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Q.1) Recently launched SUMAN initiative aims for

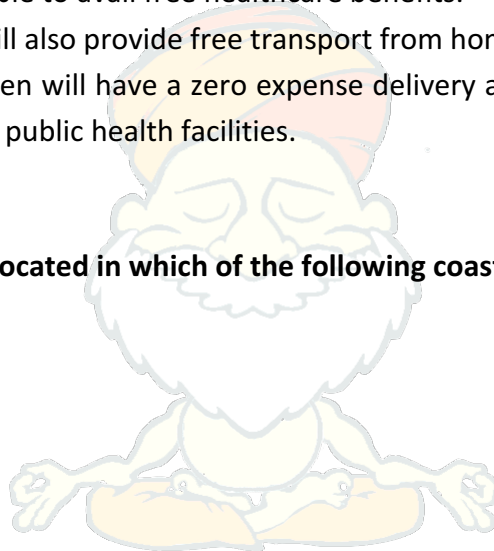
- a) Zero Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths
- b) Reducing the Double burden of Malnutrition
- c) Livelihood Promotion of Urban Poor
- d) Reducing illiteracy among Scheduled Tribes

Q.1) Solution (a)

- Union Minister for Health along with several State Health Ministers launched **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan Initiative (SUMAN) initiative for Zero Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths.**
- Under it, pregnant women, mothers up to 6 months after delivery, and all sick newborns will be able to avail free healthcare benefits.
- The government will also provide free transport from home to health institutions.
- The pregnant women will have a zero expense delivery and C-section facility in case of complications at public health facilities.

Q.2) Ghoramara Island is located in which of the following coastal States?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) West Bengal
- d) Gujarat

**Q.2) Solution (c)**

- **Ghoramara Island** is located in the Ganga estuary of West Bengal.
- It is a part of the Sundarban Delta complex of the Bay of Bengal.
- It is slowly being submerged by rising sea levels, forcing people to migrate in large numbers – also sometimes referred to as sinking island

Q.3) Consider the following pairs:

Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)	Category of AIF
1. Angel Funds	Category I
2. Infrastructure Funds	Category II
3. Hedge Funds	Category III

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.3) Solution (c)

- Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) comprises pooled investment funds which invest in venture capital, private equity, hedge funds, managed futures, etc.
- AIF can be established in the form of a company or a corporate body or a trust or a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP).
- As per the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012 (AIF Regulations), Category I AIF are: those AIFs with 'positive spillover effects' on the economy, for which certain incentives or concessions might be considered by SEBI or the Government of India or other regulators in India.
- **Category I AIF** shall include Venture Capital Funds (Including **Angel Funds**), SME Funds, Social Venture Funds, **Infrastructure Funds** and such other Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) as may be specified.
- **Category II AIF** – Investment in equity and debt securities
- **Category III AIF** - Investment aimed at short-term returns achieved by complex strategies. Eg. **Hedge Funds**.

Q.4) With reference to 'Go Blue' Campaign, consider the following statements:

1. It aims at promoting the sustainable fishing practices around the world.
2. It is a joint initiative of International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and UN Environment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.4) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
Under 'Go Blue' campaign, the landmark buildings around the world lit up blue to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to show support for child rights.	United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) undertook the 'Go Blue' campaign.

Q.5) Which of the following statements about Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique (BOLD-QIT) Project is/are correct?

1. It is a project under CIBMS (Comprehensive Integrated Border Management system).
2. Under the project technical systems are installed along India-Bangladesh border.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.5) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique (BOLD-QIT) Project under CIBMS (Comprehensive Integrated Border Management system) implemented along India-Bangladesh border. Information and Technology Wing of Border Security Force (BSF) is the Implementing Agency of BOLD-QIT Project.	BOLD-QIT is the project to install technical systems which enable BSF to equip Indo-Bangla borders with different kind of sensors in the unfenced riverine area of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries. Under it, the entire span of River Brahmaputra is covered with data network generated by Microwave communication, OFC Cables, DMR Communication, day and night surveillance Cameras and intrusion detection system.

Q.6) 'Riyadh Agreement' was in news recently. It primarily deals with which of the following countries?

- a) Yemen
- b) Iran
- c) Iraq

d) Syria

Q.6) Solution (a)

Yemen's Saudi-backed government and southern separatists signed an agreement to end a power struggle in the south of Yemen that risked opening a new front in the multifaceted conflict.

Q.7) Which of the following acts is administered by the 'Reserve Bank of India'?

1. Government Securities Regulations, 2007
2. Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999
3. Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005
4. Factoring Regulation Act, 2011

Select the correct statements

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

Q.7) Solution (d)

The following acts are administered by the RBI

- Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- Public Debt Act, 1944/Government Securities Act, 2006
- Government Securities Regulations, 2007
- Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999
- Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Chapter II)
- Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005
- Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007
- Factoring Regulation Act, 2011

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Q.8) 'Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu And Others (1992)' Judgment is associated with

- a) Tenth Schedule
- b) Right to Property
- c) Sedition
- d) Personal Laws

Q.8) Solution (a)

Kihoto Hollohan case

- The law covering the disqualification of legislators and the powers of the Speaker in deciding such matters became part of the statute book in 1985 when the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution was adopted.
- A constitutional challenge to the Tenth Schedule was settled by the apex court in Kihoto Hollohan.

Q.9) The term 'Spaghetti bowl effect' is concerned with

- a) Human Development Index
- b) Free Trade Agreements
- c) Pumping and Dumping Stocks
- d) Global Warming

Q.9) Solution (b)

The spaghetti bowl effect is the multiplication of free trade agreements (FTAs), supplanting multilateral World Trade Organization negotiations as an alternative path toward globalization. The term was first used by Jagdish Bhagwati in 1995 in the paper: "US Trade policy: The infatuation with free trade agreements", where he openly criticized FTAs as being paradoxically counter-productive in promoting freer and more opened global trades. According to Bhagwati, too many crisscrossing FTAs would allow countries to adopt discriminatory trade policies and reduce the economic benefits of trade.

Q.10) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)'

1. ETFs are traded on stock exchanges like shares.
2. The expenses ratio of ETFs is generally on the higher side compared to mutual funds.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.10) Solution (a)

Exchange Traded Funds are listed and traded on stock exchanges like shares. Index ETFs are created by institutional investors swapping shares in an index basket, for units in the fund. Usually, ETFs are passive funds where the fund manager doesn't select stocks on your behalf. Instead, the ETF simply copies an index and endeavours to accurately reflect its performance. The expense ratio of ETFs is way lesser than that of mutual funds.

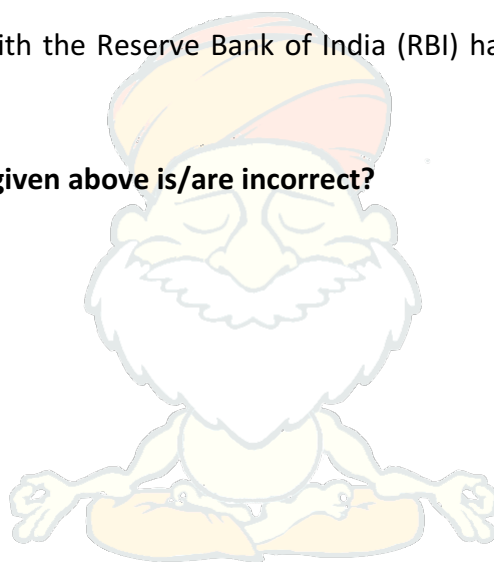
Q.11) With reference to Core Investment Companies (CIC), consider the following statements:

1. It is a non-banking financial company carrying on the business of acquisition of shares and securities.
2. It trades in its investments in shares, bonds, debentures, debt or loans in group companies.
3. A CIC registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has an asset size of above Rs 500 crore.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Q.11) Solution (c)



Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
<p>Core Investment Company (CIC) is a non-banking financial company carrying on the business of acquisition of shares and securities and which satisfies the following conditions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CICs, which are allowed to accept public funds, should hold not less than 90% of their net assets in the form of investment in equity shares, preference shares, bonds, debentures, debt or loans in group companies. 2. Investments of CIC in the equity shares in 	<p>CIC does not trade in its investments in shares, bonds, debentures, debt or loans in group companies except through block sale for the purpose of dilution or disinvestment. This Concept was originated in order to safeguard NBFCs which are formed for group investments from</p>	<p>A Core Investment Company registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has an asset size of above Rs 100 crore.</p>

group companies constitute not less than 60% of its net assets.	stringent RBI procedures	
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Q.12) Which of the following State topped the list of large-medium States in the overall justice delivery as per India Justice Report 2019?

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

Q.12) Solution (a)

- **India Justice Report 2019 was released by the Tata Trusts** in collaboration with Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, among others.
- This is the first-ever ranking of Indian States on justice delivery. The report is based on publicly available data from different government entities on the four pillars of justice delivery — police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid.
- Key findings of Report:
 - **Maharashtra has topped the list of 18 large-medium States in the overall justice delivery**, followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Haryana. In this category, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are at the bottom.
 - Even the best performing States scored less than 60% in their performance on capacity across all four parameters.
 - The country has about 18,200 judges with about 23% sanctioned posts vacant
 - Prisons are over-occupied at 114%, where 68% are undertrials awaiting investigation, inquiry or trial.
 - India's per capita expenditure on free legal aid is 75 paisa per annum.

Q.13) Consider the following states:

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Manipur
3. Nagaland
4. Mizoram

With reference to the States mentioned above, in terms of total forest cover, which one of the following is the correct descending order?

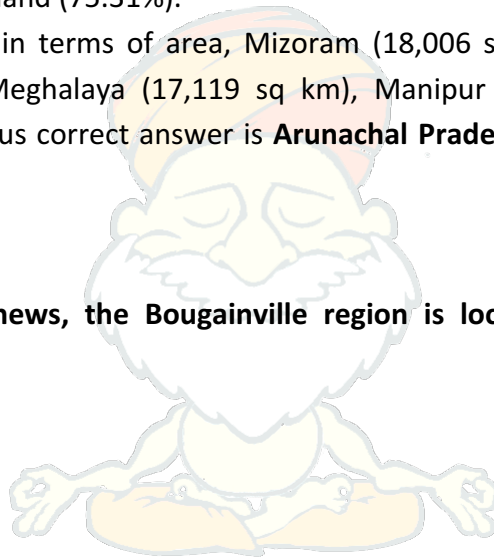
- a) 4 – 1 – 2 – 3
- b) 4 – 1 – 3 – 2
- c) 1 – 4 – 2 – 3
- d) 1 – 4 – 3 – 2

Q.13) Solution (c)

- Area-wise Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra.
- In terms of forest cover as percentage of total geographical area, the top five States are Mizoram (85.41%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.63%), Meghalaya (76.33%), Manipur (75.46%) and Nagaland (75.31%).
- Total forest cover in terms of area, Mizoram (18,006 sq km) , Arunachal Pradesh (66,688 sq km), Meghalaya (17,119 sq km), Manipur (16,847 sq km), Nagaland (12,486 sq km). Thus correct answer is **Arunachal Pradesh > Mizoram > Manipur > Nagaland**.

Q.14) Recently seen in news, the Bougainville region is located within which of the following?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Philippines
- c) Papua New Guinea
- d) Madagascar



Q.14) Solution (c)

- People of Bougainville to cast their votes in a **referendum** on whether they should seek independence from Papua New Guinea.
- Politically, **Bougainville** is currently an **autonomous region within Papua New Guinea**

Q.15) Consider the following statements about the maiden Tiger Triumph Exercise:

1. It is a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise between India and USA.

2. The 2019 Exercise is conducted off the Malabar Coast in Kerala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.15) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Tiger Triumph' is the maiden India USA joint Tri services Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise. The Exercise is aimed to developing interoperability for conducting HADR operations.	2019 exercise is conducted off Visakhapatnam and Kakinada coasts in Andhra Pradesh.

Q.16) Which of the following statements is correct with respect to 'STREAM'.

- a) It is the first large-scale, multi-country clinical trial to examine shortened regimens for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB).
- b) It seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy.
- c) It is a newly launched Over the Top (OTT) service by Government of India
- d) It provides 32 High Quality Educational Channels through DTH (Direct to Home) across the length and breadth of the country on 24X7 basis.

Q.16) Solution (a)

STREAM is the first large-scale, multi-country clinical trial to examine shortened regimens for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). It is also the first phase III trial to test the efficacy and safety of bedaquiline, a new drug with a 'novel mechanism of action'[1], within a shortened treatment regimen.

Q.17) 'Cytochrome b6f' is crucial for which of the following process?

- a) Photosynthesis
- b) Pyrolysis
- c) Methanogenesis
- d) Blending of ethanol

Q.17) Solution (a)

Cytochrome b6f provides the electrical connection between the so-called photosystem I and photosystem II reaction centers of oxygenic photosynthesis, which are two light-powered chlorophyll-proteins within the plant cell chloroplast that convert sunlight into chemical energy. The protein complex, the researchers say, serves as a sort of “proton battery” for storing energy.

Q.18) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

Places in News Country

1. Qeshm Island – United Arab Emirates
2. Baqoura – Jordan
3. Natanz – Iran

Select the correct code:

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

Q.18) Solution (b)

Qeshm Island – Iran

Baqoura – Jordan

Natanz – Iran

Q.19) ‘Supreme Court of India v. Subhash Chandra Agarwal’ deals with

- a) Right to Information
- b) Right to Property
- c) Right to Constitutional Remedies
- d) Right against exploitation

Q.19) Solution (a)

The Court found that the Chief Justice’s office is a “public authority” within the meaning of the Right to Information (RTI) Act as it performs numerous administrative functions in addition to its adjudicatory role. Access to information it held was therefore regulated by the Act. The Court emphasized that information pertaining to submitted declarations and their contents constitutes “information” within the meaning of Section 2 (f) of the Act.

Q.20) Which of the following statements with respect to ‘constitutional morality’ is/are correct?

1. It may refer to the conventions and protocols that govern decision-making where the constitution vests discretionary power or is silent.
2. The term 'constitutional morality' is well defined in the Constitution of India.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.20) Solution (a)

In contemporary usage, constitutional morality has come to refer to the substantive content of a constitution. To be governed by a constitutional morality is, on this view, to be governed by the substantive moral entailment any constitution carries. For instance, the principle of non-discrimination is often taken to be an element of our modern constitutional morality. In this sense, constitutional morality is the morality of a constitution.

Constitutional morality refers to the conventions and protocols that govern decision-making where the constitution vests discretionary power or is silent.

Please note that the term 'constitutional morality' has various definitions. It is a very broad term.

The term 'constitutional morality' has not been defined in the Constitution.

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Q.21) Consider the following Indian cities:

1. Mumbai
2. Chennai
3. Kolkata
4. Gandhinagar
5. Hyderabad

Which of the above are included under UNESCO's Creative Cities Network?

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

Q.21) Solution (b)

- UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (UCCN) created in 2004 aims towards a common objective of placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level and to achieve Sustainable Development Goals through innovative thinking and action.
- Network covers seven creative fields: crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, design, gastronomy, literature and music.
- Indian cities in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network are
 - **Mumbai** (Films Creative)
 - **Hyderabad** (Gastronomy)
 - **Chennai** and **Varanasi** (Music)
 - **Jaipur** (Crafts and Folk Arts)

Q.22) Consider the following statements about Operation Muskaan:

1. It aims at rehabilitating missing children.
2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.22) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Operation Muskaan / Operation Smile is a dedicated campaign for a month where several activities are taken up by the State Police personnel to trace and	It is an initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to rescue/rehabilitate missing

rescue the missing children and reunite them with their families.	children.
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Q.23) Consider the following pairs:

<i>Geographic region</i>	<i>State</i>
1. Sukinda valley	Chhattisgarh
2. Kalapani	Uttarakhand
3. Araku valley	Jharkhand

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

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

Q.23) Solution (c)

- **Sukinda valley in Odisha** has 90% of India's chromate reserves.
- **Araku valley is in Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Kalapani** is a valley that is administered by India as a part of the Pithoragarh district of **Uttarakhand**, laid claim by Nepal. It is situated on the Kailash Mansarovar route.

Q.24) Which of the following released the 2019 Global Microscope on Financial Inclusion report?

- a) Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- b) Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- d) World Bank

Q.24) Solution (b)

- According to the **Economist Intelligence Unit's 2019 Global Microscope on Financial Inclusion report**, the overall environment for financial inclusion has improved globally with India, Colombia, Peru, Uruguay and Mexico having the most favourable conditions for inclusive finance.
- For promoting digital financial inclusion, the report identified four basic enablers

1. Allowing non-banks to issue e-money
2. Presence of financial service agents
3. Proportionate customer due diligence
4. Effective financial consumer protection

Q.25) Kerala government's 'K-Fon project' aims to

- a) Pay the difference between official Minimum Support Price (MSP) and the rate at which farmers sell their crops.
- b) Provide drinking water to all households in rural Kerala.
- c) Conditionally transfer the cash for school girls.
- d) Provide free high-speed Internet connection.

Q.25) Solution (d)

- **Kerala government has recently cleared the K-Fon project to provide free high-speed Internet connection** to over 20 lakh BPL families in the state.
- Project envisages a State-wide optical fiber network to link houses and offices.
- It also provides Net connectivity at affordable rate for families that do not fall in the BPL bracket.

Q.26) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS)'.

1. The establishment of this cooperation was initiated by Thailand.
2. It is a cooperation framework among CLMV countries and Thailand to utilize member countries' diverse strengths and to promote balanced development in the subregion.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.26) Solution (c)

The Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy or ACMECS is a cooperation framework among Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam to utilize member countries' diverse strengths and to promote balanced development in the subregion. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra of Thailand initiated the establishment of this cooperation framework in April 2003. The areas of cooperation include, among others, transport, and trade and investment facilitation.

Q.27) 'System for Transfer of Financial Messages' is primarily associated with which of the following countries?

- a) China
- b) Russia
- c) United States of America
- d) India

Q.27) Solution (b)

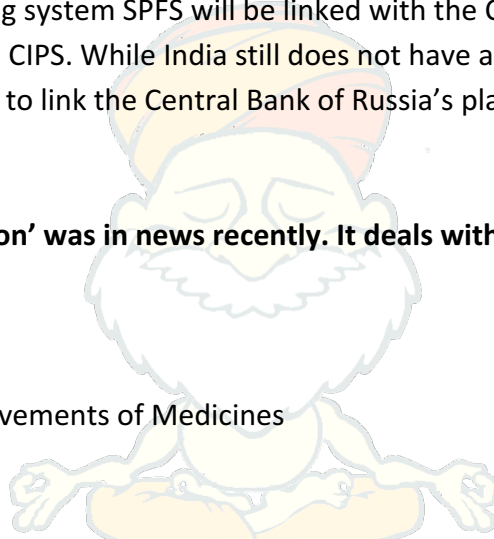
It is a Russian equivalent of the SWIFT financial transfer system, developed by the Central Bank of Russia.

India, Russia and China are exploring an alternative to the US-dominated SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) payment mechanism in a bid to smoothen trade with countries facing American sanctions.

Russia's financial messaging system SPFS will be linked with the Chinese cross-border interbank payment system CIPS. While India still does not have a domestic financial messaging system, it plans to link the Central Bank of Russia's platform with a service that is under development.

Q.28) 'Budapest Convention' was in news recently. It deals with

- a) Cybercrime
- b) Extradition
- c) Double Taxation
- d) Transboundary Movements of Medicines



Q.28) Solution (a)

The Convention on Cybercrime, also known as the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime or the Budapest Convention, is the first international treaty seeking to address Internet and computer crime (cybercrime) by harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and increasing cooperation among nations.

Q.29) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Ecological fiscal transfers (EFTs)'.

1. The world's largest ecological fiscal transfer system was established by India in 2015.
2. EFTs involve higher levels of government distributing funds to lower levels of government based on ecological indicators.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.29) Solution (c)

Ecological fiscal transfers (EFTs) involve higher levels of government distributing funds to lower levels of government based on ecological indicators.

The world's largest ecological fiscal transfer system was established by India in 2015 when India's 14th Finance Commission added forest cover to the formula that determines the amount of tax revenue the Union government distributes annually to each of India's states, alongside historical population, recent population, poverty and area.

Q.30) 'Descriptio Indiae', a circumstantial description of the twenty-two provinces of India was written by

- a) Joseph Tiefenthaler
- b) William Finch
- c) Montgomery Martin
- d) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier

Q.30) Solution (a)

Joseph Tiefenthaler wrote a Descriptio Indiae, a circumstantial description of the twenty-two provinces of India, of its cities, fortresses, and the most important smaller towns, together with an exact statement of geographical positions, calculated by means of a simple quadrant.

Q.31) 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.31) 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.32) Consider the following pairs:

<i>Tiger reserve</i>	<i>State</i>
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1. Satkosia	Rajasthan
2. Buxa	West Bengal
3. Palamau	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.32) 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.33) 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.33) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) is a United Nations (UN) specialized agency established in 1944. It laid the	Convention on International Civil Aviation was signed in Chicago . Convention established the core principles permitting	It has 193 members (including India) and headquartered

foundation for the standards and procedures for peaceful global air navigation.	international transport by air and led to the creation of the ICAO.	in Montreal, Canada.
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Q.34) The PUNCH Mission of NASA is to

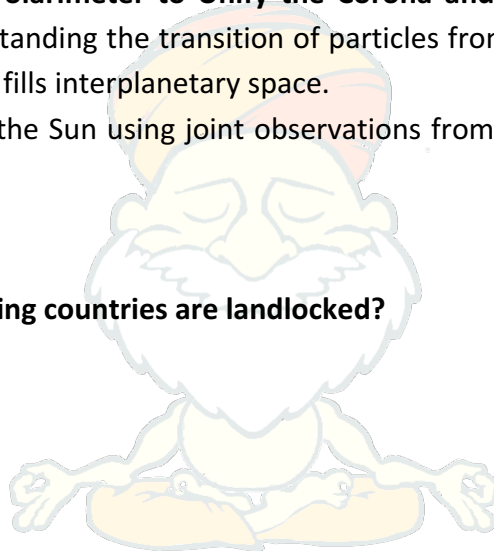
- a) Remove space debris
- b) Study waves in the lower atmosphere
- c) Discover potentially Habitable Exoplanets
- d) Study the Sun's outer Corona

Q.34) 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.35) 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.35) Solution (b)

- **Bolivia, Ethiopia and Armenia** are landlocked countries.

Q.36) ‘Kail Podh’ Festival is associated with which of the following states?

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

Q.36) 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.37) The 'CT-TTX' (counter-terrorism table-top exercise) was in news recently. Which of the following countries 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.37) 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.38) Consider the following statements with respect to 'The Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)'.

- 1. 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.38) 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.39) 'Danakil Depression' was in news recently. Where is it located?

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

Q.39) 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.40) 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.40) 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.

Q.41) 'Make in India Mittelstand' (MIIM) Programme aims to facilitate investment in India by which of the following?

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

Q.41) Solution (b)

- 'Make in India Mittelstand' (MIIM) Programme aiming to facilitate investment by German SMEs into India.

Q.42) Consider the following pairs:

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) systems of India	State
1. Koraput	Sikkim
2. Pampore	Uttarakhand
3. Kuttanad	Kerala

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

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

Q.42) Solution (a)

- **Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)** are outstanding landscapes of aesthetic beauty that combine agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and a valuable cultural heritage.
- GIAHS programme was started by **FAO** in 2002 when it began awarding such designations to selected sites across the world.
- Aim of GIAHS programme is to identify and safeguard eco-friendly **traditional farm practices** and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems of the local communities.
- Three agricultural systems from India have got GIAHS status.
 - i. **Koraput (Odisha)** - cultivation of traditional varieties of paddy, pulses, millets, oilseeds, and vegetables.
 - ii. **Pampore (Kashmir Valley)** - Saffron Heritage Site
 - iii. **Kuttanad (Kerala)** - lowland rice cultivation, below sea level.

Q.43) As per the Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2019 which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. India's forest cover is about 24 percent of its total geographic area.
2. Karnataka saw the highest increase in forest cover among the other States compared to last assessment.
3. The forest cover in the North Eastern region increased marginally.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.43) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
As per Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2019, total forest cover is 21.67% of the geographical area of the country. The tree cover is 2.89% of geographical area. Thus	The top five States in terms of increase in forest cover: Karnataka (1,025 sq km), Andhra Pradesh (990 sq km), Kerala (823 sq km), Jammu & Kashmir (371 sq	Total forest cover in the North Eastern region is 65.05% of its geographical area. The current assessment shows a decrease of forest cover to the extent of 765 sq km (0.45%) in the region. Except Assam and Tripura, all the

total forest and tree cover is 24.56%. Hence statement is incorrect.	km) and Himachal Pradesh (334 sq km).	States in the region show decrease in forest cover.
--	---------------------------------------	---

Q.44) The term 'Arrokoth' seen in news is related with

- a) Cyber Physical System
- b) Particle Physics
- c) Kuiper Belt Flyby Object
- d) Human Genome Project

Q.44) Solution (c)

- The International Astronomical Union and Minor Planets Center, the global body for naming **Kuiper Belt objects**, has officially named the New Horizons Kuiper Belt Flyby Object as '**Arrokoth**'.
- Arrokoth is one of the thousands of known small icy worlds in the Kuiper Belt, the vast “third zone” of the solar system beyond the inner terrestrial planets and the outer gas giant planets.

Q.45) Consider the following statements about innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative:

1. iDEX is an ecosystem to foster innovation and indigenous technology development in Defence and Aerospace.
2. iDEX will be funded and managed by a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.45) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect

An innovation for Defence Excellence (**iDEX**) initiative was launched in 2018 by Defence Ministry. iDEX is **an ecosystem to foster innovation and indigenous technology development in Defence and Aerospace** by engaging innovators and entrepreneurs to deliver technologically advanced solutions for modernizing Indian Military.

iDEX provides funding/grants to MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovator, R&D institutes and academia to carry out R&D which has good potential for future adoption. **iDEX will be funded and managed by a ‘Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)’** which has been formed as a ‘not for profit’ company as per Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013. DIO is funded by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

Q.46) The ‘Dampier-Hodges Line’ is associated with which of the following regions?

- a) Western Ghats
- b) Aravallis
- c) Sundarbans
- d) Konkan Coast

Q.46) Solution (c)

In India, the Dampier-Hodges Line created by the British in 1828 is considered the northern boundary which include forested as well as densely populated parts of Sundarbans.

Q.47) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Sasthamkotta Lake – Kerala
- 2. Kanjli Wetland – Uttarakhand
- 3. Surinsar-Mansar Lakes – Punjab

Select the correct code:

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

Q.47) Solution (a)

Sasthamkotta Lake – Kerala

Kanjli Wetland – Punjab

Surinsar-Mansar Lakes – Jammu & Kashmir

Q.48) The ‘Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)’ is under the aegis of

- a) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
- b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- c) Ministry of Science and Technology

d) Ministry of Jal Shakti

Q.48) Solution (a)

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the national Standards Body of India working under the aegis of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

Q.49) Which of the following are surveillance acts of India?

1. Indian Telegraph Act, 1885,
2. Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000
3. Central Bureau of Investigation Act, 1965

Select the correct code:

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

Q.49) Solution (a)

The laws governing this are the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, which deals with interception of calls, and the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, which deals with interception of data. Under both laws, only the government, under certain circumstances, is permitted to conduct surveillance, and not private actors.

Q.50) India has Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with

1. Japan
2. USA
3. South Korea

Select the correct code:

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

Q.50) Solution (c)

The major FTAs that India has signed and implemented so far include South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA), India-ASEAN Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and India-Japan CEPA.

Q.51) Consider the following statements about Indian Air Quality Interactive Repository (IndAIR)?

1. It is the India's first web repository, documenting air quality studies done in the last 60 years.
2. It is launched by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) along with the National Informatics Centre (NIC)

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.51) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Indian Air Quality Interactive Repository (IndAIR) is the India's first web repository , documenting air quality studies done in the last 60 years. It aims to provide the history of air pollution research and legislation.	It is launched by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) along with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Q.52) Recently seen in news, Nangrahar is a province of which of the following?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Myanmar
- c) Afghanistan
- d) Tanzania

Q.52) Solution (c)

- **Nangrahar or Ningrahar**, is one of the 34 provinces of **Afghanistan**, located in the eastern part of the country.
- The Nangrahar province territory fell to the Maurya Empire, which was led by Chandragupta Maurya, who introduced Hinduism and Buddhism.

Q.53) Which of the following services are covered under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme?

1. Pre-school non-formal education
2. Supplementary Nutrition
3. Immunization
4. Health check-up

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.53) Solution (d)

- **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by state governments and union territories.
- It aims at providing supplementary nutrition, immunization and pre-school education to the children.
- The beneficiaries include Children of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- It offers a **package of six services** such as Supplementary Nutrition, **Pre-school non-formal education**, Nutrition and health education, **Immunization**, **Health check-up** and Referral services.
- The services are offered at Anganwadi Centres through Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHS) at grassroots level.
- All components of ICDS except Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) are financed through a 60:40 ratio (central:state). The SNP component was funded through 50:50 ratio. The North East states have a 90:10 ratio.



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Q.54) With reference to Dhanush Artillery Gun, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is the first indigenous artillery gun of India.
2. It is the first long-range artillery gun to be produced in India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.54) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
Dhanush Artillery Gun is the first indigenous artillery gun of India. Developed by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Kolkata and referred to as Desi Bofors.	It is the first long-range artillery gun to be produced in India (range of 38 km). It is equipped with a navigation- based sighting system and night direct firing system.

Q.55) Which of the following is the smallest of all rhino species?

- a) Black Rhino
- b) White Rhino
- c) Javan Rhino
- d) Sumatran Rhino

Q.55) Solution (d)

- **Sumatran Rhino is the smallest of all rhino species.**
- It is Critically Endangered (CR) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- The Sumatran rhinoceros has become extinct in Malaysia, after the death of the last rhino in the country.

Q.56) Which of the following countries took Myanmar to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for committing genocide?

- a) Saudi Arabia
- b) China

- c) Turkey
- d) Gambia

Q.56) Solution (d)

Gambia's filing asks the ICJ to find Myanmar guilty of committing genocide— of failing to prevent and punish genocide. Gambia's request asks the ICJ to demand that Myanmar cease genocidal acts, provides reparations and punishes the perpetrators (including senior government officials and military officers).

THINK!

- Genocide Convention

Q.57) 'The rule of negative (or reverse) consensus' is associated with

- a) World Bank
- b) World Trade Organization
- c) International Solar Alliance
- d) BIMSTEC

Q.57) Solution (b)

It is associated with the WTO dispute settlement case.

Read More -

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/disp_settlement_cbt_e/c6s3p1_e.htm

Q.58) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR)'.

1. It is the proportion of high liquid assets set aside to meet short-term obligations.
2. It was prescribed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.58) Solution (c)

In the backdrop of the global financial crisis that started in 2007, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) proposed certain reforms to strengthen global capital and liquidity regulations with the objective of promoting a more resilient banking sector. In this regard, the Basel III rules text on liquidity – “Basel III: International framework for liquidity risk measurement, standards and monitoring” was issued in December 2010 which presented the details of global regulatory standards on liquidity. Two minimum standards viz. Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) and Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR) for funding liquidity

were prescribed by the Basel Committee for achieving two separate but complementary objectives.

The LCR promotes short-term resilience of banks to potential liquidity disruptions by ensuring that they have sufficient high-quality liquid assets (HQLAs) to survive an acute stress scenario lasting for 30 days. The NSFR promotes resilience over longer-term time horizons by requiring banks to fund their activities with more stable sources of funding on an ongoing basis.

Q.59) The term ‘Clawback Mechanism’ was in news associated with

- a) Non-Performing Assets
- b) EXIM Scrips
- c) National Agriculture Market (eNAM)
- d) Committee of Creditors (CoC)

Q.59) Solution (a)

A clawback provision is a contractual clause typically included in employment contracts by financial firms, by which money already paid to an employee must be paid back to the employer under certain conditions.

RBI has tightened the guidelines for compensation packages of whole-time directors (WTDs) and chief executive officers (CEOs) of private and foreign banks, and asked them to put in place a clawback mechanism to address the misconduct risk and under-reporting of bad loans.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/business/banking-and-finance/to-tackle-npa-under-reporting-and-misconduct-rbi-asks-private-banks-to-set-clawback-mechanism-6103260/>

Q.60) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

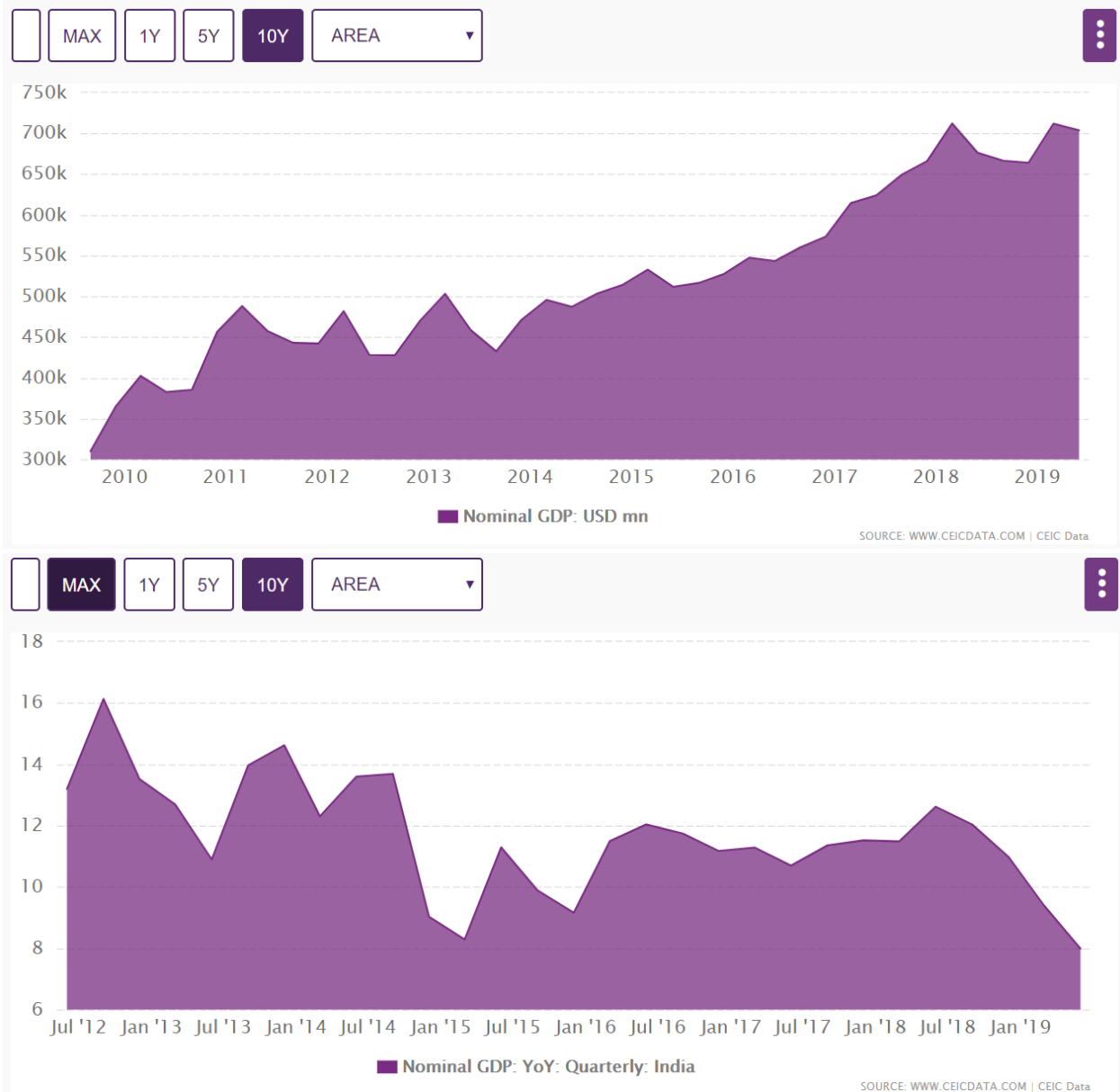
1. Nominal GDP of India is increasing in the last ten years.
2. Nominal GDP Growth Rate is consistently increasing in the last ten years.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.60) Solution (a)

Statement 1 is correct. Statement 2 is incorrect.



Q.61) Consider the following statements about ‘Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India’:

1. The objective of the scheme is to document and archive the country’s languages that have become endangered or likely to be endangered in the near future.
2. The Scheme was instituted by Ministry of Culture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Q.61) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The sole objective of the 'Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India' is to document and archive the country's languages that have become endangered or likely to be endangered in the near future.	Scheme was instituted by Ministry of Human Resource Development . The scheme is monitored by Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) located in Mysuru, Karnataka.

Q.62) The Global Climate Risk Index is released by

- a) United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)
b) Germanwatch
c) Climate Action Network (CAN)
d) World Economic Forum (WEF)

Q.62) Solution (b)

- The **Global Climate Risk Index** was released by international environmental think tank **Germanwatch**.
- It assessed 181 countries and quantified impacts of climate change through economic losses, losses to GDP and fatalities to arrive at a ranking.
- India's rank has worsened from 14th spot in 2017 to 5th most vulnerable country to climate change in 2018. Japan topped the list followed by the Philippines and Germany.

Q.63) With reference to interstellar object 'BORISOV' consider the following statements:

1. It is the first interstellar object to be identified till date to have passed through our solar system.
2. It follows an elliptical path.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Q.63) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
COMET 2I/BORISOV has become the second interstellar object to be identified till date to have passed through our solar system. The first one was 1I/'Oumuamua'. The name Borisov honours its discoverer, astronomer Gennady Borisov from Crimea.	Objects born in our solar system are trapped in elliptical orbits around the sun while interstellar bodies follow the hyperbolic path . It was confirmed that 2I/Borisov has a more hyperbolic path than any other comet which has been studied to date.

Q.64) Which of the following country imposes Digital Services Tax (DST) known as 'GAFA' Tax?

- a) Germany
- b) Switzerland
- c) France
- d) Norway

Q.64) Solution (c)

- France's **Digital Services Tax (DST)** is a 3% tax on the turnover of digital companies with global turnover of at least €750 million, of which €25 million is generated in France.
- France's DST is known informally as the **"GAFA" tax** after the initials for Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon.

Q.65) With reference to Industrial Security Annex (ISA), which of the following statements is/are NOT CORRECT?

1. It is a part of the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) signed between India and USA.
2. It will facilitate the exchange of classified military information between Indian and the U.S. defense industries.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

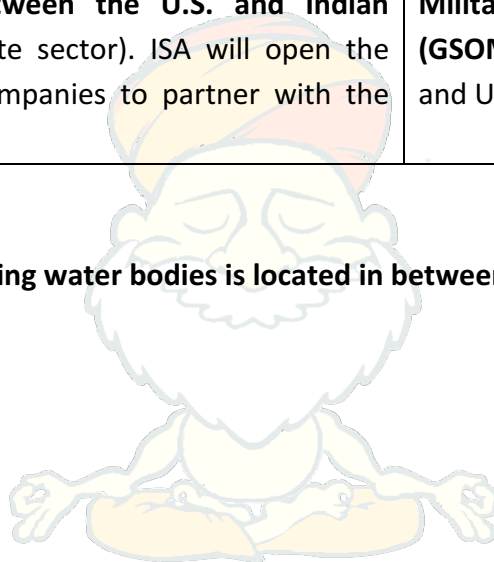
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.65) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
Industrial Security Annex (ISA) will provide a framework for exchange and protection of classified military information between the U.S. and Indian defence industries (private sector). ISA will open the door for U.S. defence companies to partner with the Indian private sector.	Industrial Security Annex (ISA) is a part of the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) signed between India and USA.

Q.66) Which of the following water bodies is located in between Crimean Peninsula and Russia?

- a) Sea of Azov
- b) Dnieper River
- c) Sea of Marmara
- d) Gulf of Bothnia



Q.66) Solution (a)



The Economist

Q.67) India's 'Four balance sheet challenge' includes

1. Infrastructure companies
2. Banks
3. NBFCs
4. Real Estate Companies
5. Telecom Companies

Select the correct code:

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

Q.67) Solution (a)

Citing reasons for the "severe illness in the economy", former Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian has pointed out that India is now facing a "Four Balance Sheet" challenge -- comprising banks, infrastructure, plus NBFCs and real estate companies -- and is trapped in an adverse interest growth dynamic.

Q.68) 'Somalia' does not border

- a) Kenya
- b) Djibouti
- c) Eritrea
- d) Ethiopia

Q.68) Solution (c)



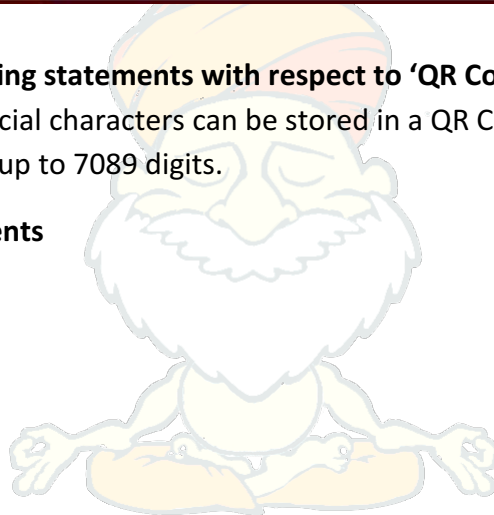


Q.69) Which of the following statements with respect to 'QR Code' is/are correct?

1. Characters and special characters can be stored in a QR Code.
2. QR Code can store up to 7089 digits.

Select the correct statements

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



Q.69) Solution (c)

Up to 7089 digits or 4296 characters, including punctuation marks and special characters, can be entered in one Code. In addition to numbers and characters, words and phrases (e.g. Internet addresses) can be encoded as well. As more data is added to the QR Code, the Code size increases and the Code structure becomes more complex.

Q.70) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Saptamatrikas'

1. They are a group of seven female deities worshipped in Hinduism as personifying the energy of their respective consorts.
2. Nataraja sculpture at Ravana Phadi cave, Aihole is surrounded by larger-than-life-size depictions of the saptamatrikas.

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only

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

Q.70) Solution (c)

Saptamatrikas are a group of seven female deities worshipped in Hinduism as personifying the energy of their respective consorts.

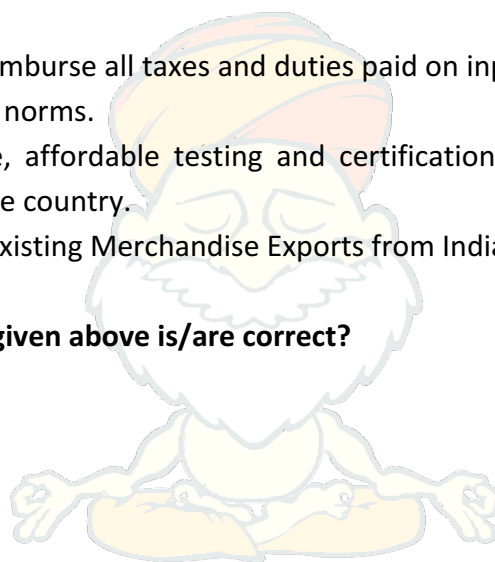
Early Chalukyan activity takes the form of rock-cut caves while later activity is of structural temples. The earliest is probably the Ravana Phadi cave at Aihole which is known for its distinctive sculptural style. One of the most important sculptures at the site is of Nataraja, surrounded by larger-than-life-size depictions of the saptamatrikas: three to Shiva's left and four to his right.

Q.71) With reference to Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product (RoDTEP) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is designed to reimburse all taxes and duties paid on inputs consumed in exports in sync with the WTO norms.
2. Under the scheme, affordable testing and certification will be made available to exporters within the country.
3. It will replace the existing Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.71) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
The Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product (RoDTEP) scheme is designed to reimburse all taxes and duties paid on inputs consumed in exports in sync with the WTO	Also by adapting to RoDTEP scheme, Indian exporters will be able to meet the international standards for exports as affordable testing and certification will be made available to exporters within the country instead of relying on	RoDTEP scheme will replace the existing Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) and create a fully automated route for Input Tax Credit (ITC) in the GST to help increase exports in India. MEIS was not WTO rules

norms.	international organizations.	compliant.
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Q.72) Which of the following National Park are located in the state of Andhra Pradesh?

1. Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park
2. Papikonda National Park
3. Mrugavani National Park
4. Sri Venkateswara National Park

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.72) Solution (b)

- **Papikonda National Park** and **Sri Venkateswara National Park** are located in Andhra Pradesh.
- National Parks in Telangana: Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park, Mahaveer Harina Vanasthali National Park and Mrugavani National Park.

Q.73) Recently, which of the following has launched 'Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize' to promote the Gandhi's ideals?

- a) Portugal
- b) Ireland
- c) Congo
- d) Kenya

Q.73) Solution (a)

- **Portugal** has **launched Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize** in order to promote Gandhi's ideals.
- Every year, the prize would be inspired by Gandhi's thoughts and quotes. The first edition of the prize would be dedicated to animal welfare.

Q.74) Which of the following is/are benefits of the Voice over Wi-Fi (VoWiFi) technology?

1. Shorter call connection time
2. Superior call quality
3. No extra charges apply for user

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.74) Solution (d)

- Bharti Airtel has introduced **Voice over Wi-Fi (VoWiFi)**, a first for India. It uses high speed Internet connection, available via broadband, to **make and receive high definition (HD) voice calls**.
- **Benefits of VoWiFi :**
 - Calls made over VoWiFi provides users with a **shorter call connection time** along with **superior call quality** compared to calls made over VoLTE or any existing cellular technology.
 - Users **don't have to pay extra** for these calls as it is using a Wi-Fi network.

Q.75) Recently seen in news, the 'Operation Clean Art' is related with

- a) Cleaning the important monument sites of India
- b) Illegal wildlife trade
- c) Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief
- d) Tax compliance norms

Q.75) Solution (b)

- **Operation Clean Art** is the first pan India operation to **crackdown on Illegal Trade in Mongoose Hair** in the country.
- It was conceived by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) with the singular aim of ensuring that the mongoose hair brush trade should be closed down across the country.

Brushes made of mongoose hair are preferred because they are superior and hold colour better.

Q.76) 'Tarun Ramadorai committee' was in news recently. It is associated with

- a) Fiscal Slippage
- b) Household finance
- c) Monetary Policy Transmission
- d) Bad Banks

Q.76) Solution (b)

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted Dr. Tarun Ramadorai committee to study various facets of household finance in India.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/savings-with-a-bonus-financial-peace-of-mind/article30300289.ece>

Q.77) India has ratified which of the following ILO Conventions?

- 1. Night Work (Women) Convention, 1919
- 2. Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention, 1919
- 3. Abolition of Forced Labour Convention
- 4. Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention

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.77) Solution (a)

All the conventions mentioned above are ratified by India except for 'Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention'

Read More - <https://labour.gov.in/lcandilasdivision/india-ilo>

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/new-rules-old-problems/article30390884.ece>

Q.78) 'Jarnail Singh vs Lachhmi Narain Gupta Case' is associated with

- a) Reservation in Promotion
- b) Right to Property
- c) Right to Speech
- d) Judicial Activism

Q.78) Solution (a)

Jarnail Singh vs Lachhmi Narain Gupta case - Question of whether the concept of 'creamy layer' should apply to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes job promotions following a request from the Union government.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/why-does-government-wants-supreme-court-to-reconsider-stand-on-scst-creamy-layer/article30233041.ece>

Q.79) The Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) is brought out by

- a) International Organization for Migration
- b) Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) International Labour Organization

Q.79) Solution (b)

The Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID). The annual flagship report synthesises the latest statistics, country/situation assessments, thematic and policy analyses. Each year it presents the most up-to-date estimates of new displacements by conflict and disasters, and the total cumulative numbers of internally displaced people (IDPs) worldwide.

Based in Geneva, Switzerland, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) is the world's authoritative source of data and analysis on internal displacement. Since its establishment in 1998 as part of the Norwegian Refugee Council, IDMC offered a rigorous, independent and trusted service to the international community.

It states that of the 30.6 million people displaced in 2017, 18.8 million were disaster-related. The U.S. ranked sixth among the top 10 countries with nearly 1.7 million people moving due to disaster-related displacements in 2017 alone. That year, China topped the list with 4.5 million, followed by the Philippines with 2.5 million people displaced due to climate-related disasters.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/californias-new-climate-refugees/article30306988.ece>

Q.80) Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

1. Chloroquine – Tuberculosis
2. Isoniazid – Malaria
3. Ivermectin – Strongyloidiasis

Select the correct code:

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

Q.80) Solution (c)

Chloroquine – Malaria

Isoniazid – Tuberculosis

Ivermectin – Strongyloidiasis

Source:

- <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/combo-therapy-using-malaria-drug-quickly-clears-tb/article30124928.ece>

- <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/controlling-tuberculosis-by-sniffing-in-a-vaccine/article29362218.ece>

Q.81) Consider the following statements about International Union for Protection of New Plant Varieties (UPOV):

1. It is established by the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
2. It is an intergovernmental organization with its headquarters in Geneva.
3. It grants an intellectual property right to breeders of new plant varieties.

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

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

Q.81) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
UPOV is established by the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV Convention). The Convention provides the basis for members to encourage plant breeding by granting breeders of new plant varieties an intellectual property right: the breeder's right.	International Union for Protection of New Plant Varieties (UPOV) is an intergovernmental organization, with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.	In the case of a variety protected by an authorization of the breeder is required to propagate the variety for commercial purposes. The breeder's right is granted by the individual UPOV members.

Q.82) In which of the following state the Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary is located?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Nagaland
- c) Manipur
- d) Mizoram

Q.82) Solution (b)

- **Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary** is situated close to the India Myanmar border in **Nagaland**.
- Hornbill, the most popular bird in Nagaland also abundantly found in the Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary.

Q.83) The Biwako Millennium Framework for Action is related with

- Persons with Disabilities
- Reducing Gender inequality
- Environmental Refugees
- Human Trafficking

Q.83) Solution (a)

- The **Biwako Millennium Framework for Action** towards an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for **persons with disabilities** in Asia and the Pacific.
- It provides policy guidelines for the Asian and Pacific region.

Q.84) National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) is the appellate tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by which of the following?

- National Company Law Tribunal
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
- Competition Commission of India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.84) Solution (d)

- **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** was constituted under Section 410 of the **Companies Act, 2013** to hear appeals against the orders of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

- NCLT is a **quasi-judicial body** that adjudicates issues relating to companies.
- Any person aggrieved by any order of the NCLAT may file an appeal to the Supreme Court.
- NCLAT is the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by –
 - i. **National Company Law Tribunal(s)** under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)
 - ii. **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
 - iii. **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** – as per the amendment brought to Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013

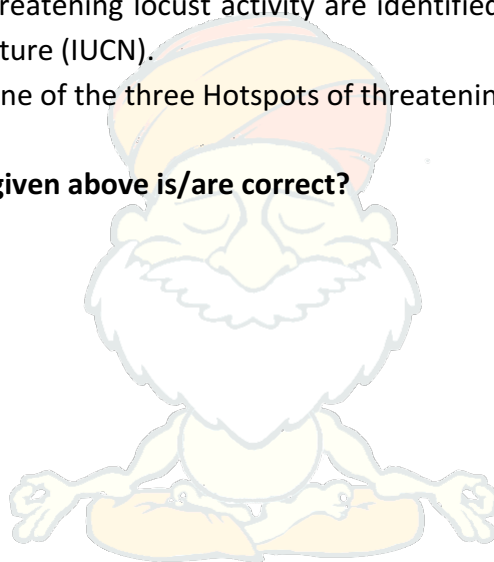
Q.85) Consider the following statements:

1. The Hotspots of threatening locust activity are identified by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
2. Southwest Asia is one of the three Hotspots of threatening locust activity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.85) Solution (b)



Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations identifies Hotspots of threatening locust activity.	FAO currently identified three hotspots of threatening locust activity , where the situation has been called “extremely alarming” — the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea area, and southwest Asia.

Q.86) KP Krishnan Committee was in news recently. It is associated with

- a) Cross-Border Insolvency
- b) Corporate Social Responsibility
- c) Corporate Governance
- d) Equal Remuneration

Q.86) Solution (a)

The committee was constituted to recommend rules and regulatory framework for the smooth implementation of cross-border insolvency provisions under the Insolvency Bankruptcy Code.

Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has now expanded the terms of reference of this panel headed by retired IAS officer KP Krishnan to cover aspects relating to enterprise group insolvency on a cross-border basis.

It will study and analyse the Uncitral Model Law for 'enterprise group insolvency' and make recommendations in the context of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 (IBC).

Q.87) Which of the following statements with respect to 'Air India' is/are correct?

- a) Air India was nationalised in 1991.
- b) It was founded by J. R. D. Tata as Tata Airlines in 1932.
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Q.87) Solution (b)

The airline was founded by J. R. D. Tata as Tata Airlines in 1932.

After World War II, regular commercial service was restored in India and Tata Airlines became a public limited company on 29 July 1946 under the name Air India.

In 1953, the Government of India passed the Air Corporations Act and purchased a majority stake in the carrier from Tata Sons though its founder J. R. D. Tata would continue as Chairman till 1977. The company was renamed as Air India International Limited and the domestic services were transferred to Indian Airlines as a part of a restructuring.

Q.88) As a common rule of thumb, 'Recession' is defined as

- a) Recession is two quarters of negative GDP growth.
- b) When the stock market falls over 40% in two weeks.
- c) When the employment rate in the country is over 10%
- d) When the global GDP falls by 10%.

Q.88) Solution (a)

A recession is characterised as a period of negative economic growth for two consecutive quarters. In a recession, unemployment will rise, output fall and government borrowing increase.

Q.89) The Human Development Index (HDI) measures average achievement in which of the following dimensions?

- 1. Life expectancy
- 2. Education

3. Per capita income

Select the correct code:

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

Q.89) Solution (d)

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a statistic composite index of life expectancy, education, and per capita income indicators, which are used to rank countries into four tiers of human development.

Q.90) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Velocity of Money'.

- 1. It is taken as the number of times that a unit of currency is used to purchase goods and services in a defined period.
- 2. The velocity of money formula divides the gross domestic product (GDP) of an economy by the money supply.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.90) Solution (c)

The velocity of money is the rate at which consumers and businesses spend money in an economy. Generally, the velocity of money is taken as the number of times that a unit of currency is used to purchase goods and services in a defined period.

The velocity of money formula divides the gross domestic product (GDP) of an economy by the money supply, as demonstrated in the calculation below:

Velocity of money = $\text{GDP} \div \text{money supply}$

Q.91) Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana:

- 1. It aims to convert the tribal wisdom into a viable economic activity and provide enhanced livelihood for tribals.
- 2. It is a Market Linked Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Program.
- 3. At unit level, aggregation of produce would be done by 30 SHGs forming Van Dhan Vikas 'Samuh'.

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.91) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana is a Market Linked Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Program targeting livelihood generation for tribals by harnessing the wealth of forest. The implementation will be done through the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as Nodal Department at the Central Level and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) as Nodal Agency at the National Level.	It aims to tap into traditional knowledge and skill sets of tribals by adding technology and IT to upgrade it at each stage and to convert the tribal wisdom into a viable economic activity and provide enhanced livelihood to about 45 lakhs tribal gatherers in one year.	At unit level, aggregation of produce would be done by 10 SHGs having about 30 members each forming Van Dhan Vikas 'Samuh' . Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVKs) will be established for providing capacity building training and skill upgradation and value addition facility and setting up of primary processing.

Q.92) Index of Economic Freedom is released by

- a) World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- b) World Bank
- c) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- d) None of the above

Q.92) Solution (d)

- **Index of Economic Freedom** measures jurisdictions against each other in terms of trade freedom, tax burden, judicial effectiveness, and so on.
- The most widely referenced index of economic freedom is produced by the **Heritage Foundation**, US based think tank.
- It ranks countries based on score ranging 0 (least free) to 100 (most free).

Q.93) Which of the following statements about Belum caves is/are correct?

1. It is the longest natural cave of India.
2. It is located in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.93) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
Belum cave is the second-longest natural cave in the Indian subcontinent. Longest natural cave KremLiatPrah caves in Meghalaya.	Belum caves are located in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. Recently Andhra Pradesh Government hosted the Belum Caves festival to popularise the Belum caves.

Q.94) International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships is known as

- a) Barcelona Convention
- b) London Convention
- c) Hong Kong Convention
- d) MARPOL Convention

Q.94) Solution (c)

- India has recently acceded to the **Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships.**
- It was adopted by International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in 2009 to ensure that ships, when being recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives, do not pose any unnecessary risks to human health and safety and the environment.

Q.95) Which of the following States are protected under Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime?

1. Manipur
2. Mizoram
3. Meghalaya
4. Nagaland
5. Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.95) Solution (c)

- Inner Line Permit (ILP) is a special permit that citizens from other parts of India require to enter a state protected by the ILP regime.
- It is issued by the concerned State government for a limited period
- It is based on the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act, 1873.
- States having ILP system: **Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Mizoram**

Q.96) The term ‘Ring Fencing’ was in news recently is associated with

- a) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)
- b) Real Estate Investment Trust (REITs)
- c) Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)
- d) Fiscal Stimulus

Q.96) Solution (a)

Cabinet cleared a proposal to promulgate an Ordinance to amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to “ring-fence” successful new bidders of stressed assets from criminal proceedings against offences committed by previous management/promoters.

Q.97) What are the possible implications of ‘Operation Twist’ by RBI?

1. Yields of Government bonds drops
2. Reduced interest rate on long term borrowing
3. Better monetary transmission

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 Only

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

Q.97) Solution (d)

RBI purchased the bond and price of bond paper moved up and the yield dropped. This leads to long term liquidity in the market which helps in reducing interest rate on long term borrowing.

Liquidity was abundant at the shorter end but not so much at the longer end. But by making liquidity available at the long end, the move will help in monetary transmission.

Q.98) 'Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)' is under

- a) Ministry of Science and Technology
- b) Ministry of Communications
- c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- d) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

Q.98) Solution (b)

The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003 giving statutory status to the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) was passed by both Houses of Parliament in December 2003.

The Rules for administration of the Fund known as Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2004 were notified on 26.03.2004. As per the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 (as amended in 2003, 2006), the Fund is to be utilized exclusively for meeting the Universal Service Obligation.

It is under the Ministry of Communications.

Q.99) Which of the following are the 'Original Principles of The Washington Consensus'?

1. Development of property rights
2. Market determined interest rates
3. Low government borrowing
4. Liberalization of inward foreign direct investment

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.99) Solution (d)

The Washington Consensus refers to a set of free-market economic policies supported by prominent financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the U.S. Treasury. A British economist named John Williamson coined the term Washington Consensus in 1989.

These are the ten specific principles originally set out by John Williamson in 1989:

- Low government borrowing. The idea was to discourage developing economies from having high fiscal deficits relative to their GDP.
- Diversion of public spending from subsidies to important long-term growth supporting sectors like primary education, primary healthcare, and infrastructure.
- Implementing tax reform policies to broaden the tax base and adopt moderate marginal tax rates.
- Selecting interest rates that are determined by the market. These interest rates should be positive after taking inflation into account (real interest rate).
- Encouraging competitive exchange rates through freely-floating currency exchange.
- Adoption of free trade policies. This would result in the liberalization of imports, removing trade barriers such as tariffs and quotas.
- Relaxing rules on foreign direct investment.
- The privatization of state enterprises. Typically, in developing countries, these industries include railway, oil, and gas.
- The eradication of regulations and policies that restrict competition or add unnecessary barriers to entry.
- Development of property rights.

Q.100) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Overall Mitigation of Global Emissions (OMGE)’.

1. It is stipulated under sub-article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement
2. It calls to ensure a net reduction in emissions, rather than just offsetting CO₂ released in one country with savings elsewhere.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.100) Solution (c)

Unlike the carbon-trading arrangements under Kyoto, Article 6.4 markets are required to ensure an “overall mitigation in global emissions” (OMGE). This means they should ensure a net reduction in emissions, rather than just offsetting CO₂ released in one country with savings elsewhere.

Q.101) JAGA Mission of Odisha protects the rights of which of the following?

- a) Women victims

- b) Tribals
- c) Slum dwellers
- d) Manual Scavengers

Q.101) Solution (c)

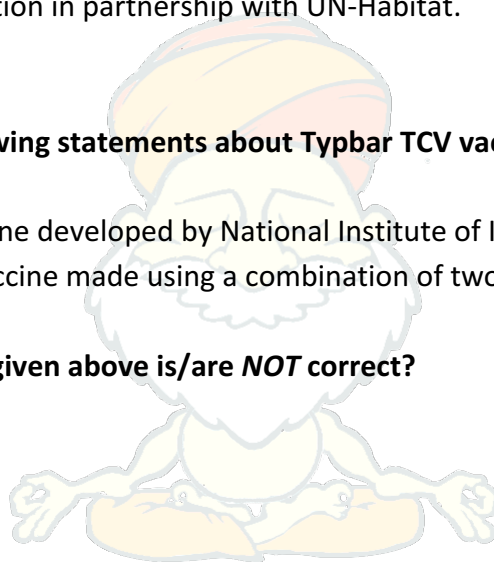
- **Odisha Liveable Habitat Mission (OLHM) or JAGA Mission** is Odisha state government's initiative to grant land **rights to thousands of slum dwellers**.
- Under the programme 1,725 slums were surveyed using drones and GIS technology, while door-to-door household survey also conducted to grant land rights certificates (LRCs) to 52,682 families.
- Exercise also involved community mobilisation to get the slum dwellers to agree and cooperation in the exercise.
- JAGA Mission won the bronze at World Habitat Awards given by World Habitat, a UK-based organisation in partnership with UN-Habitat.

Q.102) Consider the following statements about Typbar TCV vaccine:

1. It is a typhoid vaccine developed by National Institute of Immunology.
2. It is a conjugate vaccine made using a combination of two different components.

Which of the statements given above is/are **NOT** correct?

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

**Q.102) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
Bharat Biotech has developed a typhoid vaccine (Typbar TCV) has better efficacy than the previously used vaccinations in preventing typhoid fever. Typbar TCV, an antigen is chemically linked to a carrier protein to create more powerful combined immune response.	It is a type of conjugate vaccine which has already been pre-qualified by the World Health Organization's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (WHO-SAGE). Conjugate vaccines are made using a combination of two different components.

Q.103) Sometimes seen in news, 'Article 6 of Paris Agreement' deals with

- a) Climate Action Targets
- b) Transparency norms
- c) Loss and Damage
- d) Climate Cooperation Mechanisms

Q.103) Solution (d)

- **Article 6 of the Paris Agreement** aims at promoting integrated, holistic and balanced approaches that will assist governments in implementing their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) through **voluntary international cooperation**.
- Article 6 could also establish a policy foundation for an emissions trading system, which could help lead to a global price on carbon.
- Under this mechanism, countries with low emissions would be allowed to sell their exceeding allowance to larger emitters, with an overall cap of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, ensuring their net reduction.

Q.104) Which of the following are advantages of the Light detection and ranging (LiDAR) technology?

1. Data can be collected quickly and with high accuracy
2. Can be used day and night
3. Can be used to map inaccessible and featureless areas
4. It is not affected by extreme weather

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.104) Solution (d)

- **Light detection and ranging (LiDAR)** is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges to the Earth.
- The technology is used to map the land and is used to measure seafloor and riverbed elevations.

Advantages of using LiDAR

- **Data can be collected quickly and with high accuracy:** LiDAR is an airborne sensing technology which makes data collection fast and comes with extremely high accuracy as a result of the positional advantage.
- **Capable of collecting elevation data in a dense forest:** LiDAR technology is capable of collecting elevation data from a densely populated forest thanks to the high penetrative abilities. This means it can map even the densely forested areas.
- **Can be used day and night:** LiDAR technology can be used day and night thanks to the active illumination sensor. It is not affected by light variations such as darkness and light. This improves its efficiency.
- **It is not affected by extreme weather:** LiDAR technology is independent of extreme weather conditions such as extreme sunlight and other weather scenarios. This means that data can still be collected under these conditions and sent for analysis.
- Does not have any geometry distortions
- It can be integrated with other data sources
- It has minimum human dependence
- Surface data has a higher sample density
- Can be used to map inaccessible and featureless areas

Disadvantages of LiDAR

- High operating costs in some applications
- Ineffective during heavy rain or low hanging clouds
- Degraded at high sun angles and reflections
- Unreliable for water depth and turbulent breaking waves
- No International protocols
- Elevation errors due to inability to penetrate very dense forests
- The laser beams may affect human eye in cases where the beam is powerful
- Inability to penetrate thick vegetation
- Requires skilled data analysis techniques
- Low operating altitude of between 500-2000m

Q.105) Consider the following statements about Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD):

1. The IOD is a flagship initiative of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium.
2. It is a Track 1.5 discussion involving both officials and non-officials.
3. The recent Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) was held in Chennai.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.105) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
The IOD is a flagship initiative of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) . Indian Ocean Rim Association is an inter-governmental organisation aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region. The Association has 22 member states and 9 dialogue partners.	It is a Track 1.5 discussion , encouraging an open and free flowing dialogue by academia and officials on strategic issues of the Indian Ocean Region. Track 1.5 diplomacy involves both officials and non-officials (business leaders, business organizations and all possible non diplomats).	The 6th Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) was held in Delhi.

Q.106) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Front of Packet Labelling (FoPL)'.

- It was included within the draft Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2019.
- It is aimed at making consumers aware of food products that are high in fat, sugar and salt content.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.106) Solution (c)

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's (FSSAI) recently introduced draft Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2019.

The most important part of the draft rules is the Front-of-Pack (FoP) labelling and 'red-coloured' warning symbol to help identify foods high in calories, saturated fats, trans fats, added sugar and salt. The proposed FoP label will depict information on number of calories and quantity of salt, added sugar and fats per serve. The label will also include how much of

the RDA is exhausted by eating one serve of the packaged food. If salt, added sugar and fats in a packaged food exceeds a certain threshold level, the red warning symbol will appear on the package.

Red-coloured warning symbol is a very powerful approach to help consumers identify junk foods. It is a much-needed intervention for India as it will help overcome literacy and language barriers.

Q.107) A couple of US firms were sued for deaths of child labourers in which of the following countries?

- a) Mexico
- b) DR Congo
- c) Pakistan
- d) Lesotho

Q.107) Solution (b)

Five U.S. tech giants, including Apple, Microsoft and Google parent Alphabet, have been named in a lawsuit over the death of child labourers in cobalt mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Impoverished but mineral-rich DR Congo is the world's largest producer of the rare metal, which is crucial for making batteries used in mobile phones and electric vehicles.

India is second largest importer of Cobalt from Dr Congo.

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

Material – Country

- 1. Lithium – Australia
- 2. Graphite – South Africa
- 3. Manganese – India

Select the correct code:

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

Q.108) Solution (a)

Lithium – Australia

Graphite – China

Manganese – South Africa

Q.109) Which of the following countries are members of the 'East Mediterranean Gas Forum (EMGF)'.

- 1. Cyprus
- 2. Israel
- 3. Italy

4. Palestine
5. Egypt

Select the correct code:

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 5
- b) 1, 3 and 5
- c) 2, 3, 4 and 5
- d) All of the above

Q.109) Solution (d)

Members - Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Palestine and Egypt. The East Med Gas Forum is evolving into a permanent organisation, with the support of the European Union and the encouragement of the US and France.

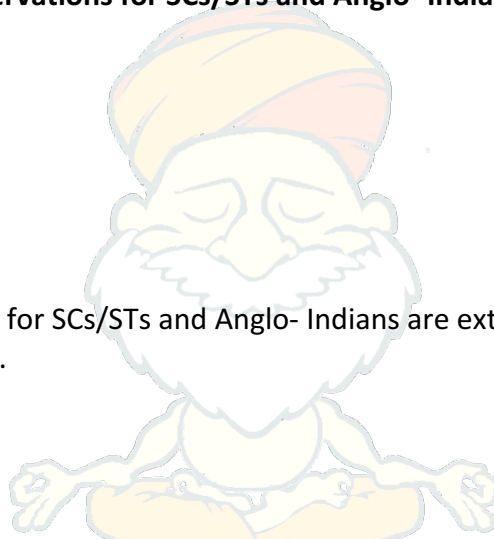
HQ – Cairo

Q.110) 'Provisions for reservations for SCs/STs and Anglo- Indians' are extended under

- a) Article 334
- b) Article 331
- c) Article 333
- d) Article 131

Q.110) Solution (a)

Provisions for reservations for SCs/STs and Anglo- Indians are extended under Article 334 (a) and (b) of the Constitution.



Q.111) Consider the following findings of the recent India Skills Report:

1. Less than 50% of students were found employable or ready to take up jobs.
2. Female employability witnessed an upward trend while that of male workforce declined.
3. Share of gig workers in the economy has increased.

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.111) Solution (d)

- **India Skills Report** is a joint initiative by PeopleStrong, a Global Talent Assessment Company, in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) along with partners like UNDP, AICTE, and Association of Indian Universities.
- **Key findings of the report**
 - **About 46.21% students were found employable or ready to take up jobs** in 2019, compared with 47.38% in 2018 and 33% in 2014.
 - **Female employability witnessed an upward trend** at 47% in 2019 from 46 % in 2018 and 38 % in 2017, **while that of male workforce declined** from 47.39% in 2019 to 46% this year.
 - **Rising share of gig workers in the economy at 13%** share in the overall hiring intent by employment type.
 - Top 5 skills that Employers emphasize on are domain knowledge, adaptability to the environment, learning agility and positive attitude and interpersonal skills.
- **Hence all the statements given are correct.**

Q.112) The Good Friday Agreement, sometimes seen in news is a peace agreement between which of the following?

- a) Serbia and Montenegro
- b) USA and Afghanistan
- c) United Kingdom and Ireland
- d) China and Hong Kong

Q.112) Solution (c)

- The **Belfast Agreement** is also known as the **Good Friday Agreement**, because it was reached on Good Friday, 10 April 1998.
- It was a **peace agreement between the British and Irish governments**, and most of the political parties in Northern Ireland, on how Northern Ireland should be governed.

Q.113) Consider the following statements about Hoolock gibbon:

1. Hoolock gibbon is endemic to India.
2. The Western Hoolock gibbon has a much wider range than Eastern Hoolock gibbon in India.

3. Both Eastern and Western species are categorized as Endangered under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

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.113) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
Hoolock gibbon is the only ape found in India. Native to eastern Bangladesh, Northeast India and Southwest China. Hence not endemic to India.	The western hoolock gibbon has a much wider range, as it is found in all the states of the north-east, restricted between the south of the Brahmaputra river and east of the Dibang river. The eastern hoolock gibbon inhabits specific pockets of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam in India.	Categorised into two types - Western and Eastern hoolock gibbon. Of the two, the western hoolock is listed as Endangered in the IUCN Redlist, while the eastern hoolock is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Redlist. Both are listed on Schedule 1 of the Indian (Wildlife) Protection Act 1972.

Q.114) UNO Stabilization Mission in which of the following country is commonly known as MONUSCO?

- a) South Sudan
- b) Yemen
- c) Democratic Republic of the Congo
- d) Somalia

Q.114) Solution (c)

- **UNO Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) or commonly known as MONUSCO**, an acronym based on its French name.
- It is a UN peacekeeping force in the DRC which was established by UN Security Council in resolutions 1279 (1999) and 1291 (2000) to monitor the peace process of the Second Congo War.

Q.115) The term ‘Vyommitra’ seen in news in the context of

- a) Cyber Swachhta Kendra
- b) Gaganyaan Mission
- c) Fake news identifier machine
- d) Solid Waste Management

Q.115) Solution (b)

- **ISRO announced Vyommitra, a Female Robot who will accompany other astronauts in the Gaganyaan mission of India.**
- She can detect and give out warnings if environmental changes within the cabin get uncomfortable to astronauts and change the air condition.
- She can also take up postures suited for launch and tasks and take commands.

Q.116) ‘Mathikettan Shola National Park’ is located in

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

Q.116) Solution (a)

It is national park in Poopara village of Udumbanchola taluk in Idukki district of Kerala.

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

1. Typhoon Nakri – West Philippines Sea
2. Typhoon Halong – Indian Ocean
3. Cyclone Maha – Bay of Bengal
4. Cyclone Kyaar – Arabian Sea

Select the correct code:

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

Q.117) Solution (c)

Typhoon Nakri – West Philippines Sea

Typhoon Halong – Western Pacific Ocean

Cyclone Maha – Arabian Sea

Cyclone Kyaar – Arabian Sea

Q.118) 'Iron Union 12', a joint military exercise between

- a) India and USA
- b) India and UAE
- c) UAE and USA
- d) India and Australia

Q.118) Solution (c)

'Iron Union 12', a joint military exercise between the ground forces of the UAE and the United States.

Q.119) 'Double Fortified Salt (DFS)' includes

- 1. Iodine
- 2. Iron
- 3. Potassium
- 4. Phosphorus

Select the correct code:

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

Q.119) Solution (a)

Dual fortification of salt with iodine and iron could be a sustainable approach to combat iodine and iron deficiencies.

Q.120) Which of the following countries open to 'Gulf of Aden'

- 1. Oman
- 2. Yemen
- 3. Djibouti
- 4. Ethiopia

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.120) Solution (b)



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