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7353277800



support@iasbaba.com



www.iasbaba.com

Q.1) Which of the following statements with respect to ‘Ottan Thullal’.

- a) It is dance and poetic performance form of Kerala.
- b) It is a war dance performed in Karnataka
- c) It refers to colorful motifs done by hands in Tamil Nadu.
- d) It is a martial art of Andhra Pradesh which is similar to Silambam.

Q.1) Solution (a)

It is a dance and poetic performance form of Kerala, India. It was introduced in the eighteenth century by Kunchan Nambiar, one of the Prachina Kavithrayam (three famous Malayalam language poets). It is accompanied by a mridangam (a barrel shaped double headed drum) or an idakka (drum and cymbal).

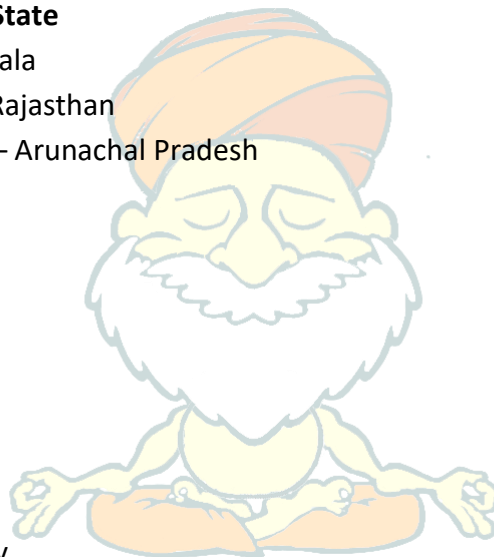
Q.2) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Places in News – State

- 1. Oussudu lake – Kerala
- 2. Sadikpur Sinauli – Rajasthan
- 3. Pari Adi mountain – Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct code:

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



Q.2) Solution (d)

Oussudu lake – Puducherry

Sadikpur Sinauli – Uttar Pradesh

Pari Adi mountain – Arunachal Pradesh

Q.3) Which of the following countries do not open to the ‘Yellow Sea’?

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

Q.3) Solution (a)

The Yellow Sea is a marginal sea of the Western Pacific Ocean located between mainland China and the Korean Peninsula, and can be considered the northwestern part of the East China Sea.



Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to ‘Sambar Deer’?

1. It is the state animal of Odisha
2. It is listed as a critically endangered species on the IUCN Red List
3. In India it is only found along the Eastern Coast and North East part of the country.

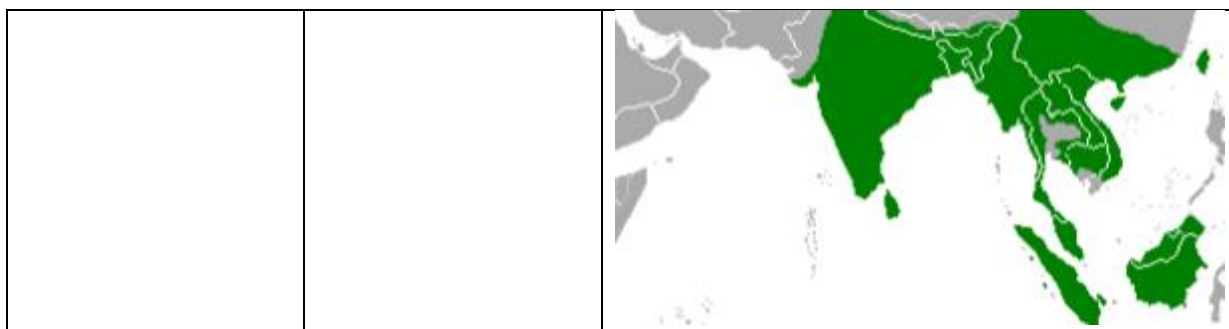
Select the correct code:

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

Q.4) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 | Statement 3 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Correct | Incorrect | Incorrect |
| It is the state animal of India. | IUCN - Vulnerable | It is found almost everywhere in India. |



Q.5) 'Abhay Karandikar Panel' which was in news recently is associated with

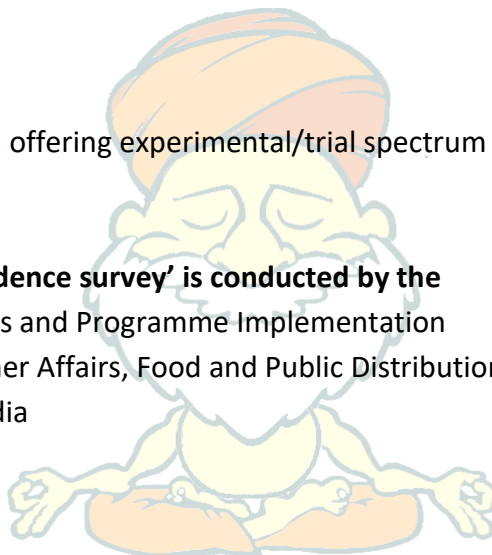
- a) Maharashtra Karnataka Border Dispute
- b) 5G Spectrum
- c) Feasibility of nationwide National Register of Citizenship
- d) Automobile Sector

Q.5) Solution (b)

Abhay Karandikar Panel on offering experimental/trial spectrum for 5G.

Q.6) The 'Consumer Confidence survey' is conducted by the

- a) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- b) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- c) Reserve Bank of India
- d) Ministry of Finance



Q.6) Solution (c)

Consumer Confidence survey is conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The survey measures consumer perception (current and future) on five economic variables - economic situation, employment, the price level, income and spending.

The Consumer Confidence survey has two main indices - current situation index and future expectations index. The current situation index measures the change in consumer perception over an economic issue in the last one year while the future expectations index measures what consumer thinks about the same variables, one year ahead.

Q.7) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Places in News - Country

- 1. Fujairah Port – Oman
- 2. Changangkha Lhakhang – Bhutan

3. Garzweiler – Germany

Select the correct code:

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

Q.7) Solution (c)

Fujairah Port – UAE

Changangkha Lhakhang – Bhutan

Garzweiler – Germany

Q.8) Campaign 'Zero Chance' was launched concerning illegal immigration by which of the following countries?

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

Q.8) Solution (c)

The Australian government has launched a campaign 'Zero Chance' to raise awareness among people trying to enter the country illegally by boats. The message of Zero Chance is simple. Anyone who tries to come illegally to Australia by boat has zero chance of success. Australia has so far turned back over 857 people on 35 vessels trying to enter Australia illegally, as part of the **Operation Sovereign Borders** that has been implemented since 2013.

Q.9) The term 'Pillar III Disclosure' is associated with

- a) Basel Committee on Banking Supervision
- b) Financial Action Task Force
- c) International Criminal Police Organization
- d) International Atomic Energy Agency

Q.9) Solution (a)

Basel 3 is a global regulatory capital and liquidity framework developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. Basel 3 is composed of three parts, or pillars. Pillar 1 addresses capital and liquidity adequacy and provides minimum requirements. Pillar 2

outlines supervisory monitoring and review standards. Pillar 3 promotes market discipline through prescribed public disclosures.

Q.10) Consider the following statements with respect to “Operation Sunshine-2’

1. It was a joint operation between India and Myanmar.
2. It was aimed at transnational crime networks seeking to profit from wildlife smuggling activities.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.10) Solution (a)

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|---|---|
| Correct | Incorrect |
| In a coordinated operation named “Operation Sunshine-2”, the Indian army along with Myanmar troops conducted a 3-week long operation. | It targeted several militant groups operating in the border regions of Manipur, Nagaland and Assam. |

Q.11) According to The Botanical Survey of India’s first comprehensive Census of Orchids of India

1. Entire orchid family is listed under appendix II of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)
2. Among the 10 bio-geographic zones of India, the Himalayan zone is the richest in terms of orchid species

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.11) Solution (c)

The Botanical Survey of India has come up with the first comprehensive census of orchids of India putting the total number of orchid species or taxa to 1,256.

Orchids can be broadly categorised into three life forms: epiphytic (plants growing on another plants including those growing on rock boulders and often termed lithophyte), terrestrial (plants growing on land and climbers) and mycoheterotrophic (plants which derive nutrients from mycorrhizal fungi that are attached to the roots of a vascular plant).

About 60% of all orchids found in the country, which is 757 species, are epiphytic, 447 are terrestrial and 43 are mycoheterotrophic.

The highest number of orchid species is recorded from Arunachal Pradesh with 612 species, followed by Sikkim 560 species and West Bengal; Darjeeling Himalayas have also high species concentration, with 479 species.

Statement Analysis:

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|--|--|
| Correct | Correct |
| Entire orchid family is listed under appendix II of CITES and hence any trade of wild orchid is banned globally. | Among the 10 bio geographic zones of India, the Himalayan zone is the richest in terms of orchid species followed by Northeast, Western Ghats, Deccan plateau and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. |

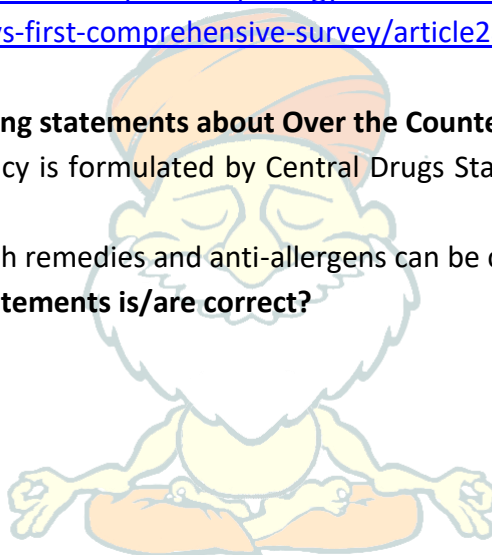
Source - <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/india-is-home-to-1256-species-of-orchid-says-first-comprehensive-survey/article28429797.ece>

Q.12) Consider the following statements about Over the Counter (OTC) medicines in India

1. OTC medicines policy is formulated by Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)
2. Pain relievers, cough remedies and anti-allergens can be categorised as OTC drugs

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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



Q.12) Solution (b)

The medicines directly taken by people from the chemist as a part of self medication to cure diseases are called Over the Counter medicines.

A 2015 survey conducted by Lybrate among 20,000 people across 10 cities showed that 52% of people practised self-medication.

The government is in the process of finalising an OTC drug policy it may bring more clarity on the drugs so that a wider population can access.

The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), a body of multinational drug companies, has worked with the government over the past one year by providing inputs to the draft of the OTC policy.

Statement Analysis:

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|-------------|-------------|
| Incorrect | Correct |

India lacks a well-defined regulation for over the counter (OTC) medicines which are important for patient safety.

Most OTC drugs are usually categorised into pain relievers, cough remedies, anti-allergens, laxatives, vitamins, antacids etc.

Source - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/wide-access-to-otc-drugs-frees-up-govt-resources/article28693476.ece>

Q.13) Kuril Islands are situated between

- (a) Sea of Okhotsk and Pacific Ocean
- (b) Sea of Japan and Pacific Ocean
- (c) Sea of Okhotsk and Bering Sea
- (d) Arctic Ocean and Bering Sea

Q.13) Solution (a)



The Kuril Islands or Kurile Islands is a volcanic archipelago in Russia's Sakhalin Oblast that stretches approximately 1,300 km (810 mi) northeast from Hokkaido, Japan to Kamchatka, Russia, separating the Sea of Okhotsk from the north Pacific Ocean.

There are 56 islands and many minor rocks. It consists of the Greater Kuril Chain and the Lesser Kuril Chain.

All the islands are under Russian administration. Japan claims the four southernmost islands, including the two largest ones (Iturup and Kunashir), as part of its territory as well as Shikotan and the Habomai islets, which has led to the ongoing Kuril Islands dispute.

The disputed islands are known in Japan as the country's "Northern Territories".

In 2018, Russo-Japanese talks on reunification of islands with Japan resumed.

Source - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/japan-calls-russian-pms-visit-to-disputed-island-regrettable/article28793643.ece>

Q.14) Which of the following statements about ASRAAM missile is incorrect?

- (a) It is a high speed air-to-air missile.
- (b) It is designed as a "fire-and-forget" missile.
- (c) ASRAAM is intended to detect and launch against targets at much shorter ranges.
- (d) It has increased speed and range up to 50 km.

Q.14) Solution (c)

It is Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile.

It is a high speed, extremely manoeuvrable, heat-seeking, air-to-air missile.

Built by MBDA, it is designed as a "fire-and-forget" missile.

ASRAAM is intended to detect and launch against targets at much longer ranges, as far as early versions of the AMRAAM, in order to shoot down the enemy long before it closes enough to be able to fire its own weapons.

In this respect the ASRAAM shares more in common with the AMRAAM than other IR missiles,

To provide the needed power, the ASRAAM is built on a 16.51 cm (6½ inch) diameter rocket motor. This gives the ASRAAM significantly more thrust and therefore increased speed and range up to 50 km.

ASRAAM is widely used as a Within Visual Range (WVR) air dominance missile with a range of over 25km.

Source - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/iaf-to-adopt-asraam-missile-across-its-fighter-fleet/article28359593.ece>

Q.15) Match the following

1. 'Dastak Campaign' – A) To eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) disease.
2. 'Utkarsh 2022' – B) To achieve excellence in the performance of RBI's mandates for macroeconomic development.
3. 'Operation Milap' – C) To rescue the trafficked or kidnapped person and arrests the kidnappers.
4. 'Operation Sankalp' – D) Indian Navy's operation in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman as a measure to assure the safety and security of the Indian vessels

Which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D
- (b) 1-A, 2-D, 3-B, 4-C
- (c) 1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-A
- (d) 1-B, 2-A, 3-C, 4-D

Q.15) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis:**

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 | Statement 3 | Statement 4 |
|---|---|---|--|
| Correct | Correct | Correct | Correct |
| <p>'Dastak' campaign in association with UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) to control encephalitis and other vector-borne diseases.</p> <p>The campaign will ensure availability of clean drinking water, initiate sanitation drive. Japanese encephalitis (JE) is a mosquito-borne flavivirus. It belongs to the same genus as dengue, yellow fever and West Nile viruses.</p> | <p>'Utkarsh 2022' is the Reserve Bank of India's Medium-term Strategy Framework, in line with the evolving macroeconomic development. It is roadmap for next three years.</p> | <p>Under 'Operation Milap', the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of the Delhi Police develops information, rescues the trafficked or kidnapped person and arrests the kidnappers.</p> | <p>The Indian Navy has launched 'Operation Sankalp' in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman as a measure to assure the safety and security of the Indian vessels, following the recent maritime incidents in the region.</p> <p>The operation has been launched in the wake of escalating tension in the Gulf of Oman, where two oil tankers were attacked recently. The U.S. considers Iran responsible for the attacks, heightening tensions between the two countries.</p> |

Q.16) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Model Tax information exchange agreements (TIEA)'

1. A model TIEA was developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
2. It is not a binding instrument.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.16) Solution (c)**Statement Analysis:**

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|--|---|
| Correct | Correct |
| Tax information exchange agreements (TIEA) provide for the exchange of information on request relating to a specific criminal or civil tax investigation or civil tax matters under investigation. A model TIEA was developed by the OECD Global Forum Working Group on Effective Exchange of Information. | This Agreement, which was released in April 2002, is not a binding instrument but contains two models for bilateral agreements. |

Additional Information:

The purpose of this Agreement is to promote international co-operation in tax matters through exchange of information. It was developed by the OECD Global Forum Working Group on Effective Exchange of Information.

The Agreement grew out of the work undertaken by the OECD to address harmful tax practices. The lack of effective exchange of information is one of the key criteria in determining harmful tax practices. The Agreement represents the standard of effective exchange of information for the purposes of the OECD's initiative on harmful tax practices.

In June 2015, the OECD Committee on Fiscal Affairs (CFA) approved a Model Protocol to the Agreement. The Model Protocol may be used by jurisdictions, in case they want to extend the scope of their existing TIEAs to also cover the automatic and/or spontaneous exchange of information.

In doing so, jurisdictions are then able to base a bilateral competent authority agreement for the purpose of putting in place the automatic exchange of information in accordance with the Common Reporting Standard or the automatic exchange of Country-by-Country Reports on a TIEA, in particular in cases where it is not (yet) possible to automatically exchange information under a relevant Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement.

Jurisdictions may also choose to use the wording of the Articles of the Model Protocol in case they want to include the automatic and spontaneous exchange of information provisions in a new TIEA.

Q.17) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Financial Benchmark Administrators (FBAs)'

1. FBA should be a company incorporated in India with a minimum net worth of Rs Ten crores at all times.
2. FBAs control 'significant benchmarks' in the markets for financial instruments regulated by the RBI.

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only

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

Q.17) Solution (b)**Statement Analysis:**

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|--|--|
| Incorrect | Correct |
| Eligibility criteria for FBAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FBA shall be a company incorporated in India. FBAs shall maintain a minimum net worth of ₹ 1 crore at all times. | FBAs control the creation, operation and administration 'benchmarks' like prices, rates, indices, values or a combination thereof related to financial instruments that are calculated periodically and used as a reference for pricing or valuation of financial instruments or any other financial contract. |

Read More - <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11601&Mode=0>

Q.18) 'Puerto Williams', which was in news recently is located in

- a) Chile
- b) Puerto Rico
- c) Argentina
- d) New Zealand

Q.18) Solution (a)

It is the city, port and naval base on Navarino Island in Chile. It faces the Beagle Channel. Puerto Williams claims the title of world's southernmost city.

Q.19) Consider the following statements with respect to 'GAMA Portal'.

- It is launched by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.
- It is a portal where complaints relating to misleading advertisements can be lodged.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.19) Solution (c)**Statement Analysis:**

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|-------------|-------------|
| Correct | Correct |

The Department of Consumer Affairs has launched this portal for registering online complaints for Grievances Against Misleading Advertisements (GAMA).

It is a portal where complaints relating to misleading advertisements can be lodged. Any advertisement or promotion through Television, Radio, or any other electronic media, Newspapers, Banners, Posters, Handbills, wall-writing etc. to misrepresent the nature, characteristics, qualities or geographic origin of goods, services or commercial activities so as to mislead the consumer could be broadly defined as a misleading advertisement.

Q.20) The 'E-2020 initiative' is associated with which of the following diseases/disorders?

- a) Non-communicable Diseases
- b) Malaria
- c) HIV/AIDS
- d) Coronavirus

Q.20) Solution (b)

In May 2015, the World Health Assembly endorsed a new Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030, setting ambitious goals aimed at dramatically lowering the global malaria burden over this 15-year period, with milestones along the way to track progress. A key milestone for 2020 is the elimination of malaria in at least 10 countries that had the disease in 2015. To meet this target, countries must report zero indigenous cases in 2020.

Read More - <https://www.who.int/malaria/media/e-2020-initiative-qa/en/>

Q.21) 'Abujh Marias' is a tribal group from which of the following states/union territories?

- a) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Lakshadweep
- d) Nagaland

Q.21) Solution (b)

The Chhattisgarh government is processing habitat rights for Abujh Marias, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).

Abujmaad (Abujhmaad) is a hilly forest area, spread over 1,500 square miles in Chhattisgarh, covering Narayanpur district, Bijapur district and Dantewada district. It is home to indigenous tribes of India, including Gond, Muria, Abuj Maria, and Halbaas.

Q.22) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Blast Disease’

1. It is a bacterial disease which only affects rice crop.
2. Conditions conducive for the disease include long periods of free moisture and high humidity.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.22) Solution (b)**Statement Analysis:**

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|--|--|
| Incorrect | Correct |
| Magnaporthe grisea, also known as rice blast fungus, rice rotten neck, rice seedling blight, blast of rice, oval leaf spot of graminea, pitting disease, ryegrass blast, and Johnson spot, is a plant-pathogenic fungus that causes a serious disease affecting rice. Members of the Magnaporthe grisea complex can also infect other agriculturally important cereals including wheat, rye, barley, and pearl millet causing diseases called blast disease or blight disease. | Rice blast is a significant problem in temperate regions and can be found in areas such as irrigated lowland and upland. Conditions conducive for rice blast include long periods of free moisture where leaf wetness is required for infection and high humidity is common. |

Q.23) The ‘16 Point Agreement’ is associated with which of the following?

- a) USA, Afghanistan and Taliban
- b) South Korea and North Korea
- c) Syria, Russia and Turkey
- d) None of the above

Q.23) Solution (d)

The 16 Point Agreement was between the Government of India and the Naga People's Convention.

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

1. Bomkai Saree – Odisha

2. Dhokra Metal Casting – Maharashtra
3. Kantha Embroidery – West Bengal

Select the correct code:

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

Q.24) Solution (c)

Bomkai Sari (also Sonepuri Sari) is a handloom saree from Odisha, India. It is an origin of Bomkai, Ganjam district in the state and is primarily produced by the “Bhulia” community of Subarnapur district. Bomkai is one of the identified Geographical Indications of India.

Kantha (also spelled Kanta, and Qanta) is a type of embroidery craft in the eastern regions of the Indian subcontinent, specifically in Bangladesh and in the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura and Odisha.

Dhokra (also spelt Dokra) is non-ferrous metal casting using the lost-wax casting technique. This sort of metal casting has been used in India for over 4,000 years and is still used. Dhokra Damar tribes are the main traditional metalsmiths of West Bengal and Odisha. Their technique of lost wax casting is named after their tribe, hence Dhokra metal casting. The tribe extends from Jharkhand to West Bengal and Orissa; members are distant cousins of the Chhattisgarh Dhokras. A few hundred years ago, the Dhokras of Central and Eastern India traveled south as far as Kerala and north as far as Rajasthan and hence are now found all over India. Dhokra, or Dokra, craft from Dwariapur, West Bengal, is popular. Recently Adilabad Dokra from Telangana got Geographical Indicator tag in 2018.

Q.25) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘INSTEX SAS (Instrument for Supporting Trade Exchanges)’

1. It is a Special Purpose Vehicle aimed at facilitating legitimate trade between European economic operators and Iran.
2. It is financed and managed by France, Germany, and the U.K.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.25) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|-------------|-------------|
|-------------|-------------|

| Correct | Correct |
|--|--|
| The Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) is a European special-purpose vehicle (SPV) established in January 2019. Its mission is to facilitate non-USD transactions and non-SWIFT to avoid breaking U.S. sanctions. | INSTEX is financed and managed by France, Germany, and the U.K. INSTEX has been registered in France and will be run by German banks. |

Q.26) Tiangong-2, recently seen in news is

- Ballistic Missile manufactured by China
- Anti-Satellite missile developed by China
- A manned Chinese space station
- Chinese Mars Mission

Q.26) Solution (c)

- Tiangong-2 is a manned Chinese space station
- Tiangong-2 hosted two Chinese astronauts for 30 days
- It is China's longest manned space mission so far.
- Tiangong-2 was retired from service after it had completed its experiments in space.

Q.27) The Reko Diq mine situated in Pakistan, recently seen in news is famous for its :

- Gold reserves
- Copper reserves
- Iron Reserves
- Both a and b

**Q.27) Solution (d)**

Recently An international arbitration court has imposed a penalty of over 5 billion dollars on Pakistan for unlawful denial of a mining lease to a company for the Reko Diq project in 2011. The Reko Diq mine in Balochistan is famous for its vast gold and copper reserves.

Read More - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/pak-should-pay-foreign-firm-6bn/article28429823.ece>

Q.28) With reference to 'dugong', a mammal found in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- It is a herbivorous marine animal.
- IUCN lists the dugong as a species 'Endangered' to extinction.

3. It is given legal protection under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Q.28) Solution (c)

The Dugong is a medium-sized marine mammal.

- It is a species of sea cow found throughout the warm latitudes of the Indian and western Pacific Oceans.
- It is the only member of the Dugongidae family, and its closest living relatives are the manatees.
- The IUCN lists the dugong as a species 'vulnerable' to extinction.
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) limits or bans the trade of derived products.
- These languid animals make an easy target for coastal hunters.
- They were long sought for their meat, oil, skin, bones, and teeth.

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 | Statement 3 |
|--|---|--|
| Correct | Incorrect | Correct |
| The dugong is the only strictly herbivorous marine mammal. | IUCN lists the dugong as a species 'vulnerable' to extinction | It has been brought under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. |

Source - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/stranded-sea-cow-named-sea-prince/article28307135.ece>

Q.29) Consider the following statements about International Whaling Commission (IWC)

- 1. Established to organize the whaling business
- 2. It is one of the United Nations Agencies
- 3. It acts under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Q.29) Solution (d)

- It is the global body for the conservation of whales and the management of whaling.
- Headquarters in the City of Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- The various governments that are members of the IWC make their decisions through its various meetings and committees, using the IWC secretariat to help manage their discussions and decision making.
- The main duty of the IWC is to keep under review and revise as necessary the measures laid down in the Schedule to the Convention which govern the conduct of whaling throughout the world.
- Recently Japan withdrew its membership from IWC.

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 | Statement 3 |
|--|--|--|
| Incorrect | Incorrect | Incorrect |
| Established for the conservation of whales and the management of whaling | It is the global body for the conservation of whales and not an UN agency. | The IWC was set up under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. |

Source - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/japan-resumes-commercial-whaling-seen-as-face-saving-end/article28239774.ece>

Q.30) 'Operation Thirst' recently in news is to

- Give Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) in Railways premises
- Code-name for the Indian Armed Forces operation to capture the Siachen Glacier .
- Curb the menace of unauthorized Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) in Railways premises
- None of these

Q.30) Solution (c)

- Railway Protection Force (RPF) launched "Operation Thirst", an All India Drive to crack down selling of unauthorised Packaged Drinking Water.
- To curb the menace of unauthorized Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) in Railway premises, an all India drive named "Operation Thirst" was launched on 08th & 09th July 2019 on the direction of DG/RPF, Railway Board, New Delhi.
- During this, all the Zonal Principal Chief Security Commissioners (PCSCs) were asked to crackdown these unauthorised activities. Almost all major stations over Indian Railway were covered during this operation.
- During the drive, 1371 persons were arrested for selling of packaged drinking water of unauthorised brands under different sections i.e. 144 & 153 of Rly. Act.

The special drive will be followed by continuous action by concerned PCSCs on this issue.

Q.31) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Purchasing Managers’ Index’.

1. It represents the weighted average of top ten Indian manufacturing company stocks.
2. It is owned and managed by India Index Services and Products (IISL), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the NSE Strategic Investment Corporation Limited.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.31) Solution (d)

PMI or a Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) is an indicator of business activity -- **both in the manufacturing and services sectors**. It is a survey-based measures that asks the respondents about changes in their perception of some key business variables from the month before. **It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is constructed.**

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)**. A manufacturing PMI and a services PMI are prepared and published by the two.

Q.32) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Opposition Party and the Leader of Opposition in the Parliament’

1. The post of Leader of Opposition is defined in the Salaries and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977.
2. According to the Mavalankar Rule, the strength of the main Opposition party, to be officially recognized as such, must be equal to the quorum of the house.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.32) Solution (c)

The leader of the opposition in the houses of Indian parliament is a **statutory post**. **This post is defined in the Salaries and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977** as simply the leader of the numerically biggest party in opposition to the government and recognised as such by the speaker/chairman:

- **Definition.**—In this Act, “Leader of the Opposition”, in relation to either House of Parliament, means that member of the Council of States or the House of the People, as the case may be, who is, for the time being, the Leader in that House of the party in opposition to the Government having the greatest numerical strength and recognised as such by the Chairman of the Council of States or the Speaker of the House of the People, as the case may be.
- **Explanation.**—Where there are two or more parties in opposition to the Government, in the Council of States or in the House of the People having the same numerical strength, the Chairman of the Council of States or the Speaker of the House of the People, as the case may be, shall, having regard to the status of the parties, recognise any one of the Leaders of such parties as the Leader of the Opposition for the purposes of this section and such recognition shall be final and conclusive.

India did not have a Leader of Opposition till 1969. In the first three Lok Sabha elections, the Congress-led by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had an overarching influence. Nehru’s Congress won 1951-52, 1957 and 1962 Lok Sabha elections with an overwhelming majority and the main Opposition parties consistently failed to win 10 per cent of the seats.

The 10 per cent rule was spelt out by GV Mavalankar, the first Lok Sabha speaker. Mavalankar had ruled in the Lok Sabha **that the strength of the main Opposition party, to be officially recognised as such, must be equal to the quorum of the house. Quorum is equivalent to 10 per cent of the members.**

Q.33) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Baltic Dry Index (BDI)’

1. The Baltic Dry Index (BDI) is a measure of what it costs to ship raw materials.
2. It is compiled daily by the International Maritime Organization.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.33) Solution (a)

The Baltic Dry Index (BDI) is a shipping and **trade index created by the London-based Baltic Exchange on a daily basis. (not by the International Maritime Organization). It measures changes in the cost of transporting various raw materials, such as coal and steel.**

The Baltic Dry Index typically increases in value as demand for commodities and raw goods increases and decreases in value as demand for commodities and raw goods decreases.

Q.34) The term, ‘Miyawaki’ method was in news recently. What is it associated with?

- a) Desalination of Seawater
- b) Afforestation
- c) Zero Budget Natural Farming
- d) Algal Bloom

Q.34) Solution (b)

Miyawaki is a Japanese technique of growing dense plantations in a short time.

Method named after- Akira Miyawaki is a Japanese botanist and expert in plant ecology, specializing in seeds and the study of natural forests. He is active worldwide as a specialist in the restoration of natural vegetation on degraded land.

Q.35) The 'World Economic Outlook (WEO)' is brought out by

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

Q.35) Solution (b)

The World Economic Outlook (WEO) is a report by the **International Monetary Fund** that analyzes key parts of the IMF's surveillance of economic developments and policies in its member countries. It also projects developments in the global financial markets and economic systems.

- Global Financial Stability Report is also released by IMF.
- Fiscal Monitor is also published by IMF.

Q.36) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

| Protected Areas | State |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary | Karnataka |
| 2. Parambikulam Tiger Reserve | Kerala |
| 3. Amrabad Tiger Reserve | Telangana |

1. Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary - Karnataka
2. Parambikulam Tiger Reserve – Kerala
3. Amrabad Tiger Reserve – Telangana

Select the correct code:

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

Q.36) Solution (b)

- Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary - Andhra Pradesh
- Parambikulam Tiger Reserve – Kerala

- Amrabad Tiger Reserve – Telangana

Q.37) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Core Investment Companies (CICs)’

1. A core investment company is a Non-banking Financial Company (NBFC) which carries on the business of acquisition of shares and securities.
2. It holds not less than 90 per cent of its net assets in the form of investment in equity shares, preference shares, bonds, debentures, debt or loans in group companies.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.37) Solution (c)

Core investment companies are **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) holding not less than 90% of their net assets in the form of investment in equity shares, preference shares, bonds, debentures, debt or loans in group companies.**

Further investments in equity shares in group companies constitute not less than 60 per cent of its net assets.

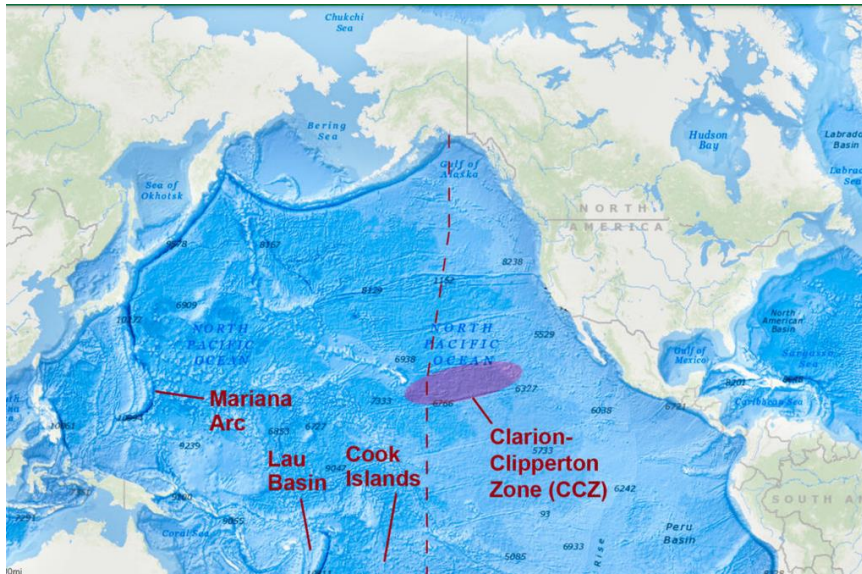
<https://www.thehindu.com/business/rbi-sets-up-panel-to-review-cics/article28275384.ece>

Q.38) ‘Clarion-Clipperton Zone’ is located in

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

Q.38) Solution (a)

The Clipperton Fracture Zone, also known as the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, is a geological **submarine fracture zone of the Pacific Ocean, with a length of 7240 km.** In 2016, the seafloor in the Clipperton Fracture Zone – an area being targeted for deep-sea mining – was found to contain an abundance and diversity of life, with more than half of the species collected being new to science. The zone is sometimes referred to as the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone (CCFZ), with reference to Clarion Island at the northern edge of the zone.

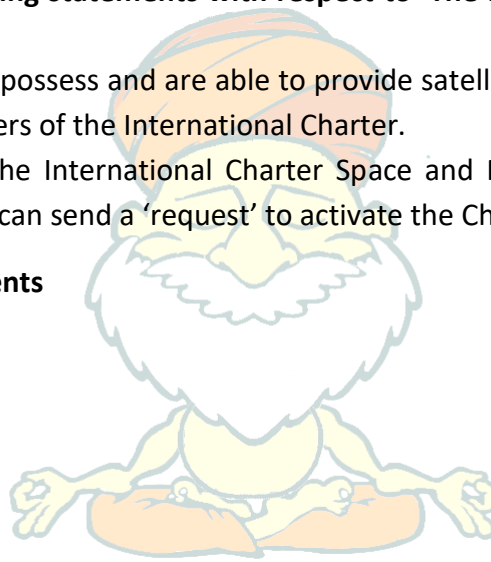


Q.39) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘The International Charter Space and Major Disasters’

1. Only agencies that possess and are able to provide satellite-based Earth Observation data can be members of the International Charter.
2. As signatories to the International Charter Space and Major Disasters, any of the member countries can send a ‘request’ to activate the Charter.

Select the correct statements

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



Q.39) Solution (c)

The International Charter "Space and Major Disasters" **is a non-binding charter which provides for the charitable and humanitarian re-tasked acquisition** of and transmission of space satellite data to relief organizations in the event of major disasters.

Initiated by the European Space Agency and the French space agency CNES after the UNISPACE III conference held in Vienna, Austria in July 1999, it officially came into operation on November 1, 2000 after the Canadian Space Agency signed onto the charter on October 20, 2000.

Their space assets were then, respectively, ERS and ENVISAT, SPOT and Formosat, and RADARSAT.

As signatories to the ‘The International Charter Space and Major Disasters’, any of the 32 member countries can send a ‘request’ to activate the Charter. This would immediately trigger a request by the coordinators to space agencies of other countries whose satellites have the best eyes on the site of the disaster.

Only agencies that possess and are able to provide satellite-based Earth Observation data can be members of the International Charter. The members cooperate on a voluntary basis. Each member agency has committed resources to support the Charter by providing space-derived data and products. The members take on the roles of the secretariat by rotation and act as project managers for activations.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/china-russia-france-share-satellite-data-on-assam-floods/article28726001.ece>

Q.40) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Strait of Gibraltar’

1. It connects the Tyrrhenian Sea to the Ionian Sea.
2. It separates France and Algeria.

Select the correct statements

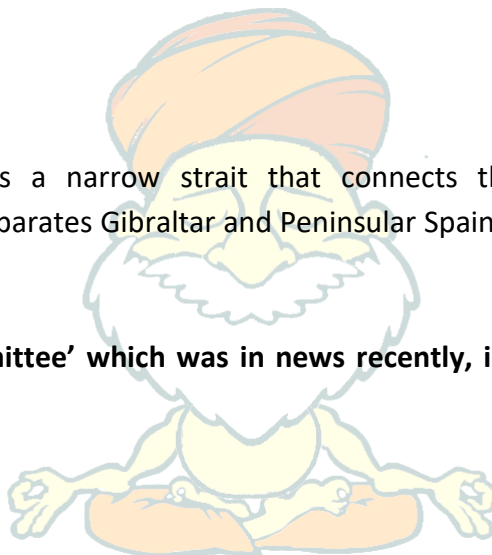
- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.40) Solution (d)

The Strait of Gibraltar is a narrow strait that connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea and separates Gibraltar and Peninsular Spain in Europe from Morocco in Africa.

Q.41) ‘Surjit Bhalla Committee’ which was in news recently, is associated with which of the following?

- a) Net Metering
- b) Elephant Bonds
- c) Naxalism
- d) Prison Reforms



Q.41) Solution (b)

High Level Advisory Group (HLAG) headed by Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla has been constituted by the Department of Commerce. The HLAG has made several recommendations for boosting India’s share and importance in global merchandise and services trade. Among other things, the Report identifies tax reforms also to boost export and investment channels for exports. **It has asked the government to allow people to declare their ‘undisclosed income’ with a mandatory condition to invest 50% in a government bond, termed as Elephant Bond,** which should be utilised only for infrastructure projects.

It has also made recommendations for reforms in Financial Services Framework for making India a Preferred Destination for financial services.

Q.42) Which of the following statements is correct with respect to 'Vallam Kali'?

- a) It is a traditional boat race in Kerala.
- b) It is an art form in which patterns are created on the floor or the ground using materials such as colored rice, dry flour, colored sand or flower petals in West Bengal.
- c) It refers to a floral embroidery from Tamil Nadu.
- d) It is a drum made out of the wood of the jackfruit tree.

Q.42) Solution (a)

It is a traditional boat race in Kerala. It is a form of canoe racing, and uses paddled war canoes. It is mainly conducted during the season of the harvest festival Onam in autumn. Chundan vallam ('beaked boat'), known outside Kerala as Kerala snake boats, are one of the icons of Kerala culture used in the Vallamkali.

Q.43) The 'Joint Security Area (JSA)' refer to which of the following countries?

- a) Israel and Palestine
- b) South Korea and North Korea
- c) Ethiopia and Eretria
- d) Sudan and South Sudan

Q.43) Solution (b)

The Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) is a region 4 km wide and 240 km long, dividing the Korean Peninsula into the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the north and Republic of Korea on the south. The DMZ was created after the 1953 Korean War Armistice Agreement, which ended the Korean War. **The site where the Armistice was signed is called the Joint Security Area (JSA), located 53 km to the north of Seoul.**

Q.44) Which of the following statements with respect to 'Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT)' is/are correct?

1. It uses independent computers to record, share and synchronize transactions in their respective electronic ledgers.
2. All Blockchain is considered to be a form of DLT.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.44) Solution (c)

Blockchain is one type of a distributed ledger. Distributed **ledgers use independent computers (referred to as nodes) to record, share and synchronize transactions in their respective electronic ledgers** (instead of keeping data centralized as in a traditional ledger). **All Blockchain is considered to be a form of DLT.** But there are also Distributed Ledger Tables that are not Blockchain. These non-Blockchain DLT's can be in the form of a distributed Cryptocurrency or they may be the architecture on which private or public data is stored or shared. The main difference being that while Blockchain requires Global Consensus across all nodes a DLT can achieve consensus without having to validate across the entire Blockchain.

Q.45) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

1. Pilibhit Tiger Reserve – Uttarakhand
2. Tadoba-Andhari Tiger reserve – Maharashtra
3. Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary – Telangana

Select the correct code:

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

Q.45) Solution (b)

Pilibhit Tiger Reserve – Uttar Pradesh

Tadoba-Andhari Tiger reserve – Maharashtra

Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary – Telangana



Q.46) 'Bimal Jalan Committee' is concerned with which of the following?

- a) Corporate Governance
- b) Economic Capital Framework for the RBI
- c) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code
- d) Code on Wages

Q.46) Solution (b)

The Reserve Bank of India, in consultation with the government, constituted a committee led by the central bank's former Governor Bimal Jalan to look into **its Economic Capital Framework**.

Q.47) The 'State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World' report is published by

- a) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- b) World Economic Forum (WEF)

- c) The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- d) None of the above

Q.47) Solution (a)

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019 report is released by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Q.48) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘The Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators’.

1. It was founded at the 14th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD 14) in 2018.
2. The Coalition is initiated by the Government of India.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.48) Solution (d)

The Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators was founded at the **13th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD 13) in 2016.**

It was formed to follow up on the findings of IPBES Assessment on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production, which found that many of the world’s pollinator species are on the decline.

It is initiated by the Government of the Netherlands.

**Q.49) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

1. Kharchi Puja – West Bengal
2. Ashadhi Beej – Gujarat
3. Vat Pournima – Maharashtra

Select the correct statements

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

Q.49) Solution (b)

Kharchi Puja – Tripura

Ashadhi Beej – Gujarat

Vat Pournima – Maharashtra

Q.50) 'Godawan' is a state bird of

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

Q.50) Solution (a)

The Great Indian Bustard (Godawan) is a state bird of Rajasthan.

Q.51) Consider the following statements with respect to 'International Development Association (IDA)'

1. It aims to reduce poverty by providing loans and grants for programs that boost economic growth, reduce inequalities, and improve people's living conditions.
2. It is a member of the World Bank Group.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.51) Solution (c)

The International Development Association (IDA) is the part of the World Bank that helps the world's poorest countries. Overseen by 173 shareholder nations, IDA aims to reduce poverty by providing loans (called "credits") and grants for programs that boost economic growth, reduce inequalities, and improve people's living conditions.

IDA complements the World Bank's original lending arm—the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). IBRD was established to function as a self-sustaining business and provides loans and advice to middle-income and credit-worthy poor countries. IBRD and IDA share the same staff and headquarters and evaluate projects with the same rigorous standards.

Q.52) Which of the following is/are associated with 'BRICS'?

1. Asian Development Bank
2. Contingent Reserve Arrangement
3. Fortaleza Declaration

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 2

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

Q.52) Solution (b)

Currently, there are two components that make up the financial architecture of BRICS, namely, the New Development Bank (NDB) or sometimes referred to as the BRICS Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA). Both of these components were signed into treaty in 2014 and became active in 2015.

BRICS nations signed BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) in 2014 as part of Fortaleza Declaration at Sixth BRICS summit.

Q.53) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Rohingyas – Myanmar
- 2. Uighurs – Nepal
- 3. Yazidis – Libya

Select the correct code:

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

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

Rohingyas – Myanmar

Uighurs – Nepal

Yazidis – Iraq

Q.54) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Goods and Service Tax Council'.

- 1. It is a constitutional body for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax.
- 2. It is chaired by the Union Finance Minister.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.54) Solution (c)

Goods & Services Tax Council is a constitutional body for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax. The GST Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister and other members are the Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.

Q.55) Which of the following Tiger Reserves was the best managed according to the '4th cycle of the Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves (MEETR)'?

- a) Pench Tiger Reserve
- b) Bandipur Tiger Reserve
- c) Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve
- d) Corbett Tiger Reserve

Q.55) Solution (a)

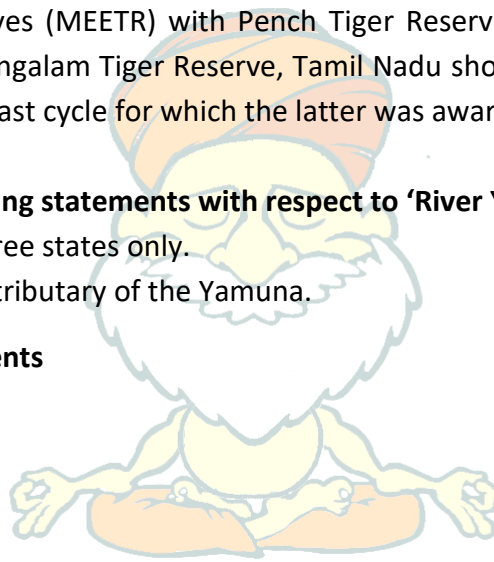
The Prime Minister released a report of the 4th cycle of the Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves (MEETR) with Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh scoring the highest and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu showing the highest increment in management since the last cycle for which the latter was awarded.

Q.56) Consider the following statements with respect to 'River Yamuna'.

1. It flows through three states only.
2. Tons is the largest tributary of the Yamuna.

Select the correct statements

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



Q.56) Solution (b)

The Tons is the largest tributary of the Yamuna and flows through Garhwal region in Uttarakhand, touching Himachal Pradesh.

Flows Through - Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi

Tributaries

- Left Hindon, Tons, Giri, Rishiganga, Hanuman Ganga, Sasur Khaderi
- Right Chambal, Betwa, Ken, Sindh, Baghain

Q.57) Which of the following rivers are 'Antecedent Rivers'?

1. Subansiri
2. Kosi
3. Sutlej

Select the correct statements

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

Q.57) Solution (d)

Antecedent Rivers had established their drainage networks well before the Himalaya came into existence as a mountain barrier. These rivers were past their youthful stage when the mountain ranges began rising across their paths.

Many Himalayan rivers are good examples of antecedent origin. These rivers originated well before the Himalayan region was uplifted. The rivers Indus, Brahmaputra, Sutlej, Kosi and Subansiri originated on the Tibetan side and now traverse the existing mountain ranges, cutting deep gorges.

Q.58) 'Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary' is located in

- a) Assam
- b) West Bengal
- c) Bihar
- d) Uttar Pradesh

Q.58) Solution (a)

Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary is located in Bhagalpur District of Bihar.

Q.59) 'Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS)' is associated with which of the following countries?

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

Q.59) Solution (c)

The Military Logistics Support Agreements (MLSA) with Japan is called the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) and with Russia, the Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS).

Q.60) Consider the following statements with respect to 'International Seabed Authority (ISA)'

1. All Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) are members of ISA.
2. The headquarters of the ISA is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

Select the correct code:

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

Q.60) Solution (a)

It is an intergovernmental body based in Kingston, Jamaica, that was established to organize, regulate and control all mineral-related activities in the international seabed area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, an area underlying most of the world's oceans. It is an organization established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is comprised of 167 Member States, and the European Union. All Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) are members of ISA. ISA is mandated as the organization through which Parties to UNCLOS shall organize and control all mineral-related activities in the international seabed area, known also as “the Area.”

Q.61) The Shillong Declaration, recently seen in the news is associated with which of the following?

- a) Protection of Biodiversity of North East India
- b) E-governance
- c) Artificial Intelligence
- d) North East Insurgency

Q.61) Solution (b)

- 22nd **National Conference on e-Governance 2019 held in Shillong** led to this declaration.
- Theme of Conference: Digital India: Success to Excellence.
- Key highlights of Shillong declaration:
 - Promote timely implementation of **India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA)**.
 - Consolidate the plethora of successful State level e-Governance projects with a focus to replicate them as a common application software.
 - Take steps to further improve connectivity in North Eastern States
 - Explore the possibility for opening an electronics skill center in Shillong.

Q.62) In which of the following States is ‘Gandhamardhan Hills’ located?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Sikkim
- d) Odisha

Q.62) Solution (d)

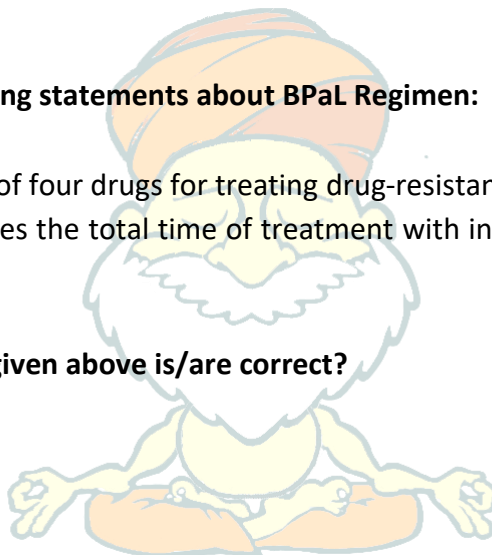
- In August, heavy rain triggered a major **landslide** near Harishankar Temple, situated on the southern slopes of the **Gandhamardhan Hills** in western **Odisha**.
- **Gandhamardhan Hills** is known for medicinal plants and **Bauxite reserve**.
- BSI has reported the existence of 220 plant species of medicinal value.

Q.63) Consider the following statements about BPaL Regimen:

1. It is a combination of four drugs for treating drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB).
2. This regimen reduces the total time of treatment with increase in per day dosage or pills.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



Q.63) Solution (d)

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|---|--|
| Incorrect | Incorrect |
| The three-drug regimen consists of Bedaquiline, Pretomanid and Linezolid, collectively known as the BPaL regimen. U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a new drug Pretomanid for treating drug-resistant tuberculosis i.e. multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) and extensively drug-resistant | Before the FDA approved this combination therapy, the most common treatment for this type of tuberculosis required patients to take around 30 pills a day plus sometimes daily injections for at least 18 months. Unlike 18-24 months needed to treat highly-resistant TB using nearly 20 drugs, the BPaL regimen takes just six months with reduced dose of 5 |

TB (XDR-TB).

pills/day.

Q.64) 'Loki's Castle' is a field of active hydrothermal vents in the

- a) Atlantic ocean
- b) Pacific ocean
- c) Indian ocean
- d) Southern Ocean

Q.64) Solution (a)

- Some scientists suggested a kind of archaea, Asgard archaea, may have been interacted with bacteria, resulting in the first eukaryotes.
- DNA analysis of samples of mud from the deep ocean showed evidence of both archaea and eukaryote-like genomes.
- The samples were given the name **Lokiarchaea**, because they were **uncovered from an area close to Loki's Castle**, a deep-sea hydrothermal vent.
- Now team of researchers in Japan has succeeded in cultivating samples of Lokiarchaea in a special tank in their lab.
- **Loki's Castle** is a field of five **active hydrothermal vents in the mid-Atlantic Ocean**, located at 73 degrees north on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge between Greenland and Norway at a depth of 2,352 metres.

Q.65) Consider the following pairs:

| Craft | Heritage of |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Kandangi saree | Kerala |
| 2. Kondapalli Toys | Tamil Nadu |
| 3. Tawlhlohpuan | Mizoram |

Which of the pairs given above are *incorrectly* matched?

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

Q.65) Solution (a)

| Pair 1 | Pair 2 | Pair 3 |
|---|--|---|
| Incorrect | Incorrect | Correct |
| Kandangi is a type of saree made from silk threads in Tamil Nadu . Traditionally, Chettinad and Koorainad are two types of Kandangi saree native in Tamil Nadu. | Kondapalli Toys are cultural icons of Andhra Pradesh . They are made from soft wood known as TellaPoniki which are found in nearby Kondapalli Hills. | Tawlhlohpuan is a medium to heavy, compactly woven, good quality fabric from Mizoram and is known for warp yarns, warping, weaving & intricate designs that are made by hand. |

Q.66) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Equalisation Levy’.

1. It is aimed at taxing business-to-business transactions in the digital advertising space i.e. the income accruing to foreign ecommerce companies from within India.
2. It is an indirect tax which is withheld at the time of payment by the recipient of the services.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.66) Solution (a)

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

The equalisation levy is payable on any specified service received or receivable by a non-resident, though it should not be charged where:

- the non-resident providing the specified service has a permanent establishment in India and the specified service is effectively connected with such permanent establishment
- the annual accrued payments made to one single service provider do not exceed Rs. 100,000 in one financial year
- The service is not for business purposes.

Q.67) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 originally provided for a maximum of 10 judges including the Chief Justice of India (CJI)
2. At present, the Supreme Court is working with its full sanctioned strength of 31, including the CJI.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.67) Solution (d)**The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956**

- It originally provided for a maximum of ten judges (excluding the CJI).
- This number was increased to 13 by the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 1960, and to 17 in 1977.
- The working strength of the Supreme Court was, however, restricted to 15 judges by the Cabinet (excluding the CJI) till the end of 1979. But the restriction was withdrawn at the request of the chief justice of India.
- In 1986, the strength of the top court was increased to 25, excluding the CJI. Subsequently, the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2009 further augmented the strength of the court from 25 to 30.
- With the increase in the number of judges (2019) in the apex court to the total sanctioned strength of 34, including the CJI.

Q.68) European Union's 'AMLD 5' regime deals with

- a) Money Laundering
- b) Illegal Immigrants
- c) Data Protection Regulation
- d) Brexit

Q.68) Solution (a)

The European Union is putting in a bunch of regulations to tackle money laundering, and it is called the 5th EU Anti-Money Laundering Directive (AMLD-5).

Q.69) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Goldilocks Zone'

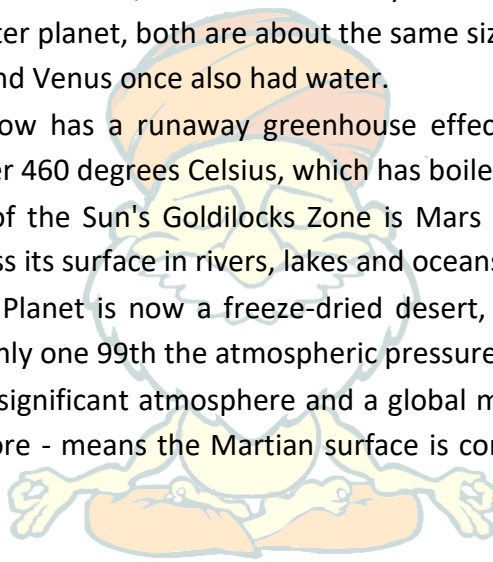
1. It is the area around a star where it is not too hot and not too cold for liquid water to exist on the surface of surrounding planets.
2. Earth is the only planet in the Sun's Goldilocks Zone.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.69) Solution (a)**The Goldilocks Zone**

- It refers to the habitable zone around a star where the temperature is just right - not too hot and not too cold - for liquid water to exist on a planet.
- Just because a planet or moon is in the Goldilocks Zone of a star, doesn't mean it's going to have life or even liquid water.
- After all, Earth isn't the only planet in the Sun's Goldilocks Zone - Venus and Mars are also in this habitable zone, but aren't currently habitable.
- Venus is Earth's sister planet, both are about the same size and in the same region of the solar system, and Venus once also had water.
- However, Venus now has a runaway greenhouse effect going on, with a surface temperature of over 460 degrees Celsius, which has boiled away all its liquid water.
- At the other end of the Sun's Goldilocks Zone is Mars which also once had liquid water flowing across its surface in rivers, lakes and oceans.
- However, the Red Planet is now a freeze-dried desert, with a thin carbon dioxide atmosphere, and only one 99th the atmospheric pressure of sea level on Earth.
- The lack of both a significant atmosphere and a global magnetic field - thanks to its mostly solidified core - means the Martian surface is constantly being irradiated by the Sun.

**Q.70) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?****Lake Place**

1. Kaji Sara – Nepal
2. Tilicho Lake – Chile
3. Gogabeel – Assam

Select the correct code:

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

Q.70) Solution (a)

Kajin Sara – Nepal

Tilicho Lake – Nepal

Gogabeel – Bihar

Q.71) Which of the following is the India's first Development Finance Institution?

- a) Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI)
- b) Industrial Investment Bank of India Ltd (IIBI)
- c) Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI)
- d) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI)

Q.71) Solution (c)

- **Development banks** are financial institutions that provide long-term credit for capital-intensive investments spread over a long period and yielding low rates of return, such as urban infrastructure, mining and heavy industry, and irrigation systems.
- **Development banks are also known as term-lending institutions or development finance institutions (DFIs).**
- Such banks often lend at low and stable rates of interest to promote long-term investments with considerable social benefits.
- Development banks are different from commercial banks which mobilise short- to medium-term deposits and lend for similar maturities to avoid a maturity mismatch—a potential cause for a bank's liquidity and solvency.
- Development banks formed the central piece of growth strategy in India too. Soon after independence, the institutional framework for development banking began—**IFCI (1948), IDBI (1964), IIBI (1972), NABARD and EXIM Bank (1982), SIDBI (1990), etc.**
- IFCI, previously the **Industrial Finance Corporation of India, was set up in 1948. This was probably India's first development bank for financing industrial investments.**
- In 1955, the World Bank prompted the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) — the parent of the largest private commercial bank in India today, ICICI Bank — as a collaborative effort between the government with majority equity holding and India's leading industrialists with nominal equity ownership to finance modern and relatively large private corporate enterprises.
- After 1991, following the Narasimham Committee reports on financial sector reforms, development finance institutions were disbanded and got converted to commercial banks. ICICI in 2002 and IDBI in 2004 converted into commercial banks.

Q.72) Consider the following statements about Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019.

1. With the passage of this order, all the provisions of Indian Constitution are applicable to earlier State of Jammu and Kashmir.
2. It repealed Article 370 as well as Article 35A of Indian Constitution.
3. It re-organised Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.72) Solution (a)

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 | Statement 3 |
|---|--|---|
| Correct | Correct | Incorrect |
| President of India in “concurrence” with the “Jammu and Kashmir government” promulgated Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019 which states that provisions of the Indian Constitution are applicable in the State. | All the provisions that formed the basis of a separate Constitution for Jammu and Kashmir stand abrogated i.e. Article 370 of Indian Constitution. With this, Article 35A is scrapped automatically. | Under Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019 Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) was re-organised into two Union Territories - J&K division with a legislative assembly and the UT of Ladakh without having an assembly. |

Q.73) To which of the following, India is a member?

1. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
2. ASEAN Regional Forum
3. East Asia Summit

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.73) Solution (c)

- **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)** set up in 1994 is an important platform for security dialogue in the Indo-Pacific.
- ARF consists of 27 member states - 10 ASEAN member states, 10 ASEAN dialogue partners and 7 other members.
- **10 ASEAN members:** Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. **(India is not a member of ASEAN)**
- **10 ASEAN dialogue partners:** Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, **India**, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States
- Other members: Bangladesh, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste; one ASEAN observer (Papua New Guinea).
- **India is a member of ARF since 1996.**
- The **East Asia Summit (EAS)** is a regional forum held annually by leaders of, initially, 16 countries in the East Asian, Southeast Asian, and South Asian regions, based on the ASEAN Plus Six mechanism. Membership expanded to 18 countries including Russia and the United States at the Sixth EAS in 2011. India is a member of EAS.

Q.74) 'Innovating for Clean Air' is a joint initiative between India and

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

**Q.74) Solution (b)**

- **India and United Kingdom** launched two-year joint initiative- **Innovating for Clean Air (IfCA)** in Bengaluru.
- It is aimed at providing unique air quality measurement system by integrating satellite and sensor data and support India's transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs).
- The initiative will identify innovations having potential to improve air quality and contribute to a more detailed localised map of the air quality of Bengaluru.
- It will also facilitate opportunities for Indian and UK innovators to collaborate in developing long-lasting relationships to address these challenges.

Q.75) With reference to recently launched Commando unit “CORAS”, consider the following statements:

1. It is launched by Ministry of Home Affairs to fight against Left Wing Extremism.
2. It's first deployment will be in naxal-hit Chhattisgarh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.75) Solution (b)

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|---|---|
| Incorrect | Correct |
| Union Ministry of Railways launched CORAS (Commando for Railway Security) of Indian Railways. It is separate Commando Unit of Railway Protection Force (RPF). It has been carved out from motivated and willing young staff of Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF). | These CORAS commandos will be posted in Left Wing Extremism (LWE /Insurgency /Terrorism affected Railway areas where providing security to passengers and railway network is of utmost priority. ‘CORAS’ first deployment will be in naxal-hit Chhattisgarh. |

Q.76) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Delimitation Commission of India’

1. Delimitation commissions have been set up six times in the past.
2. The orders of the Delimitation Commission cannot be called in question before any court.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.76) Solution (b)

In India, such Delimitation Commissions have been constituted 4 times – in 1952 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952, in 1963 under Delimitation Commission Act, 1962, in 1973 under Delimitation Act, 1972 and in 2002 under Delimitation Act, 2002.

The Delimitation Commission in India is a highpower body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court. These orders come into force on a date to be specified by the President of India in this behalf. The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but no modifications are permissible therein by them.

Q.77) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU)’

1. It can handle payment and aggregation of payment services relating to bills under the scope of Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).
2. BBPOU can be a Bank or a Non-Bank entity.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.77) Solution (c)

Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit aka BBPOU is the entity that is authorized by Reserve Bank of India. It can be a Bank or a Non-Bank. BBPOU may choose to integrate either with the customers, (COU: Customer OU) or with the billers (Biller OU) or may wish to participate as both – which means such BBPOU will be integrated with customers as well as billers. Going forward, only authorised BBPOU - both banks and non-banks authorised by RBI - can handle payment and aggregation of payment services relating to bills under the scope of BBPS.

Q.78) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Places in News – Country

1. Idlib – Syria
2. Rojava – Jordan
3. Okjokull – Norway

Select the correct code:

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

Q.78) Solution (a)

Idlib – Syria

Rojava – Syria

Okjokull – Iceland

Q.79) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the U.S. when China manipulates its currency?

1. U.S. exports to China becomes more expensive
2. China's exports to the U.S. have an unearned competitive advantage
3. U.S. exports to all countries become less competitive

Select the correct statements

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

Q.79) Solution (d)

China's weaker currency increases the cost of U.S. exports, making them less attractive to consumers in China, causing reduced U.S. exports and a loss of U.S. jobs.

China's weaker currency lowers the cost of China's exports, making them more attractive than American-made goods, causing fewer sales of U.S. products and a loss of U.S. jobs.

China's weaker currency increases the cost of U.S. exports in all global markets, making them less attractive to consumers the world over, causing reduced U.S. exports and a loss of U.S. jobs.

Q.80) 'Jaduguda Uranium Mine' is located in

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Odisha

Q.80) Solution (b)

Jaduguda Mine has the distinction of being the first Uranium Mine of the country. It is located in Jaduguda village in the Purbi Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.

Q.81) With reference to Mekong - Ganga Cooperation, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative by India and four ASEAN Countries.

2. Initiative aims at achieving cooperation between members in tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and communications.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.81) Solution (b)

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|---|--|
| Incorrect | Correct |
| The Mekong - Ganga Cooperation (MGC) is an initiative by six countries – India and five ASEAN countries , namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. It was launched in 2000 at Vientiane, Lao PDR. 10th Ministerial Meeting was recently held in Bangkok, Thailand | Both the Ganga and the Mekong are civilizational rivers, and the MGC initiative aims to facilitate closer contacts among the people inhabiting these two major river basins. The MGC is also indicative of the cultural and commercial linkages among the member countries of the MGC down the centuries. Cooperation areas include tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and communications. |

Q.82) The largest tribe among 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of India is

- a) Saharia
- b) Baiga
- c) Jenu Kuruba
- d) Irular

Q.82) Solution (a)

- In 1973, the Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as PVTGs.
- Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha (13), followed by Andhra Pradesh (12).
- **The Saharia people of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are the largest among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) with population more than 4 lakhs.**

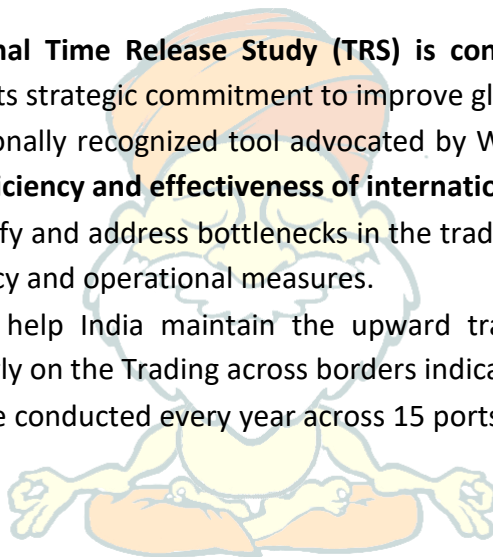
- Saharias are mainly found in many districts of Madhya Pradesh and Baran district of Rajasthan
- Their habitats are located in the forest area, barren and stony land and they are still a primitive society.

Q.83) India's first National Time Release Study (TRS) is conducted by

- Ministry of Science and Technology
- The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
- Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ministry of Finance

Q.83) Solution (d)

- **India's first National Time Release Study (TRS) is conducted by the Ministry of Finance** as part of its strategic commitment to improve global trade.
- TRS is an internationally recognized tool advocated by World Customs Organization **to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of international trade flows.**
- The aim is to identify and address bottlenecks in the trade flow process and take the corresponding policy and operational measures.
- This initiative will help India maintain the upward trajectory on Ease of Doing Business, particularly on the Trading across borders indicator.
- This exercise will be conducted every year across 15 ports including sea, air, land and dry ports.



Q.84) Consider the following pairs:

| <i>River</i> | <i>City</i> |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Tawi | Srinagar |
| 2. Musi | Hyderabad |
| 3. Narmada | Surat |

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only

Q.84) Solution (b)

- Some of the rivers flowing through cities include
 - Srinagar – Jhelum
 - **Jammu – Tawi**
 - **Hyderabad – Musi**
 - **Surat - Tapi**

Q.85) In which of the following state Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary is located?

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

Q.85) Solution (c)

- **Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary** is protected area located in the state of Assam in India on the south bank of the Brahmaputra River in Nagaon district.
- It is situated 40 km downstream of the Kaziranga National Park and 30 km northwest of the Orang National Park on the other side of the river Brahmaputra.
- It is a part of the Laokhowa-Burachapori eco-system. The sanctuary is an ideal habitat for Indian rhinoceros and Asiatic water buffaloes.

Q.86) Often seen in the news ‘Special Data Dissemination Standard’ was established by

- a) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- b) UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- c) United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR)
- d) Bank for International Settlements (BIS)

Q.86) Solution (a)

- **Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)** is an **International Monetary Fund standard** to guide member countries in the dissemination of national statistics to the public. It was established in April 1996.
- Objective: To guide members to enhance data transparency and help financial market participants with adequate information to assess the economic situations of countries.

- There are over 20 data categories which IMF considers for this report to capture a nation's economic health including national accounts (GDP, GNI), production indices, employment, and central government operations.
- India voluntarily subscribed to the SDDS in December 27, 1996.

Q.87) With reference to Price Stabilisation Fund, consider the following statements:

1. It is constituted for the purpose of containing extreme volatility in prices of all essential agriculture commodities.
2. It is maintained as a Central Corpus Fund by Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC).

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Q.87) Solution (a)

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|--|--|
| Incorrect | Correct |
| The Price Stabilisation Fund is constituted for the purpose of containing extreme volatility in prices of selected commodities. Set up in 2014-15 under the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare. However, Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme was transferred to the Department of Consumer Affairs from April, 2016. | PSF will be maintained as a Central Corpus Fund by Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), which will act as Fund manager. SFAC is a society promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture for linking agriculture to private businesses and investments and technology. The fund is utilized for Maintaining Strategic buffer by procuring directly from farmers or by import of goods and for granting interest free advance of working capital to Central/State agencies to undertake market intervention operations. |

Q.88) Consider the following statements about National Essential Diagnostic List (NEDL):

1. India has become the first country in the world to compile such list.
2. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has finalized the NEDL.

3. NEDL has been developed for all levels of health care.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

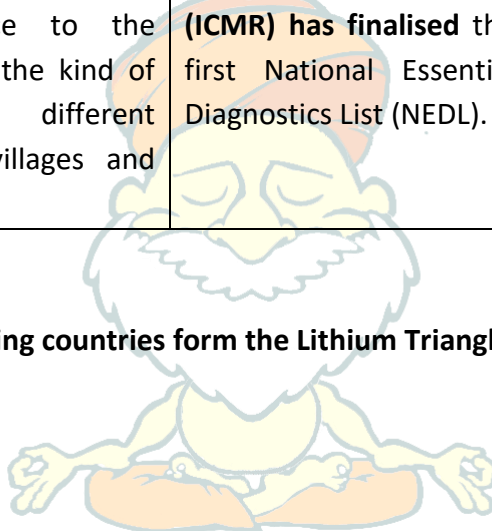
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.88) Solution (c)

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 | Statement 3 |
|---|---|--|
| Correct | Incorrect | Correct |
| India has become the first country in the world to compile such a list that would provide guidance to the government for deciding the kind of diagnostic tests that different healthcare facilities in villages and remote areas require. | Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has finalised the first National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL). | NEDL has been developed for all levels of health care – village level, primary, secondary & tertiary care. |

Q.89) Which of the following countries form the Lithium Triangle?

- 1. Chile
- 2. Bolivia
- 3. Brazil
- 4. Argentina
- 5. Peru



Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.89) Solution (b)

- The **Lithium Triangle** is a region of the Andes rich in lithium reserves around the borders of **Argentina, Bolivia and Chile**.

- The lithium in the triangle is concentrated in various salt pans that exist along the Atacama Desert and neighboring arid areas.
- The area is thought to hold around 54% of the world's lithium reserves.
- India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bolivia, which provides it with access to the lithium reserves of the country. Bolivia, estimated to hold over 60 percent of the world's reserves of lithium.

Q.90) The term 'Menhir', sometimes seen in news in the context of

- a) An pathogen found in international space station
- b) Largest global human chain formed to raise awareness on air pollution
- c) A tall upright stone of a kind erected in prehistoric times
- d) A new drug discovered for cancer treatment

Q.90) Solution (c)

- The sighting of new menhirs, perhaps the largest-ever recorded in Kerala, on the Pothamala hills in the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border, has thrown light on the possible existence of a major prehistoric necropolis (designed cemetery) there.
- **Menhir is a tall upright stone of a kind erected in prehistoric times** in western Europe.
- Menhirs are prehistoric stones commonly found near the ancient burial sites or chambers.
- Menhirs can be found solely as monoliths, or as part of a group of similar stones.

Q.91) In which part of India *CnemaspisAnandani*, the 35th species of day gecko was found recently?

- a) Western Ghats
- b) Eastern Himalaya
- c) Andaman Islands
- d) Central Indian Forests

Q.91) Solution (a)

- **CnemaspisAnandani (Anandan's day gecko)** is the 35th species of day gecko found in Western Ghats, in Nilgiris forests of Tamil Nadu.
- It's a species of diurnal, rock-dwelling, insectivorous gecko and is only around 42 mm in size.
- It is Endemic to India and is named after Anandan Sethuraman, a conservationist.

- Faces the threat of extinction - natural predators such as calotes (lizards), birds and anthropogenic factors.

Q.92) Bonavista bay opens directly onto

- Central Indian Ocean
- North Pacific Ocean
- South Pacific Ocean
- North Atlantic Ocean

Q.92) Solution (d)

- **Bonavista Bay/Peninsula** located on the **northeast coast of the island of Newfoundland** in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador in Canada.
- It **opens directly onto the Atlantic Ocean**.
- The bay is demarcated by Cape Freels to the north and Cape Bonavista (eastern limit of the Bonavista Peninsula) to the south.



Q.93) With reference to International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), consider the following statements:

1. It will focus on developing resilience in infrastructure by sharing knowledge and conducting country-specific and global activities.
2. It was officially launched at United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.
3. It is registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are *incorrect*?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) None of these

Q.93) Solution (b)

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 | Statement 3 |
|---|--|---|
| Correct | Incorrect | Correct |
| International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is an international coalition of countries, UN agencies, multilateral development banks, the private sector, and academic institutions that aims to promote disaster-resilient infrastructure. It is established as a platform for generating and exchanging knowledge, CDRI will conduct country-specific and global activities. | It was launched by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019. India launched the establishment of a CDRI along with its supporting Secretariat Office in New Delhi. | CDRI registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to finalise charter document in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs. |

Q.94) Consider the following statements about NISHTHA Scheme:

1. It is the largest teachers' training programme of its kind in the world.
2. Participants include all the teachers and Heads of Schools at the elementary level in all schools.


Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.94) Solution (a)

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|--|--|
| Correct | Incorrect |
| Union HRD Minister launched the National Mission to improve Learning Outcomes at the Elementary level (NISHTHA), National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement. NISHTHA is the largest teachers' training programme of its kind in the world. It aims to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through teachers training. | This integrated programme aims to build the capacities of around 42 lakh participants covering all teachers and Heads of Schools at the elementary level in all Government schools , faculty members of State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs), District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) as well as Block Resource Coordinators and Cluster Resource Coordinators in all States and UTs. |

Q.95) Tardigrade, also known as water bear have scattered on Lunar surface following the crash landing of

- 
- a) Chang'e 4 Robotic lander
 - b) Vikram Moon lander
 - c) Beresheet probe
 - d) Manfred Memorial Moon Mission (4M mission)

Q.95) Solution (c)

- Beresheet probe is a first private mission to the Moon by Israeli non-profit SpaceIL organisation. It was launched by SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket but crashed on the lunar surface while landing.
- Beresheet carried thousands of specimens of a living organism called tardigrade.
- Beresheet's crash landing may have scattered the tardigrades onto the lunar surface.
- Tardigrade, also known as water bear, are a phylum of water-dwelling eight-legged segmented micro-animals.
- Half a millimetre long Tardigrade, is essentially a water-dweller but also inhabits land. The organism is known to "come back to life" on rehydration.
- It can withstand gamma radiation, lack of oxygen, blast of solar winds and go without food and water for over ten years.

Q.96) Sometimes seen in news, Astana Consensus is related to bilateral relations between

- a) China and Kazakhstan
- b) India and China
- c) Iran and India

d) Russia and Kazakhstan

Q.96) Solution (b)

- The **Astana consensus** states that “differences between **India and China** should be addressed in a manner that they don’t become disputes”.
- In June 2017, on the side-lines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit, India and China interacted in Astana.
- The two countries agreed upon the fact that their differences should not be allowed to become disputes, and if these disputes were handled carefully, they may even turn into opportunities.
- The Consensus also viewed that India-China relations were significant not only bilaterally but for the region and the whole world and were a factor of stability.
- Astana is the capital city of Kazakhstan which was renamed as Nur-Sultan.

Q.97) Consider the following statements with respect to South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA):

1. It is a region above the South Atlantic Ocean where there are a large number of charged particles.
2. All space telescopes are shut down when they pass through the SAA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.97) Solution (c)

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|---|--|
| Correct | Correct |
| South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA) is a region above the South Atlantic Ocean where there are a large number of charged particles that can damage sensitive instruments. It is a portion of Van Allen Radiation Belt. | All space telescopes are shut down when they pass through the SAA as it damages sensitive instruments. India’s Astrosat telescope could not detect gravitational wave emanating from a possible collision with a neutron star, as it was above SAA. |

Q.98) Which of the following has issued the final framework for regulatory sandbox?

- a) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- c) Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA)
- d) Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM)

Q.98) Solution (b)

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued the final framework for **regulatory sandbox** in order to enable innovations in the financial technology space.
- Regulatory Sandbox usually refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment. The objective of the regulatory sandbox is to foster responsible innovation in financial services, promote efficiency, and bring benefit to consumers.

Q.99) With reference to the Livelihood and Enterprise Development Programme, consider the following statements:

1. Programme aims at creation of sustainable livelihoods amongst Self Help Group (SHG) members through cluster approach.
2. It was launched by Ministry of Rural Development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.99) Solution (a)

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|--|--|
| Correct | Incorrect |
| Programme aims at creation of sustainable livelihoods amongst Self Help Group members through cluster approach. The scheme provides for intensive training for skill building, refresher training, backward- | The Livelihood and Enterprise Development Programme launched by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in 2015. It also encompasses the complete value chain and offers end-to-end |

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| forward linkages and handholding & escort supports. | solution to the SHG members. |
|---|------------------------------|

Q.100) Falaq, recently in news is a radar system of

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

Q.100) Solution (c)

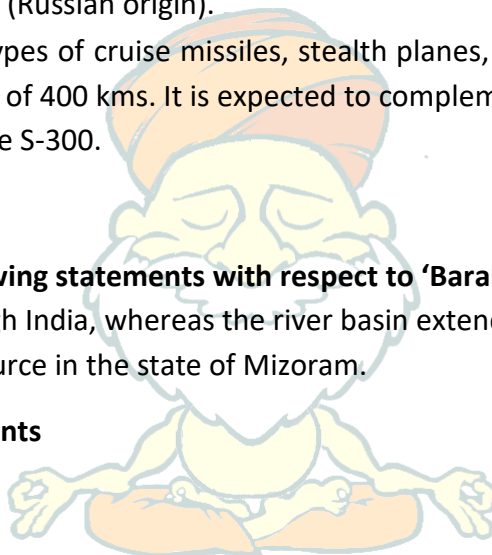
- **Falaq system** is **Iran's radar air defence missile system** and is upgraded version of the Gamma system (Russian origin).
- It can identify all types of cruise missiles, stealth planes, drone systems and ballistic missiles for a range of 400 kms. It is expected to complement the existing air defence systems, such as the S-300.

Q.101) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Barak River'.

1. It flows only through India, whereas the river basin extends to Bangladesh.
2. The river has its source in the state of Mizoram.

Select the correct statements

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



Q.101) Solution (d)

The Barak River is a 900-kilometre-long river flowing through the states of Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram and Assam in India and into the Bay of Bengal via Bangladesh.

From its source at Liyai Kullen Village in Manipur state of India wherein the majority of the local population belongs to the Poumai Naga tribe, the river is known as Vourei.

Q.102) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Central Public Works Department (CPWD)'

1. It is under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It came into existence in 1805 when Lord Bentick established a central agency for execution of public works and set up Ajmer Provincial Division.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.102) Solution (d)

The Central Public Works Department, under the Ministry of Urban Development now MoHUA (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs), deals with buildings, roads, bridges, flyovers, complicated structures like stadiums, auditoriums, laboratories, bunkers, border fencing, border roads (hill roads), etc.

CPWD came into existence in July 1854 when Lord Dalhousie established a central agency for execution of public works and set up Ajmer Provincial Division.

Q.103) ‘World Population Prospects 2019’ was released by

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Health Organisation
- c) International Labour Organisation
- d) None of the above

Q.103) Solution (d)

World Population Prospects 2019 was released by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Q.104) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Eastern Economic Forum’.

1. It is organized by the World Economic Forum to focus especially on the Eastern Asian Countries.
2. It is held annually in Kyoto, Japan.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.104) Solution (d)

It is an international forum held each year in Vladivostok, Russia, for the purpose of encouraging foreign investment in the Russian Far East.

Q.105) _____ is the first country in the world to issue Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID).

- a) India
- b) Australia
- c) Japan
- d) USA

Q.105) Solution (a)

Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID)

- India has become the first country in the world to issue Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID), capturing the facial bio-metric data of seafarers.
- The new facial biometric technology is a marked improvement over the two finger or iris based bio-metric data, with modern security features.
- It will make the identification of the SID holder more reliable and efficient, while protecting their dignity and privacy.
- The new card is in confirmation of the Convention No. 185 of the International Labour Organisation on BSID. India ratified the Convention in October 2015.
- In India the BSID project has been taken up in collaboration with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Mumbai. The Government notified the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers Bio-metric Identification Document) Rules in 2016. The issuance of SID involves the collection of biometric and demographic details of the seafarers, their verification and then issuance of the card to them.
- Every Indian seafarer who possesses a valid Continuous Discharge Certificate issued by the Govt. of India will be eligible for issue of a BSID.

Q.106) Consider the following statements with respect to 'New York Declaration on Forests'.

1. It is a voluntary and non-binding international declaration to take action to halt global deforestation.
2. It was first endorsed during the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 21 in Paris.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.106) Solution (a)

The New York Declaration on Forests is a voluntary and non-legally binding political declaration which grew out of dialogue among governments, companies and civil society, spurred by the United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit held in New York in 2014.

The Declaration pledges to halve the rate of deforestation by 2020, to end it by 2030, and to restore hundreds of millions of acres of degraded land. The proposed land restoration is described as covering "an area larger than India".

Q.107) 'Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP)' was chaired by

- a) Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan
- b) Madhav Gadgil
- c) Oommen V Oommen
- d) Bibek Debroy

Q.107) Solution (b)

The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), also known as the Gadgil Commission after its chairman Madhav Gadgil, was an environmental research commission appointed by the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

The Expert Panel approached the project through a set of tasks such as:

- Compilation of readily available information about Western Ghats
- Development of Geo-spatial database based on environmental sensitivity, and
- Consultation with Government bodies and Civil society groups.

Q.108) Consider the following statements with respect to 'the Bank for International Settlements (BIS)'.

1. Its head office is in Basel, Switzerland and it has two representative offices in Hong Kong SAR and in Mexico City.
2. It was established in 1930 by an intergovernmental agreement between the members of the Group of Seven (G7).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.108) Solution (a)

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) is an international financial institution owned by central banks which "fosters international monetary and financial cooperation and serves

as a bank for central banks". The BIS carries out its work through its meetings, programmes and through the Basel Process – hosting international groups pursuing global financial stability and facilitating their interaction. It also provides banking services, but only to central banks and other international organizations. It is based in Basel, Switzerland, with representative offices in Hong Kong and Mexico City.

The BIS was established in 1930 by an intergovernmental agreement between Germany, Belgium, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Japan, the United States, and Switzerland.

Q.109) Which of the following statements with respect to ‘Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS)’ mission is/are correct?

- a) It was launched by ISRO and Roscosmos.
- b) It was launched to study Earth’s magnetosphere.
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Q.109) Solution (b)

Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) mission

- It is NASA’s robotic space mission launched to study Earth’s magnetosphere.
- It consists of constellation of four identical spacecraft that orbit/fly in tetrahedral formation around Earth through dynamic magnetic system surrounding our planet to study Magnetic reconnection.
- It is also designed to gather information about microphysics of energetic particle turbulence and acceleration, processes that occur in many astrophysical plasmas.

Q.110) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘GTIN’

1. It is an internationally recognized system for identifying products.
2. It is a 14-digit long code developed by the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.110) Solution (a)

GTIN, or a Global Trade Item Number, is an internationally recognized system for identifying products. It brought together several systems to ensure they all adhere to a common structure.

Helping both in-store barcode readers and online product databases. The non-profit organization GS1 developed the system.

GTINs can be 8, 12, 13, or 14 digits long. They are a numerical representation of the product's barcode. Different types of GTIN exist depending on where in the world the product comes from and the type of product.

Q.111) 'West Bank' is bordered by

1. Israel
2. Jordan
3. Palestine

Select the correct code:

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

Q.111) Solution (a)

West Bank is a landlocked territory near the Mediterranean coast of Western Asia, bordered by Jordan to the east and by the Green Line separating it and Israel on the south, west and north.



Q.112) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to 'Yemen'?

1. It is bordered by two countries only.

2. It opens to the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.112) Solution (a)

Yemen is bordered by Saudi Arabia to the north, the Red Sea to the west, the Gulf of Aden and Guardafui Channel to the south, and Oman and the Arabian Sea to the east.



Q.113) 'Kvanefjeld project' is located in

- a) Russia
- b) Greenland
- c) Great Britain
- d) Canada

Q.113) Solution (b)

Greenland currently only has one major mining project, the Kvanefjeld rare earth project launched in 2007. The Kvanefjeld project is thought to be one of the world's biggest undeveloped resources of rare earth elements.

Q.114) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Harvest Festival State

- 1. Nuakhai – Odisha
- 2. Hareli – Maharashtra

3. Tokhu Emong – Manipur

Select the correct code:

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

Q.114) Solution (a)

Nuakhai – Odisha

Hareli – Chhattisgarh

Tokhu Emong – Nagaland

Q.115) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Amazon Fund'.

1. It aims to raise donations for non-reimbursable investments in efforts to prevent, monitor and combat deforestation, as well as to promote the preservation and sustainable use of forests in the Amazon Biome.
2. The fund is a REDD+ mechanism managed by the UN Environment.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.115) Solution (a)

The Amazon Fund aims to raise donations for non-reimbursable investments in efforts to prevent, monitor and combat deforestation, as well as to promote the preservation and sustainable use of forests in the Amazon Biome.

The Amazon Fund is a REDD+ mechanism managed by the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES).

Q.116) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)'

1. It bans nuclear explosions for military purposes, in all environments but permits for civilian purpose.
2. India is a signatory to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Select the correct statements

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.116) Solution (d)

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a multilateral treaty that bans all nuclear explosions, for both civilian and military purposes, in all environments. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 September 1996 but has not entered into force, as eight specific nations have not ratified the treaty.

India is a non-signatory.

Q.117) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

1. Shani Shingnapur – Maharashtra
2. Kapil Muni Temple – Odisha
3. Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple – Tamil Nadu

Select the correct code:

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

Q.117) Solution (c)

Shani Shingnapur – Maharashtra

Kapil Muni Temple – West Bengal

Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple – Tamil Nadu



Q.118) Consider the following statements with respect to 'The Special Protection Group (SPG)'.

1. It was formed aftermath the 2001 Indian Parliament attack.
2. It provides security only to the Prime Minister of India and their immediate family members.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.118) Solution (b)

The Indian Special Protection Group (SPG) is a special force for providing proximate security to the Prime Minister of India and members of their immediate families wherever in the world they are. It was formed in 1988 by an act of the Parliament of India.

Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2019 Changes

- The amendments makes two key changes: SPG will provide security only to Prime Minister of the day and immediate family members residing with him or her.
- The other key change is that former Prime Ministers will be guarded by SPG commandos only for a period of 5 years after demitting office.
- Earlier, it used to provide security to former prime ministers as well but now Z+ security cover has been given to them.

Q.119) 'Biarritz Declaration' is associated with

- a) Group of Seven (G7)
- b) MERCOSUR
- c) ASEAN
- d) India–Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)

Q.119) Solution (a)

Biarritz Declaration for a G7 & Africa Partnership.

The 45th G7 summit was held on 24–26 August 2019, in Biarritz, France.

Q.120) 'Lima Declaration' is associated with

- a) International Solar Alliance
- b) Non-Proliferation Treaty
- c) United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- d) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Q.120) Solution (c)

The General Conference of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) adopted a new Lima Declaration that charted the Organization's development priorities for the coming years, placing special emphasis on inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

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