

Q.1) 'Operation Warp Speed' is associated with which of the following?

- a) ASEAN
- b) European Union
- c) USA
- d) BRICS

Q.1 Solution (c)

- Donald Trump (USA) announced "Operation Warp Speed," a program to develop a coronavirus vaccine.

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Xenobots'.

1. It is both a living thing made of living cells and a machine that the researchers can program to express certain behaviors.
2. It is named after the species of aquatic frog found across sub-Saharan Africa from Nigeria and Sudan to South Africa.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

Scientists in the United States have created the world's first "living machines" — tiny robots built from the cells of the African clawed frog, that can move around on their own. They have named the millimetre-wide robots "xenobots" — after the species of aquatic frog found across sub-Saharan Africa from Nigeria and Sudan to South Africa, *Xenopus laevis*. They are "neither a traditional robot nor a known species of animal", but "a new class of artifact: a living, programmable organism".

Read This – You can expect a question on this in PRELIMS 2020

- a. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/xenobot-the-worlds-first-living-machines-built-with-frogs/>
- b. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xenobot>

Q.3) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

Organization – Countries

1. National Rally – Iraq
2. AfD – France
3. Antifa – USA

Select the correct code:

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

Q.3) Solution (c)

National Rally – France
AfD – Germany
Antifa – USA

Read More – <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/what-is-antifa-the-group-that-trump-wants-to-declare-a-terrorist-organisation-6436804/>

Q.4) Which of the following statements is correct with respect to 'Crew Dragon'?

- a) It is a spaceship built by SpaceX
- b) It is a submarine indigenously built by India.
- c) It is a UAV developed by China.
- d) It is a supersonic missile developed by Russia.

Q.4) Solution (a)

Two NASA astronauts, Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley, flew onboard a spaceship named Crew Dragon built by SpaceX.

Read More – <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/spacexs-crew-dragon-nasa-astronauts-international-space-station-6436442/>

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Great White Sharks'.

1. It is listed as 'Critically Endangered' under the IUCN Red List.
2. Young white sharks take birth in designated 'nurseries', where they are protected from other predators until they grow into adults.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.5)Solution (b)

- Scientists have discovered the fossilised remains of a nursery area of the great white shark in several sites along the Pacific coast of Chile and Peru, dating back to over two to five million years ago.

- The great white shark is on the brink of extinction, due to its very slow growth and late reproduction with only few offspring — along with disturbances due to human activities.
- Young white sharks take birth in designated 'nurseries', where they can be protected from other predators until they grow into adults. Better understanding and protecting such nurseries could be key in preventing the extinction of the marine predator.
- This paleo-nursery was active at a time when the climate was much warmer than today, so researchers are considering it to be a window into how global warming may be affecting present day nurseries.
- IUCN – Vulnerable.
- The White Shark is wide-ranging throughout most temperate and tropical oceans but occurs most frequently in temperate waters.

Q.6) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Cyclones formed in the Bay of Bengal side of the north Indian Ocean are more frequent and stonger than those on the Arabian Sea side.
2. Cyclone Nisarga was formed due to a 'deep depression' in the Bay of Bengal.

Select the correct code:

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

Q.6) Solution (a)

- Cyclones formed in the Bay of Bengal side of the north Indian Ocean are more frequent and stonger than those on the Arabian Sea side.
- The relatively cold waters of the Arabian Sea discourage the kind of very strong cyclones that are formed on the Bay of Bengal side.
- Cyclone Nisaraga is headed towards the coastline of north Maharashtra and south Gujarat.

Q.7) 'Wolf warrior' diplomacy is often used in the context of

- a) China
- b) USA
- c) India
- d) Russia

Q.7) Solution (a)

- China has adopted a 'wolf-warrior' mentality because an increasing sense of insecurity and defensiveness is causing it to become aggressive. China has been creating trouble in Hong Kong, Taiwan, India and other neighbouring countries like Vietnam and Indonesia.
- The "wolf warriors" represent a completely different type of diplomat to the famously bland Chinese foreign representatives of the past few decades.
- Instead of long, verbose statements, these Chinese officials are taking to Twitter and other social media platforms to hit back directly at any criticism of China or the ruling Communist Party.

Q.8) 'PM SVANIDHI scheme' is associated with

- a) Street vendors
- b) Minor Forest Produce
- c) Coal Mining
- d) LPG Cylinders

Q.8) Solution (a)

- Union Government launched PM SVANIDHI – Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi – a special micro-credit facility scheme for providing affordable loan to street vendors.
- The scheme is aimed at enabling the street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to COVID-19 lockdown.
- The scheme targets to benefit over 50 lakh street vendors, who had been vending on or before 24th March this year, in urban areas. The duration of the scheme is till March 2022. The street vendors belonging to the surrounding peri-urban or rural areas are being included as beneficiaries under the urban livelihoods programme for the first time.
- The vendors can avail a working capital loan of upto ten thousand rupees, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year. On timely and early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy at the rate of seven per cent per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer on six monthly basis.
- Ministry – Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry

Q.9) 'One Nation One Card' scheme is concerned with

- a) Multi Modal Transport
- b) Goods and Services Tax
- c) Public Distribution System
- d) FAST Tag

Q.9) Solution (c)

- The scheme aims to provide the quota of food grains to the citizens anywhere in the country.

- The ONORC scheme attempts to address this gap in TPDS delivery. Essentially, the scheme has been launched keeping in mind the internal migration of our country, since people keep moving to different states in search of better job opportunities and higher standards of living.

Q.10) “Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana” primarily deals with

- a) Horticulture
- b) Organic Farming
- c) Conservation Agriculture
- d) Zero Budget Natural Farming

Q.10)Solution (b)

- Under PKVY Organic farming is promoted through adoption of organic village by cluster approach and Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) certification.

Q.11) ‘Arsenicum album’ was in news recently. What is it?

- a) A chemical to treat waste water
- b) A seaweed which prevents algal bloom
- c) A species of night frog from Western Ghats
- d) A homeopathic medicine to treat anxiety

Q.11) Solution (d)

- A homoeopathic drug, Arsenicum album 30, has become a subject of debate after several states recommended it for prophylactic (preventive) use against Covid-19.
- This was after the Ministry of AYUSH listed the drug among “preventive and prophylactic simple remedies” against Covid-19.
- Arsenicum album 30, daily once in empty stomach for three days. The dose should be repeated after one month by following the same schedule till Corona virus infections prevalent in the community.
- Arsenicum album is made by heating arsenic with distilled water, a process repeated several times over three days. Arsenicum album is used commonly by homeopaths to treat anxiety, restlessness, cold, ulcerations, burning pains.

Q.12) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Anthropocene extinction.’

1. This extinction is human-caused and is more immediate than climate destruction.
2. It is also referred to as the ‘Fifth Mass Extinction’.

Select the correct code:

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.12)Solution (a)

The ongoing sixth mass extinction may be one of the most serious environmental threats to the persistence of civilization. This extinction is human-caused and is more immediate than climate destruction. So far, during the entire history of the Earth, there have been five mass extinctions. The sixth, which is ongoing, is referred to as the Anthropocene extinction.

Q.13) When species go extinct, it can impact

1. Crop pollination
2. Food Chain & Food Web
3. Water Purification

Select the correct code:

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

Q.13) Solution (d)

- Note that the question is asked in a broader term and not a particular species, so the answer will be all of the above.

Q.14) 'FAITH' Trials which was in news recently is associated with

- a) One Nation One Card Scheme
- b) Potential COVID-19 treatment strategy
- c) Electric Vehicles
- d) Desert Locusts

Q,14)Solution (b)

- Testing the combined efficacy of two antiviral drugs — Favipiravir and Umifenovir — as a potential COVID-19 treatment strategy.
- FAITH – (FA vipiravir plus Um I fenovir (efficacy and safety) Trial in Indian Hospital setting).

Q.15) Consider the following statements

1. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have been specifically categorized as internet intermediaries under the Information Technology Act.
2. Blocking a website or a page as a power has been granted to the government under Section 69 A of the IT Act.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.15) Solution (c)

- SPs have been specifically categorized as internet intermediaries under the Information Technology Act, 2000(amended in 2008).
- Blocking as a power has been granted to the government under Section 69 A of the IT Act. Blocking can be done on a variety of specified legal grounds, which includes maintaining sovereignty, security and integrity of India, friendly relations with other nations and public order.

Q.16) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Inner Line Permit (ILP)'.

1. The concept of ILP originates from the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act (BEFR), 1873.
2. It is obligatory for Indian citizens from outside the concerned states to obtain a permit for entering into the protected state.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.16) Solution (c)

Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document issued by the concerned state government to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period. It is obligatory for Indian citizens from outside those states to obtain a permit for entering into the protected state.

The concept originates from the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act (BEFR), 1873.

Q.17) 'Amery Ice Shelf' is located in

- a) Antarctica
- b) Arctic
- c) Pamir Mountains
- d) Eastern Himalayas

Q.17) Solution (a)

- There would be a 24 per cent increase in the expansion of the Ameri Ice Shelf (AIS) boundaries in Antarctica by 2021 and another 24 per cent by 2026 from its 2016 positions, the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) in Goa has predicted.

- The AIS is one of the largest glacier drainage basins in the world, located on the east coast of Antarctica, at about 70°S Latitude, 70°E Longitude. The AIS dynamics and mass balance help in understanding the changes in the global climate scenario.

Q.18) 'Shipki La' is located in

- a) Sikkim
- b) Ladakh
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

Q.18) Solution (c)

The Shipki Pass lies in the Autonomous Region of Tibet in PRC (People's Republic of China) and Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh.

Q.19) 'Global Economic Prospects Report' is published by

- a) World Bank
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) International Monetary Fund
- d) United Nations Development Programme

Q.19) Solution (a)

The World Bank recently launched the Global Economic Prospects Report, 2020.

Q.20) Consider the following statements with respect to 'SWADES' initiative

1. It aims to create a database of qualified citizens based on their skillsets and experience, which can be tapped into to fulfil demand of Indian and foreign companies.
2. It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of External Affairs.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.20) Solution (c)

Q.21) Consider the following statements with respect to an 'Annular Solar Eclipse'

1. It occurs when the moon comes between the sun and the earth but doesn't cover the former completely.
2. It leads to a drop in solar irradiance which impacts power generation.

Select the correct statements

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

Q21) Solution (c)

- An annular solar eclipse occurs when the moon comes between the sun and the earth but doesn't cover the former completely, leaving the sun's visible outer edges to appear as a 'ring of fire'. This leads to a drop in solar irradiance which impacts power generation. The expected drop in generation is expected to be around 11,943 mega watt (MW) on 21 June.
- Eclipses occur every year, but annular solar eclipses are not common. India has experienced three solar eclipses in the past ten years—on 22 July 2009, 15 January 2010 and 26 December 2019.
- The eclipse this year also comes in the backdrop of the lockdown which has led to a drastic fall in pollution, thereby improving solar radiation.

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

1. It is a medium-sized bovid native to Western Ghats.
2. It is listed as 'Critically Endangered' under the IUCN Red List.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.22) Solution (d)

- It is a medium-sized bovid native to the Tibetan plateau.
- IUCN – Near Threatened.

Q.23) 'World Development Report' is published by the

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

Q.23)Solution (a)

The World Bank's World Development Report, published annually since 1978, is an invaluable guide to the economic, social, and environmental state of the world today.

Q.24) Consider the following statements

1. Kerala accounts for more than 90 percent of the total rubber production in the country.
2. Majority of the natural rubber produce is consumed by the tyre industry.
3. India does not import natural rubber.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.24) Solution (a)

- Kerala accounts for more than 90 percent of the total rubber production in the country. The total area under rubber cultivation in the state is 5.45 lakh hectares.
- According to the Board's statistics, the country produced 7.10 lakh MTs of natural rubber during fiscal 2019-20, as against the previous year's production of 6.53 lakh MTs. Some 70% of this produce is consumed by the tyre industry, while the rest goes into the non-tyre sector such as rubber bands, tubes and footwear.
- Under a normal industry scenario, the tyre manufacturers in the country consume around 1 lakh MTs of natural rubber a month and 12 lakh MTs a year. The difference, between the production and consumption, is imported mostly from Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand. Last fiscal, the country imported 4.65 lakh MTs of natural rubber.

Q.25) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)'

1. It aims to accelerate the development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases and enable access to these vaccines for people during outbreaks.
2. It is focused on the World Health Organisation's (WHO) "blueprint priority diseases".
3. It was conceived in 2015 and formally launched in 2017 at the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.25)Solution (d)

- The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) is a foundation that takes donations from public, private, philanthropic, and civil society organisations, to finance independent research projects to develop vaccines against emerging infectious diseases (EID). CEPI is focused on the World Health Organisation's (WHO) "blueprint priority diseases", which includes: the Middle East respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus (MERS-CoV), the Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the

Nipah virus, the Lassa fever virus, and the Rift Valley fever virus, as well as the Chikungunya virus and the hypothetical, unknown pathogen "Disease X".

- CEPI was conceived in 2015 and formally launched in 2017 at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland. It was co-founded and co-funded with US\$460 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Wellcome Trust, and a consortium of nations, being Norway, Japan, Germany; to which the European Union (2019) and Britain (2020) subsequently joined.

Q.26) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

1. Al-Fashqa – Syria
2. Lombardy – Italy
3. Qom – Iran
4. Bavaria – Germany

Select the correct code:

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

Q.26)Solution (b)

1. Al-Fashqa – Sudan
2. Lombardy – Italy
3. Qom – Iran
4. Bavaria – Germany

Q.27) Which of the following statements is correct with respect to '2002 NN4'?

- a) It is a potentially hazardous asteroid (PHA).
- b) It is a recently discovered transneptunian object.
- c) It is a new variety of wheat developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI).
- d) None of the above

Q.27)Solution (a)

- This asteroid is classified as a PHA, which means the asteroid has the potential to make threatening close approaches to the Earth. Asteroids with a minimum orbit intersection distance (MOID) of about 0.05 (AU is the distance between the Earth and the Sun and is roughly 150 million km), which is about 7,480,000 km or less and an absolute magnitude (H) of 22 (smaller than about 150 m or 500 feet in diameter) or less are considered PHAs.
- Even so, it is not necessary that asteroids classified as PHAs will impact the Earth. "It only means there is a possibility for such a threat. By monitoring these PHAs and updating their orbits as new observations become available, we can better predict the close-approach statistics and thus their Earth-impact threat.

Q.28) 'Ambarnaya' river was in news recently. Where is it located?

- a) Sudan and Ethiopia
- b) Siberia
- c) Iceland
- d) Cambodia and Laos

Q.28) Solution (b)

Ambarnaya is a river in Siberia which flows in a northerly direction into Lake Pyasino. Russia declared a state of emergency after a power plant fuel leak in its Arctic region caused 20,000 tonnes of diesel oil to escape into a local river, turning its surface crimson red. The Ambarnaya river, into which the oil has been discharged, is part of a network that flows into the environmentally sensitive Arctic Ocean.

Q.29) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Permafrost'.

- a) Ground that remains frozen for two or more consecutive years is considered permafrost.
- b) Permafrost is composed of rock, soil, sediments and varying amounts of ice that bind elements together.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.29) Solution (c)

- Melting permafrost may have resulted in the leak of approximately 20,000 tonne diesel over 350 square metres of the 60-kilometre-long Ambarnaya river in Russia's Norilsk — known as the country's nickel capital.
- The exact reason for the spill has not been ascertained yet, but the Norilsk Nickel Group — the company that owns the factory — claimed the leak occurred because of collapsing permafrost.
- Ground that remains frozen for two or more consecutive years is considered permafrost, according to Colombia University in New York, United States.
- Permafrost is composed of rock, soil, sediments and varying amounts of ice that bind elements together, according to the university. Some permafrost is frozen for tens, hundreds or even thousands of years.
- Norilsk is constructed on permafrost and there is a threat to its existence because of melting ice due to climate change.

Q.30) Consider the following statements with respect to 'The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation) Ordinance'

- a) It makes it mandatory for traders to make payments to farmers on the same day or within maximum three working days.
- b) It provides for establishment of an electronic trading transaction platform for facilitating inter-state or intra-state trade of scheduled “farmer’s produce” in a trade area.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.30) Solution (c)

- The Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation) Ordinance makes it mandatory for traders to make payments to farmers on the same day or within maximum three working days. It also provides for establishment of an electronic trading transaction platform for facilitating inter-state or intra-state trade of scheduled “farmer’s produce” in a trade area.
- To bring clarity, the ordinance has defined the “trade area”. Under Section 2(m), a “trade area” has been defined as “any area or location, place of production, collection and aggregation including—farm gate; factory premises; warehouses; silos; cold storages; or any other structure or place, from where trade of farmers’ produce may be undertaken...” APMC mandis and private market yards have been excluded from the definition of trade area.
- It states that no market fee or cess or levy under any state APMC Act or state law shall be levied on any farmer or trader or electronic trading and transaction platform for sale purchase of farmers’ produce.
- **Remember** – The Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation) Ordinance and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance both have penal provisions to safeguard farmers.

Q.31) ‘Maguri-Motapung Wetland’ is located in

- a) Assam
- b) Nagaland
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Goa

Q.31)Solution (a)

Maguri-Motapung wetland —an Important Bird Area notified by the Bombay Natural History Society

Q.32) On-shore oil fields in India can be found in

1. Gujarat
2. Tamil Nadu
3. Nagaland
4. Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct code:

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

Q.32)Solution (d)

In India crude oil is produced in Onshore and Offshore. Onshore fields are in Assam/Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu/ Andhra Pradesh.

Read This – <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/assam-gas-leak-why-its-tough-to-plug-and-what-threat-it-poses-to-area-6447810/>

Q.33) Consider the following statements with respect to 'PAC-MAN' was in news recently.

1. It is a gene-editing tool can destroy SARS-CoV-2.
2. It is composed of an enzyme and a strand of guide RNA.

Select the correct code:

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

Q.33) Solution (c)

- Stanford University scientists have developed an antiviral agent against Covid-19 that can target and destroy specific genetic strands of the virus inside the human cell.
- The tool called PAC-MAN — or Prophylactic Antiviral CRISPR in human cells — has shown promise in the laboratory when tested on human lung cells infected with SARS-CoV-2.
- It was initially developed by the team to fight influenza. Like all gene-editing systems, PAC-MAN is composed of an enzyme and a strand of guide RNA.
- In this case, the RNA commands an enzyme called Cas13 to destroy specific sequences in the coronavirus' genome. Using this method, PAC-MAN can neutralise the coronavirus and stop it from replicating inside cells.
- PAC-MAN is encased inside synthetic proteins, which are non-toxic to the body and measure just one billionth of a meter wide — about the size of a virus.

Q.34) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Angiotensin Converting Enzyme 2'.

1. In humans, it is present only in the lungs.
2. It serves as the entry point into cells for SARS-Cov2.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.34) Solution (b)

The molecule which the virus attacks in our bodies – Angiotensin Converting Enzyme 2 or ACE2 – is present not just in our lungs, but in our gastrointestinal tract as well. This is what could be behind the significant number of cases in which patients show gastrointestinal symptoms such as diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting.

Q.35) The report "Indian wildlife amidst the COVID-19 crisis: An analysis of status of poaching and illegal wildlife trade" was released by

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) WWF India
- c) TRAFFIC India
- d) Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

Q.35) Solution (c)

The report titled "Indian wildlife amidst the COVID-19 crisis: An analysis of status of poaching and illegal wildlife trade" was released by TRAFFIC India and it points out that reports of poaching for consumption and local trade have more than doubled during lockdown.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/poaching-doubled-during-coronavirus-lockdown-says-wildlife-group/article31768167.ece>

Q.36) Consider the following statements

1. Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST) is chargeable on ex-factory inter-State supplies.
2. The salary of a director in a company is not liable to be taxed under Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.36) Solution (c)

- AAR bench has clarified that if the director, is an employee of the company, there will be no incidence of GST. However, if the director is a non-executive director (ie: a nominated director), and provides his or her services to the company, then the remuneration paid is subject to GST.
- AAR ruled that Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST) is chargeable on ex-factory inter-State supplies.

Q.37) The terms 'Asu', 'Madhura', 'Vistaara' and 'Chitra' is associated with

- a) Poetry
- b) Temple Architecture
- c) Gandhara Art
- d) Buddhist Paintings

Q.37) Solution (a)

There are four types of poets: Asu kavi — the spontaneous poet; madhura kavi — one whose verses are pleasing; vistaara kavi — one whose poetry is elaborate and chitra kavi — one whose words come together to form an image.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/faith/wizard-of-words/article31773255.ece#:~:text=There%20are%20four%20types%20of,together%20to%20form%20an%20image.>

Q.38) 'Li', a folk song was in news recently. It is primarily associated with which of the following states?

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

Q.38) Solution (b)

Li is folk songs of the Chakesang tribe of Nagaland. Literally, Li means Folksong in the Chokri language spoken by the Chakhesang tribe of Nagaland. It often takes the place of conversation and is known to beautifully communicate feelings, ideas and engage people in a circle of warmth and friendship.

Q.39) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Employee Stock Option Plans (ESOPs)'.

1. It allows an employee to own equity shares of the employer company over a certain period of time.
2. ESOPs are taxed at two instances.

Select the correct statements

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.39) Solution (c)

- To compensate for the salary cuts, many companies are offering employee stock option plans (Esops). The benefit allows employees to buy stocks in the company where they work at a lower price than the fair market value (FMV).
- Esops are taxed twice. Once, when the employee purchases the stocks, and second, when an employee sells them. The taxation is different for listed and unlisted companies.

Q.40) 'Pitambar', 'Prabha', 'Rajendra Sonia' and 'Roma' are varieties of

- a) Turmeric
- b) Rice
- c) Black Pepper
- d) Wheat

Q.40)Solution (a)

'Pitambar', 'Prabha', 'Rajendra Sonia' and 'Roma' varieties of Turmeric.

Q.41) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Challenger Deep'.

1. It is located in the Western Atlantic Ocean.
2. It is approximately three times deeper than the average depth of the ocean.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.41) Solution (b)

According to NOAA, the average depth of the ocean is about 12,100 feet and the deepest part is called the Challenger Deep, which is located below the surface of the western Pacific Ocean. It is approximately 36,200 feet deep.

Q.42) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Permafrost'.

1. While permafrost itself is always frozen, the surface layer that covers it need not be frozen.
2. Thawing of permafrost could release greenhouse gases.

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only

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

Q.42) Solution (c)

- Permafrost is ground that remains completely frozen at 0 degrees Celsius or below for at least two years. It is defined solely based on temperature and duration. The permanently frozen ground, consisting of soil, sand, and rock held together by ice, is believed to have formed during glacial periods dating several millennia.
- While permafrost itself is always frozen, the surface layer that covers it (called the “active layer”) need not be. In Canada and Russia, for example, colourful tundra vegetation carpet over permafrost for thousands of kilometres. Its thickness reduces progressively towards the south, and is affected by a number of other factors, including the Earth’s interior heat, snow and vegetation cover, presence of water bodies, and topography.
- When permafrost thaws, microbes start decomposing this carbon matter, releasing greenhouse gases like methane and carbon dioxide. Researchers have estimated that for every 1 degree Celsius rise in average temperature, permafrost grounds could release greenhouse gases to the tune of 4-6 years’ of emissions from coal, oil, and natural gas — becoming a major factor of climate change in themselves.
- Along with greenhouse houses, these grounds could also release ancient bacteria and viruses into the atmosphere as they unfreeze.

Q.43) ‘Serotonin’ is found in

1. Gastrointestinal tract (GI tract)
2. Central nervous system (CNS)
3. Blood platelets

Select the correct code:

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

Q.43) Solution (d)

- It is a monoamine neurotransmitter. It has a popular image as a contributor to feelings of well-being and happiness, though its actual biological function is complex and multifaceted, modulating cognition, reward, learning, memory, and numerous physiological processes such as vomiting and vasoconstriction.

- Serotonin is primarily found in the enteric nervous system located in the gastrointestinal tract (GI tract). However, it is also produced in the central nervous system (CNS), specifically in the Raphe nuclei located in the brainstem. Additionally, serotonin is stored in blood platelets and is released during agitation and vasoconstriction, where it then acts as an agonist to other platelets.

Q.44) Which of the following statements with respect to 'Crypto-jacking'.

1. It is the unauthorized use of your computer and devices by cybercriminals in order to mine for cryptocurrency.
2. Crypto-jacking scripts do not use the victim's data but drain the victim CPU's resources, which slows down the system.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.44) Solution (c)

- Cryptojacking is the malicious use of a person or persons' computing power to mine cryptocurrencies without consent.
- Unlike most other types of malware, crypto-jacking scripts do not use the victim's data. But they drain the CPU's resources, which slows down the system, increases electricity usage, and causes irreparable damage to the hardware.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/all-about-crypto-jacking/article31740837.ece>

Q.45) 'Tocilizumab', a drug is seeing increased use in treating severe COVID-19 patients. It is originally used to treat

- a) Malaria
- b) Hepatitis B and C
- c) Rheumatoid arthritis
- d) Zika and Ebola Virus

Q.45) Solution (c)

Tocilizumab, a drug originally used for rheumatoid arthritis is seeing increased use in treating severe COVID-19 patients.

Q.46) 'Natuna Regency' is often seen in news. Where is it located?

- a) Yellow Sea
- b) Bering Sea
- c) South China Sea
- d) Persian Gulf

Q.46) Solution (c)

The Natuna Regency is an archipelago of 272 islands located in the south part of the South China Sea in the Natuna Sea. It is part of Indonesia. China as always, is trying to poke its nose in neighboring countries (Indonesia here) territories & affairs.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/india-china-ladakh-lac-border-dispute-c-raja-mohan-6449294/>

Q.47) Consider the following statements

1. The Zeliangrong people are one of the major indigenous communities living in the tri-junction of Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur.
2. 'Zeliangrong Movement' gained momentum during the British India because it coincided with the Non-Cooperation movement of India.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.47) Solution (b)

- The Zeliangrong people are one of the major indigenous communities living in the tri-junction of the present states of Assam, Manipur and Nagaland in North East India.
- Some scholars referred to the Zeliangrong Movement as 'Naga Raj'. The movement gained momentum during the British India because it coincided with the Non Co-operation movement of India. However, with the death of Jadonang, the movement became a socio-religious reform movement. The reformed religion came to be known as Heraka. The followers of Heraka are found mostly in N.C. Hills of Assam, Nagaland and Manipur.

Read More - http://www.e-pao.net/epSubPageExtractor.asp?src=manipur.History_of_Manipur.Zeliangrong_Movement_Contribution_of_Rani_Gaidinliu_By_Soihiamlung_Dangmei

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/express-sunday-eye/the-fire-last-time-6119649/>

Q.48) 'Gaan-Ngai' is a festival celebrated by

- a) Mishmi
- b) Meitei
- c) Reang
- d) Zeliangrong

Q.48) Solution (d)

- Gaan-Ngai also known as "Chakaan Gaan-Ngai" is a festival of the Zeliangrong people of Assam, Manipur and Nagaland.
- Zeliangrong people are one of the major indigenous Naga communities living in the tri-junction of Assam, Manipur and Nagaland in India.

Source: <https://www.aninews.in/news/lifestyle/culture/manipurs-zeliangrong-tribe-celebrates-gaan-ngai-festival20200118224516/>

Q.49) What is the purpose/purposes of Government's 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'?

1. Limiting Foreign Direct Investment
2. Boycotting all Chinese goods
3. To do away with import of each and every product in the next five years.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.49) Solution (d)

- All the options are wrong. Too extreme to be true.
- A self-Reliant India is a nation which shall produce, manufacture and consumer its own products and services without relying on 'global or international brands'.
- It does not necessarily mean, Limiting Foreign Direct Investment, or Boycotting all Chinese goods, or to do away with import of each and every product in the next five years.
- When it talks about self-reliance, it doesn't mean protectionism and moving to a pre-1991 economy.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1624661>

Q.50) Consider the following statements

1. India is the largest producer of milk, jute, and pulses in the world.
2. India is second largest producer of sugarcane, cotton, and groundnut in the world.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.50) Solution (c)

India is the largest milk producer, largest jute and pulses producer, 2nd largest in sugar cane, cotton, groundnut, fruits, vegetables and fisheries, 3rd in cereals.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/third-tranche-of-govts-rs-20-lakh-crore-stimulus-highlights-of-nirmala-sitharamans-speech/articleshow/75757050.cms>

Q.51) Why is India's forex reserves rising despite the slowdown in the economy?

1. Rise in investment in foreign portfolio investors (FPIs)
2. Fall in crude oil prices
3. Decline in gold imports

Select the correct code:

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

Q.51) Solution (d)

- The major reason for the rise in forex reserves is the rise in investment in foreign portfolio investors in Indian stocks and foreign direct investments (FDIs). Foreign investors had acquired stakes in several Indian companies in the last two months.
- On the other hand, the fall in crude oil prices has brought down the oil import bill, saving the precious foreign exchange.

- Gold imports have been recording negative growth since December last year > Reduced import bill.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-india-forex-reserves-covid-19-economic-crisis-6448701/>

Q.52) Which of the following functions as the custodian and manager of forex reserves?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Department of Revenue
- c) Reserve Bank of India
- d) Export Import Bank of India

Q.52) Solution (c)

The Reserve Bank functions as the custodian and manager of forex reserves, and operates within the overall policy framework agreed upon with the government. The RBI allocates the dollars for specific purposes.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-india-forex-reserves-covid-19-economic-crisis-6448701/>

Q.53) 'Vamsadhar River' flows through

1. Odisha
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Telangana

Select the correct code:

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

Q.53) Solution (c)

- River Vamsadhara or River Bansadhara is an important east flowing river between Rushikulya and Godavari, in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- Andhra Pradesh wants to build the Neradi bridge across the river which will be possible only after Odisha's consent.
- AP wants to complete the inter-linking of its Nagavali river with the Vamsadhara and expand the Madduvalasa Reservoir project.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/jagan-will-take-up-vamsadhara-waterrow-with-naveen-soon-minister/article31769351.ece>

Q.54) The term 'Poonam Avlokan' is associated with

- a) Gir Wildlife Sanctuary
- b) Moidams
- c) Ancient water harvesting concept
- d) Saffron Farming

Q.54) Solution (a)

Gujarat Forest Department announced the population of Asiatic lions in the state — 674, up from 523 in a Lion Census five years ago. Unlike in previous years, this count was estimated not from a Census, but from a population “observation” exercise called Poonam Avlokan.

Through Poonam Avlokan, which is a monthly in-house exercise carried out every full moon. Field staff and officers spend 24 hours assessing the number of lions and their locations in their respective jurisdictions. It was a mechanism developed by the Forest Department in 2014 as part of preparations for the 2015 Lion Census.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/how-gujarat-estimated-its-lion-population-without-holding-a-census-6453027/>

Q.55) Which of the following are consequences of 'Ocean deoxygenation'?

- 1. Decreased biodiversity
- 2. Shifts in species distributions
- 3. Reduction in fishery resources
- 4. Expanding algal blooms

Select the correct code:

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

Q.55) Solution (d)

- Ocean deoxygenation is one of the most pernicious, yet under-reported side-effects of human-induced climate change. The primary causes of deoxygenation are eutrophication (increased nutrient run-off from land and sewage pollution) and nitrogen

deposition from the burning of fossil fuels, coupled with the widespread impacts from ocean warming. Oxygen loss from warming has alarming consequences for global oceanic oxygen reserves, which have already been reduced by 2% over a period of just 50-years (from 1960 to 2010).

- Consequences of ocean oxygen decline include decreased biodiversity, shifts in species distributions, displacement or reduction in fishery resources and expanding algal blooms.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-seas-less-oxygen-pollution-marine-life-6156781/>

Q.56) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Krishnapuram Venkatachalapathy temple'.

1. The sculptures here are classic examples of Nayak art.
2. The temple was built by Krishnadevaraya.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.56) Solution (a)

- Krishnapuram Venkatachalapathy temple (also called Krishnapuram Temple) in Krishnapuram, a village in Tirunelveli district in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu, is dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu. Constructed in the Dravidian style of architecture, the temple is a storehouse of Nayak architecture.
- It is understood from the inscriptions that the temple was built by Krishnappa Nayak (1563–72), the son of Viswanatha Nayak, the founder of Madurai Nayak dynasty.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/annamayya-connect-in-faraway-tirunelveli/article31801765.ece>

Q.57) Consider the following statements

1. Annamacharya composed songs called sankirtanas in praise of the Lord Venkateswara.
2. Saluva Narasimharaya was given the title Maha Mandaleshwara of Chandragiri during the reign of Ramachandra Raya.

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only

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

Q.57) Solution (a)

- Annamacharya was a 15th-century Hindu saint and the earliest known Indian musician to compose songs called sankirtanas in praise of the Lord Venkateswara, a form of Vishnu.
- Saluva Narasimha Deva Raya was given the title Maha Mandaleshwara of Chandragiri during the reign of Mallikarjuna Raya. His father Saluva Gunda was the governor of Chandragiri.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/annamayya-connect-in-faraway-tirunelveli/article31801765.ece>

Q.58) 'Locust Environmental Booklet' is brought out by the

- a) Food and Agricultural Organization
- b) Lancet Journal
- c) UN Environment
- d) World Economic Forum

Q.58) Solution (a)

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO, this is a part of the United Nations, and based in Rome, Italy) co-ordinates and helps these nations with advice and funds in combating this plague. The informative document from FAO, called the Locust Environmental Booklet, gives an update on the situation and methods of handling locust swarms.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/serotonin-triggers-desert-locust-swarms/article31768088.ece>

Q.59) Which of the following neurochemical/hormone is responsible for locusts swarm formation?

- a) Oxytocin
- b) Serotonin
- c) Prolactin
- d) Progesterone

Q.59) Solution (b)

Serotonin is indeed responsible for swarm formation.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/serotonin-triggers-desert-locust-swarms/article31768088.ece>

Q.60) 'Apis Cerana' and 'Apis Florea' are species of

- a) Honey Bees
- b) Mormon Butterflies
- c) Vespid Wasps
- d) Locusts

Q.60) Solution (a)

They are species of honeybees.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/reviving-the-bees-of-bundelkhand/article31811139.ece>

Q.61) 'Great Himalayan National Park' is spread across which of the following valley

- 1. Shiva Valley
- 2. Sainj Valley
- 3. Jiwa Nal Valley
- 4. Tirthan Valley
- 5. Parvati Valley

Select the correct code:

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

Q.61) Solution (b)

Great Himalayan National Park (Kullu, HP) is spread across four valleys-Sainj valley, Jiwa Nal valley, Tirthan Valley and Parvati valley.

Please go through the article and make note of new words you come across (Gunehar Art Village, Gaddis Community etc.) -

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1631176>

Q.62) Kotumsar caves, which are largest series of caves after Meghalaya are located in

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

Q.62) Solution (a)

Kotumsar caves, which are largest series of caves after Meghalaya are in Chhattisgarh.

Source (Please go through the article and make note of new words you come across):

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1630698>

Q.63) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Satpura National Park'.

1. It is spread over Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
2. It is the only national park in India where walking safari is permitted.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.63) Solution (b)

Satpura National Park is located in the Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh. Satpura National Park which is the only national park in India where walking safari is permitted.

Source (Please go through the article and make note of new words you come across):

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1630243>

Q.64) The 'Deswali Belt' and the 'Bagari Belt' is discussed in the context of which of the following states?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Haryana
- d) Gujarat

Q.64) Solution (c)

Haryana is divided into two parts namely, the Deswali Belt and the Bagari Belt.

Folk Dances of Haryana are Ghangor, Jhoomar, Chhati.

Source (Please go through the article and make note of new words you come across):

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1629134>

Q.65) Consider the following statements

1. The Rann of Kutch alone produces three-fourth of total salt supply of India.
2. The mangroves in Kutch are known for being world's only Inland Mangrove.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.65) Solution (c)

Kutch is a land of salt desert, grasslands and mangroves. Interestingly, the mangroves here are known for an amazing phenomenon of being world's only Inland Mangrove. The Rann of Kutch alone produces three-fourth of total salt supply of India. The place is also the home to the Kharai breed of camel which has the special ability to survive on both dry land as well as in the saline water. They can even swim in sea water and feed on saline water and plants. They are well-adapted to the extreme climate of the desert and high salinity of water.

Source (Please go through the article and make note of new words you come across):

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1628269>

Q.66) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**Places in News**

1. Fotoksar
2. Roopkhund
3. Brahma Taal

States/UTs

- Ladakh
Himachal Pradesh
Uttarakhand

Select the correct code:

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

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

Q.66) Solution (c)

Places in News

Fotoksar
Roopkhund
Brahma Taal

States/UTs

Ladakh
Uttarakhand
Uttarakhand

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1631641>

Q.67) Consider the following statements and identify the protected area.

1. It is located in the Aravalli Hills.
2. One can find the ruins of the Kankwari Fort and the 10th century Neelkanth temples.

Select the correct code:

- a) Sariska Tiger reserve
- b) Ranthambore National Park
- c) Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve
- d) Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary

Q.67) Solution (a)

Sariska Tiger Reserve is located in the Aravalli Hills. The sanctuary is strewn with ruins of ancient temples dating back to the 10th and 11th centuries. Some of the highlights are the ruins of the Kankwari Fort and the 10th century Neelkanth temples. The way to the temples is rough but the architecture and the Khajuraho-like carvings will simply leave the visitor in awe of the place. **Chand Baoli**(step well) at Abhaneri is enormous with 3500 steep steps built by the **Nikhumbha dynasty** is one of the largest stepwells in the world.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1620356>

Q.68) Consider the following statements and identify the river

1. It is the longest river of Kerala.
2. It is also referred to as "Peraar" in ancient scripts and documents.
3. It is a westward flowing river.

Select the correct code:

- a) Periyar River
- b) Nila River
- c) Pampa River
- d) Kabini River

Q.68) Solution (b)

Bharathappuzha ("River of Bhārata"), also known as the Nila, is a river in India in the state of Kerala. With a length of 209 km, It is the longest river of Kerala. The total length of Bharathapuzha is 250 km of which 41 km runs along Tamil Nadu from where it originates. Nila has groomed the culture and life of south Malabar part of Kerala. It is also referred to as "Peraar" in ancient scripts and documents.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1622761>

Q.69) 'Silent Valley Gorge' is associated with which of the following states?

- a) Odisha
- b) Karnataka
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Uttarakhand

Q.69) Solution (a)

Mandasaru, 300 km south of Bhubaneswar, is a unique gorge ecosystem in the eastern part of Kandhamal district of Odisha. It is referred to as Silent Valley.

Also, remember – Silent Valley National Park

Source (Please go through the places mentioned in the article):

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1623486>

Q.70) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

Art	City/State
1. Wooden toys and lacquerware	– Channapatna, Karnataka
2. Rosewood inlay craft	– Mysore, Karnataka
3. Nakshi Kantha	– Aurangabad, Maharashtra

Select the correct code:

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

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

Q.70) Solution (a)

- Wooden toys and lacquerware – Channapatna, Karnataka
Rosewood inlay craft – Mysore, Karnataka
Nakshi Kantha – West Bengal

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1624026>

Q.71) 'Huli Vesha' or 'Pili Yesais' is a folk dance associated with which of the following states?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Odisha
- d) Chhattisgarh

Q.71) Solution (a)

Huli Vesha or Pili Yesais a folk dance famous in coastal Karnataka performed during Navratri to honour the Goddess Durga whose favoured animal is the tiger.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1626176>

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

1. It is situated between Manipur and Mizoram.
2. It is the crater base of an extinct volcano.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.72) Solution (b)

Dzukou valley situated between Manipur and Nagaland which is the crater base of an extinct volcano and most famous Dzukoulily is found only in this region.

- Sangti Valley, Tawang

- Losar Festival
- Hornbill festival

Q.73) Consider the following statements with respect to 'RTGS' & 'NEFT' payment system.

1. RTGS is the largest mode for online high-value transactions.
2. Transactions under RTGS are processed continuously on real time basis, whereas NEFT transactions are processed in batches of half-hourly intervals.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.73) Solution (c)

The RBI-operated Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system, the largest mode for online high-value transactions. RTGS and NEFT combined account for a little over 90 per cent of total payments in the country. Transactions under RTGS are processed continuously on real time basis, whereas NEFT transactions are processed in batches of half-hourly intervals.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/india-digital-payments-covid-19-lockdown-6461360/>

Q.74) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Gateway Lunar Orbit outpost'.

1. It is a mission by the European Space Agency.
2. It is being launched to replace the International Space Station (ISS).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.74) Solution (d)

NASA's Gateway Lunar Orbit outpost

- Essentially, the Gateway is a small spaceship that will orbit the Moon, meant for astronaut missions to the Moon and later, for expeditions to Mars. It will act as a

temporary office and living quarters for astronauts, distanced at about 250,000 miles from Earth.

- Further, astronauts will use the Gateway at least once per year and not stay around the year like they do on the International Space Station (ISS).

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-is-nasas-gateway-lunar-orbiting-outpost-6460219/>

Q.75) Which of the following tests are used to check COVID-19?

1. RT-PCR
2. ELISA
3. TrueNat
4. Rapid Antibody

Select the correct code:

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

Q.75) Solution (d)

THE TESTS, THEIR RUNTIME AND THEIR COST				
	RT-PCR	Rapid Antibody	ELISA	TrueNat
Use	To diagnose	For surveillance, to detect exposed population	For surveillance, to detect exposed population	To diagnose
Time taken to test	3 hours	30 minutes	60 min	60 min
Cost	Earlier capped at ₹4,500, now no price cap	₹600	Not fixed	₹1,000-1,500

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/how-india-tests-for-covid-19-6459048/>

Q.76) 'Penna' river flows through

1. Karnataka
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Tamil Nadu

Select the correct code:

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

Q.76) Solution (a)

- The Penna rises in the Nandi Hills in Chikballapur District of Karnataka state, and runs north and east through the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh to empty into the Bay of Bengal.
- The Sri Nageswara Swamy temple dating back to 300 years, which was buried in the sand for almost eight decades now, has been unearthed by villagers of Perumallapadu of Chejarala mandal in Nellore district. The temple got buried over a long period of time as river Penna changed its course. The brick structure may have got submerged in sand dunes probably after the 1850 floods.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/historic-temple-unearthed-in-nellore/article31846032.ece>

Q.77) Consider the following statements with respect to 'The Solar Orbiter (SoLO)'.

1. It is intended to perform detailed measurements of the inner heliosphere and nascent solar wind, and perform close observations of the polar regions of the Sun.
2. It is developed by NASA as a replacement to Parker Solar Probe.

Select the correct code:

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

Q.77) Solution (a)

- SoLO is a European Space Agency (Esa) craft that was assembled in the UK by the aerospace company Airbus.
- SoLO is intended to perform detailed measurements of the inner heliosphere and nascent solar wind, and perform close observations of the polar regions of the Sun, which is difficult to do from Earth, both serving to answer the question "How does the Sun create and control the heliosphere?"

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-is-solar-orbiter-how-it-differs-from-previous-missions-to-the-sun-6261241/>

Q.78) 'Parshvanatha' is associated with which of the following religions?

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

Q.78) Solution (c)

Parshvanatha (Pārśvanātha), also known as Parshva (Pārśva) and Paras, was the 23rd of 24 tirthankaras (ford-makers or propagators of dharma) of Jainism.

Source (There are more facts in the article – Do go through):

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/unearthing-of-jain-idol-calls-for-more-excavations/article31835608.ece>

Q.79) 'The World Investment Report 2020' was brought out by

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- c) World Trade Organisation
- d) World Bank

Q.79) Solution (b)

The World Investment Report 2020 by the UNCTAD said that India was the 9th largest recipient of FDI in 2019, with 51 billion dollars of inflows during the year, an increase from the 42 billion dollars of FDI received in 2018, when India ranked 12 among the top 20 host economies in the world.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-9th-largest-recipient-of-fdi-in-2019-will-continue-to-attract-investments-un/articleshow/76400055.cms#:~:text=India%20was%20the%209th%20largest,of%20inflows%20during%20the%20year.&text=FDI%20to%20India%2C%20the%20largest,FDI%20trend%2C%20the%20report%20said>.

Q.80) Which of the following was not part of the 'The Six-Nation Five-Continent Peace Initiative'?

- a) India
- b) France
- c) Tanzania
- d) Sweden

Q.80) Solution (b)

- The Six Nation Peace Initiative was a joint initiative in 1984 by six heads of government to help end the Cold War and the nuclear arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union.
- It continued until 1989, and was also sometimes referred to as the Five Continent Peace Initiative. The original six leaders were: President Raúl Alfonsín of Argentina, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India, President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico, President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Prime Minister Olof Palme of Sweden and Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu of Greece.
- During the following five years, Indira Gandhi was replaced upon her death by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India, and Olof Palme by Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson of Sweden.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/why-olof-palme-matters-to-sweden-the-world-and-india-6458854/>

Q.81) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to 'Jet Zero' Plan?

1. It aims to bring down greenhouse gas emissions from aviation sector.
2. It was recently launched by the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.81) Solution (a)

- UK announces 'Jet Zero' plan to drive down aviation emissions
- Aviation emissions currently account for more than 2% of global greenhouse gases, and have risen by 70% since 2005. The International Civil Aviation Organization forecasts that they will rise another 300% by 2050 in the absence of measures to bring them down.
- The U.K. aims to drive down greenhouse gas emissions from aviation to make carbon-free transatlantic flights possible within a generation.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/business/aviation/uk-announces-jet-zero-plan-to-drive-down-aviation-emissions-6457061/>

Q.82) Consider the following statements with respect to 'iCommit Initiative'.

1. The initiative is centered around the idea of building an energy resilient future.
2. The initiative is driven by NITI Aayog.

Select the correct code:

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

Q.82) Solution (a)

- The initiative is a clarion call to all stakeholders and individuals to continue moving towards energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainability to create a robust and resilient energy system in the future.
- The 'iCommit' initiative, driven by Energy Efficiency Services Limited is uniting a diverse set of players such as Governments, Corporates, Multilateral and Bilateral Organisations, Think Tanks and Individuals.

Source: <http://ddnews.gov.in/national/power-minister-launches-%E2%80%98icommit%E2%80%99-initiative-world-environment-day>

Q.83) The term 'action at a distance' can be most appropriately referred to as

- a) Quantum Entanglement
- b) Machine Learning
- c) Internet of Things
- d) Artificial Intelligence

Q.83) Solution (a)

Entanglement, a quantum phenomena Albert Einstein famously described as "spooky action at a distance," is a process in which two or more particles become linked and any action performed on one instantaneously affects the others regardless of how far apart they are. Entanglement lies at the heart of many emerging technologies, such as quantum computing and cryptography.

Source: <https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/war-of-future-drdo-gets-ready-with-new-labs-to-work-on-new-emerging-technologies/1813014/>

Q.84) Consider the following statements and identify the correct answer

1. It is known as Bangalore Blue.
2. It received a geographical indication tag in 2013.

The above statements refer to

- a) A variety of grape
- b) A special type of pottery
- c) Mural Paintings
- d) A special dye/ink used during elections

Q.84) Solution (a)

Bangalore blue grape, also simply called Bangalore Blue, is a variety of fox grape (*Vitis labrusca*) grown in districts around Bangalore. It is one of the three major varieties of grape in the state of Karnataka (the other two being Thomson seedless and Anab-E-Shahi Dilkush). It received a geographical indication tag from the Government of India in 2013.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/bangalore-blue-grapes-turn-sour-for-their-growers/article31376513.ece>

Q.85) 'Anosmia and Ageusia' are possible symptoms of

- a) COVID-19
- b) Tuberculosis
- c) Cholera
- d) HIV-AIDS

Q.85) Solution (a)

Loss of smell (anosmia) and loss of taste (ageusia) have been added to the list of coronavirus symptoms by the Union Health Ministry.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/loss-of-smell-taste-are-now-key-symptoms-to-identify-covid-19-patients-health-ministry/story-8Mo5vphGzqKbx5XeSkNHAP.html>

Q.86) Consider the following statements

1. The non-permanent members of the UN Security Council are elected for five-year terms.
2. India has never been a non-permanent member of the Security Council until now.

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only

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

Q.86) Solution (d)

India has been elected to the non-permanent seat of the Security Council for the term 2021-22.

The non-permanent members are elected for two-year terms — so every year, the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members out of the total 10.

India has earlier been a non-permanent member of the Security Council in 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, 1991-92 and 2011-12.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/what-are-non-permanent-seats-in-the-un-security-council-and-how-are-they-filled-6465539/>

Q.87) 'Tulini' Festival is celebrated by

- a) Apatani tribe
- b) Sumi tribe
- c) Dongria-Kondh tribe
- d) Chenchu tribe

Q.87) Solution (b)

The Tuluni festival symbolizes fraternity, solidarity, sharing and oneness not only among the Sumi community but Nagas as a whole.

Sumi Tribe – Nagaland

Q.88) Consider the following statements with respect to 'PM Svanidhi'.

1. It is a special micro-credit facility plan to provide affordable loan of up to ₹10,000 to street vendors.
2. It is launched by the Ministry of Finance.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.88) Solution (a)

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on Monday launched PM Svanidhi, or Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi scheme, which is a special micro-credit facility plan to provide affordable loan of up to ₹10,000 to more than 50 lakh street vendors, who had their businesses operational on or before 24 March. The the scheme is valid until March 2022.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/centre-launches-scheme-for-street-vendors-to-get-loans-of-up-to-rs-10-000-11591015442185.html>

Q.89) 'Civil Services Board' is headed by

- a) Governor of the state
- b) Chief Secretary of State
- c) Chief Minister
- d) Cabinet Secretary

Q.89) Solution (b)

- As per rules, all states should have a civil services board to decide on transfers and postings of the bureaucrats. The board is mandated to decide on the transfer of a civil servant before completion of his or her fixed tenure. The rules mandate the civil services board to submit an annual report on January 1 to the central government about the date of the meetings held by them and also to upload the same on the website of the concerned state government or union territory in public domain.
- The civil services board is headed by chief secretary of a state and has senior most additional chief secretary or chairman, Board of Revenue, Financial Commissioner or an officer of equivalent rank and status as member. In addition, it will have Principal Secretary or Secretary, Department of Personnel in the state government as member secretary.
- To insulate the bureaucracy from political interference and to put an end to frequent transfers of civil servants by political bosses, the Supreme Court had in 2013 directed the Centre and the states to set up a civil services board to consider transfers and postings of bureaucrats among others.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-why-are-punjab-congress-leaders-up-against-cbs-notification-6464873/>

Q.90) 'Rule of Law Index' is brought out by

- a) World Justice Project
- b) International Court of Justice

- c) International Criminal Court
- d) Economist Intelligence Unit

Q.90) Solution (a)

The World Justice Project Rule of Law Index is a quantitative assessment tool designed to offer a detailed and comprehensive picture of the extent to which countries adhere to the rule of law in practice. The Index provides data on eight dimensions of the rule of law: limited government powers; absence of corruption; order and security; fundamental rights; open government; regulatory enforcement; civil justice; and criminal justice.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/decide-on-plea-on-rule-of-law-index-in-6-months-supreme-court-tells-government/article31863917.ece>

Q.91) Consider the following statements

1. Chaolung Sukapha founded the Ahom Kingdom.
2. The Mughals never tried to conquer the land of the Ahoms.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.91) Solution (a)

- Sukapha was a 13th-century ruler who founded the Ahom kingdom that ruled Assam for six centuries. Contemporary scholars trace his roots to Burma.
- Ahoms faced many invasions from the south-west. In 1662, the Mughals under Mir Jumla attacked the Ahom kingdom. Despite their brave defence, the Ahoms were defeated. But direct Mughal control over the region could not last long.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/the-legacy-of-sukapha-founder-of-ahom-kingdom-6468320/>

Q.92) 'Sohrai and Khovar paintings' is associated with which of the following states?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Haryana
- d) Assam

Q.92) Solution (a)

Khovar refers to the decoration of the marriage chambers and Sohrai is the harvest painting on the mud houses, repairing it after the rains and offering a thanksgiving to the forces of

Nature.



Q.93) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

Places in News	State
1. Chopta	Uttarakhand
2. Valley of Flowers	Himachal Pradesh
3. Madikeri	Karnataka

Select the correct code:

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

Q.93) Solution (b)



Uttarakhand

Valley of Flowers

This world heritage site is set in the backdrop of the majestic Himalayan Ranges. A popular trek to this paradisiacal place takes travellers through gorgeous landscapes, where they get the chance to sight rare and exotic Himalayan flora.

Karnataka

Hampi



The UNESCO recognized World Heritage Site is known for its archaeological significance. This famous huge Stone Chariot that stands magnificent in front of the Vittala Temple is one of the must-visit places in and around Hampi.



EK BHARAT SHRESTHA BHARAT

Andaman & Nicobar

Barren Island

India's only confirmed active volcano is located in Barren Island. It is about three kilometres in diameter and has a big crater of the volcano. This place is uninhabited by humans, earning it, it's name.



Lakshadweep

Kavaratti Island

The Kavaratti is the capital of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. It has been selected as one of the hundred Indian cities to be developed as a smart city under PM Narendra Modi's flagship Smart Cities Mission.



Karnataka

Madikeri





Rich coffee plantations and a breath of chill, fresh air along the hilly terrains is Madikeri, the capital of Kodagu(Coorg). Also known to be the ‘Hidden Jewel of South India’, Coorg is the ‘Coffee Bowl’ of the country as it accounts for nearly 40% of the country’s total coffee production.



Uttarakhand

Chopta

This unspoiled natural destination lying in the lap of Himalayas, offers vistas of the imposing Himalayan range including Trishul, Nanda Devi and Chaukhamba. Chopta is also a base for trekking to Tungnath, third temple of Panch Kedar, which lies 3.5 kms uphill.

Q.94) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Favipiravir’.

1. It was developed in Japan and subsequently approved for use among influenza patients.
2. It has been approved by the Drug Controller General of India for the treatment of COVID-19.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.94) Solution (c)

- Favipiravir is an anti-viral drug and it is approved in Japan for treating influenza.

- Based on Phase-3 data, Glenmark obtained approval for manufacture and marketing of antiviral drug Favipiravir, which has been branded as FabiFlu, an oral medication. The approval is for emergency restricted use only for treatment of mild to moderate Covid-19 patients. The approval's restricted use entails responsible medication use where every patient must have signed informed consent before treatment initiation.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/glenmark-unveils-oral-antiviral-for-covid-19/article31878134.ece>

Q.95) Recently, a fossil of Stegodon was discovered from the Siwalik sediments exposed in the vicinity of Badshahi Bagh area in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur. What is a Stegodon?

- It is a variety of the elephant which used to be found at an early age.
- It was a four-legged herbivorous dinosaur.
- It was the largest aquatic mammal ever existed.
- It is an insect of the order Blattodea.

Q.95) Solution (a)

- The fossil of an elephant was discovered from the Siwalik sediments exposed in the vicinity of Badshahi Bagh area in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur.
- The fossil is said to be between five to eight million years old and is from the Dhok Pathan formation of Siwalik range.
- We have found a fossil of a Stegodon (Proboscideans) was found. It is a variety of the elephant which used to be found at an early age. The fossil is from Dhok Pathan formation of Siwalik.
- The presence of stegodons shows the existence of dense forests and lots of river channels in the area during that time. Other fossils which existed with stegodons' were of those of giraffe, horses and hippopotamus.
- The sandstone embedded on the fossil is medium grained, salt and pepper in nature. This type of lithology is the characteristic of Middle Shivalik.
- Fossils are found in Asian and African strata dating from the late Miocene. During the Pleistocene, they lived across large parts of Asia and Central Africa.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/fossils-of-stegodon-elephant-found-in-saharanpur-s-shivalik-range/story-a3YDohUmJqvcm5myrOZrwN.html>

Q.96) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

- | Geo-Heritage Sites | - States |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Erra Matti Dibbalu | - Andhra Pradesh |
| 2. Varkala Cliff | - Goa |
| 3. National Fossil Wood Park | - Rajasthan |

Select the correct code:

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

Q.96) Solution (a)

Geo-Heritage Sites	- States
Erra Matti Dibbalu	- Andhra Pradesh
Varkala Cliff	- Kerala
National Fossil Wood Park	- Tamil Nadu

Q.97) Which of the following Wildlife Sanctuaries is well known for 'Golden Langurs'?

- a) Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary
- b) Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary
- c) Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary
- d) Bor Wildlife Sanctuary

Q.97) Solution (a)

Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Assam and is known for Golden Langur.

Q.98) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to 'Abdul Hamid Lahori'?

1. He wrote the book Badshahnama, about the reign of Shahjahan.
2. He was a traveller and historian during the period of Akbar.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.98) Solution (a)

He was a traveller and historian during the period of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan who later became a court historian of Shah Jahan (Shah Jahan's official chronicler). He wrote the book Badshahnama, about the reign of Shah Jahan.

Q.99) 'Takin' is an ungulate found in which of the following biosphere reserves?

- a) Seshachalam Hills

- b) Great Rann of Kutch
- c) Dihang-Dibang
- d) Gulf of Mannar

Q.99) Solution (c)

- It is a large species of ungulate of the subfamily Caprinae found in the eastern Himalayas.
- The four subspecies are the Mishmi takin (*B. t. taxicolor*), the golden takin (*B. t. bedfordi*), the Tibetan (or Sichuan) takin (*B. t. tibetana*), and the Bhutan takin (*B. t. whitei*).
- The Mishmi takin occurs in eastern Arunachal Pradesh, while the Bhutan takin is in western Arunachal Pradesh and Bhutan. Dihang-Dibang Biosphere Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh, India is a stronghold of both Mishmi, Upper Siang (Kopu) and Bhutan takins.

Q.100) Which of the following countries is the largest foreign holder of US Treasury Securities?

- a) Japan
- b) India
- c) China
- d) Switzerland

Q.100) Solution (a)

Japan is the largest holder. India is 12th.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/bonds/india-becomes-12th-largest-holder-of-us-govt-securities/articleshow/76494079.cms>

Q.101) 'Senkakau Islands' was in news recently. Where is it located?

- a) South China Sea
- b) East China Sea
- c) Yellow Sea
- d) Sea of Japan

Q.101) Solution (b)

- Senkaku Islands are a group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea. They are located east of Mainland China, northeast of Taiwan, west of Okinawa Island, and north of the southwestern end of the Ryukyu Islands.
- Both China and Japan claim authority over the uninhabited islands, known as the Diaoyus in China and the Senkakus in Japan, but Japan has administered the area since 1972.

- Senkaku Islands are known to have abundance of natural resources, rich fishing grounds and are thought to contain oil deposits. It is also strategically important as it is close to international trade routes.



Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/after-face-off-with-india-china-embroiled-in-maritime-dispute-with-japan/story-aPSWNmYndKkpcuf4tYDGL.html>

Q.102) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. An elected member of the house can be disqualified from being a member if he/she wins the election as a candidate of one party and then join another.
2. The anti-defection law was added to the Constitution through the Forty-Second (Amendment) Act, 1976.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.102) Solution (a)

According to paragraph 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, an elected member of the house shall be disqualified from being a member if they win the election as a candidate of one party and then join another. The power for this disqualification is vested in the Speaker, who is usually a nominee of the ruling party. The anti-defection law, referred to as the Tenth Schedule, was added to the Constitution through the Fifty-Second (Amendment) Act, 1985.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-how-manipur-defections-put-focus-on-powers-to-speakers-to-disqualify-6472904/>

Q.103) Antipodes are points on the Earth's surface which are diametrically opposite each other. They would be the extreme ends of a straight line through the Earth's centre. There is one entity that is so large that at one point it is its own antipode. If you were to tunnel directly under the point you would still come out in the same entity. What huge entity is this?

- a) Antarctica
- b) India Ocean
- c) Russia
- d) Pacific Ocean

Q.103) Solution (d)

This straight line through the Pacific Ocean



Covers half the Earth

Q.104) Consider the following statements and identify the correct answer.

1. It lies between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and means 'Sea of Islands',

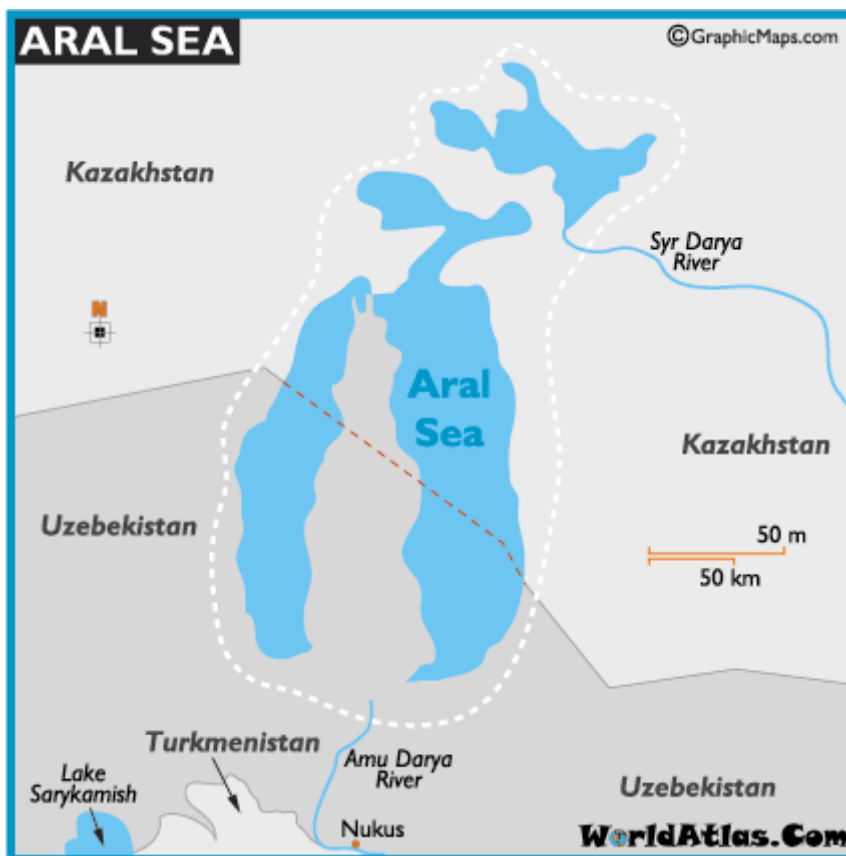
2. By 2014, the lake had almost completely dried up leaving behind a giant ship graveyard where camels walk around rotting remains of fishing vessels.

Select the correct code:

- a) Caspian Sea
- b) Aral Sea
- c) Dead Sea
- d) Sea of Marmara
- e)

Q.104) Solution (b)

- Aral Sea lies between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and means 'Sea of Islands', which used to refer to over a thousand islands that used to be in the sea.
- It used to be the fourth largest lake in the world but has been shrinking since the 1960s after the rivers that used to feed it were diverted by Russian irrigation projects.
- By 2014, the lake had almost completely dried up leaving behind a giant ship graveyard where camels walk around rotting remains of fishing vessels.



Q.105) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)'

1. It regulates the international trade in conventional arms - from small arms to battle tanks, combat aircraft and warships.

2. It is signed and ratified by India in 2014.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.115) Solution (a)

- The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is a multilateral treaty that regulates the international trade in conventional weapons.
- It entered into force on 4th December 2014. 105 states have ratified the treaty, and a further 32 states have signed but not ratified it. India has not signed nor ratified the ATT.
- China has decided to join a global pact on regulations of arms sales showing its willingness to address the poorly regulated international arms trade after the United States pulled out last year.

Q.106) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Seabed 2030' Project

1. The project is aimed at reversing coral bleaching.
2. It is a collaborative project between World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Global Coral Reef Alliance.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.106) Solution (d)

Seabed 2030 is a collaborative project between GEBCO and the Nippon Foundation with the aim to facilitate the complete mapping of the global ocean floor by the year 2030.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/mapping-the-ocean-floor-6473482/>

Q.107) Gautama Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana at

- a) Bodh Gaya
- b) Sarnath
- c) Kushinagar
- d) Lumbini

Q.107) Solution (c)

Kushinagar is an important Buddhist pilgrimage site, where Buddhists believe Gautama Buddha attained Parinirvana after his death.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1633893>

Q.108) 'Government e-Marketplace (GeM)' is under the aegis of the

- a) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- b) Ministry of Finance
- c) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- d) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare

Q.108) Solution (c)

The Commerce Ministry launched Government e-Marketplace (GeM), an online platform for public procurement, in August 2016 with the objective of creating an open and transparent procurement platform for government.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/business/economy/government-e-marketplace-make-in-india-6472162/>

Q.109) Which of the following union territories have representation in the Rajya Sabha?

- 1. Delhi
- 2. Puducherry
- 3. Ladakh
- 4. Jammu & Kashmir

Select the correct code:

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

Q.109) Solution (c)

Out of the nine union territories, only three (Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir) have representation in Rajya Sabha.

Q.110) The lost wax process is a specific technique used for making objects of

- a) Metal
- b) Wood
- c) Wool
- d) Cotton

Q.110) Solution (a)

Lost-wax process, also called cire-perdue, method of metal casting in which a molten metal is poured into a mold that has been created by means of a wax model. Once the mold is made, the wax model is melted and drained away.

Q.111) Which of the following states border Myanmar?

- 1. Tripura
- 2. Nagaland
- 3. Mizoram
- 4. Manipur

Select the correct code:

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

Q.111) Solution (b)

Indian States Bordering Myanmar – Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Myanmar, Nagaland

Q.112) Which of the following are benefits of 'Vertical Farming'?

- 1. Maximum Crop Yield
- 2. Less Carbon Print
- 3. Minimal Water Use

Select the correct code:

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

Q.112) Solution (d)

- Vertical farming has many advantages such as that it allows maximum crop yield. This means that vertical farming can allow crops to be grown at all times throughout the year, as it is not weather dependent.
- Another advantage is that it reduces transportation costs as it will be cheaper for transportation since you can build vertical farms in cities, so you don't need to import the crops from other regions. It is eco-friendly as decreased need for transportation means less pollution.
- Another advantage is that it uses very minimal water. Since the water is used in a controlled manner, water losses are very minimal. Vertical farming only uses 10% of the amount of water that traditional farming methods use.

Q.113) Recently 'Octocrylene (OC)' was in news in the context of

- a) Coral Reefs
- b) Locusts
- c) Poultry
- d) Fish Preservation

Q.113) Solution (a)

Octocrylene (OC), which is used in some cosmetics and hair products, accumulates in coral as fatty acid esters that could be toxic to the marine organism.

Q.114) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Climate Ambition Alliance'.

1. It brings together countries, businesses, investors, cities and regions who are working towards achieving net-zero CO2 emissions by 2050.
2. India is not a part of the alliance.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.114) Solution (c)

- The Climate Ambition Alliance brings together countries, businesses, investors, cities and regions who are working towards achieving net-zero CO2 emissions by 2050. Country engagement in this Alliance is led by the governments of Chile and the United Kingdom, with support from UN Climate Change and UNDP.

- Except European Union (EU) as a collective entity under UNFCCC, and few of its member nations such as France, Germany, Belgium and Spain, most others in the list of 73 are small developing and island nations whose emissions are negligible as compared to big emitters like the USA, China and India.
- The Race to Zero campaign is a partnership of leading networks and initiatives from across the climate action community--driven by science.

Q.115) The 'Emissions Gap Report' is released by

- a) UN Environment
- b) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- c) International Union for Conservation of Nature
- d) World Wide Fund for Nature

Q.115) Solution (a)

It is released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Q.116) Consider the following statements with respect to "Skills Build Reignite"

1. It is aimed at providing job seekers and entrepreneurs, with access to free online coursework and mentoring support designed to help them reinvent their careers and businesses.
2. Directorate General of Training (DGT) will be overlooking the initiative.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.116) Solution (c)

- Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), is responsible for implementing long term institutional training to the nation's youth through its network of training institutes and infrastructure. It plays a key role in the execution of vocational training schemes and in making 'Digital India' dream become a reality.
- The SkillsBuild Reignite tends to provide job seekers and entrepreneurs, with access to free online coursework and mentoring support designed to help them reinvent their careers and businesses. Job seekers, individual business owners, entrepreneurs and any individual with learning aspirations can now tap into host of industry relevant content

on topics including Artificial intelligence, Cloud, Data analytics and security to reskill and upskill themselves, at no cost.

Source:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1633965#:~:text=Its%20special%20feature%20is%20the,of%20the%20COVID%2019%20pandemic.>

Q.117) 'ACT-Accelerator Hub' is associated with which of the following organization?

- a) World Health Organisation
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) European Union
- d) United Nations Environment Programme

Q.117) Solution (a)

- The WHO is working with a large coalition of drug-development, funding and distribution organisations under what it is calling the ACT-Accelerator Hub.
- In an update on the ACT-Accelerator initiative, launched in April to speed up research and development for the new disease, the WHO and global health groups said the coronavirus pandemic is still threatening millions of lives and scores of economies.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/news/world/who-led-coalition-needs-31-3-billion-to-fight-covid-19-11593178617027.html>

Q.118) The terms "Call for action" and "Other monitored jurisdictions" are associated

- a) Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- b) International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- c) International Court of Justice (ICC)
- d) International Criminal Court (ICC)

Q.118) Solution (a)

Since 2000, FATF has maintained the FATF blacklist (formally called the "Call for action") and the FATF greylist (formally called the "Other monitored jurisdictions").

Q.119) Consider the following statements with respect to 'TULIP' programme.

1. It is a program for providing internship opportunities to fresh graduates in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Smart Cities across the country.

2. It is being implemented through a partnership between Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) and AICTE.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.119) Solution (a)

- The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP)' - A program for providing internship opportunities to fresh graduates in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Smart Cities across the country.
- The TULIP program is being implemented through a partnership between Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and AICTE. At the State level, TULIP will be supported by the Urban Development departments in providing a clear roadmap for the ULBs/smart cities to adopt TULIP in their respective organisations.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1634268>

Q.120) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Angikaar Campaign'.

1. It aims to bring the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) under the fold of other Central Government Schemes like Ayushman Bharat, and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.
2. It is launched by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.120) Solution (c)

This campaign aims to bring the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) under the fold of other Central Government Schemes like Ayushman Bharat (Health Insurance Scheme), and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (LPG Gas Connection Scheme).

It was launched by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.

Q.121) 'Declaration of Windhoek' was in news recently. It is associate with which of the following issues?

- a) Freedom of Press
- b) Human Rights
- c) Protection of Coral Reefs
- d) Systematic Racism

Q.121) Solution (a)

- The Declaration of Windhoek is a statement of free press principles as put together by newspaper journalists in Africa during a UNESCO seminar on "Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press" in Windhoek, Namibia, from 29 April to 3 May 1991. The Declaration of Windhoek was endorsed by UNESCO's General Conference at its twenty-sixth session (1991).
- May 3, the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek, is since then observed worldwide as the World Press Freedom Day.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/on-world-press-freedom-day-bjp-s-jp-nadda-praises-journalists-for-covid-19-job/story-UNJNB8uv3Omdyd5pDSRakK.html>

Q.122) The term 'poison pill' refers to

- a) A defense strategy used by a target firm to prevent or discourage a potential hostile takeover by an acquiring company.
- b) The acquisition of another company using a significant amount of borrowed money to meet the cost of acquisition.
- c) An offer made by one company to buy the shares of another for a much higher per-share price than what that company is worth in the market.
- d) A legal provision to reduce or eliminate legal or regulatory liability in certain situations as long as certain conditions are met.

Q.122) Solution (a)

A poison pill is a defensive tactic used by companies, which makes it difficult for a hostile acquirer to buy out a majority stake in the company, given the acquirer control over its management and shareholding.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/slate/all-you-wanted-to-know-about-poison-pills/article31616403.ece#>

Q.123) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Prime Minister's Office (PMO)'.

1. It is administratively headed by the Principal Secretary.
2. The National Defence Fund (NDF) are operated directly from the PMO.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.123) Solution (c)

- During the tenure of Jawaharlal Nehru as Prime Minister, the then Prime Minister's Secretariat was headed by a Joint Secretary until his death. The post of Principal Secretary to Prime Minister was created during the tenure of Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister. The Principal Secretary to PM is the head of the Prime Minister's Office.
- The Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) and the National Defence Fund (NDF) are operated directly from the PMO.

Q.124) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Brown Dwarfs'.

1. They are by far the most common type of star in the neighborhood of the Sun.
2. They have a mass between those of the heaviest gas giant planets and the least massive stars.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.124) Solution (b)

- A brown dwarf is a type of substellar object that has a mass between those of the heaviest gas giant planets and the least massive stars.
- A red dwarf is the smallest and coolest kind of star on the main sequence. Red dwarfs are by far the most common type of star in the Milky Way, at least in the neighborhood of the Sun, but because of their low luminosity, individual red dwarfs cannot be easily observed.

Q.125) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Renewable Energy Certificate (REC)'

1. There are five types of Renewable Energy Certificate
2. They can be traded on the National Stock Exchange.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.125) Solution (d)

There are two categories of RECs, viz., solar RECs and non-solar RECs. Solar RECs are issued to eligible entities for generation of electricity based on solar as renewable energy source, and non-solar RECs are issued to eligible entities for generation of electricity based on renewable energy sources other than solar.

REC would be exchanged only in the CERC approved power exchanges.

Read More - <https://www.recregistryindia.nic.in/index.php/publics/faqs>

Q.126) 'Kharchi Puja' is associated with which of the following states?

- a) Odisha
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Bihar
- d) Tripura

Q.126) Solution (d)

Kharchi Puja is one of Tripura's most important festivals involving the worship of 'the 14 Gods'. The festival also highlights the equal participation of people from both tribal and non-tribal communities.

Q.127) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis'.

1. He was also the architect of India's First Five Year Plan.
2. He is credited with the achievement of publishing journal 'Sankhya'.

Select the correct statements

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.127) Solution (b)

PC Mahalanobis was instrumental in formulating India's second five-year-plan (1956-1961), which laid the blueprint for industrialisation and development in India.

He founded and nurtured Sankhyā – the Indian Journal of Statistics.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/national-statistics-day-remembering-pc-mahalanobis/story-YuxqIJuoJu5tubCrZ2FEWI.html>

Q.128) Which of the following statements with respect to 'Gynandromorphism' is correct?

- a) It is the condition where the two sexes of the same species exhibit different characteristics beyond the differences in their sexual organs.
- b) It is a condition where the organism contains both male and female characteristics.
- c) It is a condition where a single organism composed of cells with more than one distinct genotype.
- d) It is a condition where the organism has no gender.

Q.128) Solution (b)

A gynandromorph is an organism that contains both male and female characteristics.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/rare-biological-phenomenon-in-dragonflies-sighted-at-kole-wetlands/article31939658.ece>

Q.129) Which of the following statements with respect to 'Chandrasekhar Limit' is/are correct?

- 1. The Chandrasekhar Limit is now accepted to be approximately 1.4 times the mass of the Sun.
- 2. Any white dwarf with less than this mass will stay a white dwarf forever.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.129) Solution (c)

The Chandrasekhar Limit is now accepted to be approximately 1.4 times the mass of the sun; any white dwarf with less than this mass will stay a white dwarf forever, while a star that exceeds this mass is destined to end its life in that most violent of explosions: a supernova.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/black-hole-merges-with-unusual-compact-object/article31934686.ece#:~:text=The%20LIGO%20Scientific%20and%20VIRGO,light%20are%20compatible%20with%20both.>

Q.130) The term 'Younger Dryas' is associated with

- a) Coronal Mass Ejections
- b) Glacial Conditions
- c) Solar Minimum
- d) Zealandia

Q.130) Solution (b)

The Younger Dryas (around 12,900 to 11,700 years BP) was a return to glacial conditions after the Late Glacial Interstadial, which temporarily reversed the gradual climatic warming after the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) started receding around 20,000 BP.

- Last Glacial Maximum (LGM)
- Microscopic zooplankton called foraminifera

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/when-the-indian-oceans-ancient-climate-patterns-return/article31934556.ece>