# Q.1) Consider the following pairs:

Vedic literature	Deals with	
1. Brahmanas	Philosophical knowledge and spiritual learning	
2. Aryankas	Mysticism and symbolism	
3. Upanishads	Sacrifices and rituals	

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

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

## Q.1) Solution (b)

- The term 'Vedic literature' simply means literature based on or derived from the Vedas. The texts which constitute the Vedic literature are:
  - I. The four Vedas i.e. Samhitas
  - II. The Brahmanas attached to each of the Samhitas
  - III. The Aranyakas, and
  - IV. The Upanishads

Pair 1	Pair 2	Pair 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
The Brahmanas explain	The word <b>Aranyaka</b> means 'the	The word <b>Upanishad</b> has
the hymns of the Vedas.	forest' and these are called 'forest	been derived from the root
They are written in prose	books' written mainly for the	Upanisad that means 'to sit
and they elaborately	hermits and students living in the	down near someone'. These
describe the various	jungles. These are the concluding	are associated with
sacrifices and rituals, along	portions of the Brahmanas or their	philosophical knowledge
with their mystic	appendices. They <b>deal with</b>	and spiritual learning.
meanings.	mysticism and symbolism.	

Q.2) Which among the following schools of philosophy advanced the materialistic view of life?

- 1. Samkhya
- 2. Nyaya
- 3. Vaisheshika
- 4. Mimansa

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

## Q.2) Solution (c)

- According to **Samkhya** world owes its creation and evolution more to nature or prakriti than to God or divinity. This was a materialistic world view.
- Similarly, **Vaisheshika** school gave importance to the discussion of material elements and thus had a materialistic orientation.
- However, Yoga, Nyaya, Mimansa and Vedanta had non-materialistic outlook.
- Yoga propounds meditation as way to get salvation. Nyaya calls for use of logic to get knowledge and hence the salvation. Mimansa focused on use of logic to justify Vedic rituals in order to get salvation.
- Lastly Vedanta propounds that only brahma or soul is the reality and everything else is unreal or maya, therefore knowledge of brahma is the way to salvation.

#### Q.3) With reference to religious texts in India, the 'Uttaradhyayana Sutta' text belongs to

- a) Jainism
- b) Buddhism
- c) Vaishnavism
- d) Shaivism

#### Q.3) Solution (a)

• Teachings of Mahavira were compiled by his disciples. These were often in the form of stories, which could appeal to ordinary people.

• **'Uttaradhyayana Sutta' is one of the texts of Jain literature** that was written in Prakrit and described how a queen named Kamalavati tried to persuade her husband to renounce the world.

#### Q.4) Consider the following pairs:

Schools of Indian Philosophy	Founder
1. Lokayata	Makkhali Gosala
2. Ajivikas	Charvaka
3. Jainism	Mahavira

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

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

#### Q.4) Solution (d)

Pair 1	Pair 2	Pair 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Incorrect
Charvaka or Lokayata founded	The Ajivikas or 'Followers of	The first founder
by Charvaka, is characterised as a	the way of life,' were an	Tirthankara Rishabhadeva
materialistic and atheistic school	ascetic order that started at	(symbol - bull), whose
of thought. Lokayata refers to	the time of Buddha and	reference is also found in
ideas derived from common	Mahavira, and lasted until the	Rig Veda and Vayu Purana.
people and it underlines the	14 <mark>th century. Ajivika w</mark> as	Vardhamana Mahavira was
importance of intimate contact	founded by Makkhali Gosala.	the 24th Tirthankara of the
with the wor <mark>ld (lo</mark> ka), while	Ajivikas were very popular in	Jain tradition. He was born
showing a lack of belief in the	Magadha in the third century	at Kundagrama near Vaisali
other world. Charvaka insists on	BCE and Mauryan kings	to Kshatriya parents
joyful living and is opposed to the	donated several caves in the	Siddhartha and Trisala.
quest for spiritual salvation.	honour of Ajivika monks.	

#### Q.5) With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Mahayana believes in universal liberation from suffering for all beings.
- 2. Stharvivada is a Hinayana sect.

3. Sanskrit was the language used by the Mahayana scholars.

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

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

#### Q.5) Solution (d)



Q.6) The Jatakas, stories of the previous births of the Buddha is a part of which of the following?

- a) Digha Nikaya
- b) Anguttara Nikaya
- c) Khuddaka Nikaya
- d) Majjhima Nikaya

#### Q.6) Solution (c)

- The three Pitakas are divided into Nikayas (books). For instance, the Sutta Pitaka consists of five Nikayas: Digha Nikaya (collection of long discourses), Majjhima Nikaya (collection of medium-length discourses), Samyutta Nikaya (collection of kindred sayings), Anguttara Nikaya (collection of discourses arranged in accordance with number), and Khuddaka Nikaya (smaller collection).
- The Khuddaka Nikaya is further subdivided into fifteen books, the prominent among them being the Jatakas (stories of the previous births of the Buddha), Dhammapada (verses dealing with ethical sayings), Niddesa (expositions), Buddhavamsa (the history of Buddha), Patisambhida (analytical knowledge), the Theragatha and Therigatha (songs of Buddhist monks and nuns).

## Q.7) Which of the following comprises the "Triratna" of Jainism?

- 1. Right Knowledge
- 2. Right Thought
- 3. Right Action
- 4. Right Faith
- 5. Right Speech

#### Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

## Q.7) Solution (c)

- In Jainism the three jewels (also referred to as ratnatraya) are understood as samyagdarshana ('right faith'), samyagjnana ('right knowledge'), and samyakcharitra ('right action').
- One of the three cannot exist exclusive of the others, and all are required for spiritual liberation i.e. attainment of freedom from worldly bonds can be done through Right Knowledge, Right Faith and Right Action.
- In Buddhism the Triratna comprises the Buddha, the dharma (doctrine, or teaching), and the sangha (the monastic order, or community). One becomes a Buddhist by saying the

words 'I go to the Buddha for refuge, I go to the Doctrine for refuge, I go to the Order for refuge.'

# Q.8) With reference to the similarities between Jainism and Buddhism, which of the following statements are correct?

- 1. Both rejected the authority of Vedas and emphasised on human effort as the means of obtaining salvation.
- 2. Both focused on the superiority of the Kshatriya varna over all other varnas including Brahmanas.
- 3. Both welcomed people of all castes and social backgrounds.

## Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

## Q.8) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
Both Buddhism and Jainism	Both Jainism and Buddhism	Like Buddhism monastic
rejected the authority of	focused on the superiority of	order, people of all castes
Vedas, emphasised on	the Kshatriya varna over all	and social backgrounds
renunciation and human	other varnas including	were welcomed in Jainism.
effort as the means of	Brahmanas. They both	There are frequent mentions
obtaining salvation, and	attempted to give a new	of a learned Jaina monk
established a monastic order	connotation to the meaning of	named Harikeshiya who
for both men and women. Like	Brahmana, shifting the	belonged to a Chandala
Buddhism, Jainism is	emphasis from an ascribed	family. Brahmana varna was
fundamentally atheistic;	status to one achieved by	represented by Bhadrabahu,
though it recognises the	good deeds. They use the	Divakara, Jinasena, and
existence of gods, yet it	word 'Brahmana' in the sense	Haribhadra. Similarly,
refuses to give them	of acknowledging a wise	Jainism opened its doors to
importance in the universal	person who possesses true	women mendicants who

scheme of themes and places	knowledge	and	lives	an	were addressed as aryika or
the gods lower than Jina (the	exemplary lif	fe.			sadhvi.
conqueror).					

## Q.9) Which of the edicts mention about Ashoka's conversion to Buddhism?

- a) Hathigumpa edict
- b) Bhabra Edict
- c) Khalsi Edict
- d) Rummindei Edict

# Q.9) Solution (b)

- Bhabra edict says that Ashoka became a Buddhist under the influence of Upagupta.
- Rummindei Edict describes about Lumbini, birthplace of Buddha.
- Khalsi edict is the only edict of Ashoka in North India. It is located in Dehradun.

## Q.10) With reference to Buddhist Councils, which of the following statement is NOT correct?

- a) The first Buddhist Council was held at Rajagraha under the chairmanship of Mahakassappa.
- b) Vasumitra presided over the second Buddhist Council held at Vaishali.
- c) The third Buddhist Council was held at Pataliputra under the patronage of Asoka.
- a) The fourth Buddhist Council was convened in Kashmir by Kanishka.

## Q.10) Solution (b)

Buddhist Council	Place	Ruler	President
First (483 BCE)	Rajgriha	Ajatashatru	Mahakassappa
Second (383 BCE)	Vaishali	Kalasoka	Sabbakami
Third (250 BCE)	Patliputra	Ashoka	Mogaliputta Tissa
Fourth (1st Century CE)	Kashmir	Kanishka	Vasumitra

• Sabbakami presided over the second Buddhist Council held at Vaishali. Hence Option (b) is incorrect.

Q.11) The three 'Sangam' or 'meeting together' of Tamil poets, are convened under the patronage of the which of the following?

- a) Cheras
- b) Cholas
- c) Pandyas
- d) Pallavas

#### Q.11) Solution (c)

- The Sangam age refers to that period in the early history of south India, when large numbers of poems in Tamil were composed by a number of authors. The term 'Sangam' refers to an assembly or 'meeting together' of Tamil poets.
- Traditionally, three Sangams or assemblies are believed to have been convened one after the other at different places under the patronage of the Pandya kings of Madurai.
- The poems were modeled on the bardic songs of older times, and were orally transmitted for an indefinite period before they were finally written down by poets.

Sangam	Place of organisation	Chairman	Outcome/Relevant fact
First	Thenmadurai	Agastya	Its works did not survive.
Second	Kapatapuram	Agastya Tolkappiyar (a	Only the Tolkappiyam (a Tamil
		disciple of Agastaya)	grammar) by Tolkappiyar survives.
Third	Madurai	Nakkirar	Forms the entire corpus of existing
			Sangam Literature.

#### Q.12) Consider the following pairs:

Philosophy	Founder
1. Dvaitha	Shankaracharya
2. Visishtadvaita	Ramanuja
3. Suddhadvaita	Nimbarka
4. Dvaitadvaita	Vallabhacharya

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

a) 1 and 4 only

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

## Q.12) Solution (d)

- In the ninth century Sankaracharya started a Hindu revivalist movement giving a new orientation to Hinduism. He was born in Kaladi in Kerala. His doctrine of Advaita or Monism was too abstract to appeal to the common man. Moreover, there was a reaction against the Advaita concept of Nirgunabrahman (God without attributes) with the emergence of the idea of Sagunabrahman (God with attributes).
- In the twelfth century, **Ramanuja**, who was born at Sriperumbudur near modern Chennai, preached **Visishtadvaita**. According to him God is Sagunabrahman. The creative process and all the objects in creation are real but not illusory as was held by Sankaracharya. Therefore, God, soul, matter are real. But God is inner substance and the rest are his attributes.
- In the thirteenth century, **Madhava** from Kannada region propagated Dvaita or dualism of Jivatma and Paramatma. According to his philosophy, the world is not an illusion but a reality. God, soul, matter are unique in nature.
- **Dvaitadvaita of Nimbaraka**: Dvaitadvaita means dualistic monism. According to this philosophy God transformed himself into world and soul. This world and soul are different from God (Brahman). They could survive with the support of God only. They are separate but dependent.
- Suddhadvaita of Vallabhacharya: Vallabhacharya wrote commentaries on Vedanta Sutra and Bhagavad Gita. For him Brahman (God) was Sri Krishna who manifested himself as souls and matter. God and soul are not distinct, but one. The stress was on pure non-dualism. His philosophy came to be known as Pushtimarga (the path of grace) and the school was called Rudrasampradaya.

# Q.13) With reference to the growth of Sufi Movements in the religious history of medieval India, consider the following statements:

- 1. It rose in protest against the growing materialism of the Caliphate.
- 2. Sufis were critical of the dogmatic interpretation of Quran by the theologians.
- 3. Sufis of all order defied 'sharia' laws.

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

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

## Q.13) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
In the early centuries of	The Sufis were critical of	Some Sufis initiated movements against
Islam, a group of	the dogmatic definitions	radical interpretations of sufi ideals.
religious minded	and scholastic methods of	They ignored rituals & practised extreme
people called the 'Sufis'	interpreting the Quran	ascetism, observed celibacy, etc. they
turned into ascetism	and ' <mark>Sunna</mark> ' (traditions of	were known by different names like -
and mysticism <b>in</b>	Prophet) adopted by the	'Qalandars', 'Madaris', 'Malangs', '
protest against the	theologians. Instead they	Haidaris', etc. Because of their
growing materialism of	laid emphasis on seeking	deliberate defiance of sharia they were
the Caliphate as a	salvation through intense	known as 'be-sharia', in contrast to
religious and political	devotion & love for God.	those Sufis who complied with the
institution.	y zw	sharia (ba-sharias).

## Q.14) Consider the following terms of Sangam period:

Term	Refers to			
1. Palai	Desert land			
2. Panar 🚱 💦	Singing bard			
3. Pattinappalai	Custom officials			

**A** .

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

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

## Q.14) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
Tolkappiyam refers to the	Poetry, music and dancing were	Land revenue was the chief
five-fold division of lands	popular among the people of	source of state's income while
– Kurinji (hilly tracks),	the Sangam age. The royal	custom duty was also imposed
Mullai (pastoral),	courts were crowded with	on foreign trade. The
Marudam (agricultural),	singing bards called Panar and	Pattinappalai refers to the
Neydal (coastal) and Palai	Viraliyar. They were experts in	custom officials employed in
(desert).	folk songs and folk dances.	the seaport of Puhar.

## Q.15) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The oldest datable evidence of the decimal place value system can be found in Chhandasutra of Pingala.
- 2. Varahamihira's Panchsiddhanta was the earliest datable text to use zero both as a symbol and a number.
- 3. Ashtangasamgraha was one of the first texts on astronomy.

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

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

#### Q.15) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
The Shulvasutras were the	But an even earlier work,	In the field of medicine,
manuals for the preparation of the	the Chhandasutra of	Vagbhata lived during this
site where Vedic sacrificial rituals	Pingala, mentions the	period. He was the last of the
were to be performed and they	zero symbol as a dot used	great medical trio of ancient
laid the foundations of geometry.	in metrics.	India. The other two scholars
The ganita shastra (mathematics)	Varahamihira's	Charaka and Susruta lived
was far more advanced as <b>the</b>	Panchsiddhanta, which	before the Gupta age.

oldest datable evidence of the	belonged to the Gupta	Vagbhata was the author
decimal place value system can	period, was the earliest Ashtangasamgraha	
<b>be found</b> in a 3 <sup>rd</sup> century work on	dateable text to use zero	(Summary of the eight
astrology called the Yavanajataka	a both as a symbol and a branches of medicine). Th	
by Sphujidhvaja (which however,	number.	Sushruta Samhita of Sushruta
does not mention zero).		deals with surgery.

# Q.16) *Abhidharmakosa*, is still considered an important encyclopaedia of Buddhism was written by which of the following?

- a) Buddhaghosa
- b) Dharmakirti
- c) Vasubandhu
- d) Asvaghosha

# Q.16) Solution (c)

- Asanga and Vasubandhu were the two brothers who flourished in the Punjab region in the fourth century CE.
- Asanga was the most important teacher of Yogachara or Vijnanavada school founded by his guru, Maitreyanatha.
- Vasubandhu's greatest work, 'Abhidharmakosa', is still considered an important encyclopaedia of Buddhism.
- Asvaghosha is the author of the 'Buddhacharita' in Sanskrit.
- Buddhaghosa who lived in the fifth century was a great Pali scholar. His best-known work is the Visuddhimagga 'Path of Purification', a comprehensive summary and analysis of the Theravada understanding of the Buddha's path to liberation.
- Dinnaga was well known as the founder of the Buddhist logic. The Dharmakirti who lived in the seventh century AD was another great Buddhist logician, a subtle philosophical thinker and dialectician.

#### Q.17) Consider the following pairs:

Literary work	Author
1. Raghuvamsa	Kalidasa

2. Devichandraguptam	Dandin
3. Mrichchakatika	Sudraka
4. Panchatantra stories	Visakadatta
5. Kritarjuniya	Bharavi

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

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

# Q.17) Solution (c)

- The Sanskrit language became prominent during the Gupta period. Nagari script had evolved from the Brahmi script.
- The court of Chandragupta II was adorned by the celebrated Navratnas. Kalidasa remain the foremost among them. His master-piece was the Sanskrit drama Shakuntala. It is considered one among the 'hundred best books of the world'. He wrote two other plays
  the Malavikagnimitra and Vikramorvasiya. His two well-known epics are Raghuvamsa and Kumarasambhava. Ritusamhara and Meghaduta are his two lyrics.
- Visakadatta was another celebrated author of this period. He was the author of two Sanskrit dramas, Mudrarakshasa and Devichandraguptam.
- Sudraka was a renowned poet of this age and his book Mrichchakatika is rich in humour and pathos.
- **Bharavi's Kritarjuniya** is the story of the conflict between Arjuna and Siva. Dandin was the author of Kavyadarsa and Dasakumaracharita.
- Another important work of this period was Vasavadatta written by Subhandhu. The Panchatantra stories were composed by Vishnusarma during the Gupta period. The Buddhist author Amarasimha compiled a lexicon called Amarakosa.

Q.18) Who among the following foreign traveler referred the Gangetic valley as the 'land of Brahmanism'?

- a) Magasthenes
- b) Marco Polo
- c) Ptolemy

d) Fa Hien

## Q.18) Solution (d)

- The famous Chinese pilgrim, Fa Hien visited India during the reign of Chandragupta II. Out of his nine years stay in India, he spent six years in the Gupta Empire. Fa Hien provides valuable information on the religious, social and economic condition of the Gupta Empire.
- According to him, Buddhism was in a flourishing condition in the northwestern India but in the Gangetic valley it was in a state of neglect. He refers to the Gangetic valley as the 'land of Brahmanism'. Fahien mentions the unsatisfactory state of some of the Buddhist holy places like Kapilavastu and Kusinagara. According to him the economic condition of the empire was prosperous.

# Q.19) Which of the following great scholars and eminent personalities were patronized by the King Kanishka?

- 1. Agesilaus
- 2. Nagarjuna
- 3. Matanga Divakara
- 4. Charaka

#### Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

## Q.19) Solution (b)

- The most important ruler of the Kushana dynasty, **Kanishka (78 120 A.D.)** patronised great scholars and eminent personalities of that era such as:
- Ashvagosha: A Buddhist scholar who wrote the hagiographic *Buddhacharita* (the sacred biography of the Buddha) and composed the *Saundarananda* (a Sanskrit *kavya*).
- **Charaka**: He is known as the father of Ayurveda who wrote a book on medicine called *Charaksamhita* and also wrote the *Sasruta*.

- **Vasumitra**: An eminent philosopher who authored the encyclopaedia of Buddhist philosophy called *Mahavibhasa*.
- **Nagarjuna**: He is often termed an Indian Einstein who proposed the Theory of Relativity in his time in the form of a *Sutra*, the *Prajna Parimata Sutra*. He was also a great exponent of the Mahayana doctrine and propounded the *Madhyamaka* (also known as *Sunyavada* School) which focuses on *sunyata* or *emptiness*
- Mathara: He was a minister who was noted for his unusual Intelligence.
- **Agesilaus**: A Greek engineer under whose guidance, it is believed, the great *stupa* of Purushapura was built.
- Harshavardhana (606 647 A.D.) was a great patron of learning. His biographer Banabhatta adorned his royal court. Besides *Harshacharita*, he wrote *Kadambari*. Other literary figures in Harsha's court were **Matanga Divakara** and the famous Barthrihari, who was the poet, philosopher and grammarian.

#### Q.20) Consider the following statements about Ibn Battuta, a foreign traveler:

- 1. He was an Italian traveler.
- 2. He came to India during the reign of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq.
- 3. His book of travels is called 'Kitab-ul-Hind'.

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

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

#### Q.20) Solution (b

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
<b>Ibn Battuta</b> , a	He had heard about Muhammad bin Tughlaq, the	He wrote Kitab–ul–
foreign traveler	Sultan of Delhi, and lured by his reputation as a	Rihla, a book on
from Morocco	generous patron of arts and letters, set off for	travels in Arabic.
reached the Sind	Delhi, passing through Multan and Uch. The Sultan	'Kitab–ul–Hind' was
in 1333.	was impressed by his scholarship, and appointed	written by Al-Beruni
	him the qazi or judge of Delhi.	from Persia.

#### Q.21) The Mihir Shah Committee constituted to draft new

- a) National Water Policy
- b) National Forest Policy
- c) Special Economic Zone (SEZ) policy
- d) National Mineral Policy

## Q.21) Solution (a)

- Mihir Shah Committee constituted by Union Water Resources Ministry to draft a new National Water Policy (NWP).
- The committee has 10 principal members, chaired by Mihir Shah who is a former Planning Commission member and a water expert.

#### Q.22) Consider the following pairs:

Tiger reserve		State
1. Satkosia	man and a second	Rajasthan
2. Buxa		West Bengal
3. Palamau	. a	Odisha

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

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

## Q.22) Solution (c)

- Palamau is the only Tiger reserve in the state of Jharkhand, India.
- Buxa Tiger reserve is in West Bengal.
- Satkosia Tiger reserve is in Odisha.

Q.23) Consider the following statements about International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO):

- 1. It is a United Nations (UN) specialized agency.
- 2. Chicago Convention established the core principles permitting international transport by air and led to the creation of the ICAO.
- 3. It is headquartered in Chicago.

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

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

## Q.23) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
International Civil Aviation	Convention on International Civil	It has 193 members
Organisation (ICAO) is a United	Aviation was signed in Chicago.	(including India)
Nations (UN) specialized agency	Convention established the core	and headquartered
established in 1944. It laid the	principles permitting international	in Montreal,
foundation for the standards and	transport by air and led to the	Canada.
procedures for peaceful global air	creation of the ICAO.	
navigation.		

#### Q.24) The PUNCH Mission of NASA is to

- a) Remove space debris
- b) Study waves in the lower atmosphere
- c) Discover potentially Habitable Exoplanets
- d) Study the Sun's outer Corona

#### Q.24) Solution (d)

• PUNCH Mission "Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere," is a NASA's Mission for understanding the transition of particles from the Sun's outer corona to the solar wind that fills interplanetary space.

• Plan is to observe the Sun using joint observations from PUNCH and Indian mission Aditya L1.

#### Q.25) Which of the following countries are landlocked?

- 1. Colombia
- 2. Cambodia
- 3. Bolivia
- 4. Ethiopia
- 5. Armenia

# Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- b) 3, 4 and 5 only
- c) 2, 3 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2 and 4 only
- Q.25) Solution (b)
  - Bolivia, Ethiopia and Armenia are landlocked countries.

## Q.26) 'Kail Podh' Festival is associated with which of the following states?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Karnataka
- c) Goa
- d) Sikkim

## Q.26) Solution (b)

Kailpodh, the harvest festival is the time for the Kodavas to feast after involving in hard labour of the ploughing, sowing and transplanting of rice. It is one of the two festivals that only Kodavas celebrate, the other being 'Puttari' during December.

The Kodavas (Kodava, anglicised as Coorgs), are considered a patrilineal ethno-lingual tribe from the region of Kodagu, (in Karnataka state of southern India), who natively speak the Kodava language.

Q.27) The 'CT-TTX' (counter-terrorism table-top exercise) was in news recently. Which of the following counties were participants of the exercise?

- 1. India
- 2. Australia
- 3. Japan
- 4. USA

#### 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.27) Solution (d)

The National Investigation Agency is hosting the first counter-terrorism exercise for the "Quad" countries -- India, the US, Japan and Australia.

The 'CT-TTX' (counter-terrorism table-top exercise) is first such engagement among the Quad countries on regional and global issues of common interest and also in the domain of counter-terrorism and cooperation.

# Q.28) Consider the following statements with respect to 'The Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)'.

- It was established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2001 to finance projects relating to: adaptation; technology transfer and capacity building; energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management; and economic diversification.
- 2. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has been entrusted to operate the SCCF.

#### Select the correct statements

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

## Q.28) Solution (c)

Housed at the GEF, the SCCF was established in 2001 to support climate change projects in all developing country parties to the UNFCCC through four funding windows: adaptation, technology transfer, sector-specific projects, and assistance with diversification of fuel-dependent economies.

#### Q.29) 'Danakil Depression' was in news recently. Where is it located?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Ethiopia
- c) Afghanistan
- d) Russia

#### Q.29) Solution (b)

The Danakil Depression is the northern part of the Afar Triangle or Afar Depression in Ethiopia, a geological depression that has resulted from the divergence of three tectonic plates in the Horn of Africa.

The Danakil Depression lies at the triple junction of three tectonic plates and has a complex geological history. It has developed as a result of Africa and Asia moving apart, causing rifting and volcanic activity. Erosion, inundation by the sea, the rising and falling of the ground have all played their part in the formation of this depression. Sedimentary rocks such as sandstone and limestone are unconformably overlain by basalt which resulted from extensive lava flows.

#### Q.30) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI)'.

- 1. It is a mechanism for foreign currency exchange in times of emergency.
- 2. It was launched by the ASEAN+6 countries.

#### Select the correct statements

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

# Q.30) Solution (a)

The Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI) is a multilateral currency swap arrangement among the ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the People's Republic of China (including Hong Kong), Japan, and South Korea.

Originally, the Chiang Mai Initiative was established in 2001 as a tool for regional financial cooperation, drawing on the lessons learned from the Asian financial crisis of 1997. Starting out as a bunch of swap agreements, the mechanism became the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralism (CMIM) in 2009, after the region was hit once again, this time by the Global Financial Crisis.

