

Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Starship Spacecraft'

1. It is a being developed by SpaceX and European Space Agency.
2. It serves as a large, long-duration spacecraft capable of carrying passengers or cargo to Earth orbit, and between destinations on Earth.

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 SpaceX Starship is a fully reusable second stage and space vehicle being privately developed by SpaceX. It is being designed to be a long-duration cargo- and passenger-carrying spacecraft.

Starship serves as a large, long-duration spacecraft capable of carrying passengers or cargo to Earth orbit, planetary destinations, and between destinations on Earth.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/spacex-ceo-elon-musk-unveils-starships-plans-to-carry-humans-to-moon-mars-6038589/>

Q.2) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Punjab State is divided into three regions namely Majha, Doaba and Malwa.
2. The Malwa area makes up majority of the Punjab region.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

The name Punjab is made of two words Punj (Five) + Aab (Water) i.e. land of five rivers. These five rivers of Punjab are Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Chenab, and Jhelum. Only Sutlej, Ravi and Beas rivers flow in today's Punjab. The other two rivers are now in the state of Punjab, situated in Pakistan. The Punjab State is divided into three regions: Majha, Doaba and Malwa.

Malwa is the region of Punjab that lies to the south of Majha, separated by the Satluj river, and to the north and west of Poadh.

ALSO

Malwa is a historical region of west-central India occupying a plateau of volcanic origin. Geologically, the Malwa Plateau generally refers to the volcanic upland north of the Vindhya Range. Politically and administratively, the historical Malwa region includes districts of western Madhya Pradesh and parts of south-eastern Rajasthan. The definition of Malwa is sometimes extended to include the Nimar region south of the Vindhyas.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/high-rate-of-farmer-suicides-in-malwa-experts-blame-steep-lease-land-rentals-lack-of-alternative-income-6040490/>

Q.3) Which of the following regions is affected by 'Typhoon Mitag'?

- a) Taiwan
- b) Hawaii
- c) New Zealand
- d) Malta

Q.3) Solution (a)

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/taiwan-bridge-collapse-crushes-fishing-boats-some-crew-feared-trapped/article29563582.ece>

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2019 - 20'

1. It will be sold through all Scheduled Commercial banks including Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks.
2. The maximum permissible investment shall be 4 KG for an individual.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.4) Solution (b)

The Bonds will be sold through Scheduled Commercial banks (except Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks), Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices, and recognised stock exchanges viz., National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock Exchange Limited.

The maximum limit of subscribed shall be 4 KG for individual, 4 Kg for HUF and 20 Kg for trusts and similar entities per fiscal (April-March) notified by the Government from time to time. A self-declaration to this effect will be obtained. The annual ceiling will include bonds subscribed under different tranches during initial issuance by Government and those purchased from the Secondary Market. Minimum permissible investment will be 1 gram of gold.

Read More - <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1586762>

Q.5) Which of the following countries are developing the 'East Container Terminal (ECT)' at Colombo Port?

- 1. Japan
- 2. China
- 3. India

Select the correct code:

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

Q.5) Solution (d)

Sri Lanka, Japan and India on Tuesday signed an agreement to jointly develop the East Container Terminal at the Colombo Port.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/sri-lanka-japan-india-sign-deal-to-develop-east-container-terminal-at-colombo-port/article27273794.ece>

Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Urban Co-operative banks (UCBs)'

1. Their management and resolution in the case of distress is regulated by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies either under the State or Central government.
2. In the event UCBs fail, deposits with them are covered by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India up to a sum of ₹1 lakh per depositor.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.6) Solution (c)

Co-operative banks, which are distinct from commercial banks, were born out of the concept of co-operative credit societies where members from a community band together to extend loans to each other, at favourable terms. Credit co-operatives (or co-operative banks) are broadly classified into urban or rural co-operative banks based on their region of operation. Urban co-op banks are classified into scheduled and non-scheduled banks.

There are three key points of difference between scheduled commercial banks and co-operative banks. One, unlike commercial banks, UCBs are only partly regulated by the RBI. While their banking operations are regulated by the RBI, which lays down their capital adequacy, risk control and lending norms, their management and resolution in the case of distress is regulated by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies either under the State or Central government. Two, unlike commercial banks which are structured as joint stock companies, UCBs are structured as co-operatives, with their members carrying unlimited liability. Three, while there is a clear distinction between a commercial bank's shareholders and its borrowers, in a UCB borrowers can double up as shareholders.

In the event UCBs fail, deposits with them are covered by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India up to a sum of ₹1 lakh per depositor, the same as for a commercial bank.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/slate/all-you-wanted-to-know-about-urban-co-operative-banks/article29563724.ece>

Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)' Frameworks' threshold levels.

1. Banks with a capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of less than 10.25 per cent but more than 7.75 per cent fall under threshold 1.
2. Banks with negative return on assets for four consecutive years fall under threshold 1.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.7) Solution (a)

Prompt Corrective Action or PCA is a framework under which banks with weak financial metrics are put under watch by the RBI. The PCA framework deems banks as risky if they slip below certain norms on three parameters — capital ratios, asset quality and profitability.

It has three risk threshold levels (1 being the lowest and 3 the highest) based on where a bank stands on these ratios. Banks with a capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of less than 10.25 per cent but more than 7.75 per cent fall under threshold 1.

Those with CRAR of more than 6.25 per cent but less than 7.75 per cent fall in the second threshold. In case a bank's common equity Tier 1 (the bare minimum capital under CRAR) falls below 3.625 per cent, it gets categorised under the third threshold level.

Banks that have a net NPA of 6 per cent or more but less than 9 per cent fall under threshold 1, and those with 12 per cent or more fall under the third threshold level.

On profitability, banks with negative return on assets for two, three and four consecutive years fall under threshold 1, threshold 2 and threshold 3, respectively.

Q.8) Which of the following is no longer required to maintain a 'Debt Redemption Reserve (DRR)' if they issue a Non-convertible debentures (NCDs)?

1. Listed companies
2. NBFCs registered with the Reserve Bank of India
3. HFCs registered with the National Housing Bank

Select the correct statements

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

Q.8) Solution (d)

A DRR ensures that a company sets aside a portion of its profits toward repayment of long-term NCDs out of its current profits. When a company that has issued NCDs goes bankrupt or faces a liquidity crunch, it usually defaults on its repayments to lenders. In such cases, the existence of the DRR reduces the investment risk for the buyer of the debentures. Though a few companies issue secured debentures (with the assets of the company as security), a DRR can help them as well, as recovery of dues by liquidating assets can take a considerable amount of time.

But on August 16, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs relaxed this DRR requirement. It said that listed companies, NBFCs registered with the Reserve Bank of India and HFCs registered with the National Housing Bank would no longer be required to maintain a DRR if they issue NCDs. The DRR requirement for unlisted companies (excluding unlisted NBFCs and HFCs) is still on, but at a lower rate of 10 per cent (against the earlier 25 per cent).

NBFCs and HFCs have been the most frequent issuers of NCDs in the market. With the DRR rule gone, the government expects more of these firms to come up with NCD issues that could ease their funding constraints. The extra money that the companies will now be left with due to no provisioning for the DRR is expected to flow into the economy by way of credit too.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/slate/all-you-wanted-to-know-about-debenture-redemption-reserve/article29261970.ece>

Q.9) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Modern Monetary Theory'

1. It states that countries that have the sovereign right to print their own currency can never run out of money and default.
2. It believes that governments can use taxes as a means to make people use the currency as well as to control inflation.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.9) Solution (c)

In conventional economic theory, it is accepted that the government pays for its expenses through the taxes that it collects. To pay for the rest of the expenses, it borrows money by issuing bonds. But government borrowing has an effect of increasing the cost of borrowing or the interest rate paid by individuals and businesses.

MMT takes the opposing stance and states that countries that have the sovereign right to print their own currency can never run out of money and default. In order to default, it would have to mean that they do not have any more money to pay their creditors. But this can never be the case as long as countries are free to print as much money as they want.

So, taxes and borrowing do not pay for government spending, instead money is created through government spending. In other words, the theory gives governments the leeway to spend as much as they want on public expenditure and not worry about ballooning fiscal deficit or government debt.

MMT believes that governments can use taxes as a means to make people use the currency as well as to control inflation.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/slate/all-you-wanted-to-know-about-modern-monetary-theory/article29162150.ece>

Q.10) Domestic natural gas price is the weighted average price of which of the following global benchmarks?

1. US-based Henry Hub
2. Canada-based Alberta gas
3. UK-based National Balancing Point (NBP)
4. Austria based Gas Hub Baumgarten

Select the correct code:

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

Q.10) Solution (a)

Much of the natural gas being produced in the country does not command a market-determined price — that is, it is not determined by buyers and sellers based on demand-supply dynamics in the market. Rather, a formula — and a peculiar one at that — is used to fix the price of the fuel every six months. As per the formula, the domestic gas price is the weighted average price of four global benchmarks — the US-based Henry Hub, Canada-based Alberta gas, the UK-based NBP, and Russian gas. The domestic price is based on the prices of these international benchmarks in the prior year, and kicks in with a quarter's lag. It applies for six months. So, the price applicable from April 1 to September 30, 2019 is based on benchmark prices from January to December 2018.

This formula-based pricing has some interesting features and outcomes. One, the formula has no mention about gas actually imported into India. Typically, gas imported in Asian markets is costlier than many international benchmarks. In effect, the price of domestic gas is lower than that of gas imports. Next, the averaging of benchmark prices over the past year and then the time lag of a quarter mean that the domestic gas price movement is often out of sync with what's really happening on the ground. For instance, global gas prices were rising for a good part of the last year but have been on a decline in the last few months. But courtesy the formula, domestic gas producers have now been handed out price hikes, even as many global producers are taking price cuts.

Q.11) Which of the pollutants are sensed by the National Air Quality Index (AQI) device?

1. Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)
2. Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)
3. Ozone (O₃)

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)

The monitoring device can detect invisible air particulate as small as PM 2.5 along with PM 10, temperature, humidity, and noise pollution. The sensors also retrieve complex data with the help of a camera that visualizes air pollutants of different forms like HCHO, No₂, So₂, O₃, CO, and Co₂.

The measurement of air quality is based on eight pollutants, namely,

- Particulate Matter (size less than 10 µm) or (PM₁₀),
- Particulate Matter (size less than 2.5 µm) or (PM_{2.5}),
- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂),
- Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂),
- Carbon Monoxide (CO),
- Ozone (O₃),
- Ammonia (NH₃), and
- Lead (Pb)

Q.12) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Teesta River'

1. It flows through both Sikkim and West Bengal
2. Rangeet river is a tributary of Teesta, and it originates in Sikkim

Select the correct statements

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.12) Solution (c)

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.

The Rangeet or Rangit is a tributary of the Teesta river, which is the largest river in the Indian state of Sikkim. The Rangeet river originates in the Himalayan mountains in West Sikkim district.

Q.13) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)'

1. It is set up under the Companies Act, 2013 as a professional accounting body of India.
2. It is solely responsible for setting the Standards on Auditing (SAs) to be followed in the audit of financial statements in India.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.13) Solution (b)

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is the national professional accounting body of India. It was established on 1 July 1949 as a statutory body under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 enacted by the Parliament (acting as the provisional Parliament of India) to regulate the profession of Chartered Accountancy in India. ICAI is the second largest professional Accounting & Finance body in the world. ICAI is the only licensing cum regulating body of the financial audit and accountancy profession in India. It recommends the accounting standards to be followed by companies in India to National Advisory Committee on Accounting Standards (NACAS) and sets the accounting standards to be followed by other types of organisations. ICAI is solely responsible for setting the Standards on Auditing (SAs) to be followed in the audit of financial statements in India. It also issues other technical standards like

Standards on Internal Audit (SIA), Corporate Affairs Standards (CAS) etc. to be followed by practicing Chartered Accountants. It works closely with the Government of India, Reserve Bank of India and the Securities and Exchange Board of India in formulating and enforcing such standards.

THINK!

- IndAS
- National Financial Reporting Authority

Q.14) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Pyrotechnic Safety Switch'

1. It is reliable safeguard against motor vehicle fires and electric shock.
2. It is been made mandatory to be installed in all passenger vehicles under the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.14) Solution (a)

In case of an accident, the safety switch is triggered by the airbag electronic and disconnects the battery from the starter-/alternator cable in less than a millisecond. This prevents from short circuits that might lead to a vehicle fire.

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Purchasing Managers Indexes (PMI)'

1. They are economic indicators derived from monthly surveys of private sector companies.
2. For India, the PMI Data is published by the Singapore Institute of Purchasing and Materials Management (SIPMM).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.15) Solution (a)

Purchasing Managers Indexes (PMI) are economic indicators derived from monthly surveys of private sector companies. The data for the index are collected through a survey of 400 purchasing managers in the manufacturing sector on different fields, namely, production level, new orders from customers, speed of supplier deliveries, inventories, order backlogs and employment level. Respondents can report better, same or worse conditions than previous months. For all these fields the percentage of respondents that reported better conditions than the previous months is calculated. The percentages are multiplied by a weighing factor (the factors adding to 1) and are added.

For India, the PMI Data is published by Japanese firm Nikkei but compiled and constructed by Markit Economics (for the US, it is the ISM). The variables used to construct India's PMI for manufacturing sector are: Output, New Orders, Employment, Input Costs, Output Prices, Backlogs of Work, Export Orders, Quantity of Purchases, Suppliers' Delivery Times, Stocks of Purchases and Stocks of Finished Goods. Similar variables are used for the construction of services PMI. A manufacturing PMI and a services PMI are prepared and published by the two. The Nikkei and Markit economics websites says that PMI data are based on monthly surveys of carefully selected companies.

Q.16) 'Nomadic Elephant' is a bilateral exercise between India and

- a) Kazakhstan
- b) Mongolia
- c) China
- d) Sri Lanka

Q.16) Solution (b)

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=193609>

Q.17) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Reunion Island'

1. It is located in the Atlantic Ocean
2. It is an overseas department and region of France.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.17) Solution (b)

It is an overseas department and region of France and an island in the Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar and 175 km southwest of Mauritius.

The island has been inhabited since the 16th century, when people from France and Madagascar settled there. Slavery was abolished on 20 December 1848 (a date celebrated yearly on the island), when the French Second Republic abolished slavery in the French colonies. However, later on indentured workers were brought to Réunion from South India, among other places. The island became an overseas department of France in 1946.

As in France, the official language is French. In addition, the majority of the region's population speaks Réunion Creole.

Q.18) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)'

1. It was constituted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.
2. It is based on the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.18) Solution (c)

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is an autonomous, statutory body tasked with regulating and promoting the insurance and re-insurance industries in India. It was constituted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, an Act of Parliament passed by the Government of India. The agency's headquarters are in Hyderabad, Telangana, where it moved from Delhi in 2001.

IRDAI is a 10-member body including the chairman, five full-time and four part-time members appointed by the government of India.

Following the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee, in 1999 the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) was constituted to regulate and develop the insurance industry and was incorporated in April 2000. Objectives of the IRDA include promoting competition to enhance customer satisfaction with increased consumer choice and lower premiums while ensuring the financial security of the insurance market.

Q.19) Which of the following are styles of 'Madhubani Painting'?

1. Katchni
2. Tantrik
3. Kohbar

Select the correct code:

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

Q.19) Solution (d)

Madhubani art has five distinctive styles: Bharni, Katchni, Tantrik, Godna and Kohbar.

Q.20) 'Exercise Ekuverin' is a bilateral exercise between India and

- a) Maldives
- b) Mauritius

- c) Indonesia
- d) Malaysia

Q.20) Solution (a)

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1587148>

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

1. It was written by the poet Uruttiragannanar in praise of the Chola king Karikala.
2. It was written in the Sangam Period.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.21) Solution (c)

Pattinappaalai (Romanized: Paṭṭiṇap Pālai, meaning the city and the desert) is a Tamil poetic work in the Pathinenmaelkanakku anthology of Tamil literature, belonging to the Sangam period corresponding to between 100 BCE – 100 CE. Pattinappaalai is part of the Pattupattu collection, which is the oldest available collection of long poems in Tamil literature.

Pattinappaalai contains 301 lines of poetry in the akaval meter. Pattinappaalai was written by the poet Uruttiragannanar in praise of the Chola king Karikala. Pattinappaalai poems belong to the Akam, or subjective themes of love and human relationships and utilises the location of the story to sing praises of the ruler.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/mamallapurams-chinese-links-set-to-give-a-fillip-to-modi-xi-summit/article29614719.ece>

Q.22) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Financial Action Task Force (FATF)'

1. All United Nations members are members of the FATF.

2. It is a policy-making body which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in areas of money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.22) Solution (b)

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 by the Ministers of its Member jurisdictions. The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. The FATF is therefore a “policy-making body” which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.

The FATF currently comprises 37 member jurisdictions and 2 regional organisations, representing most major financial centres in all parts of the globe.

Q.23) ‘Automatic Information Exchange Pact’ was in news in the context of India and which of the following countries?

- a) Switzerland
- b) France
- c) United Kingdom
- d) Canada

Q.23) Solution (a)

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/india-gets-first-tranche-of-swiss-account-details-under-automatic-exchange-framework/articleshow/71478148.cms>

Q.24) Consider the following statements with respect to 'P-Notes'

1. They are offshore derivative instruments with Indian shares as underlying assets.
2. Only Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) located in FATF countries or managed by an enterprise based under FATF jurisdiction can deal in Participatory Notes.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.24) Solution (c)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) notified that only FPIs – Foreign Portfolio Investors located in FATF countries or managed by an enterprise based under FATF jurisdiction can deal in Participatory Notes.

Participatory Notes are financial instruments required by investors to invest in Indian stock markets without being registered with SEBI.

Participatory notes are offshore derivative instruments with Indian shares as underlying assets. Brokers and foreign institutional investors registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issue the participatory notes and invest on behalf of the foreign investors. Brokers must report their participatory note issuance status to the regulatory board each quarter. The notes allow foreign investors with high net worth, hedge funds, and other investors, to participate in the Indian markets without registering with the SEBI. Investors save time, money and scrutiny associated with direct registration.

Read More - <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/p/participatorynotes.asp>

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/sebis-fpi-rules-may-leave-mauritius-at-sea/articleshow/71486078.cms?from=mdr>

Q.25) 'HR Khan Committee' is concerned with

- a) Foreign Portfolio Investors
- b) Real Estate Regulation
- c) Primary Health Care
- d) Sagarmala Project

Q.25) Solution (a)

The committee was formed by SEBI under the chairmanship of HR Khan, former deputy governor of RBI, to suggest measures for revitalizing and streamlining FPIs.

Q.26) Global Competitive Index is compiled by

- a) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- b) World Bank (WB)
- c) World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- d) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Q.26) Solution (a)

India ranked 68th in the annual Global Competitiveness Index. It is the worst performing among the BRICS nations along with Brazil that is ranked at 71. The Global Competitive Index is compiled by World Economic Forum. The Forum has mapped 141 countries using 103 indicators.

Q.27) '2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry' was awarded

- a) for mechanistic studies of DNA repair
- b) for the development of lithium-ion batteries
- c) for the phage display of peptides and antibodies
- d) for developing cryo-electron microscopy for the high-resolution structure determination of biomolecules in solution

Q.27) Solution (b)

The 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to John B Goodenough, M Stanley Whittingham and Akira Yoshino for the development of lithium-ion batteries. These three scientists created the right conditions for a wireless and fossil fuel-free society.

Q.28) Which of the following countries is referred to as 'Vanilla Islands'

1. Seychelles
2. Madagascar
3. Mauritius
4. Comoros

Select the correct code:

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

Q.28) Solution (d)

Vanilla Islands is an affiliation of the island nations Seychelles, Madagascar, Réunion, Mauritius, Comoros, Mayotte in the Indian Ocean to form a new travel destination brand.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/venkaiah-naidu-comoros-africa-visist-india-foriegn-policy-6058159/>

Q.29) Consider the following statements

1. 'Geotail' provides information about the way the magnetic envelope surrounding Earth.
2. The geotail region exists as a result of the interactions between the Sun and Earth.

Select the correct statement

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

Q.29) Solution (c)

The geotail is a region in space that allows the best observations. The region exists as a result of the interactions between the Sun and Earth.

Geotail provides information about the way the magnetic envelope surrounding Earth, called the magnetosphere, responds to incoming material and energy from the Sun.

Source: <https://www.isro.gov.in/update/03-oct-2019/studying-earth%E2%80%99s-extended-magnetosphere-geotailplasma-around-moon>

Q.30) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Public Financial Management System (PFMS)'

1. It is being implemented by Controller General of Accounts, Ministry of Finance.
2. It is also used for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) payments under MGNREGA.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.30) Solution (c)

Public Financial Management System (PFMS) is an ambitious project of Government of India being implemented by Controller General of Accounts, Ministry of Finance. PFMS has proved as a robust digital platform towards Prime Minister's vision of DIGITAL INDIA.

PFMS provides platform for efficient management of funds through tracking of funds and real time reporting of expenditure and receipts through Treasury and Bank Interface. The line ministries/ departments utilize this platform to monitor the utilization of funds provided to the implementing agencies and states governments. PFMS is also used for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) payments under MGNREGA and other notified schemes of the Government of India.

Q.31) Governor cannot promulgate an ordinance

1. If the ordinance has the provisions which of embodied in a bill would require president's sanction.
2. If the ordinance has the provisions which the governor would reserve as a bill containing them for the president's sanction.

Select the appropriate code:

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

Q.31) Solution (c)

Power of Governor to promulgate Ordinances during recess of Legislature

(1) If at any time, except when the Legislative Assembly of a State is in session, or where there is a Legislative Council in a State, except when both Houses of the Legislature are in session, the Governor is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action, he may promulgate such Ordinance as the circumstances appear to him to require: Provided that the Governor shall not, without instructions from the President, promulgate any such Ordinance if

(a) a Bill containing the same provisions would under this Constitution have required the previous sanction of the President for the introduction thereof into the Legislature; or

(b) he would have deemed it necessary to reserve a Bill containing the same provisions for the consideration of the President; or

(c) an Act of the Legislature of the State containing the same provisions would under this Constitution have been invalid unless, having been reserved for the consideration of the President, it had received the assent of the President

(2) An Ordinance promulgated under this article shall have the same force and effect as an Act of Legislature of the State assented to by the Governor, but every such Ordinance

(a) shall be laid before the legislative Assembly of the State, or where there is a Legislative Council in the State, before both the House, and shall cease to operate at the expiration of six weeks from the reassembly of the Legislature, or if before the expiration of that period a resolution disapproving it is passed by the Legislative Assembly and agreed to by the Legislative Council, if any, upon the passing of the resolution or, as the case may be, on the resolution being agreed to by the Council; and

(b) may be withdrawn at any time by the Governor Explanation Where the Houses of the Legislature of a State having a Legislative Council are summoned to reassemble on different

dates, the period of six weeks shall be reckoned from the later of those dates for the purposes of this clause

(3) If and so far as an Ordinance under this article makes any provision which would not be valid if enacted in an Act of the legislature of the State assented to by the Governor, it shall be void: Provided that, for the purposes of the provisions of this Constitution relating to the effect of an Act of the Legislature of a State which is repugnant to an Act of Parliament or an existing law with respect to a matter enumerated in the Concurrent List, an Ordinance promulgated under this article in the Concurrent List, an Ordinance promulgated under this article in pursuance of instructions from the President shall be deemed to be an Act of the Legislature of the State which has been reserved for the consideration of the president and assented to by him

CHAPTER V THE HIGH COURTS IN THE STATES

Q.32) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Batten disease'

1. It is a fatal disease of the nervous system.
2. It usually starts in childhood, between the ages of 5 and 10.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.32) Solution (c)

It is a rare group of nervous system disorders called neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis (NCLs) that get worse over time. It usually starts in childhood, between the ages of 5 and 10. There are different forms of the disease but all are fatal, usually by the late teens or twenties. The damage is caused by the buildup of fatty substances, called lipopigments, in the cells of the brain, central nervous system, and retina in the eye.

Q.33) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF)'

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

2. It is designed and implemented by IIM Bangalore, in collaboration with State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.33) Solution (c)

The Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) is an opportunity for young, dynamic individuals to contribute to enhancing skill development and promote rural employment in the country.

MGNF is an initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India (GoI) that is designed and implemented by IIM Bangalore, in collaboration with State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs).

MGNF will be rolled out on a pilot basis in the states of Gujarat, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh.

It is aimed to identify and train a group of young, committed and dynamic individuals, who will leverage the IIMB ecosystem in management, entrepreneurship and public policy and work with the district administration in strengthening the process of skilling to create a vibrant local district economy.

Q.34) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Satnami Rebellion'

1. It occurred in the reign of the Mughul Emperor Aurangzeb.
2. The rebellion took form and shape under the leadership of Baxi Jagandhu Bidyadhara.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.34) Solution (a)

Read More - <http://www.preservearticles.com/history/revolt-of-satnamis-against-aurangzeb/24189>

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/reviews/the-peasant-rebels-of-the-satnami-rebellion-67044>

Q.35) 'Bathukamma Festival' is a floral festival celebrated for nine days during 'Durga Navratri'. It is predominantly celebrated in which of the following states?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Telangana
- c) West Bengal
- d) Madhya Pradesh

Q.35) Solution (b)**Bathukamma Festival**

- It is floral festival celebrated predominantly by the Hindu women of Telangana.
- It is celebrated for nine days during Durga Navratri.
- Bathukamma is a stack of flowers arranged in the shape of Gopuram of a Hindu Temple.
- This festival has been declared as Telangana's State Festival along with Bonalu because of the significance of these festivals which reflect the culture of Telangana.
- Bathukamma is followed by Boddemma, which is a 7-day festival.
- Boddemma festival that marks the ending of Varsha Ruthu whereas Bathukamma festival indicates the beginning of Sarad or Sharath Ruthu.

Q.36) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Chalukya dynasty'

1. The Chalukyas ruled over the Deccan plateau in India for over 600 years.
2. The dynasty was confined to present State of Karnataka.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.36) Solution (a)

The Chalukyas ruled over the Deccan plateau in India for over 600 years. During this period, they ruled as three closely related, but individual dynasties. These are the "Chalukyas of Badami" (also called "Early Chalukyas"), who ruled between the 6th and the 8th century, and the two sibling dynasties, the "Chalukyas of Kalyani" (also called Western Chalukyas or "Later Chalukyas") and the "Chalukyas of Vengi" (also called Eastern Chalukyas).

It was spread over Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Q.37) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Ionospheric Connection Explorer (ICON)'

1. It studies the interaction between Earth's weather systems and space weather driven by the Sun, and how this interaction drives turbulence in the upper atmosphere.
2. It is part of NASA's Explorers program.

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 Ionospheric Connection Explorer (ICON)[7] is a satellite designed to investigate changes in the Earth's ionosphere, the dynamic region high in our atmosphere where terrestrial weather from below meets space weather from above. ICON studies the interaction between Earth's weather systems and space weather driven by the Sun, and how this interaction drives turbulence in the upper atmosphere. It is hoped that a better understanding of this dynamic

will mitigate its effects on communications, GPS signals, and technology in general. It is part of NASA's Explorers program and is operated by UC Berkeley's Space Sciences Laboratory.

Q.38) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Elastocaloric effect'

1. In the elastocaloric effect, the transfer of heat works much the same way as when fluid refrigerants are compressed and expanded.
2. A good elastocaloric material must exhibit a large latent heat, and a large adiabatic temperature change.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.38) Solution (c)

Elastocaloric materials are solids capable of stress-induced reversible phase transformations during which latent heat is released or absorbed. The elastocaloric effect occurs when stress is applied or removed, and a phase transformation is induced. As a result of the entropy difference between the two co-existing phases, the material heats up or cools down. A good elastocaloric material must exhibit a large latent heat, a large adiabatic temperature change, good thermal conductivity, long fatigue life, and low cost. Shape memory polymers can also exhibit elastocaloric effect.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/this-word-means-elastocaloric-effect-6065022/>

Q.39) Consider the following statements with respect to 'SUMAN' Scheme.

1. Under the scheme, pregnant women, mothers up to 6 months after delivery, and all sick newborns will be able to avail free healthcare benefits.
2. The government will also provide free transport from home to health institutions.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.39) Solution (c)

Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)

Under the scheme, pregnant women, mothers up to 6 months after delivery, and all sick newborns will be able to avail of free healthcare benefits. The beneficiaries visiting public health facilities are entitled to several free services. There will be zero expense access to the identification and management of complications during and after the pregnancy. The government will also provide free transport from home to health institutions. There will be assured referral services with the scope of reaching health facility within one hour of any critical case emergency and Drop back from institution to home after due discharge (minimum 48 hrs). The pregnant women will have a zero expense delivery and C-section facility in case of complications at public health facilities. It will ensure respectful care with privacy and dignity, with early initiation and support for breastfeeding, zero dose vaccination and free and zero expense services for sick newborns and neonates.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/government-launches-suman-scheme-assures-free-medicines-for-pregnant-women-11570704991082.html>

Q.40) The proposed 'Green Wall of India' will pass through

- 1. Gujarat
- 2. Maharashtra
- 3. Rajasthan
- 4. Haryana

Select the correct code:

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

Q.40) Solution (b)

It will be a 1,400km long and 5km wide green belt from Gujarat to the Delhi-Haryana border, on the lines of the "Great Green Wall" running through the width of Africa, from Dakar (Senegal) to Djibouti, to combat climate change and desertification.



Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/government-plans-1400km-long-great-green-wall-of-india/articleshow/71496260.cms>

Q.41) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards'

1. It presented by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
2. WWF-India for was selected for the Asia Environmental Enforcement Award 2019.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.41) Solution (a)**Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards**

Objective: To publicly recognise excellence in enforcement and outstanding achievements made by public organisations/individuals in Asia in combating transboundary environmental crime like illegal trade in wildlife, chemicals or waste, in Asia.

The 2019 Awards are presented by UNEP in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), USAID, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), INTERPOL, Freeland Foundation, and Government of Sweden.

Senior Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Ramesh Pandey was selected by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for prestigious Asia Environmental Enforcement Award. This is the fourth time the Awards will be given and there will be also a separate category for Africa-Asia cooperation in the area of illegal trade in wildlife.

Q.42) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

Schemes	States
1. Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana	- Maharashtra
2. Rythu Bandhu	- Telangana
3. Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income augmentation (KALIA)	– Odisha

Select the correct code:

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

Q.42) Solution (b)

Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana – Madhya Pradesh

Rythu Bandhu - Telangana

Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income augmentation (KALIA) – Odisha

THINK!

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

Q.43) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Common Reporting Standard (CRS)'

1. It is an information standard for the Automatic Exchange Of Information (AEOI) regarding bank accounts on a global level, between tax authorities.
2. It is developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

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 Common Reporting Standard (CRS) is an information standard for the Automatic Exchange Of Information (AEOI) regarding bank accounts on a global level, between tax authorities, which the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) developed in 2014.

Its purpose is to combat tax evasion. The idea was based on the US Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) implementation agreements and its legal basis is the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters. 97 countries had signed an agreement to implement it, with more countries intending to sign later. First reporting occurred in 2017, with many of the rest starting in 2018.

Q.44) Which of the planets has the highest number of moons?

- a) Jupiter
- b) Saturn
- c) Neptune
- d) Uranus

Q.44) Solution (b)

Saturn – 82; Jupiter – 79

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/science/story/saturn-has-20-new-moons-and-you-can-help-name-them-1607118-2019-10-08>

Q.45) The 2019 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded for

- a) Contributions to our understanding of the evolution of the universe and Earth's place in the cosmos
- b) Decisive contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves
- c) Discovery of neutrino oscillations, which shows that neutrinos have mass
- d) Invention of efficient blue light-emitting diodes which has enabled bright and energy-saving white light sources

Q.45) Solution (a)**The Nobel Prize in Physics 2019**

“for contributions to our understanding of the evolution of the universe and Earth's place in the cosmos”

James Peebles “for theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology”

Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz “for the discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a solar-type star”

Q.46) 'Gharana wetland' is located in which of the following states?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Gujarat
- d) None of the above

Q.46) Solution (d)

Gharana wetland is located in Jammu.

Q.47) 'National Chambal Sanctuary' is administered by

1. Rajasthan
2. Uttar Pradesh
3. Madhya Pradesh

Select the correct code:

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

Q.47) Solution (d)

National Chambal Sanctuary, also called the National Chambal Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary, is a 5,400 km² tri-state protected area in northern India for the protection of the Critically Endangered gharial, the red-crowned roof turtle and the Endangered Ganges river dolphin. Located on the Chambal River near the tripoint of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, it was first declared in Madhya Pradesh in 1978, and now constitutes a long narrow eco-reserve co-administered by the three states. Within the sanctuary, the pristine Chambal River cuts through mazes of ravines and hills with many sandy beaches.

Q.48) Consider the following statements with respect to 'E-assessment scheme 2019'

1. It is an initiative of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
2. It facilitates faceless assessment of income tax returns through completely electronic communication between tax officials and tax payers.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.48) Solution (c)

Read More - <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=193667>

Q.49) 'Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)' imposes unilateral sanctions against

1. Iran
2. Russia
3. North Korea

Select the correct code:

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

Q.49) Solution (d)

The Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, CAATSA is a United States federal law that imposed sanctions on Iran, North Korea, and Russia.

Q.50) 'Asian Development Outlook' is published by

- a) Asian Development Bank
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) World Bank
- d) New Development Bank

Q.50) Solution (a)

The Asian Development Outlook analyzes economic and development issues in developing countries in Asia. This includes forecasting the inflation and gross domestic product growth rates of countries throughout the region, including the People's Republic of China and India.

Q.51) 'Exercise Dharma Guardian' is a bilateral exercise between India and

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

Q.51) Solution (b)

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-japan-to-hold-joint-military-exercise-from-october-2/articleshow/71553570.cms>

Q.52) Consider the following statements with respect to 'SARAS Aajeevika Mela'

1. Its objective is to bring the rural women SHGs formed with support of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), under one platform to show-case their skills, sell their products and help them build linkages with bulk buyers.
2. It is an initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.52) Solution (a)

SARAS Aajeevika Mela is an initiative by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India, with an objective to bring the rural women Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed with support of DAY-NRLM, under one platform to show-case their skills, sell their products and help them build linkages with bulk buyers. Through participation in SARAS Aajeevika Mela, these rural SHG women get vital national level exposure to understand the demand and taste of urban customers. The Mela is organised by the marketing arm of the Ministry, Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART).

Q.53) 'Eritrea' is not bordered by

- a) Ethiopia
- b) Djibouti
- c) Sudan
- d) Somalia

Q.53) Solution (d)

It is bordered by Sudan in the west, Ethiopia in the south, and Djibouti in the southeast.



Q.54) 'The State of the World's Children' Report is published by

- a) UNICEF
- b) WHO
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) UNDP

Q.54) Solution (a)

The State of the World's Children is an annual report published by the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund. It is the flagship publication of the organization.

Q.55) The Report "South Asia Economic Focus, Making (De) Centralization Work" is published by

- a) World Bank
- b) Asian Development Bank
- c) UNESCAP
- d) USAID

Q.55) Solution (a)

As per the report released by World Bank on 'South Asia Economic Focus, Making (De) Centralization Work', Bangladesh has become the second-fastest growing economy in South Asia after Bhutan. According to the World Bank, Bangladesh and Nepal are estimated to grow faster than India in 2019.

Q.56) The 'Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences' 2019 has been awarded for

- a) Integrating climate change into long-run macroeconomic analysis
- b) The theory of stable allocations and the practice of market design
- c) Analysis of trade patterns and location of economic activity
- d) Experimental approach to alleviating global poverty

Q.56) Solution (d)

The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2019 was awarded to Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer "for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty".

Q.57) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bluetongue Disease'

1. It is a noncontagious, insect-borne, viral disease.
2. It primarily infects sheep, goats, and cattle.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.57) Solution (c)

Bluetongue disease is a noncontagious, insect-borne, viral disease of ruminants, mainly sheep and less frequently cattle, goats, buffalo, deer, dromedaries, and antelope. It is caused by Bluetongue virus (BTV). The virus is transmitted by the midges *Culicoides imicola*, *Culicoides variipennis*, and other culicoids.

In sheep, BTV causes an acute disease with high morbidity and mortality. BTV also infects goats, cattle and other domestic animals as well as wild ruminants (for example, blesbuck, white-tailed deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope).

Q.58) Consider the following statements about 'Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)' of India

1. The CAG is mentioned in the Constitution of India.
2. The CAG is appointed by the Prime Minister of India.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.58) Solution (a)

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is an authority, established by the Constitution of India under Chapter V, who audits all receipts and expenditure of the

Government of India and the state governments, including those of bodies and authorities substantially financed by the government. The CAG is also the external auditor of government-owned companies. The reports of the CAG are taken into consideration by the Public Accounts Committees, which are special committees in the Parliament of India and the state legislatures. The CAG is also the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service, which has over 58,000 employees across the country. The CAG is mentioned in the Constitution of India under Article 148 – 151.

The CAG is appointed by the President of India by a warrant under his hand and seal. He holds office for a period of six years or upto the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier

The powers of the CAG, regarding audit, are provided for in the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971. According to this act, the CAG can audit:

- All receipts and expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India and of the states and union territories.
- All transactions relating to the Contingency Funds and Public Accounts.
- All trading, manufacturing, profit and loss accounts and balance sheets and other subsidiary accounts kept in any department.
- All stores and stock of all government offices or departments.
- Accounts of all government companies set up under the Indian Companies Act, 1956.
- Accounts of all central government corporations whose Acts provide for audit by the CAG.
- Accounts of all authorities and bodies substantially funded from the Consolidated Fund.

Q.59) 'Project Vishwajeet' aims

- a) To make India a manufacturing hub
- b) To make India a defence hub in line with Make in India initiative
- c) To put IITs in top league of global rankings
- d) To facilitate protection of Patents, Trademark and Designs of innovative and interested Start Ups.

Q.59) Solution (c)

An endeavour titled 'Project Vishwajeet' by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to put IITs among the list of global educational institutions could see a revival.

When this initiative was conceptualised in 2016, it aimed to push seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) to the top rung in global academic rankings. The seven IITs which will be a part of this project are IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Guwahati, IIT Roorkee and IIT Kanpur.

Q.60) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Malabar Civet'

1. It is a viverrid endemic to the Western Ghats.
2. It is listed as Critically Endangered on 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 (c)

The Malabar large-spotted civet (*Viverra civettina*), also known as the Malabar civet, is a viverrid endemic to the Western Ghats of India. It is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List as the population is estimated to number fewer than 250 mature individuals. In the early 1990s, isolated populations still survived in less disturbed areas of South Malabar but were seriously threatened by habitat destruction and hunting outside protected areas.

Q.61) 'Ramakien' is associated with which of the following countries?

- a) Thailand
- b) India
- c) Malaysia
- d) Myanmar

Q.61) Solution (a)

The Ramakien, literally "Glory of Rama"; is Thailand's national epic, derived from the Hindu epic Ramayana. Khon is a dance drama genre from Thailand. Khon has been performed since the Ayutthaya Kingdom. Khon is based on the tales of the epic Ramakien. Khon Ramakien originally could be performed by men only.

KHON Ramlila of Thailand is included in the list of UNESCO's Intangible cultural heritage and it's a form of masked dance depicting the scenes of Ramlila. It has no dialogues and background voices narrate the whole story of Ramayana.

Source: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=UP-Culture-Dept-to-organise-training-%26-performance-programme-of-KHON-Ramlila&id=373014>

Q.62) 'Rangdum Monastery' was in news recently. Where is it located?

- a) Ladakah
- b) Karnataka
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Uttarakhand

Q.62) Solution (a)

Rangdum Monastery is a Tibetan Buddhist monastery belonging to the Gelugpa sect, situated on top of a small but steep sugarloaf hill at an altitude of 4,031 m at the head of the Suru Valley, in Ladakh.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rangdum-monastery-in-kargil-likely-to-become-a-monument-of-national-importance/article29713654.ece>

Q.63) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Food Safety Mitra (FSM)'

1. It is an individual professional who assists in compliances related to FSS Act, Rules and regulations.
2. It is launched by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only

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

Q.63) Solution (c)

In a bid to improve the ease of doing business, apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Wednesday launched a scheme --Food Safety Mitra (FSM). The scheme will support small and medium scale food businesses in compliance to the food safety laws.

A Food Safety Mitra is an individual professional certified by FSSAI who assists in compliances related to FSS Act, Rules and regulations with three avatars viz. Digital Mitra, Trainer Mitra and Hygiene Mitra depending upon their respective roles and responsibilities.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/politics/policy/fssai-launches-food-safety-mitra-for-ease-of-doing-business-job-creation-11571234476663.html>

Q.64) Consider the following statements with respect to 'GOAL (Going Online as Leaders) Programme'

1. It is aimed at inspiring, guiding and encouraging tribal girls from across India to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities.
2. It is a programme by Facebook along with Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.64) Solution (c)

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs announced the second phase of GOAL (Going Online as Leaders), a Facebook program aimed at inspiring, guiding and encouraging tribal girls from across India to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities. Launched earlier this year in March, GOAL connects underprivileged young tribal women with senior expert mentors in the

areas of business, fashion and arts to learn digital and life skills. In the second phase of the program, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Facebook together will digitally mentor 5000 young women in India's tribal dominated districts.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=193829>

Q.65) 'Shinyuu Maitri' is a joint Air Force Exercise between India and

- a) South Korea
- b) China
- c) Japan
- d) Singapore

Q.65) Solution (c)

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/india-japan-to-begin-joint-air-force-exercise-shinyuu-maitri-from-oct-17-in-wb-119101501218_1.html

Q.66) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Clean Seas' programme

1. It was launched by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. It was launched with the aim of engaging governments, the general public and the private sector in the fight against marine plastic pollution.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.66) Solution (c)

UNEP launched the 'Clean Seas' programme in February 2017 to fight marine plastic litter with the help of governments, civil society and citizens.

Read More - <https://www.cleanseas.org/about>

Q.67) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Great Oxidation Event'

1. It was a time that Earth's atmosphere and the shallow ocean experienced a rise in oxygen, during the Paleoproterozoic era.
2. Free oxygen was first produced by eukaryotic organisms in the ocean that carried out photosynthesis more efficiently, producing oxygen as a waste product.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.67) Solution (a)

The Great Oxidation Event (GOE), sometimes also called the Great Oxygenation Event, Oxygen Catastrophe, Oxygen Crisis, Oxygen Holocaust, or Oxygen Revolution, was a time that Earth's atmosphere and the shallow ocean experienced a rise in oxygen, around 2.4 billion years ago (2.4 Ga) to 2.1–2.0 Ga during the Paleoproterozoic era. Geological, isotopic, and chemical evidence suggests that biologically induced molecular oxygen (dioxygen, O₂) started to accumulate in Earth's atmosphere and changed Earth's atmosphere from a weakly reducing atmosphere to an oxidizing atmosphere.

A chronology of oxygen accumulation suggests that free oxygen was first produced by prokaryotic and then later eukaryotic organisms in the ocean that carried out photosynthesis more efficiently, producing oxygen as a waste product.

Read More - <http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20150701-the-origin-of-the-air-we-breathe>

Q.68) 'Common Risk Mitigating Mechanism' (CRMM), an insurance scheme is associated with which of the following groupings

- a) BRICS
- b) ASEAN
- c) Paris Agreement
- d) International Solar Alliance

Q.68) Solution (d)**Common Risk Mitigating Mechanism (CRMM)**

- International Solar Alliance (IAS), which became a treaty-based global entity, will develop an insurance scheme - Common Risk Mitigating Mechanism –
- To protect investors' interests so that more and more investment can be attracted to the growing solar energy sector.
- It has set up an international expert group to work on blue print of the mechanism
- There is a task force headed by the Terrawatt Initiative (TWI) with members from the World Bank Group, The Currency Exchange Fund (TCX), the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), and also the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)
- CRMM will act as a pooled insurance with limited liability. Banks and multi-lateral institutions can contribute to the fund for a marginal premium. This will lower the cost of capital for developing renewable energy projects

Q.69) 'Chitrakathi' style of painting is practiced in

- a) Odisha
- b) Maharashtra
- c) West Bengal
- d) Gujarat

Q.69) Solution (b)

Chitrakathi is a unique style of Painting, practised in Pinguli, a small village near Kudal, in the district of Sindhudurg in the Indian States of Maharashtra, dating back to the 17th century. Painting is done using paper, brush and hand-made colours and in the sequence, based on the story of Mahabhartha or Ramayana.

Q.70) Consider the following statements about 'Inclusive Development Index'

1. It is released by the World Economic Forum
2. It is an annual assessment of countries' economic performance that measures how countries perform on eleven dimensions of economic progress in addition to GDP

Select the correct statements

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

Q.70) Solution (c)

The Inclusive Development Index (IDI) is an annual assessment of 103 countries' economic performance that measures how countries perform on eleven dimensions of economic progress in addition to GDP. It has 3 pillars; growth and development; inclusion and; intergenerational equity – sustainable stewardship of natural and financial resources.

The IDI is a project of the World Economic Forum's System Initiative on the Future of Economic Progress, which aims to inform and enable sustained and inclusive economic progress through deepened public-private cooperation through thought leadership and analysis, strategic dialogue and concrete cooperation, including by accelerating social impact through corporate action.

Q.71) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Indian Penal Code (IPC)'

1. It was drafted on the recommendations of first law commission of India established under the Charter Act of 1833.
2. It is a comprehensive code intended to cover all substantive aspects of criminal law and tort law.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.71) Solution (a)

The Indian Penal Code (IPC) is the official criminal code of India. It is a comprehensive code intended to cover all substantive aspects of criminal law. The code was drafted in 1860 on the recommendations of first law commission of India established in 1834 under the Charter Act of 1833 under the chairmanship of Macaulay.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/centre-all-set-to-revamp-british-era-indian-penal-code/article29752397.ece>

Q.72) 'Baikonur Cosmodrome' is located in

- a) Ukraine
- b) Mongolia
- c) Kazakhstan
- d) Jordan

Q.72) Solution (c)

Baikonur Cosmodrome is a spaceport located in an area of southern Kazakhstan leased to Russia. The Cosmodrome is the world's first and largest operational space launch facility.

Q.73) 'Pettathullal' was in news recently. It is associated with which of the following states?

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

Q.73) Solution (a)

Pettathullal, also known as Petta Kettu, is a historic ritualistic dance held annually on 27th Dhanu at Erumely in the district of Kottayam in Kerala. It is performed during the Mandalam - Makaravilakku period (November, December and January) in the presence of thousands of devotees which depicts the joyfulness of people by the slaying of Mahishi by Lord Ayyappa. Two groups actively participates in the thullal, one from Ambalappuzha and other from Aalangadu. Ambalappuzha group starts their journey to Erumely on 22nd of Dhanu and a couple of days

before the thullal. They visits the Manimala Bhagavathy temple on 25th Dhanu and performs an Aazhi pooja. Before the thullal of Ambalappuzha group, a Krishna parunth (sacred eagle) flies round in the sky. It is believed that lord Vishnu himself arrives from Ambalappuzha Sree Krishna temple on his mount Garuda to witness the thullal.

Pettathullal is a symbolic representation of a community against the uprisings of Adharma or injustice. By slaying the demoness Mahishi, Ayyappa empowered the people by saying that "Unity is the key to social transformation".

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/colours-will-go-green-for-petta-thullal-at-erumeli/article29753237.ece>

Q.74) 'New Arrangement to Borrow' is associated with

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

Q.74) Solution (a)

The New Arrangement to Borrow is the fund mobilization arrangement of the IMF to mobilise additional funds through borrowing from member countries.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/imf-members-delay-quota-changes-agree-to-maintain-funding/article29745741.ece>

Q.75) Which of the following currencies is not included in IMF's SDR basket?

- a) Japanese Yen
- b) Swiss Franc
- c) Chinese Yuan
- d) British Pound

Q.75) Solution (b)

The basket now consists of the following five currencies: U.S. dollar 41.73%, euro 30.93%, renminbi (Chinese yuan) 10.92%, Japanese yen 8.33%, British pound 8.09%.

Q.76) Which of the following reports is published by 'National Crime Records Bureau'?

1. Crime in India
2. Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India
3. Prison Statistics India

Select the correct code:

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

Q.76) Solution (d)

NCRB brings out three annual reports i.e. Crime in India, Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India and Prison Statistics India. These reports are principal reference points for police officers, researchers, media & policy makers.

Source (Important Data for Mains): <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/ncrb-leaves-out-data-on-lynchings-khap-and-religious-killings-6081188/>

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

1. It is launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
2. It is aimed at promoting digital payments across the country and especially in rural areas.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.77) Solution (d)

The National Cyber Security Coordinator's office in partnership with Data Security Council (DSCI) of India launched TechSagar – a platform to discover India's technological capability through a portal. The portal will list business and research entities from the IT industry, startups, academia, and individual researchers.

The repository will facilitate new opportunities for businesses and academia to collaborate, connect and innovate in future.

TechSagar is a consolidated and comprehensive repository of India's cyber tech capabilities which provides actionable insights about capabilities of the Indian Industry, academia and research across 25 technology areas like internet of things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), blockchain, cloud & virtualisation, robotics & automation, ar/vr, wireless & networking, and more.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/technology/tech-news/techsagar-national-repository-of-india-s-cyber-tech-capabilities-launched-11571653210545.html>

Q.78) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Battle of Sinhadgad'

1. It was fought in the Konkan Region of Maharashtra.
2. It was fought between Sambhaji Maharaj and Jai Singh I who was a Mughal Army Chief.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.78) Solution (d)

The Battle of Sinhadgad took place during the night on 4 February 1670 on the fort of Sinhadgad near the city of Pune, Maharashtra.

The battle was fought between Tanaji Malusare, a Koli commander of Maratha ruler Shivaji Maharaj and Udaybhan Rathod, fortkeeper under Jai Singh I who was a Mughal Army Chief.

Q.79) Consider the following statements with respect to 'UPI 2.0'

1. The customer gets to view the bill in the UPI app, verify the details and pay the invoice.
2. The customer will be assured of the authenticity of the receiver and will be informed if the QR is not secured.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.79) Solution (c)

Both the statements are correct.

Read More - <https://www.bhimupi.org.in/upi2>

Source (BHIM 2.0) - <https://www.livemint.com/politics/policy/govt-launches-bhim-2-0-with-new-functionalities-additional-language-support-11571670479614.html>

Q.80) 'Defence Acquisition Council' is chaired by

- a) Prime Minister
- b) National Security Advisor
- c) Union Defence Minister
- d) Cabinet Secretary

Q.80) Solution (c)

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/govt-approves-procurement-of-indigenously-developed-military-hardware-worth-rs-3300-cr/articleshow/71693276.cms>

Q.81) 'Marawah Island' was in news recently. It is under the control of

- a) Kuwait
- b) Bahrain
- c) United Arab Emirates
- d) Ethiopia

Q.81) Solution (c)

It is a low-lying island off the coast of the Western Region of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates.

Source: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=World%E2%80%99s-oldest-known-natural-pearl-discovered-on-Abu-Dhabi-Island&id=373261>

Q.82) Consider the following statement with respect to 'World Food Programme (WFP)'

1. The WFP operations are funded by voluntary donations from governments of the world, corporations and private donors.
2. The WFP is governed by an executive board which consists of representatives from 36 member states.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.82) 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. According to the WFP, it provides food assistance to an average of 91.4 million people in 83 countries each year. From its headquarters in Rome and from more than 80 country offices around the world, the WFP works to help people who cannot produce or obtain enough food

for themselves and their families. 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. The organization's administrative costs are only seven percent—one of the lowest and best among aid agencies.

The WFP is governed by an executive board which consists of representatives from 36 member states.

United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has launched its cinema ad campaign 'Feed Our Future' against hunger and malnutrition in India.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/united-nations-wfp-launches-feed-our-future-cinema-ad-campaign-119102100441_1.html

Q.83) Which of the following art forms are associated with 'Manipur'?

1. Raas
2. Sankirtana
3. Thang-ta

Select the correct code:

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

Q.83) Solution (d)

Raas

- Exhibits the transcendental love of Krishna and Radha and the Gopis' devotion to the Lord
- Theme - Pangs of separation of the gopis and Radha— from Krishna

Sankirtana

- Accompanied with congregational singing

- During all festivals and social functions

Thang-Ta

- Martial dance form
- It is popular term for the ancient Manipuri Martial Art known as HUYEN LALLONG.
- In the Manipuri language, thang means sword and ta means spear. As its name implies, the sword and spear are the primary weapons in thang-ta. Other weapons used include the shield and axe.

Q.84) Which of the following statements with respect to 'Pattachitra' is correct?

- a) It is a traditional dance form of Odisha
- b) It is a block painting of Buddhism faith
- c) It is a painting done on dry leaves and preserved
- d) It is a cloth-based scroll painting of Odisha

Q.84) Solution (d)

Pattachitra is a general term for traditional, cloth-based scroll painting, based in the eastern Indian state, Odisha. In the Sanskrit language, "Patta" literally means "cloth" and "Chitra" means "picture". Most of these paintings depict stories of Hindu deities.

Q.85) The 'Index of Economic Freedom' is published by

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) UNCTAD
- d) The Heritage Foundation

Q.85) Solution (d)

The Index of Economic Freedom is an annual index and ranking created in 1995 by The Heritage Foundation and The Wall Street Journal to measure the degree of economic freedom in the world's nations.

Q.86) 'Sukhna Lake' which was in news recently, is located in

- a) Hyderabad
- b) Bengaluru
- c) Mumbai
- d) Chandigarh

Q.86) Solution (d)

Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh, India, is a reservoir at the foothills (Shivalik hills) of the Himalayas.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/how-wetland-status-will-help-chandigarhs-sukhna-lake-6083887/>

Q.87) Africa's Sahel region does not include which of the following countries?

- a) Senegal
- b) Mali
- c) Eritrea
- d) Egypt

Q.87) Solution (d)

Sahel Region is the Eco climatic and biogeographic zone of transition in Africa between the Sahara to the north and the Sudanian Savanna (historically known as the Sudan region) to the south. Having a semi-arid climate, it stretches across the south-central latitudes of Northern Africa between the Atlantic Ocean and the Red Sea.

The Sahel part of Africa includes (from west to east) parts of northern Senegal, southern Mauritania, central Mali, northern Burkina Faso, the extreme south of Algeria, Niger, the extreme north of Nigeria, central Chad, central and southern Sudan, the extreme north of South Sudan, Eritrea, Cameroon, Central African Republic and extreme north of Ethiopia.

Historically, the western part of the Sahel was sometimes known as the Sudan region. This belt was roughly located between the Sahara and the coastal areas of West Africa.

The semiarid steppes of the Sahel have natural pasture, with low-growing grass and tall, herbaceous perennials. Other forage for the region's livestock (camel, pack ox, and grazing cattle and sheep) includes thorny shrubs and acacia and baobab trees.



Q.88) Consider the following statement about 'Central Waqf Council'

1. It is a statutory body
2. It is under the Ministry of Minority Affairs

Select the correct statements

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

Q.88) Solution (c)

Central Waqf Council is a statutory body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Minority Affairs was set up in 1964 as per the provision given in the Waqf Act, 1954 as Advisory Body to the Central Government on matters concerning the working of the Waqf Boards and the due administration of Auqaf. However, the role of the Council was expanded significantly

under the provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2013. The Council has been empowered to advise the Central Government, State Governments and State Waqf Boards. It will now issue directives to the boards/ State Government to furnish information to the Council on the performance of the board particularly on their financial performance, survey, revenue records, encroachment of Waqf properties, Annual and Audit report etc under section 9 (4) of the act.

Q.89) 'Aghanashini Lion Tailed Macaque Conservation Reserve' is located in

- a) Assam
- b) Nagaland
- c) Karnataka
- d) Ladakh

Q.89) Solution (c)

An area of 299.52 sq kms has been declared as the Aghanashini Lion-tailed Macaque Conservation Reserve in Karnataka.

Q.90) The 'Bishkek Declaration' is concerned with conservation of which of the following species?

- a) Riverine Dolphins
- b) Whales
- c) Sloth Bears
- d) Snow Leopards

Q.90) Solution (d)

12 snow leopard range countries have adopted the Bishkek Declaration on the Conservation of the Snow Leopard.

Q.91) Azerbaijan is not bordered by

- a) Russia

- b) Armenia
- c) Iran
- d) Romania

Q.91) Solution (d)

Azerbaijan is bounded by the Caspian Sea to the east, Russia to the north, Georgia to the northwest, Armenia to the west and Iran to the south. The exclave of Nakhchivan is bounded by Armenia to the north and east, Iran to the south and west, and has an 11 km (6.8 mi) long border with Turkey in the northwest.

Q.92) 'Sycamore' was in news recently. What is it associated with?

- a) Quantum Computing
- b) Cryptocurrency
- c) Metalenses
- d) Collaborative telepresence

Q.92) Solution (a)

It is Google's Quantum Computer.

Read More - <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/quantum-supremacy-paper-sycamore-computer-computing-explained-google-a9168551.html>

Q.93) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Van Allen Belts'

1. The belts are located in the inner region of Earth's magnetosphere.
2. Earth has two such belts and sometimes others may be temporarily created.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.93) Solution (c)

A Van Allen radiation belt is a zone of energetic charged particles, most of which originate from the solar wind, that are captured by and held around a planet by that planet's magnetic field. Earth has two such belts and sometimes others may be temporarily created. The discovery of the belts is credited to James Van Allen, and as a result, Earth's belts are known as the Van Allen belts. Earth's two main belts extend from an altitude of about 640 to 58,000 km above the surface in which region radiation levels vary. Most of the particles that form the belts are thought to come from solar wind and other particles by cosmic rays. By trapping the solar wind, the magnetic field deflects those energetic particles and protects the atmosphere from destruction.

Q.94) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Minimum Support Price (MSP)'

1. The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
2. The MSP is mandated for 14 Kharif Crops.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.94) Solution (c)

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices. The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). MSP is price fixed by Government of India to protect the producer - farmers - against excessive fall in price during bumper production years. The minimum support prices are a guarantee price for their produce from the Government. The major objectives are to support the farmers from distress sales and to procure food grains for public distribution. In case the market price for the commodity falls below the announced minimum price due to bumper

production and glut in the market, government agencies purchase the entire quantity offered by the farmers at the announced minimum price.

Government announces minimum support prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane. The mandated crops are 14 crops of the kharif season, 6 rabi crops and two other commercial crops.

Q.95) 'ALMA' is an astronomical interferometer located in

- a) Chile
- b) Papua New Guinea
- c) Guatemala
- d) Algeria

Q.95) Solution (a)

The Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) is an astronomical interferometer of 66 radio telescopes in the Atacama Desert of northern Chile, which observe electromagnetic radiation at millimeter and submillimeter wavelengths. The array has been constructed on the 5,000 m (16,000 ft) elevation Chajnantor plateau - near the Llano de Chajnantor Observatory and the Atacama Pathfinder Experiment. This location was chosen for its high elevation and low humidity, factors which are crucial to reduce noise and decrease signal attenuation due to Earth's atmosphere. ALMA is expected to provide insight on star birth during the early Stelliferous era and detailed imaging of local star and planet formation.

ALMA is an international partnership among Europe, the United States, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and Chile.

Q.96) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Universal Postal Union (UPU)'

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that coordinates postal policies among member nations, in addition to the worldwide postal system.
2. A non-member state of the United Nations may also become a member if two-thirds of the UPU member countries approve its request.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.96) Solution (c)

The Universal Postal Union (UPU, French: Union postale universelle), established by the Treaty of Bern of 1874, is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that coordinates postal policies among member nations, in addition to the worldwide postal system. The UPU contains four bodies consisting of the Congress, the Council of Administration (CA), the Postal Operations Council (POC) and the International Bureau (IB). It also oversees the Telematics and Express Mail Service (EMS) cooperatives. Each member agrees to the same terms for conducting international postal duties. The UPU's headquarters are located in Bern, Switzerland.

All United Nations member states are allowed to become members of the UPU. A non-member state of the United Nations may also become a member if two-thirds of the UPU member countries approve its request. The UPU currently has 192 members (190 states and two joint memberships of dependent territories groups).

Q.97) 'INS Baaz' is located in

- a) Goa
- b) Lakshadweep Islands
- c) Odisha
- d) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Q.97) Solution (d)

INS Baaz is located at Campbell Bay on the Great Nicobar island, the southernmost and largest island in the UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Q.98) 'Nelloptodes gretae' was in news recently. It is a species of

- a) Night frog
- b) Beetle
- c) Non-venomous snake
- d) Orchid

Q.98) Solution (b)

Nelloptodes gretae is a species of beetle in the family Ptiliidae. It was named after the environmental activist Greta Thunberg.

Q.99) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Sentinel-3 World Fires Atlas'

1. It is jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
2. It uses a method that enables it to identify all active fires at night.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.99) Solution (b)

The Sentinel-3 World Fires Atlas Prototype product has been developed by European Space Agency over the southern countries of the ESA member states, using as input the Sentinel-3A and Sentinel-3B SLSTR Level 1b data containing two dedicated channels (F1 and F2) for fire and high temperature events.

The ESA Sentinel-3 World Fires Atlas Prototype aims to provide continuity to ESA ATSR World Fire Atlas (operating from June 1995 to March 2012) taking on board all the improvements of Sentinel-3 SLSTR instrument.

It uses a method that enables it to identify all active fires at night. The sensors on satellites measure thermal infrared radiation to take the temperature of Earth's land surfaces. This information is used to detect and monitor the heat emitted by the fires.

Q.100) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Pushkaram'

1. It is a festival dedicated to worshipping of rivers.
2. The Pushkaram tradition is mentioned in 'Yajurveda'.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.100) Solution (a)

Pushkaram is an Indian festival dedicated to worshipping of rivers.

It is celebrated at shrines along the banks of 12 major sacred rivers in India, in the form of ancestor worship, spiritual discourses, devotional music and cultural programmes.

The Pushkaram tradition is not mentioned in the early Hindu texts; it is part of the medieval Hindu astrological lore. Therefore, the names of 12 rivers may vary depending on the regional traditions. For example, in Maharashtra, Bhima is associated with Scorpio sign, while in Tamil Nadu, Tamraparni is associated with it.

Q.101) Which of the following countries are allowed under Open General Export Licences (OGELs)?

1. South Africa
2. United States of America
3. Pakistan
4. Japan

Select the correct code:

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

Q.101) Solution (c)

The countries allowed under the OGELs are: Belgium, France, Germany, Japan, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, UK, USA, Canada, Italy, Poland and Mexico.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/centre-allows-export-of-defence-equipment-to-select-countries-under-special-licenses/article29787055.ece>

Q.102) Consider the following statements with respect to 'International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)'

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
2. Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.102) Solution (a)

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations. It changes the principles and techniques of international air navigation and fosters the planning and development of international air transport to ensure safe and orderly growth. Its headquarters is located in the Quartier International of Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Q.103) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

1. Hambantota – Sri Lanka
2. Chabahar - Afghanistan
3. Duqm – Iran

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 1 and 2

- c) 1 and 3
- d) 2 and 3

Q.103) Solution (a)

Hambantota – Sri Lanka

Chabahar - Iran

Duqm – Oman

Q.104) 'Global Pension Index' is released by

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) United Nations Development Programme
- d) None of the above

Q.104) Solution (d)

It is published by the Australian Centre for Financial Studies (ACFS) in collaboration with Mercer, with most of the funding from the State Government of Victoria.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/india-improves-ranking-in-melbourne-mercero-global-pension-index/articleshow/71724436.cms>

Q.105) Consider the following statements with respect to 'International Nitrogen Management System (INMS)'

1. It is a joint activity of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Nitrogen Initiative.
2. It is supported by the Global Environment Facility.

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only

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

Q.105) Solution (c)

International Nitrogen Management System (INMS) is a joint activity of the UNEP and the International Nitrogen Initiative supported by the Global Environment Facility.

Source: <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/colombo-declaration-calls-tackling-global-nitrogen-challenge>

Q.106) 'Barisha raid' is associated with which of the following countries?

- a) Syria
- b) Pakistan
- c) Libya
- d) Iraq

Q.106) Solution (a)

The Barisha raid, officially codenamed Operation Kayla Mueller after Kayla Mueller, was a United States military operation conducted in Barisha, Idlib Governorate, Syria on October 26–27, 2019, to capture or kill Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the then-leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terror organization.

Q.107) 'Ik Onkar' is associated with which of the following religious philosophy?

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

Q.107) Solution (a)

Ik Onkar is the symbol that represents the one supreme reality and is a central tenet of Sikh religious philosophy. Ik Onkar has a prominent position at the head of the Mul Mantar and the opening words of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

Q.108) 'Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana' is launched by which of the following state governments?

- a) Telangana
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Rajasthan

Q.108) Solution (b)

Source: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/2-200-panchayats-brought-under-natural-farming-says-baldi/853590.html>

Q.109) 'Mandana Paintings' is associated with

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Rajasthan
- c) West Bengal
- d) Odisha

Q.109) Solution (b)

Mandana Paintings

- Mandana in the local language refers to 'drawing' in the context of chitra mandana or 'drawing a picture'.
- Mandana is derived from the word Mandan which implies decoration and beautification.
- Mandana paintings are one of the oldest forms of tribal art in India that has survived over the ages.
- Mandana paintings are wall and floor paintings of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

- Mandana are drawn to protect home and earth, welcome gods into the house and as a mark of celebrations on festive occasions.
- The ground is prepared with cow dung mixed with rati, a local clay, and red ochre.
- Lime or chalk powder is used for making the motif. Tools employed are a piece of cotton, a tuft of hair, or a rudimentary brush made out of a date stick. The design may show Ganesha, peacocks, women at work, tigers, floral motifs, etc.
- Such paintings are also called Mandala in most of the parts of Nepal.

Q.110) 'Haqqani network' is an insurgent group from which of the following countries?

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Lebanon
- c) Iraq
- d) Syria

Q.110) Solution (a)

Haqqani network

- It is an Afghan guerrilla insurgent group using asymmetric warfare to fight against US-led NATO forces and the government of Afghanistan.
- It is one of the most powerful and feared groups in the Afghan insurgency.

Q.111) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Gibraltar Arc'.

1. It is a geological region corresponding to an arc like mountain belt surrounding the Alboran Sea, between the Iberian Peninsula and Africa.
2. It consists of the Betic Ranges in southern Spain, and the Rif mountains in North Morocco.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.111) Solution (c)

The Gibraltar Arc is a geological region corresponding to an arc like mountain belt surrounding the Alboran Sea, between the Iberian Peninsula and Africa.

It consists of the Betic Ranges in southern Spain, and the Rif mountains in North Morocco.

It is as considered one of the narrowest landforms on Earth.

The Gibraltar Arc is located at the western end of the Mediterranean Alpine belt and formed during the Neogene due to convergence of the Eurasian and African plates.

The Arc has two sections: the Internal and External Zones. The Internal Zone, which is located on the inner side of the arc, adjacent to the Alboran Sea, mostly consists of high-pressure, low-temperature metamorphic rocks. The External Zone, located on the outer side of the arc, is mostly made of sediments deposited on the passive margins of Africa and Iberia. These rocks became highly deformed during the westward emplacement of the hinterland of the subduction system, with some units in the External Rif having undergone medium-pressure, low-temperature metamorphism during the Oligocene.

Q.112) Snow Leopard found in its natural habitat is found in which of the following states?

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Uttarakhand
3. Sikkim
4. Assam
5. Himanchal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Q.112) Solution (d)

Snow leopards occur in the Himalayan and Trans-Himalayan areas of five states in northern India. The total range is estimated to cover 126,842 square kilometres. The five states are Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

Q.113) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Bishnoi community in Western Rajasthan are known as protectors of Blackbuck.
2. Maldharis, a nomadic tribe of cattle-rearers, have been acknowledged for their support in conservation methods of Snow Leopard.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.113) Solution (a)

Blackbuck: Bishnois, situated in Western Rajasthan, they are known as protectors of Blackbuck.

Lion: Maldharis, a nomadic tribe of cattle-rearers, have been acknowledged for their support in conservation methods of lions.

Q.114) Which of the following committee is NOT related/associated to Indian Railways?

- a) Anil Kakodkar Committee
- b) Justice H.R. Khanna Committee
- c) Sam Pitroda Committee
- d) Ashok Dalwai Committee

Q.114) Solution (d)

Anil Kakodkar (2012)- High Level Safety Review Committee (Railways) - The Committee recommends a total financial investment of Rs 1,00,000 crore over a five year period

Sam Pitroda Committee on modernization of Indian Railways

Railway Safety Review Committee (Khanna Committee) was set up in 1998 under the Chairmanship of Justice H.R. Khanna. In 1998, the Railway Ministry constituted Justice Khanna Committee to review the implementation of the recommendations of all previous accident inquiry committees, to examine the adequacy of existing organization and practices for safe running of trains and to suggest safety measures.

Ashok Dalwai Committee – Doubling Farmers Income

Q.115) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Edge computing'

1. In edge computing, data is processed by the device itself or by a local computer or server, rather than being transmitted to a data centre.
2. Edge Computing is critical for technologies such as self-driving cars.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.115) Solution (c)

Edge computing is the practice of processing data near the edge of your network, where the data is being generated, instead of in a centralised data-processing warehouse.

Edge computing is a distributed, open IT architecture that features decentralised processing power, enabling mobile computing and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies. In edge computing, data is processed by the device itself or by a local computer or server, rather than being transmitted to a data centre.

Edge computing enables data-stream acceleration, including real-time data processing without latency. It allows smart applications and devices to respond to data almost instantaneously, as it's being created, eliminating lag time. This is critical for technologies such as self-driving cars, and has equally important benefits for business.

Edge computing allows for efficient data processing in that large amounts of data can be processed near the source, reducing Internet bandwidth usage. This both eliminates costs and ensures that applications can be used effectively in remote locations. In addition, the ability to

process data without ever putting it into a public cloud adds a useful layer of security for sensitive data.