

**Q.1) Narcondam Hornbill is found in which of the following?**

1. Western Ghats
2. Andamans
3. Lakshadweep

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

- **Narcondam hornbill** is a species of hornbill in the family Bucerotidae. It is endemic to the Indian island of Narcondam in the **Andamans**.
- The Narcondam hornbill has the smallest home range out of all the species of Asian hornbills.
- IUCN status: **Endangered**

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/thriving-in-seclusion/article31938143.ece>

**Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana':**

1. This scheme was launched to distribute free foodgrains to the poor and needy during the coronavirus crisis.
2. Under this scheme, only the beneficiaries under the targeted public distribution system (TPDS) would receive the free foodgrains.

**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.2) Solution (c)**

**'Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana'**

- Considered as world's largest food security scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana aims at ensuring sufficient food to the poor and needy during the coronavirus crisis.
- The scheme provides additional allocation of foodgrain to States/UTs for distribution to all the beneficiaries covered under public distribution system (TPDS) for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and priority household (PHH) ration cardholders.
- As per updates, the eligible beneficiaries will receive 5kg of foodgrains and 1 kg Gram per month for a period of three months between April and June, 2020. This time period has now been extended to five more months.
- The scheme is said to cover 80 crore ration card holders.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/will-free-grains-scheme-stay/article31949645.ece>

**Q.3) Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors' AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme was launched by –**

- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- Ministry of Rural Development
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

**Q.3) Solution (b)**

**PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)**

- It is a Central Sector Scheme to facilitate street vendors to access affordable working capital loan for resuming their livelihoods activities, after easing of lockdown.
- Rationale behind the scheme - The COVID-19 pandemic and consequent lockdowns have adversely impacted the livelihoods of street vendors. They usually work with a small capital base, which they might have consumed during the lockdown. Therefore, credit for working capital to street vendors will be helpful to resume their livelihoods.
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs launched this scheme on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/portal-for-street-vendors-loan-scheme-launched/article31949637.ece>

**Q.4) Ministry of Tourism (MoT) launched which of the following scheme for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country in 2014-15?**

- Swadesh Darshan Scheme
- Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)
- Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)
- Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)

**Q.4) Solution (a)**

- Ministry of Tourism (MoT) launched the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme** (Central Sector Scheme)– for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country in 2014-15.
- This scheme is envisioned to synergise with other Government of India schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill India, Make in India etc. with the idea of positioning the tourism sector as a major engine for job creation, driving force for economic growth, building synergy with various sectors to enable tourism to realise its potential.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/centre-to-revive-narayana-guru-spiritual-circuit-plan/article31949585.ece>

**Q.5) India and Bhutan recently signed pact for their first hydropower joint venture project –**

- a) Sankhuwasabha hydel project
- b) Sunkoshi hydropower project
- c) Mangdechhu hydroelectric project
- d) Kholongchhu hydel project

**Q.100) Solution (d)**

India and Bhutan signed pact for first joint hydel project – Kholongchhu project

It is the first time an India-Bhutan hydropower project will be constructed as a 50:50 joint venture, not as a government-to-government agreement.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-bhutan-sign-pact-for-first-joint-venture-hydropower-project/article31945878.ece>

**Q.6) Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) is aimed at –**

- a) enabling startups to obtain collateral-free loans for starting business.
- b) mitigating the economic distress being faced by MSMEs.
- c) providing working capital funds to farmers through NABARD.
- d) providing financial assistance to neighbouring countries for infrastructure projects.

**Q.6) Solution (b)****Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)**

- The ECLGS scheme has been formulated as a specific response to the unprecedented situation caused by COVID-19 and the consequent lockdown which has severely impacted manufacturing and other activities in the MSME sector.

- The Scheme aims at mitigating the economic distress being faced by MSMEs by providing them additional funding of up to Rs. 3 lakh crore in the form of a fully guaranteed emergency credit line.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/banks-sanction-1-lakh-cr-loans-to-30-lakh-msmes/article31957972.ece>

**Q.7) Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM Report), aimed to sustain commitment towards Education for All is released by –**

- a) UNESCO
- b) UNICEF
- c) OECD
- d) PISA

**Q.7) Solution (a)**

**Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM Report)**

- Established in 2002, the GEM Report is an editorially independent report, hosted and published by UNESCO. At the 2015 World Education Forum, it received a mandate from 160 governments to monitor and report on.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/education/coronavirus-lockdown-covid-19-widened-educational-divide-unesco-report/article31907857.ece>

**Q.8) Which of the following countries is not a member of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)?**

- a) Myanmar
- b) Maldives
- c) Afghanistan
- d) Bhutan

**Q.8) Solution (a)**

**South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**

- It is comprised of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- SAARC is regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union in South Asia. It promotes development of economical and regional integration.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/reviving-saarc-to-deal-with-china/article31956334.ece>

**Q.9) Which of the statements given below is/are correct about Kaziranga National Park?**

1. It is a National Park, a Tiger Reserve and also a World Heritage Site.
2. It is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for conservation of avifaunal species.
3. It hosts two-thirds of the world's great two-horned rhinoceroses.

**Choose correct answer:**

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

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

**Kaziranga National Park**

- It is a national park in the Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Nagaon districts of Assam
- It hosts two-thirds of the world's great one-horned rhinoceroses. It is a World Heritage Site.
- It is also a Tiger Reserve.
- It is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for conservation of avifaunal species.

**Source:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/videos/india-news/assam-floods-kaziranga-national-park-pobitora-wildlife-sanctuary-severely-affectedvideo/video-kuwBFWuHny3NCeAW609SkO.html>

**Q.10) Consider the following statements:**

1. The plant is commonly known as 'dancing ladies' or 'swan flowers'.
2. The earliest records of the collection of this plant were dated between the period 1862-70 and was recently "rediscovered".
3. This plant is characterised by white flowers, non-appendaged anthers and a "yellowish lip".

The above statements are associated with –

- a) Globba andersonii
- b) Neelakurinji
- c) Strobilanthes kunthiana
- d) Senna spectabilis

**Q.10) Solution (a)****Globba andersonii**

- A team of researchers recently “rediscovered” a rare and critically endangered plant species called Globba andersonii from the Sikkim Himalayas near the Teesta river valley region.
- It is known as ‘dancing ladies’ or ‘swan flowers’.
- Globba andersonii are characterised by white flowers, non-appendaged anthers (the part of a stamen that contains the pollen) and a “yellowish lip”.
- The species is restricted mainly to Teesta River Valley region which includes the Sikkim Himalays and Darjeeling hill ranges.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/plant-thought-to-be-extinct-for-more-than-135-years-found/article31954998.ece>

**Q.11) Consider the following statements about Central Zoo authority of India (CZA)**

1. It has been constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act.
2. It is chaired by the Environment Minister.
3. It lays down guidelines and prescribes rules under which animals may be transferred among zoos nationally and internationally.

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

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

**Q.11) Solution (d)****Central Zoo authority of India (CZA)**

- The CZA is a statutory body chaired by the **Environment Minister** and tasked with regulating zoos across the country.
- CZA is a statutory body created under the provisions of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The authority lays down guidelines and prescribes rules under which animals may be transferred among zoos nationally and internationally.
- It regulates the exchange of animals of endangered category Listed under Schedule-I and II of the Wildlife Protection Act among zoos.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ministry-reconstitutes-central-zoo-authority/article31964930.ece>

**Q.12) Consider the following statements with regard to Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)**

1. Only an organisation could be designated as terrorist under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.
2. It empowered the State Police to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by NIA.

**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.12) Solution (d)**

**Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)**

- It was enacted in 1967.
- It aims at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.
- Under the act, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court.

**2019 Amendment of UAPA**

- The act was amended to designate individuals as terrorists on certain grounds provided in the Act. Earlier only organisations could be declared as such.
- It empowered the Director General of NIA to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by NIA.
- Earlier it required the consent of State Police which delayed the process.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-designates-nine-individuals-linked-to-khalistani-groups-as-terrorists/article31964834.ece>

**Q.13) Consider the following statements with reference to the Goods and Services Tax**

1. It is an umbrella tax which will subsume all the direct taxes.
2. GST will eliminate the cascading of taxes and will make taxation simpler.

**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.13) Solution (b)**

- The GST is a Value added Tax (VAT) is a comprehensive indirect tax levy on manufacture, sale and consumption of goods as well as services at the national level. It will replace all indirect taxes levied on goods and services by the Indian Central and state governments. It is aimed at being comprehensive for most goods and services.
- Policymakers have consistently resonated the benefit of a unified taxation system in a federal country like India.
- There is a long list of benefits, which are being claimed as a result of GST law and one such benefit is removal of the cascading tax effect. In simple words “cascading tax effect” means tax on tax. It is a situation wherein a consumer has to bear the load of tax on tax and inflationary prices as a result of it.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/gst-revenue-collections-in-june-at-90917-crore/article31960842.ece>

**Q.14) Consider the following statements:**

1. The President summons each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit.
2. Speaker advises the President with regard to summoning and proroguing of the sessions of the Parliament.

**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

**Q14) Solution (a)**

**Article 85(1) in the Constitution states:**

- “The President shall from time to time summon each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one Session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next Session.”
- The Prime Minister is the leader of the Lower House. In this capacity, he advises the President with regard to summoning and proroguing of the sessions of the Parliament.
- In other words, though the power to summon Parliament is vested in the President, the latter acts on the advice on the council of ministers, headed by the prime minister”.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-ways-in-which-parliament-can-resume-functioning-6487267/>

**Q.15) Consider the following statements about “AtmaNirbhar Bharat Scheme” (ANBS):**



1. It was launched to help mitigate the food-security plight of the migrants and other needy persons who were not covered under NFSA or under any other State PDS scheme.
2. The scheme targeted free-of-cost ration distribution to 80 crores beneficiaries.

**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.15) Solution (a)**

**AtmaNirbhar Bharat Scheme**

- Under AtmaNirbhar Bharat Scheme, intended target of 8 crore migrant persons (10% of total 80 crore NFSA beneficiaries) was estimated.
- The scheme was launched to help mitigate the food-security plight of the migrant/stranded migrant workers/labourers and other needy persons across the country who were not covered under NFSA or under any other State PDS scheme, or not able to access their NFSA foodgrains, during the unprecedented COVID-19 situation.
- Under the scheme, migrants/stranded migrants were to get free-of-cost ration at a scale of 5 kg per person per month for a period of two months i.e. May and June 2020.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1635952>

**Q.16) Which of the following bodies are established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea?**

1. International Seabed Authority (ISA)
2. International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
3. Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS)
4. Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

**Choose correct code**

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

**Q.16) Solution (b)**

**Bodies established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea include –**

1. International Seabed Authority (ISA)
2. International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
3. Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS)

**Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)** is an intergovernmental organization located in The Hague, Netherlands. It is not a court in the traditional sense, but provides services of arbitral tribunal to resolve disputes that arise out of international agreements between member states, international organizations or private parties.

The organization is **not a United Nations agency**, but the PCA is an official United Nations Observer.

**Source:**

1. <https://www.un.org/Depts/los/Links/Links-LOS.htm>
2. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/italian-marines-case-india-loses-jurisdiction/article31973247.ece>

**Q.17) According to “United Nations Convention on The Law of Seas (UNCLOS)”**

1. Territorial waters are up to 12 nautical miles.
2. Contiguous Zone is up to 200 nautical miles from the shore.
3. Coastal nations can exercise their right in four areas in Exclusive Economic Zone: customs, taxation, immigration and pollution.

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

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

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

- The **contiguous zone extends up to 24 nautical miles** from the shore. In a contiguous zone coastal nations can exercise their rights in four areas: customs, taxation, immigration and pollution.
- In **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**, which extends up to **200 nautical miles**, the coastal nations have exclusive right to exploit the resources. International vessels are free to cross these waters without any restriction

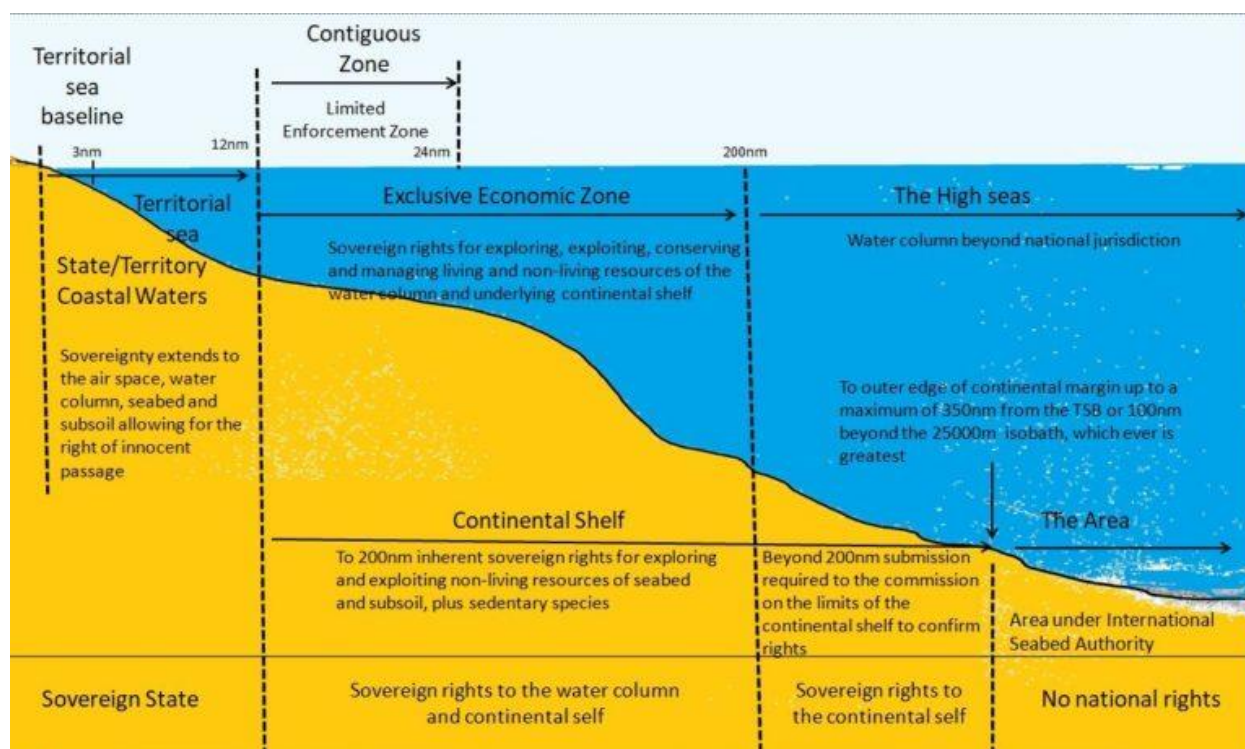
**Exclusive economic zone**

- A coastal nation has control of all economic resources within its exclusive economic zone, including fishing, mining, oil exploration, and any pollution of those resources. However, it cannot prohibit passage or loitering above, on, or under the surface of the sea that is in compliance with the laws and regulations adopted by the coastal State in accordance with the provisions of the **UN Convention**, within that portion of its exclusive economic zone beyond its territorial sea.

**Continental shelf**

- Coastal states have the right of exploration and exploitation of its natural resources, however other states could lay cables and pipelines if they are authorised by the coastal state. The outer limit of a country's continental shelf shall not stretch beyond 350 nautical miles of the baseline.





**Q.18) Consider the following statements about National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):**

1. Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006 provides for creating the National Tiger Conservation Authority
2. Project Tiger is administered by the National Tiger Conservation Authority
3. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change

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

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

**Q.18) Solution (d)**

#### **National Tiger Conservation Authority**

- NTCA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted under enabling provisions of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006**, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it under the said Act.
- **Project Tiger** is administered by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- Tiger Reserves are declared by National Tiger Conservation Authority via Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006 under centrally sponsored scheme called Project Tiger.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/uttar-pradesh-mulling-over-proposal-to-turn-shivalik-forest-into-tiger-reserve/article31968322.ece>

**Q.19) Consider the following statements:**

1. When the fiscal deficit of the country goes up; its trade deficit also goes up.
2. Current Account is the sum of the balance of trade, net factor income and net transfer payments.

**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.19) Solution (c)**

- The twin deficits hypothesis, also called the double deficit hypothesis or twin deficits anomaly, is a macroeconomic proposition that there is a strong link between a national economy's current account balance and its government budget balance.
- This hypothesis says that as the fiscal deficit of the country goes up; its trade deficit (i.e. the difference between exports and imports) also goes up.
- Hence, when a government of a country spends more than what it earns, the country also ends up importing more than exporting.
- Current Account is the sum of the balance of trade (exports minus imports of goods and services), net factor income (such as interest and dividends) and net transfer payments (such as foreign aid).

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/indias-trade-deficit-with-china-dips-to-4866-billion-in-fy20/article31973598.ece>

**Q.20) Who among the following were considered as the Trinity of Carnatic music, also known as The Three Jewels of Carnatic music?**

1. Shyama Shastri
2. Tyagaraja
3. Muthuswami Dikshitar
4. Tolkappiyar
5. Thiruvalluvar

**Choose correct answer:**

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

d) 1, 4 and 5

**Q.20) Solution (a)**

The Trinity of Carnatic music, also known as The Three Jewels of Carnatic music, refer to the outstanding trio of composer-musicians of Carnatic music in the 18th century, being Tyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastri.

**Q.21) Two species - Striped Hairstreak and Elusive Prince - were discovered recently in Arunachal Pradesh. These species are -**

- a) Snakes
- b) Migratory birds
- c) Butterflies
- d) Frogs

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

- Lepidopterists have discovered two species of butterflies – the Striped Hairstreak and Elusive Prince – in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The **Striped Hairstreak** was first recorded by Japanese entomologists in Hainan province of China.
- **Elusive Prince** has a Vietnamese connection and was thought to be the more familiar Black Prince found in the Eastern Himalayas.
- The Striped Hairstreak was located in Vijaynagar bordering Myanmar while the Elusive Prince was found in Miao on the periphery of the Namdapha National Park.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/japanese-found-chinese-butterfly-is-now-indian/article31963607.ece>

**Q.22) Dispute over claims to Sakteng wildlife sanctuary is associated with which of the following countries?**

- a) China and Bhutan
- b) India and Nepal
- c) Nepal and Bhutan
- d) China and Nepal

**Q.22) Solution (a)**

- Bhutan had sent a demarche protesting Chinese claims to the Sakteng wildlife sanctuary in Eastern Bhutan.
- China recently attempted to stop funding for the Sakteng sanctuary from the U.N. Development Programme's Global Environment Facility (GEF), on the grounds that it was "disputed" territory.
- Sakteng sanctuary has in the past too received such grants, including in 2018-2019, for a project on preventing soil erosion, without any objection from China.



## Dividing line

A brief overview of the boundary dispute between China and Bhutan

- Bhutan and China have no formal diplomatic relations but have held 24 rounds of boundary talks between 1984 and 2016
- Talks concentrated on north and west Bhutan regions
- Eastern Bhutan not part of the talks
- so far, say officials
- Sakteng sanctuary is situated close to the border with Arunachal Pradesh
- In June 2020, China attempted to stop UNDP-GEF funding for Sakteng by claiming it was disputed, but was overruled



Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/days-after-demarche-china-doubles-down-on-claims-on-eastern-bhutan-boundary/article31993470.ece>

**Q.23) Consider the following statements about United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):**

1. It is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency.
2. It is a member of the United Nations Development Group and part of its executive committee.
3. UNFPA is supported by the UN budget and UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) establishes its mandate.

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

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

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

**About United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

- It is a subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly and works as a sexual and reproductive health agency.
- The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) establishes its mandate.
- It was established as a trust fund in 1967 and began operations in 1969. In 1987, it was officially renamed the United Nations Population Fund but the original abbreviation, 'UNFPA' for the United Nations Fund for Population Activities was retained.

- UNFPA is not supported by the UN budget, instead, it is entirely supported by voluntary contributions of donor governments, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, foundations and individuals.
- UNFPA works directly to tackle Sustainable Development Goal on health(SDG3), Education (SDG4) and gender equality (SDG5)
- It is a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and part of its executive committee.

Source: <https://www.unfpa.org/about-us>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-accounts-for-458-million-of-the-worlds-missing-females-says-un-report/article31951401.ece>

**Q.24) Promoting international peace and security and maintaining just and honourable relations between nations is part of -**

- a) Directive Principles of State Policy
- b) Fundamental Duties
- c) Fundamental Rights
- d) Preamble

**Q.24) Solution (a)**

**Article 51 of Indian Constitution (Directive Principles of State Policy)**

Promotion of international peace and security. The State shall endeavour to –

- (a) promote international peace and security;
- (b) maintain just and honourable relations between nations;
- (c) foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings of organised peoples with one another; and
- (d) encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/will-accept-marines-case-ruling-centre/article31985141.ece>

**Q.25) Consider the below statements with reference to Defence Acquisition Council -**

1. It is the government's highest decision-making body on defence procurement.
2. It is chaired by Union Defence Minister.
3. It was set up in 2009 as part of the post-Mumbai attack reforms.

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

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



d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.25) Solution (b)**

**Defence Acquisition Council**

- The DAC is Defence Ministry's highest decision making body for capital acquisition proposals forwarded by the Indian armed forces.
- It was set up in 2001 as part of the post-Kargil reforms in defence sector.
- DAC is chaired by Union Defence Minister.
- The objective of the Defence Acquisition Council is to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces in terms of capabilities sought, and time frame prescribed, by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/mod-approves-33-new-fighter-jets-for-iaf-in-deals-worth-38900-crore/article31971510.ece>

**Q.26) Which among the following are the two goals, set by the World Bank Group, for the world to achieve by 2030?**

- a) Ending extreme poverty and Promoting shared prosperity
- b) Eliminating poverty and Ensuring stability of the international monetary and financial system
- c) Ending absolute poverty and Food security with zero hunger
- d) Ending extreme poverty and Quality Education

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

**The World Bank Group has set two goals for the world to achieve by 2030:**

- **End extreme poverty** by decreasing the percentage of people living on less than \$1.90 a day to no more than 3%
- **Promote shared prosperity** by fostering the income growth of the bottom 40% for every country

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1636790>

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/what-we-do>

**Q.27) Which of the following constitute the World Bank Group?**

1. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
2. International Finance Corporation
3. International Development Association
4. International Monetary Fund

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

**Q.27) Solution (a)**

**World Bank Group**

- The World Bank Group is one of the world's largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries.
- Its five institutions share a commitment to reducing poverty, increasing shared prosperity, and promoting sustainable development. It consists of
  1. IBRD- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
  2. IDA- The International Development Association
  3. IFC- The International Finance Corporation
  4. MIGA- The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
  5. ICSID- The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes

Link: [The IMF and the World Bank: How Do They Differ?](#)

**Q.28) Consider the following statements about Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):**

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations
2. India is one of the founding members of FAO
3. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland

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

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

**Q.28) Solution (c)**

- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security.
- India is one of the founding members of FAO. FAO has been a staunch partner since 1948, when FAO operations in India first began.
- The FAO is headquartered in Rome, Italy.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/the-difference-between-a-locust-plague-uptake-and-outbreak-6492132/>

**Q.29) Consider the following statements as per 2019 amendment to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967:**

1. It empowered the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to attach properties acquired from proceeds of terrorism.
2. It empowered the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases of terrorism.

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.29) Solution (c)**

As per recent **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019** -

- Individuals can be declared as terrorists and their properties seized.
- It also provides for putting travel ban on such individuals once they are declared as terrorists.
- The amendments gave powers to the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to attach properties acquired from proceeds of terrorism.
- Earlier, the law required that the NIA take prior permission from the respective state police chief to attach the proceeds of terrorism.
- Earlier, officers in the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police and above were empowered to investigate cases under the UAPA as per Section 43. Now, officers in the rank of Inspector are empowered to do so.
- The inspector-rank officers have over time acquired sufficient proficiency to investigate UAPA-related cases and this move would quicken the delivery of justice in such cases, which are reviewed by senior officers at various levels.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/govt-blocks-40-websites-of-sikhs-for-justice/article31997918.ece>

**Q.30) Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) is an initiative of –**

- a) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- b) World Health Organization (WHO)
- c) World Bank Group
- d) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

**Q.30) Solution (b)**

- Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) is a network composed of numerous technical and public health institutions, laboratories, NGOs, and other organizations that work to observe and respond to threatening epidemics.
- GOARN works closely with and under the World Health Organization (WHO), which is one of its most notable partners. Its goals are to: examine and study diseases, evaluate the risks that certain diseases pose, and improve international capability to deal with diseases.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/the-hindu-explains-what-are-scientists-saying-about-a-new-virus-strain-in-china/article31991105.ece>

**Q.31) Consider the following statements with regard to MGNREGA:**

1. Only one adult member from a household willing to do unskilled manual work is entitled to register to obtain a job card under MGNREGA.
2. It is demand driven wage employment programme and resource transfer from Centre to States is based on the demand for employment in each State.
3. Employment under MGNREGA is a legal entitlement.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

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

- The mandate of the MGNREGA is to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
- “Household” means the members of a family related to each other by blood, marriage or adoption and normally residing together and sharing meals or holding a common ration card.
- In simple words, a household having adult members desirous of seeking unskilled employment in MGNREGA may apply for registration.
- MGNREGA is demand driven wage employment programme and resource transfer from Centre to States is based on the demand for employment in each State.
- The failure of provision for employment within 15 days of the receipt of job application from a prospective household will result in the payment of unemployment allowance to the job seekers. Employment is to be provided within 5 km of an applicant’s residence, and minimum wages are to be paid. Thus, employment under MGNREGA is a legal entitlement.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/14-lakh-families-reach-mgnregas-annual-work-limit/article32008031.ece>

**Q.32) Which of the following statements is/are true?**

1. India is among top five in terms of opium cultivation in 2018.
2. Asia accounts to more than 90% of global illicit opium production.
3. Afghanistan is the largest producer of opium in the world.

**Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:**

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

**Q.32) Solution (b)**

- Opium is illicitly produced in about 50 countries. However, close to 97% of the total global production of opium in the past five years came from only 3 countries. (84% in Afghanistan, 7% in Myanmar and Mexico accounts for 6%)
- India is in top five (fourth position) in terms of seizure of opium in 2018 and not opium production. Hence, statement 1 is wrong.
- Asia is host to more than 90% of global illicit opium production and the world's largest consumption market for opiates. 84% of the total opium was produced in Afghanistan.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/fourth-highest-opium-seizure-in-2018-reported-from-india-world-drug-report/article32005672.ece>

**Q.33) Which among the following is correct about Bubonic plague, which was recently in news?**

- a) It is a zoonotic disease and a serious bacterial infection transmitted by fleas from rodents.
- b) It is a swine flu strain that has genes similar to those in the virus that caused the 2009 flu (H1N1) pandemic.
- c) It is a family of viruses spread mainly by rodents.
- d) It is referred to most serious category of uncontrolled breeding locust populations.

**Q.33) Solution (a)**

**What is Bubonic plague?**

- It is a rare but serious bacterial infection transmitted by fleas from rodents.
- It is a zoonotic disease and it can be transmitted to other animals or humans.
- It mainly results from the bite of an infected flea.

- It may also result from exposure to the body fluids from a dead plague-infected animal.
- It is one of the three plagues caused by bacterium *Yersinia pestis*. The other two being Septicaemic plague and Pneumonic plague.
- It is spread by *Yersinia pestis* bacteria and requires urgent hospitalisation. According to the WHO it can kill an adult in less than 24 hours, if not treated in time.

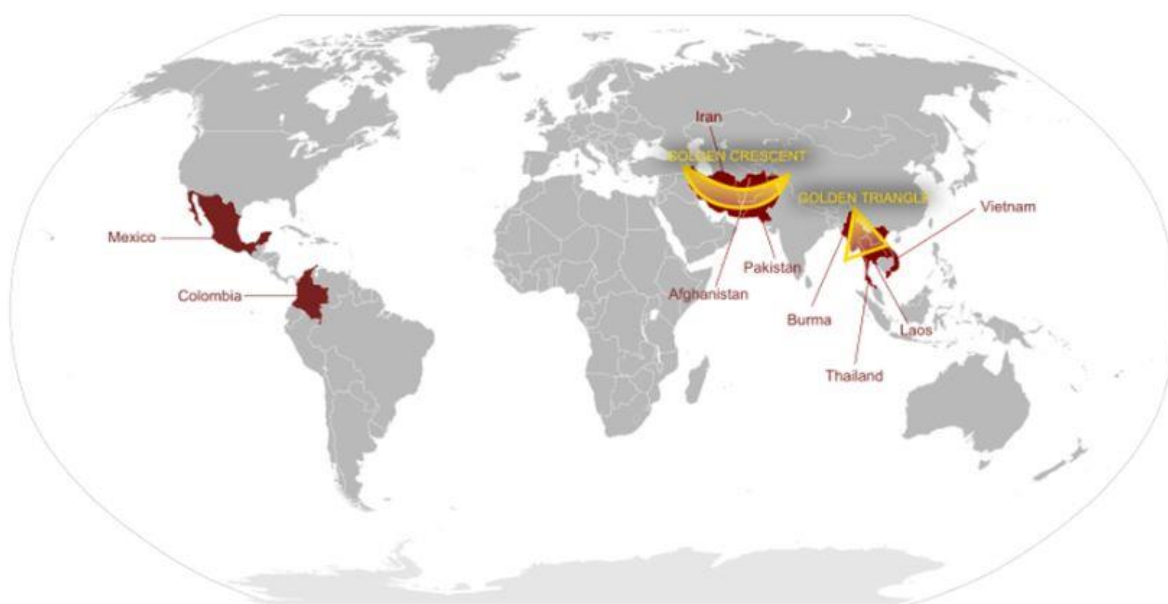
Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/suspected-case-of-bubonic-plague-found-in-chinas-inner-mongolia/article31998748.ece>

**Q.34) Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent often seen in news is related to which field of interest?**

- An area infested with insurgency, terrorism and trafficking
- Gravitational anomalies on earth's surface
- USA's counter-strategy to China's string of Pearls strategy
- Illicit drug producing areas in the world

**Q.34) Solution (d)**

- India's strategic location places it amid two largest sources of illicit drugs in South Asia- Golden Crescent (Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran) on the northwest and the infamous Golden Triangle (Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos) on the northeast.



Pic: [Opium Cultivation](#)

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/fourth-highest-opium-seizure-in-2018-reported-from-india-world-drug-report/article32005672.ece>

**Q.35) West Bank is bordered by –**

1. Israel
2. Syria
3. Dead Sea
4. Jordan
5. Lebanon

**Select the correct answer:**

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

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

West Bank is a landlocked territory near the Mediterranean coast of Western Asia, bordered by Jordan to the east and by Israel on the south, west and north. The West Bank also contains a significant section of the western Dead Sea shore.

Observe the map -



Pic: [West Bank](#)

**Q.36)** Which among the following is considered to be the state butterfly of Karnataka?

- a) Southern Birdwing
- b) Golden Birdwing
- c) Striped Hairstreak
- d) Golden Butterfly

**Q.36) Solution (a)**

- The Southern Birdwing, whose scientific name is *Troides minos*, has a wingspan of 140-190 mm, was considered to be the largest butterfly in India.
- Karnataka became the second state after Maharashtra to choose a State butterfly.
- Southern Birdwing was chosen as its colours match those of the Karnataka flag.

**Do you know?**



- A Himalayan butterfly named Golden Birdwing is now India's largest after 88 years. Golden Birdwing is larger than the Southern Birdwing, which was earlier considered to be the largest.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/himalayan-butterfly-is-indias-largest-after-88-years/article32012652.ece>

**Q.37) Consider the following statement about Pangong Tso**

1. It is identified as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention
2. It lies on the actual Line of Actual Control
3. It is a brackish water lake

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

**Pangong Lake a.k.a Pangong Tso**

- It is an endorheic lake in the Himalayas.
- Approximately 60% of the length of Pangong Lake lies in Tibet.
- Though it's a saline water lake, it freezes completely during winters.
- The brackish water of Pangong Lake has very low micro-vegetation. Reportedly, there is no fish or any aquatic life in the lake, except crustaceans.
- The lake is in the process of being identified as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. It will be a first trans-boundary wetland in South Asia under convention!
- Pangong Lake is a disputed territory. The Line of Actual Control passes through the lake. A section of the lake 20 km from the Line of Actual Control is controlled by China but claimed by India! The Eastern end is in Tibet and India doesn't claim it. The Western end is disputed between India and Pakistan.

**Q.38) Consider the following statements about Agriculture Infrastructure Fund:**

1. It is a pan India Central sector scheme.
2. The duration of the Scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2022 (2 years).
3. It provides loans to small and marginalised farmers for investment in viable projects for pre-harvest and post-harvest management infrastructure.

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

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

**Q.38) Solution (a)**

**Agriculture Infrastructure Fund**

- The Union Cabinet gave its approval to a new pan India Central Sector Scheme-Agri Infrastructure Fund.
- The scheme shall provide a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support.
- The duration of the Scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2029 (10 years).
- Agri-infra fund with a corpus of Rs 1 lakh crore to provide financial support to agri-entrepreneurs, start-ups, agri-tech players and farmer groups for infrastructure and logistics facilities.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1637221>

**Q.39) Consider the following pairs:**

<i>(Operation name)</i>	<i>(Associated with)</i>
1. Operation Sadbhavna	De-escalation process of China along the LAC
2. Operation Samudra Setu	Part of the national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas during the COVID-19 pandemic
3. Operation Sukoon	Counter Terrorist strategy in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh

**Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?**

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

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

- **Operation Samudra Setu**, which was launched on 05 May 2020 as part of the national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas during the COVID-19 pandemic has culminated after successfully bringing 3,992 Indian citizens back to their homeland by sea.
- **Operation Sadbhavna** - Army undertakes a unique human initiative in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to address the aspirations of people affected by terrorism. Operation is a part of the Counter Terrorist strategy to wrest the initiative and re-integrate the 'Awaam' with the national mainstream.

- **Operation Sukoon and Operation Rahat** were previously undertaken similar evacuation operations in 2006 and 2015 respectively.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1637314>

**Operation Sadbhavna – Picked from India Year Book, 2020**

**Q.40) Consider the following statements about 'International Court of Justice (ICJ)'**

1. Statute of the International Court of Justice, which is an integral part of the United Nations Charter established the ICJ
2. It is composed of fifteen judges elected to nine-year terms by Permanent members of the UNSC

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

- The Statute of the International Court of Justice is an integral part of the United Nations Charter, as specified by Chapter XIV of the United Nations Charter, which established the International Court of Justice.
- The ICJ is composed of fifteen judges elected to nine-year terms by the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council from a list of people nominated by the national groups in the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The election process is set out in Articles 4–19 of the ICJ statute. Elections are staggered, with five judges elected every three years to ensure continuity within the court. Should a judge die in office, the practice has generally been to elect a judge in a special election to complete the term.
- No two judges may be nationals of the same country.

**Q.41) Which of the statements given below is/are true with regard to Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)?**

1. It is a law related to financial legislation, implemented by Reserve Bank of India.
2. Under the Act, NGOs which receive funds from abroad require to register themselves every five years.

**Choose correct answer:**

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2

4. Neither 1 nor 2

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

**Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)**

- It is a law enacted by Parliament **to regulate foreign contribution** (especially monetary donation)
- As per the FCRA Act 2010, all NGOs are required to be registered under the Act to receive foreign funding.
- Under the Act, organisations require to register themselves every five years.
- Since the Act is internal security legislation, despite being a law related to financial legislation, it falls into the purview of Home Ministry and not the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/three-ngos-linked-to-congress-under-home-ministry-scanner/article32026705.ece>

**Q.42) Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Mission:**

1. The scheme intends to provide housing for all in urban areas by year 2022.
2. It aims to provide every family a pucca house with water connection, toilet facilities, 24\*7 electricity supply and access.
3. PMAY (U) has made a mandatory provision for the female head of the family to be the owner or co-owner of the house under this Mission.

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

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

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

- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) for ensuring housing for all in urban areas was launched on 25th June 2015 for implementation during 2015-2022.
- The scheme intends to provide housing for all in urban areas by year 2022.
- The Mission provides Central Assistance to the implementing agencies through States/Union Territories (UTs) and Central Nodal Agencies (CNAs) for providing houses to all eligible families/ beneficiaries against the validated demand for houses for about 1.12 cr.

- As per PMAY(U) guidelines, the size of a house for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) could be upto 30 sq. mt. carpet area, however States/UTs have the flexibility to enhance the size of houses in consultation and approval of the Ministry.
- In continuation to this Government's efforts towards empowerment of women from EWS and LIG unlike earlier schemes, PMAY (U) has made a mandatory provision for the female head of the family to be the owner or co-owner of the house under this Mission.
- This scheme is converged with other schemes to ensure houses have a toilet, Saubhagya Yojana electricity connection, Ujjwala Yojana LPG gas connection, access to drinking water and Jan Dhan banking facilities, etc.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cabinet-nod-for-development-of-affordable-rental-housing-complexes-for-urban-migrants-poor/article32022523.ece>  
<https://pmay-urban.gov.in/about>

**Q.43) Which of the following are part of six main organs of the United Nations?**

1. International Court of Justice
2. International Criminal Court
3. Economic and Social Council
4. Trusteeship Council

**Choose correct answer:**

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

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

**The six main organs of the United Nations are:**

1. **General Assembly:** The main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN
2. **Security Council:** Primarily responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security
3. **Economic and Social Council:** The principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals
4. **Trusteeship Council:** Provides international supervision for 11 Trust Territories that had been placed under the administration of seven Member States. It however, suspended its operation on 1 November 1994.
5. **International Court of Justice:** The principal judicial organ of the United Nations

6. **Secretariat:** Carries out the day-to-day work of the UN as mandated by the General Assembly and the Organization's other principal organs

**Q.44) Consider the following statements about United Nations**

1. International Court of Justice and International Criminal court are the two dispute resolution mechanisms of UN.
2. All member states of UN are also members of UNESCO.

**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.44) Solution (d)**

- The **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**, located in The Hague, in the Netherlands, is the primary judicial organ of the UN. The ICJ's primary purpose is to adjudicate disputes among states.
- Three **UNESCO member states are not UN member states**: Cook Islands, Niue, and Palestine (Palestine is a non-member observer State of the United Nations General Assembly since 29 November 2012), while one UN member state (Liechtenstein) is not a UNESCO member.
- The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** is an independent judicial body with jurisdiction over persons charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. It sits in The Hague in the Netherlands.

The Court was established by the Rome Statute. This treaty was negotiated within the UN; however, it created an independent judicial body distinct from the UN.

**Q.45) Which among the following is incorrect statement about Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) which was launched recently?**

- a) Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has initiated ARHCs.
- b) ARHCs is a sub-scheme under Pradhan Mantri AWAS Yojana- Urban (PMAY-U).
- c) Beneficiaries for ARHCs are urban migrants/ poor from EWS/ LIG categories.
- d) None of the above

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

**Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) for Migrants Workers/ Urban Poor**

- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has initiated Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs), a sub-scheme under Pradhan Mantri AWAS Yojana- Urban (PMAY-U).

- This will provide ease of living to urban migrants/ poor in Industrial Sector as well as in non-formal urban economy to get access to dignified affordable rental housing close to their workplace.

**The ARHC scheme will be implemented through two models:**

1. Utilizing existing Government funded vacant houses to convert into ARHCs through Public Private Partnership or by Public Agencies
2. Construction, Operation and Maintenance of ARHCs by Public/ Private Entities on their own vacant land

Beneficiaries for ARHCs are urban migrants/ poor from EWS/ LIG categories. ARHCs will be a mix of single bedroom Dwelling Units and Dormitory of 4/6 beds including all common facilities which will be exclusively used for rental housing for a minimum period of 25 years.

Source: <https://pmay-urban.gov.in/arhc-about>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cabinet-nod-for-development-of-affordable-rental-housing-complexes-for-urban-migrants-poor/article32022523.ece>

**Q.46) Consider the following statements about Antyodaya Anna Yojana:**

- 1 It is a part of National Food Security Act.
- 2 Households under AAY are entitled to 35 Kg of foodgrains per household per month.
- 3 Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is the nodal ministry.

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

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

**Q.46) Solution (d)**

**Antyodaya Anna Yojana**

- It is a Government of India sponsored scheme to provide highly subsidised food to millions of the poorest families.
- This scheme was developed by the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.**
- **Objective** – To target poorest of poor population and provide them relief from hunger.
- It is a part of NFSA (National Food Security Act) and the households under AAY are entitled to 35 Kg of foodgrains per household per month.
- **Coverage** – It covers the poorest of the poor families from amongst the BPL families covered under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) within the States and

provides them food grains at a highly subsidized rate of Rs.1/ per kg coarse grains, Rs.2/ per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/ per kg for rice.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/free-grains-will-be-given-till-aug-31/article32037395.ece>  
<https://dfpd.gov.in/pds-aay.htm>

**Q.47) Which of the following states share boundaries with Nepal?**

1. Sikkim
2. West Bengal
3. Bihar
4. Uttarakhand
5. Himachal Pradesh

**Choose correct answer:**

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

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

Nepal shares a border of over 1,850km with five Indian states – Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.



**Q.48) Which of the following countries are permanent partners with “Malabar Exercise” as of June 2019?**

1. India
2. USA
3. Japan



4. Australia
5. UK

**Choose correct answer:**

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

**Q.48) Solution (b)**

- **Exercise Malabar** is a trilateral naval exercise involving the United States, Japan and India as permanent partners.
- Originally begun in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the United States, Japan became a permanent partner in 2015.
- India to decide whether to include Australia in the Malabar exercises with Japan and the U.S.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/india-to-take-call-on-australias-inclusion-in-malabar-exercises/article32037392.ece>

**Q.49) Consider the following statements about Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Power project:**

1. It is Asia's largest power project.
2. It is an operational solar park located in Rajasthan.
3. The Government of India has set a target of installing 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2022, which includes 100 GW from solar.

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

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

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

**Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Power project**

- Prime Minister on 10th July unveiled to the nation Asia's largest solar power plant.
- The Ultra Mega Solar Power project is situated in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district.
- It should be noted that PM Modi has set the national goal to achieve the establishment of 100 GW of solar power generation capacity by 2022 when India will complete 75 years of its Independence from British rule.
- The inauguration of the ultra mega solar plant in Rewa will add to the progress made in that direction as India continues to tread on a path aiming at greater reliance on environment-friendly and renewable energy sources.

**Source:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1637549>

**Q.50) Which of the statement given below is/are correct with respect to Taiwan?**

1. It is the most populous country and largest economy that is not a member of the United Nations (UN).
2. It is located around South China Sea, East China Sea and Philippine Sea.

**Choose correct answer:**

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

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

- Taiwan, officially the Republic of China, is a country in East Asia. Neighbouring countries include the People's Republic of China (PRC) to the northwest, Japan to the northeast, and the Philippines to the south.
- With 23.7 million inhabitants, Taiwan is among the most densely populated countries, and is the most populous country and largest economy that is not a member of the United Nations (UN).
- It is located around South China Sea, East China Sea and Philippine Sea. (observe figure below)



**Q.51) The Government of India has set a target of 175 GW renewable power installed capacity by the end of 2022. In this context, arrange the following renewable energy sources in the decreasing order of their specific targets:**

1. Small hydro power
2. Solar power
3. Biomass power
4. Wind power

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**Q.51) Solution (a)**

The government has up-scaled the target of renewable energy capacity to 175GW by the year 2022. This includes:

- 100 GW from solar power
- 60 GW from wind power
- 10 GW from biomass power and
- 5 GW from small hydro power

**Q.52) Which among the below countries recently allowed for the conversion of the nearly 1,500 year-old UNESCO World Heritage site - Hagia Sophia - from a museum into a mosque?**

- a) Syria
- b) Turkey
- c) Lebanon
- d) Egypt

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

- Recently, Turkey's highest court allowed for the conversion of the nearly 1,500 year-old Hagia Sophia from a museum into a mosque.
- The centuries-old structure, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, was originally a cathedral in the Byzantine empire before it was turned into a mosque in 1453, when Constantinople fell to Sultan Mehmet II's Ottoman forces. In the 1930s, however, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey, shut down the mosque and turned it into a museum in an attempt to make the country more secular.

- The change in status of the Hagia Sophia comes after repeated warnings from the international community, including UNESCO, to ensure that Turkey did not proceed with these plans.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-why-hagia-sophias-return-as-mosque-puts-turkeys-secular-credentials-on-a-prayer-6500819/>

**Q.53) Bosnia and Herzegovina, often known informally as Bosnia, is a country located in**

- a) Balkan Peninsula
- b) Labrador Peninsula
- c) Scandinavian Peninsula
- d) Iberian Peninsula

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

- On July 11, 25 years on, commemoration services were held at the Srebrenica-Potocari Memorial and Cemetery in remembrance of the victims of the massacre.
- In July 1995, approximately 8,000 Muslims, mostly men and boys were killed in Srebrenica, a town in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, often known informally as Bosnia, is a country in South and Southeast Europe, located within the Balkans Peninsula.



Pic: [Balkans](#)

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-srebrenica-massacre-the-ethnic-cleansing-of-bosnian-muslims-6502200/>

**Q.54) The tail of a comet is directed away from the sun because**

- a) as the comet rotates around the sun, the lighter mass of the comet is pushed away due to the centrifugal force alone
- b) as the comet rotates, the lighter mass of the comet is attracted by some star situated in the direction of its tail
- c) the radiation emitted by the sun exerts a radial pressure on the comet throwing its tail away from the sun
- d) the tail of the comet always exists in the same orientation

**Q.54) Solution (c)**

- A comet tail—and coma—are features visible in comets when they are illuminated by the Sun and may become visible from Earth when a comet passes through the inner Solar System.
- As a comet approaches the inner Solar System, solar radiation causes the volatile materials within the comet to vaporize and stream out of the nucleus, carrying dust away with them.
- Separate tails are formed of dust and gases, becoming visible through different phenomena; the dust reflects sunlight directly and the gases glow from ionisation. Most comets are too faint to be visible without the aid of a telescope, but a few each decade become bright enough to be visible to the naked eye.
- In the outer Solar System, comets remain frozen and are extremely difficult or impossible to detect from Earth due to their small size. Statistical detections of inactive comet nuclei in the Kuiper belt have been reported from the Hubble Space Telescope observations, but these detections have been questioned, and have not yet been independently confirmed.
- As a comet approaches the inner Solar System, solar radiation causes the volatile materials within the comet to vaporize and stream out of the nucleus, carrying dust away with them. The streams of dust and gas thus released form a huge, extremely tenuous atmosphere around the comet called the coma, and the force exerted on the coma by the Sun's radiation pressure and solar wind cause an enormous tail to form, which points away from the Sun.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/comet-c-2020-f3-neowise-nasa-earth-6500688/>

**Q.55) Consider the following pairs:**

<i>(Portals launched by GoI)</i>	<i>(Associated Ministries)</i>
1. ASEEM portal	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
2. Udyam portal	Ministry of MSME
3. SATYABHAMA portal	Ministry of Women and Child Development

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.55) Solution (b)**

- **Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** launched Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee-Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** launched a new portal for MSME registration - Udyam portal.
- The **Ministry of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs** launched SATYABHAMA (Science and Technology Yojana for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement) Portal for Science and Technology Programme Scheme of Ministry of Mines on 15th June 2020. The portal has been designed, developed and implemented by National Informatics Centre (NIC), Mines Informatics Division.

**Source:**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/education/msde-launches-aseem-portal-to-help-skilled-people-find-livelihood-opportunities/article32042600.ece>

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/ministry-launches-online-portal-for-msme-registration/article31955499.ece>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1632668>

**Q.56) Consider the following statements about Red sanders**

- 1. It is restricted to the southern parts of the Western Ghats
- 2. Its export without state permission is illegal
- 3. It is protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.56) Solution (b)****About Red Sanders:**

- Pterocarpus santalinus or Red Sanders is an endemic tree of South India.
- They are found in Tropical Dry Deciduous forest of the Palakonda and Seshachalam hill ranges of Andhra Pradesh and also found in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. They are restricted to the southern parts of the Eastern Ghats.
- It is protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). While its export without state permission is illegal, farmers can grow it.
- It is listed as an Endangered species by the IUCN, because of overexploitation for its timber in South India.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/red-sanders-worth-rs-1-crore-seized/article32055231.ece>

**Q.57) Which of the statements given below is/are true with reference to International Comparison Program (ICP)?**

1. It is a worldwide statistical initiative led by the World Bank under the auspices of the United Nations Statistical Commission.
2. India has participated in all ICP rounds since its inception in 1970.

**Choose correct answer:**

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

**Q.57) Solution (c)**

- International Comparison Program (ICP) is a partnership of various statistical administrations of up to 199 countries guided by the World Bank.
- World Bank has released new PPPs for the reference year 2017, under the International Comparison Program (ICP).
- India has participated in almost all ICP rounds since its inception in 1970.
- India is participating in the current phase of International Comparison Programme (ICP) with reference to 2017.



- India is third-largest economy in terms of its PPP-based share in global actual individual consumption and global gross capital formation.
- The next ICP comparison will be conducted for the reference year 2021.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/the-sum-and-substance-of-the-eus-china-dilemma/article32060289.ece>

**Q.58) Consider the following statements about CCTNS – Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems:**

1. It is nationwide network that connects over 14,000 police stations across the country
2. It is implemented by NITI Aayog in collaboration with Ministry of Home Affairs

**Which of the above statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q.58) Solution (a)**

- The CCTNS is a project for creating a comprehensive and integrated system for effective policing through e-Governance.
- The concept was first conceived in the year 2008 by the then Home Minister in the aftermath of the 2008 Mumbai attacks.
- The system includes a nationwide online tracking system by integrating more than 14,000 police stations across the country.
- The project is implemented by NCRB (not NITI Aayog).

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/natgrid-to-have-access-to-database-that-links-around-14000-police-stations/article32058643.ece>

**Q.59) Churachandpur Mao Fault zone is associated with –**

- a) North East India Region
- b) South China Sea Region
- c) Pacific Ring of Fire
- d) Eurasian Convergence Plate

**Q.59) Solution (a)**

- The Churachandpur Mao Fault is named after two places in Manipur and runs north-south into Myanmar along the border of Champhai.



- Faults are discontinuities or cracks that are the result of differential motion within the earth's crust. Vertical or lateral slippage of the crust along the faults causes an earthquake.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/mizoram-quake-zone-caught-between-two-geological-faults/article32060785.ece>

**Q.60) Consider the below statements about International Criminal Court:**

1. It is the primary judicial branch of the United Nations.
2. It is set up under the Rome statute.
3. It has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

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

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

**Q.60) Solution (b)**

**International Criminal Court (ICC)**

- It is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that sits in The Hague in the Netherlands. (ICC is not part of the United Nations)
- The ICC has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.
- The ICC is intended to complement existing national judicial systems and it may therefore only exercise its jurisdiction when certain conditions are met, such as when national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute criminals or when the United Nations Security Council or individual states refer situations to the Court.
- The ICC began functioning on 1 July 2002, the date that the Rome Statute entered into force.
- The Rome Statute is a multilateral treaty which serves as the ICC's foundational and governing document. States which become party to the Rome Statute, for example by ratifying it, become member states of the ICC.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-srebrenica-massacre-the-ethnic-cleansing-of-bosnian-muslims-6502200/>

**Q.61) Consider the following pairs:**

**(Places in news)**

1. Mont Blanc
2. Zahedan

**(Associated Region)**

- Eastern Europe  
West Asia

3. Delaram

South Asia

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.61) Solution (b)**

**Correct pairs:**

**(Places in news)**

- 1. Mont Blanc
- 2. Zahedan
- 3. Delaram

**(Associated Region)**

- Western Europe
- West Asia
- South Asia

- Mont Blanc is the second-highest mountain in Europe after Mount Elbrus. It is the highest mountain in the Alps and **Western Europe**.
- Zahedan is in Iran, a country in **Western Asia**.
- Delaram is in Afghanistan, a country in **South Asia**.



Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/a-the-hindu-edition-from-1966-and-more-emerge-as-french-glacier-melts/article32071141.ece>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/iran-drops-india-from-chabahar-rail-project-cites-funding-delay/article32072428.ece>

**Q.62) Consider the following statements about Bharatmala Pariyojana**

1. It is a centrally-sponsored and funded Road and Highways project of the Government of India.
2. It is component of Sagarmala Project, umbrella program to enhance the performance of the country's logistics sector.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.62) Solution (a)****About Bharatmala Pariyojana**

- It is a new umbrella program for the highways sector that focuses on optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country.
- It bridges critical infrastructure gaps through effective interventions like development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement, Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal and Port connectivity roads and Green-field expressways.
- It is a centrally-sponsored and funded Road and Highways project of the Government of India.
- It is both enabler and beneficiary of other key Government of India schemes, such as Sagarmala, Dedicated Freight Corridors, Industrial corridors, UDAN-RCS, BharatNet, Digital India and Make in India.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/satellite-town-ring-road-between-tn-karnataka-gets-expert-committee-nod/article32064523.ece>

**Q.63) Which among the following constitutes the provisions under Right to freedom of religion?**

1. Right of minorities to establish and administer cultural and educational institutions.
2. Freedom to manage religious affairs
3. Freedom from payment of taxes for promotion of any religion
4. Protection of language, script and culture of religious minorities

**Choose correct answer:**

- a) 2 and 3
- b) 2 and 4

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

**Q.63) Solution (a)**

The below are the provisions that comes under the category of **Right to freedom of religion (Article 25–28)**

- A. Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion (Article 25).
- B. Freedom to manage religious affairs (Article 26).
- C. Freedom from payment of taxes for promotion of any religion (Article 27).
- D. Freedom from attending religious instruction or worship in certain educational institutions (Article 28).

**Cultural and educational rights (Articles 29–30)** consists of –

- (a) Protection of language, script and culture of minorities (Article 29).
- (b) Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions (Article 30).

**Q.64) The term "Shebait" was in news often. It is associated with –**

- a) Name of the royal family of Travancore who oversee the administration of Shree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Kerala.
- b) Pujaris who perform worship in Hindu temples.
- c) Solo performance depicting themes of love and relationships, mentioned in the Sanskrit text Natyasastra.
- d) Any person who has rights to manage properties like the temple or any other land or property which is vested with the deity.

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

**About Shebait**

- A Shebait is any person who serves and supports the deity and works as a manager of the debuttar property.
- The properties like the temple or any other land or property which is vested with the deity are managed by the Shebait.
- Shebait is the only person who has the power to talk on behalf of the deity that is the god or goddess. He has the power to deal with all the affairs of the deity.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/sc-upholds-right-of-erstwhile-travancore-royal-family-in-administration-of-keralas-sree-padmanabhaswamy-temple/article32063310.ece>

**Q.65) Recently NEOWISE/C/2020 F3 was in news, which of the following accurately describes it –**

- a) It is an asteroid that will fly past earth in July 2020
- b) It is a newly discovered planet that has very high temperature that iron boils on it
- c) It is a new Unmanned Aerial Vehicle developed by DRDO
- d) It is a retrograde comet with a near-parabolic orbit discovered on March 27, 2020

**Q.65) Solution (d)**

- C/2020 F3 comet aka NEOWISE was discovered on March 27.
- Stargazers in India will be able to get a glimpse of the celestial event from July 14 onwards. The comet will be visible to the naked eye for 20 minutes every day for 20 days.

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/neowise-comet-live-updates-streaming-6504971/>

**Q.66) 'Agenda for Action 2020' is concerned with India and**

- a) African Union
- b) BIMSTEC
- c) G-20
- d) European Union

**Q.66) Solution (d)**

**India-EU Agenda for Action 2020** – the roadmap for bilateral cooperation endorsed during the 13th India-EU Summit.

**Source:**

[http://www.mea.gov.in/Images/attach/EU India Agenda for Action post VC.pdf](http://www.mea.gov.in/Images/attach/EU_India_Agenda_for_Action_post_VC.pdf)

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-and-eu-push-trade-talks-discuss-china-pakistan-and-the-coronavirus-pandemic/article32092238.ece>

**Q.67) Consider the following with regard to National Green Tribunal (NGT):**

1. NGT is bound by procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908
2. The tribunal has Original as well as Appellate jurisdiction
3. Tribunal is competent to hear cases for several acts such as Forest Right Act, Biological Diversity Act, Environment (Protection) Act, Water & Air (Prevention & control of Pollution) Acts

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

- a) 2 only

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

**Q.67) Solution (a)**

- **National Green Tribunal Act, 2010** provides for establishment of NGT for the effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environment protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- The Tribunal is **not bounded by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure**, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.
- The Tribunal has Original Jurisdiction on matters of “substantial question relating to environment” (i.e. a community at large is affected, damage to public health at broader level) & “damage to environment due to specific activity” (such as pollution).
- NGT deals with all environmental laws relating to air and water pollution, the Environment Protection Act, the Forest Conservation Act and the Biodiversity Act as have been set out in Schedule I of the NGT Act.

**NOTE:** Wildlife Protection comes under the ambit of Green bench of Supreme Court and not under NGT.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/brahmapuram-fiasco-pcb-told-to-recover-compensation-or-face-action/article32084798.ece>

**Q.68) Which of the following treaties provided for the creation of European Union (EU)?**

- a) Maastricht Treaty
- b) Marrakesh treaty
- c) Brussels treaty
- d) Basel convention

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

- European Union (EU), is an international organization comprising 28 European countries and governing common economic, social, and security policies.
- The EU was created by the **Maastricht Treaty**, which entered into force on November 1, 1993.
- The treaty was designed to enhance European political and economic integration by creating a single currency (the euro), a unified foreign and security policy, and common citizenship rights and by advancing cooperation in the areas of immigration, asylum, and judicial affairs.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/eu-india-summit-to-launch-talks-on-resuming-fta-negotiations/article32082576.ece>

**Q.69) Which of the statements given below is/are correct about Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 (SWM Rules, 2016)?**

1. Waste generators would have to segregate waste into six streams before handing it over to the collector.
2. It has given powers to the local bodies across India to decide the user fees for collection, disposal and processing from bulk generators.

**Choose correct answers:**

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

**Q.69) Solution (b)**

- Solid Waste Management Rules (SWM), 2016 replaced the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000, which have been in place for the past 16 years.
- SWM Rules, 2016 mandated the source segregation of waste in order to channelise the waste to wealth by recovery, reuse and recycle. Waste generators would now have to now segregate waste into three streams- Biodegradables, Dry (Plastic, Paper, metal, Wood, etc.) and Domestic Hazardous waste (diapers, napkins, mosquito repellants, cleaning agents etc.) before handing it over to the collector.
- The SWM Rules have given power to the local bodies across India to decide the user fees. Municipal authorities will levy user fees for collection, disposal and processing from bulk generators.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/brahmapuram-fiasco-pcb-told-to-recover-compensation-or-face-action/article32084798.ece>

**Q.70) Nine-dash line often seen in news is related to which of the following?**

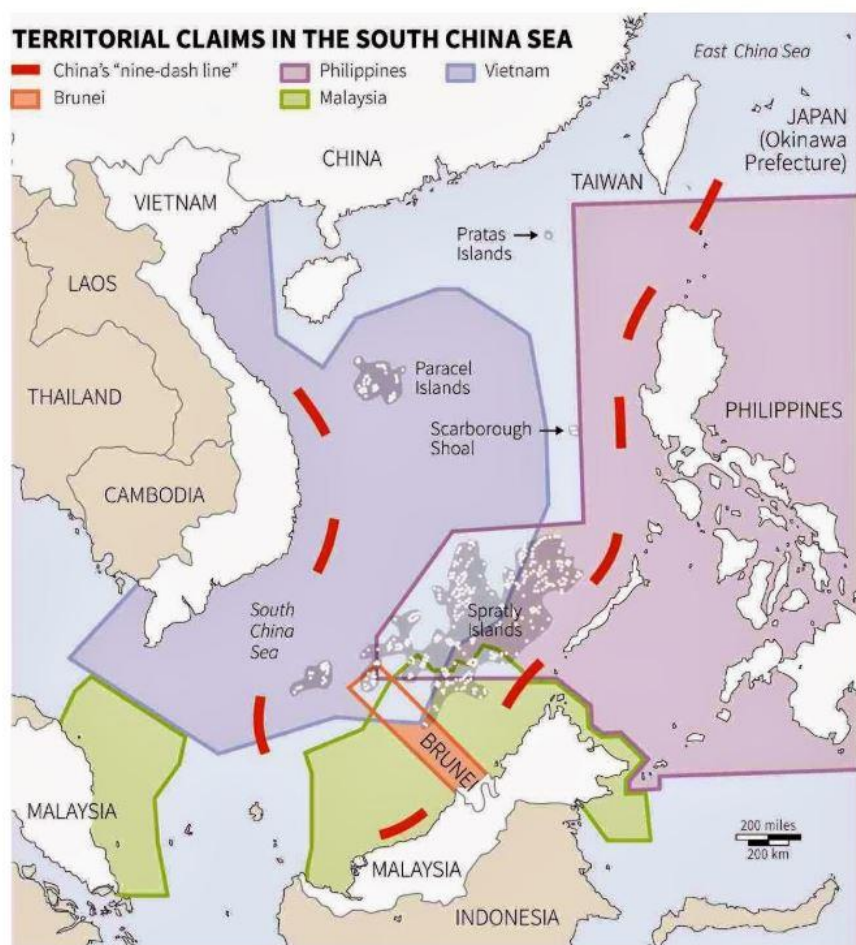
- a) Border of North Korea & South Korea
- b) Israel-Palestine Conflict
- c) South China Sea
- d) India-China LAC stand-off

**Q.70) Solution (c)**

- China is claiming its sovereignty over much of South China Sea by invoking its so-called **nine-dash line**, a vague delineation based on maps from the 1940s.



- Its claim is overlapping parts of SCS are claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Philippines.



Pic: [Nine-Dash Line](#)

**Q.71) Consider the following statements with reference to China Study Group (CSG), often seen in news?**

1. It is a government body, headed by National Security Advisor.
2. It was set up recently in the wake of heightened border tensions with China.

**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.71) Solution (a)**

- **China Study Group (CSG)** is a government body, headed by **National Security Advisor** Ajit Doval, which has the cabinet secretary, secretaries of home, external affairs, defence, and representatives of the Army as the members.



- The CSG was set up in 1976 by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) to advise on policy issues relating to China.
- In the wake of heightened road and track construction work undertaken by China along India's Northern and Eastern frontiers in 1997, CSG was constituted to study the requirement of road communication along the China border for fast and smooth movement of troops in case of any aggression.
- At the end of the study, the CSG identified 73 strategically important roads along the China border for Indo-China Border Roads (ICBRs) to be built.

Source: <https://iasbaba.com/2020/07/role-of-china-study-group-csg/>

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/govt-reviews-progress-of-disengagement-talks-at-lac/article32096747.ece>

**Q.72) Consider the below statements about Border Roads Organisation (BRO):**

1. It is under the Ministry of Defence.
2. It maintains operations in many states of India as well as some of its neighboring countries.
3. It is the sole entity responsible for constructing India-China Border Roads (ICBR) project.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Q.72) Solution (a)**

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) develops and maintains road networks in **India's border areas and friendly neighboring countries**. BRO maintains operations in twenty-one states, one UT (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), and neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.
- In a bid to boost border connectivity, the Border Roads Organisation has been **entirely brought under the Ministry of Defence**. Earlier it received funds from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- India-China Border Roads (ICBR) project is a Government of India project which aims to develop the infrastructure along the Sino-Indian border by constructing "strategic roads". **Several entities are responsible for constructing ICBR**, including Border Roads Organisation (BRO) which handles the bulk of the ICBR road construction work, NHAI, MoDNER, Central Public Works Department (CPWD), National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC), PWDs of respective states and others.

**Q.73) With reference to Asian Development Bank (ADB), consider the following statements:**

1. ADB has more than 60 member nations.
2. India is the second largest shareholder in ADB.
3. ADB is an official United Nations Observer.

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

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

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

**About Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

- ADB is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.
- From 31 members at its establishment, **ADB now has 68 members.**
- ADB is an **official United Nations Observer.**
- India was a founding member of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 1966 and is now the bank's **fourth largest shareholder** and top borrower.

As of 31 December 2019, ADB's five largest shareholders are Japan and the United States (each with 15.6% of total shares), the People's Republic of China (6.4%), India (6.3%), and Australia (5.8%).

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/adb-appoints-election-commissioner-ashok-lavasa-as-new-vice-president/article32089006.ece>

**Q.74) Which among the following cities marked the 160th anniversary of its founding on July 2020 and is literally known as 'Ruler of the East'?**

- a) Kaliningrad
- b) Bosnia and Herzegovina
- c) Vladivostok
- d) Istanbul

**Q.74) Solution (c)**

- Vladivostok, the main city of the Russian Far East, marked the 160th anniversary of its founding on July 2, 2020.
- Vladivostok is literally known as 'Ruler of the East', 'Rule the East', 'Lord of the East', or 'Expansion to the East'.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-why-160-year-old-vladivostok-has-a-chinese-connection-6493278/>

**Q.75) With reference to Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), consider the following statements:**

1. PMKVY is a flagship scheme under Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
2. It was implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.
3. Skill training would be done based on the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and industry led standards.

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

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

**Q.75) Solution (d)**

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme of the **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** implemented by **National Skill Development Corporation**.
- The objective of this Skill Certification Scheme is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood. Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- The scheme will cover 10 million youth during the period 2016 -2020.
- Under this Scheme, Training and Assessment fees are completely paid by the Government.
- Skill training would be done based on the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and industry led standards.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1638794>

**Q.76) Consider the following statements**

1. The presiding officer of a House is empowered to make rules to give effect to the provisions of the Tenth Schedule.
2. Any question regarding disqualification arising out of defection is to be decided by the presiding officer of the House.

**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.76) Solution (c)**

- Tenth Schedule lays down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection by the Presiding Officer of a legislature based on a petition by any other member of the House.
- **Deciding Authority** - Any question regarding disqualification arising out of defection is to be decided by the presiding officer of the House.
- **Rule-Making Power** - The presiding officer of a House is empowered to make rules to give effect to the provisions of the Tenth Schedule. All such rules must be placed before the House for 30 days. The House may approve or modify or disapprove them. Further, he may direct that any willful contravention by any member of such rules may be dealt with in the same manner as a breach of privilege of the House.

**Article reference:** <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/rebel-rajasthan-mlas-move-hc-against-speakers-notices/article32108097.ece>

**Q.77) Consider the following statements:**

1. A legislator is deemed to have defected if he either voluntarily gives up the membership of his party or disobeys the directives of the party whip on a vote.
2. The office of 'whip' is mentioned in the Rules of the House nor in a Parliamentary Statute.

**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.77) Solution (a)**

- A member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified for being a member of the House -
  - (a) If he voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party; or
  - (b) If he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his party whip without obtaining prior permission of such party and such act has not been condoned by the party within 15 days.
- The office of 'whip' is mentioned neither in the Constitution of India nor in the Rules of the House nor in a Parliamentary Statute. It is based on the conventions of the parliamentary government.
- Every political party, whether ruling or Opposition has its own whip in the Parliament. He is appointed by the political party to serve as an assistant floor leader.

**Q.78) Which one of the following is an international treaty that defines a framework for consular relations between sovereign states?**

- a) Marrakesh Treaty
- b) Vienna Convention
- c) Law of the Sea Convention
- d) Stockholm Convention

**Q.78) Solution (b)**

- The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations is an international treaty that defines a framework for consular relations between sovereign states. It codifies many consular practices that originated from state custom and various bilateral agreements between states.
- Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963, provides for information to consulate, consular protection and consultation upon arrest, detention and during trial in a foreign country including entitlement to travel documents.

**Article reference:** <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/pakistan-did-not-allow-free-consular-access-to-kulbhushan-jadhav-india/article32108099.ece>

**Q.79) Consider the following statements:**

1. Animal Welfare Board of India is established under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.
2. Prevention of cruelty to animals and Protection of wild animals and birds are part of items under Central Subject List (Seventh Schedule).

**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.79) Solution (a)**

- The Animal Welfare Board of India is a **statutory advisory body** on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country.
- Established in 1962 under Section 4 of the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**, the Animal Welfare Board of India was started under the stewardship of Late Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale, well known humanitarian.

The **Concurrent List or List-III (Seventh Schedule)** is a list of 52 items and includes the following items -

- 17. Prevention of cruelty to animals.

- 17-A. Forests.
- 17-B. Protection of wild animals and birds.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/sc-to-examine-kerala-act-on-animal-bird-sacrifices/article32108028.ece>

**Q.80) Consider the following statements regarding James Webb Megatelescope:**

1. Once installed it will be the world's largest and most powerful terrestrial telescope.
2. The telescope will work in infrared spectrum.
3. It is a flagship program of NASA

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.80) Solution (b)**

- The James Webb Space Telescope (sometimes called JWST or Webb) will be a large infrared telescope with a 6.5-meter primary mirror. The telescope will be launched on an Ariane 5 rocket from French Guiana - scheduled to launch on Oct. 31, 2021.
- JWST will be the premier observatory of the next decade, serving thousands of astronomers worldwide. It will study every phase in the history of our Universe, ranging from the first luminous glows after the Big Bang, to the formation of solar systems capable of supporting life on planets like Earth, to the evolution of our own Solar System.
- JWST was formerly known as the "Next Generation Space Telescope" (NGST); it was renamed in Sept. 2002 after a former NASA administrator, James Webb.
- It will be the world's biggest and most powerful telescope, capable of peering back 200 million years after the Big Bang.
- Note: It is not a terrestrial telescope. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/nasas-hubble-successor-delayed-again-by-virus-other-issues/article32114159.ece>

**Q.81) Consider the following statements with reference to Consumer Protection Act, 2019:**

1. It provides for establishment of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA).
2. Under this act every e-commerce entity is required to provide information relating to country of origin at the pre-purchase stage on its platform.

**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 (c)**

- The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 comes in to force from 20th July 2020.
- Act includes establishment of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers. The CCPA will be empowered to conduct investigations into violations of consumer rights and institute complaints / prosecution, order recall of unsafe goods and services, order discontinuance of unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements, impose penalties on manufacturers/endorsers/publishers of misleading advertisements. (includes e-commerce platforms)
- Under this act every e-commerce entity is required to provide information relating to return, refund, exchange, warranty and guarantee, delivery and shipment, modes of payment, grievance redressal mechanism, payment methods, security of payment methods, charge-back options, etc. including country of origin which are necessary for enabling the consumer to make an informed decision at the pre-purchase stage on its platform.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1639925>

**Q.82) Recently launched, "Manodarpan initiative" is associated with –**

- a) psychosocial support to students for their Mental Health and Well-being
- b) capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training".
- c) bringing together senior officials from the Government of India and the US administration who are setting the post-pandemic recovery agenda.
- d) online registration process of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)

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

- Ministry of Human Resource Development launched Manodarpan, an initiative under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, to provide psychosocial support to students for their Mental Health and Well-being.
- The 'Manodarpan' initiative has been included in the ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN, as a part of strengthening human capital and increasing productivity and efficient reform and initiatives for the Education sector.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1640013>

**Q.83) Consider the following statements:**

1. Sacred groves are part of ex-situ method of conservation of flora.
2. Sacred groves are included as protected area category community reserves under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

**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.83) Solution (d)**

- Sacred groves comprise of patches of forests or natural vegetation – from a few trees to forests of several acres – that are usually dedicated to local folk deities.
- These spaces are protected by local communities because of their religious beliefs and traditional rituals that run through several generations.
- **Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002** introduced legislation for providing government protection to community held lands, which could include sacred groves.
- Sacred groves are part of **in-situ method of conservation** of flora, i.e. on-site conservation or the conservation of genetic resources in natural populations of plant or animal species, such as forest genetic resources in natural populations of tree species.

**Do you know?**

- Coimbatore-based Kannan Warriar recently got Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education's National Award of Excellence for outstanding research in forestry, including conservation of endangered sacred groves in the Alappuzha district of Kerala.

**Q.84) BlackRock, which was recently in news, is associated with –**

- a) Ransomware
- b) Radiocarbon dating
- c) Malware
- d) Network protection App

**Q.84) Solution (c)**

Security firm ThreatFabric has alerted about a new malware, called BlackRock, which can steal information like passwords and credit card information from about 377 smartphone applications, including Amazon, Facebook, Gmail and Tinder. Since these are very popular apps, the threat posed by the BlackRock Android malware is quite high.

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/blackrock-android-malware-337-apps-data-privacy-6513223/>



**Q.85) Consider the following pairs:**

**(Space Mission)**

1. OSIRIS-REx
2. Double Asteroid Redirection Test
3. Hera

**(Associated organization)**

- NASA  
ESA  
Roscosmos

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.85) Solution (a)**

- The **OSIRIS-REx** is a **NASA asteroid study** and sample-return mission. The mission's primary goal is to obtain a sample of at least 60 grams from 101955 Bennu, a carbonaceous near-Earth asteroid, and return the sample to Earth for a detailed analysis.
- **European Space Agency's Hera** – named after the Greek goddess of marriage, along with **NASA's (Double Asteroid Redirection Test) DART** spacecraft would travel to a binary asteroid system – the Didymos pair of near-Earth asteroids.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-nasa-asteroid-2020-potentially-dangerous-to-earth-6515170/>

**Q.86) A concept of 'absentee voter' has been introduced by the Election Commission and given the facility of voting through postal ballot paper. 'Absentee voter' include –**

1. Class of persons who are employed in essential services notified by the Election Commission
2. Senior citizens of 80 plus age
3. Persons with disability

**Choose correct answer:**

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

**Q.86) Solution (d)**

- By the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2019, 'Absentee Voters' have been given the facility of voting through postal ballot paper.

- 'Absentee voter' has been defined as a person belonging to the class of persons notified by the Election Commission comprising persons employed in essential services who, on account of the compulsion of their duties, are not able to be present in their polling station on the day of poll.
- This category would also include senior citizens of 80 plus age and those belonging to the category of physically disabled (PWD).
- These two categories of voters – senior citizen of more than 80 years of age and PwD electors marked in the electoral roll – will have now choice of voting either as absentee voter or as a regular voter on the poll day.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/postal-ballots-political-controversy-explained-6495861/>

**Q.87) 'Global Rights Index' is released by –**

- a) Amnesty International
- b) International Human Rights Law (IHRL)
- c) International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- d) International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

**Q.87) Solution (d)**

- On 18 June 2020, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) released its Global Rights index, mapping international worker rights' violations and naming the worst offending countries.
- The findings of the report cover a wide range of abuses, including: violations of collective bargaining and the right to strike, excluding workers from joining unions, government surveillance on unions & their members, violence and killings and the limiting of freedom of speech.
- India is among the 10 worst countries for working people, according to the seventh edition of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) Global Rights Index that ranks 144 countries on the degree of respect for workers' rights.
- The ten worst countries for workers in 2020 are: Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Honduras, India, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Turkey and Zimbabwe.

Source: <http://www.businessworld.in/article/India-ranks-among-10-worst-countries-for-working-people-ITUC/20-07-2020-299249/>

**Q.88) Consider the following statements with reference to Consumer Protection Act, 2019:**

1. Under this act, e-commerce platforms have to acknowledge the receipt of any consumer complaint within 48 hours and redress the complaint within one month from the date of receipt.
2. It prohibits the e-commerce companies from manipulating the price of the goods or services to gain unreasonable profit through unjustified prices.

**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.88) Solution (c)**

- The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 came in to force from 20th July 2020.
- The e-commerce portals will have to set up a robust consumer redressal mechanism as part of the rules under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- The e-commerce platforms also have to acknowledge the receipt of any consumer complaint within forty-eight hours and redress the complaint within one month from the date of receipt under this Act. And will also have to appoint a grievance officer for consumer grievance redressal.
- It also prohibits the e-commerce companies from manipulating the price of the goods or services to gain unreasonable profit through unjustified prices.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tough-new-e-commerce-rules-kick-in-next-week/article32140542.ece>

**Q.89) Consider the below pairs:**

**(Ports in news)**

1. Kyaukpyu port
2. Gwadar port
3. Hambantota port

**(Associated country)**

- Iran  
Pakistan  
Sri Lanka

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

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

**Q.89) Solution (b)**

- Kyaukpyu port is in Myanmar, which sits in the Bay of Bengal, where China has 70 percent stake.
- Gwadar port in Pakistan sits on the mouth of Gulf of Oman.

- China has stakes in Hambantota port in South Sri Lanka, which dominates the Indian Ocean.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/four-sub-killer-p-8i-crafts-coming-to-india-next-year-then-talks-for-six-more/story-Y7jNhu6lZHU4dF2SXraU8M.html>

**Q.90) Which of the following countries are a part of the Horn of Africa?**

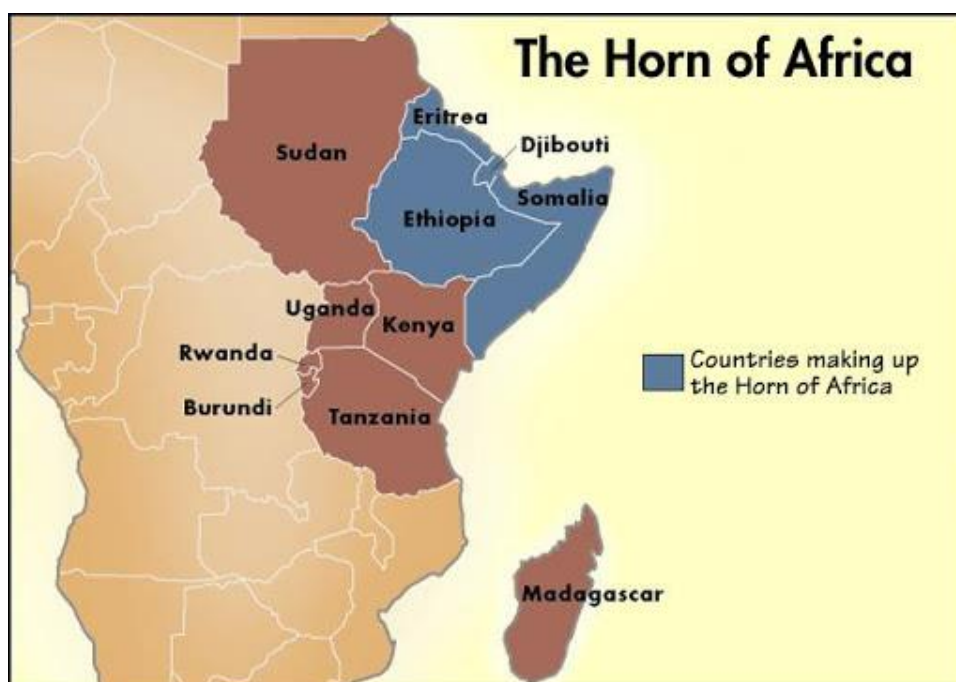
1. Djibouti
2. Ethiopia
3. Somalia
4. Eritrea

**Select the correct answer using code below**

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

**Q.90) Solution (d)**

Observe the map given below



**Q.91) Consider the following statements:**

1. Courts can interfere to decide questions of disqualification under the anti-defection law.

2. No member of the Legislature of a State in whom powers are vested by the Constitution for regulating procedure or the conduct of business, or for maintaining order, in the Legislature shall be subject to the jurisdiction of any court in respect of the exercise by him of those powers.

**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.91) Solution (b)**

**Article 212 of the Constitution** provides for Courts not to inquire into proceedings of the Legislature -

- The validity of any proceedings in the Legislature of a State shall not be called in question on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure
- No officer or member of the Legislature of a State in whom powers are vested by or under this Constitution for regulating procedure or the conduct of business, or for maintaining order, in the Legislature shall be subject to the jurisdiction of any court in respect of the exercise by him of those powers

Therefore, the Courts cannot interfere at interim stage of proceedings or interfere to decide questions of disqualification under the anti-defection law. (same was observed in Kihoto Hollohan case)

**Article reference:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rajasthan-speaker-challenges-in-supreme-court-hc-order-to-defer-anti-defection-proceedings-against-pilot/article32158540.ece>

**Q.92) Consider the below pairs:**

**(Protected Areas in news)**

- 1. Dibru-Saikhowa
- 2. Keoladeo National Park
- 3. Bhagirathi eco-sensitive zone

**(Associated state)**

- Assam
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Uttarakhand

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

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

**Q.92) Solution (c)****Protected Areas in news**

1. Dibru-Saikhowa
2. Keoladeo National Park
3. Bhagirathi eco-sensitive zone

**(Associated state)**

- Assam  
Rajasthan  
Uttarakhand

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/ngt-seeks-explanation-on-drilling-for-oil-in-assam-national-park/article32159368.ece>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1639387>

**Q.93) Consider the below statements:**

1. It is the only known meteorite crater in basaltic rock and is world famous.
2. It was created by a meteor impact during the Pleistocene Epoch.
3. It was notified as a National Geo-heritage Monument in 1979.

**The above statements are associated with which lake?**

- a) Lonar lake
- b) Dhala lake
- c) Ramgarh lake
- d) Pangong Tso lake

**Q.93) Solution (a)****Lonar Lake**

- The 56,000-year-old Lonar crater sanctuary lake in Buldhana district, Maharashtra has turned red/pink, most probably due to salinity and presence of algae in the water body.
- Lonar Lake was created by a meteor impact during the Pleistocene Epoch.
- It is the only known hyper velocity meteorite crater in basaltic rock anywhere on Earth.
- It was notified as a National Geo-heritage Monument in 1979 by Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- Two other similar ones are in Dhala and Ramgarh in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan respectively but both are relatively unknown.

Reference source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/lonar-lake-turned-pink-due-to-haloarchaea-microbes-probe/article32161619.ece>

**Q.94) Global Environment Facility (GEF) provides grants for projects related to –**

1. Biodiversity
2. International waters
3. Land degradation

4. Climate change and Ozone layer
5. Persistent organic pollutants

**Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

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

- The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, the GEF has provided close to \$20.5 billion in grants and mobilized an additional \$112 billion in co-financing for more than 4,800 projects in 170 countries.
- The United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Program, and the World Bank are the three initial partners implementing GEF projects.

**The GEF work focuses on the following main areas:**

- Biodiversity
- Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation)
- Chemicals
- International Waters
- Land Degradation
- Sustainable Forest Management / REDD +
- Ozone Layer Depletion

**Article reference:** <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/another-front/article32165636.ece>

**Q.95) Consider the following statements regarding Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)**

1. It is a preferential tariff system extended by developed countries to developing countries.
2. It involves reduced/zero tariffs of all the products exported by beneficiary countries to the markets of GSP providing countries.
3. Withdrawal of the GSP benefit adversely affects exports from India by making it less competitive.

**Choose the correct code**

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

**Q.95) Solution (a)**

- Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a preferential tariff system extended by developed countries to developing countries (also known as preference receiving countries or beneficiary countries). It is a preferential arrangement in the sense that it allows concessional low/zero tariff imports from developing countries.
- Developed countries including the US, EU, UK, Japan etc., gives GSPs to imports from developing countries. GSP involves reduced/zero tariffs of eligible products exported by beneficiary countries to the markets of GSP providing countries.
- “GSP provide opportunities for many of the world’s poorest countries to use trade to grow their economies and climb out of poverty” –USTR.
- India exports nearly 50 products of the 94 products on which GSP benefits are stopped. The GSP removal will leave a reasonable impact on India as the country enjoyed preferential tariff on exports worth of nearly \$ 5.6 billion under the GSP route out of the total exports of \$48 bn in 2017-18. Withdrawal of the GSP benefit is expected to adversely affect exports from India.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/almost-there-piyush-goyal-on-limited-trade-deal-with-us/article32153317.ece>

**Q.96) Consider the following statements with regard to state election commissioner:**

1. Governor appoints the state election commissioner and determines his conditions of service and tenure of office.
2. State election commissioner can be removed only in like manner and on the like grounds as a judge of a high court.

**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.96) Solution (c)****State Election Commission**

- The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of all elections to the panchayats shall be vested in the state election commission.
- It consists of a state election commissioner to be appointed by the governor. His conditions of service and tenure of office shall also be determined by the governor.
- He shall not be removed from the office except in the manner and on the grounds prescribed for the removal of a judge of the state high court. His conditions of service shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.



Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/governor-orders-the-reinstatement-of-n-ramesh-kumar-as-sec/article32160072.ece>

**Q.97) Assertion:** A minister at the state level continues in office till he enjoys the confidence of the Chief Minister.

**Reason:** The Chief Minister can ask him to resign or advise the Governor to dismiss him in case of difference of opinion.

**Select the correct code:**

- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true but R is not a correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false.
- d) A is false but R is true.

**Q.97) Solution (a)**

- Article 164 contains the principle of individual responsibility. It states that the ministers hold office during the pleasure of the governor. This means that the governor can remove a minister at a time when the council of ministers enjoys the confidence of the legislative assembly. But, the governor can remove a minister only on the advice of the chief minister.
- In case of difference of opinion or dissatisfaction with the performance of a minister, the chief minister can ask him to resign or advise the governor to dismiss him. By exercising this power, the chief minister can ensure the realisation of the rule of collective responsibility.

Article reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/rajasthan-government-crisis-live-updates-sachin-pilot-hearing-ashok-gehlot-bjp-congress-6514312/>

**Q.98) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Governor appoints the Chancellors of universities in the state.
2. The Governor acts as the vice-chancellors of all State-run universities.

**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.98) Solution (d)**

Governor acts as the chancellor of universities in the state. He appoints the vice-chancellors of universities in the state.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/bengal-cm-governor-ties-take-a-turn-for-the-worse/article32107090.ece>

**Q.99) Who among the following personalities was often referred as the 'father of the Indian unrest' by the colonial forces?**

- a) Lala Lajpat Rai
- b) Chandrashekhar Azad
- c) Bhagat Singh
- d) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

**Q.99) Solution (d)**

- The colonial forces often referred to Bal Gangadhar Tilak as the 'father of the Indian unrest'. Tilak was among the first and strongest advocates of 'Swaraj'.
- His famous declaration "Swaraj is my birth right, and I shall have it" served as a powerful clarion call to the future revolutionaries of India's struggle for independence.

Article reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1640655>

**Q.100) 'Vriksharopan Abhiyan', a massive plantation drive was organised by –**

- a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- b) Ministry of Coal
- c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- d) Ministry of Rural Development

**Q.100) Solution (b)**

- Union Home Minister launched the Tree Plantation Campaign "Vriksharopan Abhiyan" of the Ministry of Coal.
- The Abhiyan is being organized by the Ministry of Coal which involves all coal and Ignite PSUs. Under this large scale plantation will be carried out in colonies, offices, and mines and in other suitable areas of coal and Ignite PSUs.
- Seedlings will also be distributed under the campaign in the nearby areas for promoting plantation by society.

Article reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1640707>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/amit-shah-inaugurates-vriksharopan-abhiyan/article32176331.ece>

**Q.101) Consider the following statements with regard to Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015?**

1. It mandates setting up Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees in every district.
2. It allows for juveniles in conflict with Law in the age group of 16–18, involved in Heinous Offences, to be tried as adults.

**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.101 ) Solution (c)**

- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 replaced the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 to comprehensively address children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection.
- The Act changed the nomenclature from 'juvenile' to 'child' or 'child in conflict with law'. Also, it removed the negative connotation associated with the word "juvenile".
- It also included several new and clear definitions such as orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children; and petty, serious and heinous offences committed by children
- It mandates setting up Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees in every district. Both must have at least one woman member each.

**Article reference:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/issue-sops-to-probe-child-pornography-and-missing-children-cases/article32166108.ece>

**Q.102) Consider the following statements about Bru Tribes**

1. They also referred to as the Reangs, are spread across the north-eastern states of Tripura, Assam, Manipur, and Mizoram.
2. Hojagiri folk dance, well known all over the world, is performed by Bru people.

**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.102) Solution (c)**

- Brus, also known as Reangs, are ethnically different from the Mizos, with their own distinct language and dialect and form one of the 21 scheduled tribes of Tripura.
- The Brus--spread across Tripura, Mizoram and parts of southern Assam--are the most populous tribe in Tripura.
- Hojagiri folk dance is performed by Bru people which entails women and young girls, about 4 to 6 members in a team, singing, balancing on an earthen pitcher and managing other props such as a bottle on the head, while only the lower half of the body is moved.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/non-brus-set-limit-for-refugee-resettlement-in-tripura/article32174695.ece>

**Q.103) With reference to Open Credit Enablement Network (OCEN), consider the following statements:**

1. It was developed by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
2. They act as a common language for lenders and marketplaces to utilise and create innovative, financial credit products at scale.

**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.103) Solution (b)**

- OCEN is a credit protocol infrastructure, which will mediate the interactions between loan service providers, usually fintech and mainstream lenders, including all large banks and NBFCs.
- It is developed by a think tank, Indian Software Products Industry Round Table (iSPIRT).
- Open Credit Enablement Network will democratise credit, help small businesses
- OCEN will act as a common language for lenders and marketplaces to utilise and create innovative, financial credit products at scale.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/credit-platform-for-msmes-takes-shape/article32175949.ece#>

**Q.104) New START treaty, often found in news, is associated with –**

- a) India and China de-escalation plan
- b) US and Russia
- c) Pakistan and Bangladesh
- d) North Korea and South Korea

**Q.104) Solution (b)**

New START is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation with the formal name of Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. It was signed on 8 April 2010 in Prague, and, after ratification, entered into force on 5 February 2011.

**Article reference:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/us-accuses-russia-of-testing-anti-satellite-weapon-in-space/article32178217.ece>

**Q.105) Which of the following Newspapers/ journals were owned and edited by Lokmanya Tilak?**

1. Kesari
2. Young India
3. Mahratta
4. New India

**Select the code from following:**

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

**Q.105) Solution (a)**

- Kesari and Mahratta - these two weekly newspapers were owned and edited by Lokmanya Tilak, which played crucial role in awakening the political consciousness of the people.
- Young India was a Journal by Mahatma Gandhi.
- Annie Besant started a newspaper, "New India", criticized British rule and was jailed for sedition.

**Source:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1640655>

**Q.106) Choose the following pairs:****(Missiles/Defence deals)**

1. Spike Anti-Tank Guided Missiles
2. Tsirkon hypersonic cruise Missiles
3. Harpoon Missiles
4. S-400 Triumf Missiles

**(Associated country)**

- Israel  
Iran  
US  
Russia

**Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 and 4 only

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

**Q.106) Solution (c)****Correct pairs:**

<b>(Missiles/Defence deals)</b>	<b>(Associated country)</b>
1. Spike Anti-Tank Guided Missiles	Israel
2. Tsirkon hypersonic cruise Missiles	Russia
3. Harpoon Missiles	US
4. S-400 Triumf Missiles	Russia

**Reference article:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/border-row-with-china-figures-in-rajnaths-telephonic-talks-with-israeli-defence-minister/article32183371.ece>

**Q.107) Consider the following statements:**

1. Governor can summon, prorogue and dissolve the House only on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.
2. Chief Minister is appointed by the governor and other ministers are appointed by the governor on the advise of the Chief Minister.

**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.107) Solution (c)****Article 164:**

- (a) The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the governor and other ministers shall be appointed by the governor on the advise of the Chief Minister;
  - (b) The ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the governor; and
  - (c) The council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the legislative assembly of the state.
- The five- judge Constitution Bench judgment of the Supreme Court in **Nabam Rebia versus Deputy** Speaker on July 13, 2016, held that a Governor cannot employ his “discretion”, and should strictly abide by the “aid and advice” of the Cabinet to summon the House.

- “The Governor can summon, prorogue and dissolve the House only on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister as the head. And not at his own,” the Bench had held.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/news-analysis-governor-cannot-employ-his-discretion-and-should-strictly-abide-by-the-aid-and-advice-of-the-cabinet-to-summon-house-supreme-court/article32191699.ece>

**Q.108) Which of the following is are correctly matched?**

GI Tag	State
1. Tirur Betel leaf	Tamil Nadu
2. Palani Panchamirtham	Kerala
3. Tawlhlohpuan	Nagaland

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.108) Solution (b)**

**Government has allotted GI tags to 4 new products during 2019**

- 1. Palani Panchamirtham in Palani Town, Tamil Nadu
- 2. Tawlhlohpuan from Mizoram
- 3. Mizo Puanchei from Mizoram
- 4. Tirur Betel leaf from Kerala

**Q.109) Which of the following statements are correct about Karewas?**

- 1. They are lacustrine deposits in the Valley of Kashmir and Jammu.
- 2. They are composed of sand, silt, clay, shale, mud, lignite, gravel and loessic sediments.
- 3. They help in the cultivation of saffron, almond, walnut, apple and orchards.

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

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

**Q.109) Solution (d)**

**Karewas**

- Karewas are lacustrine deposits (deposits in lake) in the Valley of Kashmir and Jammu.
- They lie between Great Himalayas & Pir Panjal Range.
- They are characterized with fossils of mammals and at places by peat.
- Karewas were formed during the Pleistocene Period (1 million years ago), when the entire Valley of Kashmir was under water.
- Due to the rise of Pirpanjal, the drainage was impounded and a lake of about 5000 sq. km area was developed and thus a basin was formed.
- The deposits left in the process are known as karewas. The thickness of karewas is about 1400 m.
- The Karewa deposits are composed of sand, silt, clay, shale, mud, lignite, gravel and loessic sediments.
- Therefore, it is extremely important for agricultural and horticultural practices in the valley.
- Apart from saffron, it also helps in the cultivation of almond, walnut, apple and orchards.

**Q.110) Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)?**

1. It is a national regulatory body for Indian Pharmaceuticals and medical devices.
2. It works under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
3. Regulation of sales and distribution of drugs is its primary concern.

**Choose correct answer:**

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

**Q.110) Solution (b)**

- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) is the national regulatory body for Indian pharmaceuticals and medical devices.
- It is the Central Drug Authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
- Under the Drug and Cosmetics Act, the regulation of manufacture, sale and distribution of Drugs is primarily the concern of the State authorities while the Central Authorities are responsible for approval of New Drugs, Clinical Trials in the country, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs and coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organisations.
- It works under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

**Do you know?**



- Within the CDSCO, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) regulates pharmaceutical and medical devices.
- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority controls prices of drugs as per the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

**Q.111) Consider the following statements:**

1. The writ of habeas corpus can be issued against both public authorities as well as private individuals
2. The writ is not issued where the proceeding is for contempt of a legislature or a court.

**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.111) Solution (c)**

The writ of habeas corpus can be issued against both public authorities as well as private individuals. The writ, on the other hand, is not issued where the (a) detention is lawful, (b) the proceeding is for contempt of a legislature or a court, (c) detention is by a competent court, and (d) detention is outside the jurisdiction of the court.

**Q.112) Consider the following statements with reference to No-Confidence Motion:**

1. It can be moved against an individual minister or a group of ministers or the entire council of ministers.
2. It should state the reasons for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.
3. The motion needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.

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

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

**Q.112) Solution (b)**

Article 75 of the Constitution says that the council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. It means that the ministry stays in office so long as it enjoys confidence of the majority of the members of the Lok Sabha. In other words, the Lok Sabha can remove the ministry from office by passing a no-confidence motion. The motion needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.

<i>Censure Motion</i>	<i>No-Confidence Motion</i>
1. It should state the reasons for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.	It need not state the reasons 1. for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.
2. It can be moved against an individual minister or a group of ministers or the entire council of ministers.	2. It can be moved against the entire council of ministers only.
3. It is moved for censuring the council of ministers for specific policies and actions.	3. It is moved for ascertaining the confidence of Lok Sabha in the council of ministers.
4. If it is passed in the Lok Sabha, the council of ministers need not resign from the office.	4. If it is passed in the Lok Sabha, the council of ministers must resign from office.

**Q.113) Nagarjunasagar Srisaillam Tiger Reserve (NSTR) is located in –**

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

**Q.113) Solution (b)**

Nagarjunsagar-Srisaillam Tiger Reserve is the largest tiger reserve in India. The reserve spreads over five districts across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/conservationists-related-as-andhra-pradesh-sees-remarkable-increase-in-tiger-numbers/article32207246.ece>

**Q.114) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. Strait of Hormuz is a strait between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.
- 2. Oman, Iran, United Arab Emirates are the basin countries across Strait of Hormuz.

**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.114) Solution (c)**

- The Strait of Hormuz is a strait between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. It provides the only sea passage from the Persian Gulf to the open ocean and is one of the world's most strategically important choke points.
- On the north coast lies Iran, and on the south coast the United Arab Emirates and Musandam, an exclave of Oman.



Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/iran-moves-mock-aircraft-carrier-to-sea-amid-us-tensions/article32201036.ece>

**Q.115) Consider the following statements regarding Botswana:**

1. It is a landlocked country.
2. Tropic of cancer passes through it.
3. Botswana has the world's largest elephant population.

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

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.115) Solution (c)**

**Botswana**

- It is a landlocked country in Southern Africa. Its 70% territory is covered by Kalahari Desert.
- Botswana has the world's largest elephant population, estimated to be around 130,000.
- It is Africa's oldest continuous democracy.



**Q.116) Nabam Rebia and Bamang Felix v. Deputy Speaker (2016) case dealt with –**

- Unconstitutional practice of instantaneous Triple Talaq
- Discretionary power of the Governor
- Tussle between Lt. Governor v. Chief Minister
- Resignation, Disqualification and Anti-Defection

**Q.116) Solution (b)**

- A 2016 verdict of the Supreme Court in the Nabam Rebia and Bamang Felix v. Deputy Speaker case, which had resulted from a constitutional crisis in Arunachal Pradesh, had expressly stated that a “governor can summon, prorogue and dissolve the House, only on the aid and advice of the council of ministers”.

- In the Nabam Rebia case, the Supreme Court, speaking through a five-judge Bench, viewed that the discretionary power of the Governor is extremely limited and entirely amenable to judicial review.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/news-analysis-governor-cannot-employ-his-discretion-and-should-strictly-abide-by-the-aid-and-advice-of-the-cabinet-to-summon-house-supreme-court/article32191699.ece>

**Q.117) Consider the following pairs:**

<b>(Place/Region in news)</b>	<b>(Associated country)</b>
1. Okavango Delta	Ethiopia
2. Darfur	Sudan
3. Bandar Abbas	Iran

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

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

**Q.117) Solution (c)**

**Correct pairs:**

<b>(Place/Region in news)</b>	<b>(Associated country)</b>
1. Okavango Delta	Botswana
2. Darfur	Sudan
3. Bandar Abbas	Iran

**Do you know?**

- Darfur was in news as about 500 armed men targeted the Masalit community in west Darfur's Masteri town and massacred 60 people.
- Okavango Delta was in news because in the past two months, hundreds of elephants have died mysteriously. The cause of the deaths is yet to be established.



Link: [Sudan-Darfur](#)

### Okavango Delta

- It is one of the very few major interior delta systems that do not flow into a sea or ocean.
- This delta comprises permanent marshlands and seasonally flooded plains.
- The delta covers part of Kalahari Desert and owes its existence to the Okavango (Kavango) River.

**Q.118) With reference to United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), consider the following –**

1. It was established in 1991 to strengthen the international response to complex emergencies and natural disasters .
2. It is the successor to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO)

**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.118) Solution (d)**

**United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**

- OCHA is a United Nations (U.N.) body
- It was established in 1991 to strengthen the international response to complex emergencies and natural disasters
- It is the successor to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO)
- OCHA's mandate was subsequently broadened to include coordinating humanitarian response, policy development and humanitarian advocacy
- OCHA organized the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey.
- It is a sitting observer in the United Nations Development Group.
- The headquarters is based in two locations (New York and Geneva)

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/fresn-violence-sudans-darfur-region-several-killed-more-injured/article32199502.ece>

**Q.119) "Operation Breathing Space" is associated with –**

- a) India and Israel
- b) Pakistan and China
- c) India and China
- d) US and Russia

**Q.119) Solution (a)**

**"Operation Breathing Space"**

- Israeli team, led by a "high ranking" research and development (R&D) defence official and DRDO to develop rapid testing for COVID-19.
- The tests that the Israeli teams will be conducting trials for include an audio test, a breath test, thermal testing, and a polyamino test which seeks to isolate proteins related to COVID-19.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/israeli-team-arrives-for-trials-of-four-rapid-covid-19-tests-brings-high-tech-equipment/article32206292.ece>

**Q.120) Consider the following statements about the Blue poppy:**

1. It is considered the Queen of Himalayan Flowers.
2. It is found from Kumaon to Kashmir at elevations of 3,000 to 5,000 meters.
3. It is a species of flowering plant from which both opium and poppy seeds are derived and is also a valuable ornamental plant.



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

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

**Q.120) Solution (b)**

Found from Kumaon to Kashmir at elevations of 3,000 to 5,000 meters, the Blue poppy, *Meconopsis aculeata*, is considered the Queen of Himalayan Flowers.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/climb-or-die-himalayan-plants-on-steep-trek-to-survive-climate-change/article32206679.ece>

**Q.121) India had launched Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF) to invest in green Infrastructure Projects. Which of the following statements regarding GGEF are correct?**

- 1. It is a joint fund between India and European Union.
- 2. It aims to leverage private sector funding in Green Infrastructure projects in India.
- 3. The joint fund will be established under NIIF.

**Select the code from below:**

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

**Q.121) Solution (b)**

**Green Growth Equity Fund**

- India and the UK announced the launch of an Early Market Engagement for the joint UK-India Fund, namely a Green Growth Equity Fund
- It aims to leverage private sector investment from the City of London to invest in green infrastructure projects in India
- Both governments will invest up to £120 million each (i.e. totally £ 240 million)
- The joint fund which will be established under the NIIF framework.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/working-with-india-to-make-clean-power-accessible-says-uk-minister/article32213863.ece>



**Q.122) Which of the following statements about Administrative tribunals is/are correct?**

1. These were added in the constitution by the 42nd Amendment act.
2. These tribunals can only be constituted for the matters related to public services of the Centre and the states.
3. These tribunals follow the principal of natural justice.

**Select the correct answer using code below**

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

**Q.122) Solution (a)**

- The original Constitution did not contain provisions with respect to tribunals.
- The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part XIV-A to the Constitution. This part is entitled as 'Tribunals' and consists of only two Articles—Article 323 A dealing with administrative tribunals and Article 323 B dealing with tribunals for other matters.
- Article 323 A empowers the Parliament to provide for the establishment of administrative tribunals for the adjudication of disputes relating to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services of the Centre, the states, local bodies, public corporations and other public authorities.
- These tribunals are not bound by the procedure laid down in the Civil Procedure Code of 1908; rather these are guided by the principles of natural justice.

**Do you know?**

- The jurisdiction of Central Administrative Tribunal extends to the all-India services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre and civilian employees of defence services, but, the members of the defence forces, officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered by it.

**Article reference:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/safeguarding-the-autonomy-of-tribunals/story-sTaztHIM2iZBhyaUTowxVM.html>

**Q.123) Which among the following goods attract GST Compensation Cess?**

1. Coal
2. Aerated drinks
3. Cigarettes containing tobacco

**Choose correct answer:**

- a) 2 and 3 only

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

**Q.123) Solution (d)**

- GST Compensation Cess is a levy which will be applicable in addition to the regular GST taxes (CGST + SGST/UTGST on intrastate supplies and IGST on interstate supplies). GST Cess will be levied on supply of certain notified goods – mostly belonging to the luxury and demerit category.
- The GST Cess is levied to compensate states who may suffer any loss of revenue due to the implementation of GST, as per the provisions of the GST Compensation Cess Act.

**Which goods will attract GST Cess?**

Items	GST Cess Ceiling
Coal	INR 400 / tonne
Pan Masala	60%
Aerated Drinks	15%
Motor vehicles	Vary according to Engine cc and lengths
Diesel driven motor vehicles	3%
Cigarettes with tobacco	36% + Rs. 4170 per thousand

**Q.124) Consider the following statement about Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS)**

1. It is a set of criteria which allows tiger sites to check if their management will lead to successful tiger conservation
2. Lansdowne Forest Division is the only site in India that is CA|TS approved

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.124) Solution (c)**

- The CA|TS was developed in response to the need for stringent conservation procedures for protection of the big cat through a partnership between governments and conservation organisations to assess the levels of effective management, among others.
- To date, three sites - Lansdowne Forest Division in Uttarakhand, India, Chitwan National Park in Nepal and Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve in Russia - have been awarded CA|TS Approved status.

- CA|TS is a set of criteria which allows tiger sites to check if their management will lead to successful tiger conservation. CA|TS is organised under seven pillars and 17 elements of critical management activity.
- CA|TS was developed by tiger and protected area experts. Officially launched in 2013, CA|TS is an important part of Tx2, the global goal to double wild tiger numbers by the year 2022.

**Q.125) The Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) reports on the status and trends of the world's forest resources is released by –**

- a) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- b) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- d) United Nations Environment Programme

**Q.125) Solution (a)**

- The Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) reports on the status and trends of the world's forest resources. It is led by the Forestry Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

**Q.126) With reference to Budapest Convention, consider the following:**

1. The convention is the sole legally binding international multilateral treaty on cybercrime.
2. The Budapest Convention is supplemented by a Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism committed through computer systems.
3. India is yet to join this treaty.

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

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

**Q.126) Solution (d)**

- Convention on Cybercrime, also known as the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime or the Budapest Convention is the first international treaty seeking to address Internet and computer crime (cybercrime) by harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and increasing cooperation among nations.
- The convention is the sole legally binding international multilateral treaty on cybercrime. It coordinates cybercrime investigations between nation-states and criminalizes certain cybercrime conduct.

- It serves as a guideline for any country developing comprehensive national legislation against Cybercrime and as a framework for international cooperation between State Parties to this treaty.
- The Budapest Convention is supplemented by a Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism committed through computer systems.
- This Convention has eagerly called for Indian participation since its formation in 2001, but India has decided not to be a party to it.

**Article reference:** <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/a-quest-for-order-amid-cyber-insecurity/article32225383.ece>

**Q.127) Consider the following statements with reference to Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES):**

1. It is not a United Nations body.
2. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES.
3. Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is a report by the IPBES.

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

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

**Q.127) Solution (b)**

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

**Article reference:** <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/fewer-species-more-disease/article32224701.ece>

**Source:** <https://ipbes.net/about>

**Q.128) With reference to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), consider the following statements**

1. AIIB has more than 100 member nations.
2. India is the only country to enjoy a permanent seat on the Bank's board of directors.
3. AIIB does not have any members from outside Asia.

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

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

**Q.128) Solution (a)**

**Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**

- It is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia.
- Headquartered in Beijing, it began operations in January 2016 and have now grown to 103 approved members worldwide.
- India has been the bank's biggest beneficiary, with a quarter of the AIIB's approved projects geared towards its development. India has received the most funding of any country from the bank (received \$4.35 billion)
- India is also the only country apart from China to enjoy a permanent seat on the Bank's board of directors.
- India is one among the 57 founding members in 2016
- India is its second--largest shareholder (with 7.62% voting shares) after China (26.06%)

**Article reference:** <https://www.thehindu.com/business/aiib-to-look-at-indias-project-proposals-from-economic-view/article32225257.ece>

**Source:** <https://www.aiib.org/en/about-aiib/index.html>

**Q.129) Consider the following:**

1. It is popularly known as Dhaman, is widely distributed across South and Southeast Asia.
2. It can adapt quickly to a variety of habits: arid land, open fields, farmland, coastal regions, freshwater or brackish water wetlands.
3. It is also called the farmer's friend.

**The above features/characteristics are associated with -**

- a) Common Crane
- b) Mongoose
- c) Rat snake
- d) Red rice

**Q.129) Solution (c)****Indian Rat Snake**

- Rat Snakes are also called the farmer's friend as it helps rid fields of rodents and does the same in urban settlements
- They are non-poisonous and will not attack unless cornered
- Indian Rat Snake (*Ptyas mucosa*), popularly known as Dhaman, is widely distributed across South and Southeast Asia
- It can adapt quickly to a variety of habits: arid land, open fields, farmland, coastal regions, freshwater or brackish water wetlands

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/indian-rat-snake-in-the-monsoon/article32227685.ece>

**Q.130) Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) is a global public health threat and India has some of the highest antibiotic resistance rates. Which of the following are proven to affect AMR in India?**

1. Mass bathing in Ganga
2. Irrational use of antibiotics in livestock industries
3. Unchecked discharge of effluents by the pharmaceutical industry

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.130) Solution (d)**

- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has emerged as a global public health concern as antibiotics are becoming inefficient against a wide range of pathogenic bacteria. Rampant usage of antibiotics for human and veterinary purposes has resulted in the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria (ARB) in the guts of humans and animals, which are subsequently released into the environment.
- In India, factors such as high consumption of a broad spectrum of antibiotics, antibiotic fixed-dose combinations and antibiotic consumption in animal food contribute to AMR.
- Mass-bathing in the Ganga during pilgrimages may be contributing to anti-microbial resistance (AMR), says a government-commissioned report on the threat from AMR. Such resistance — previously acknowledged to be widespread in India — is said to be the reason for certain key antibiotics becoming ineffective against diseases, including tuberculosis. Other than 'cultural factors' such as bathing in the Ganga, the drivers of AMR included

excessive use of antibiotics in the livestock industry and unchecked discharge of effluents by the pharmaceutical industry.

**Article reference:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/antibiotics-extensively-misused-in-dairy-sector-survey/article32223803.ece>