ece>

Q.115) 'Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS)' is associated with India and

- a) Russia
- b) United States of America
- c) France
- d) ASEAN

Q.115) Solution (a)

It is a Military Logistics Support Agreements (MLSA) between India and Russia.

The Russian agreement gives India access to its facilities in the Arctic region which is seeing increased global activity as new shipping routes are opening up and resources are becoming available.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-set-to-sign-us-like-defence-logistics-sharing-pact-with-russia/articleshow/70283886.cms>

