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**Q.1) World Digital Competitiveness Ranking is given by**

- a) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- b) International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- c) International Institute for Management Development (IMD)
- d) Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)

**Q.1) Solution (c)**

- **The World Digital Competitiveness Ranking** produced by the **International Institute for Management Development (IMD) World Competitiveness Center** measures the capacity and readiness of 63 economies to adopt and explore digital technologies as a key driver for economic transformation in business, government and wider society.
- India rose from 48th place in 2018 to 44th rank in 2019 as the country has improved overall in all factors - knowledge, technology and future readiness as compared to the previous year's ranking.
- The US was ranked as the world's most digitally competitive economy, followed by Singapore in the second place. Sweden was ranked third on the list, followed by Denmark and Switzerland in the 4th and 5th place, respectively.

**Q.2) With reference to Niligiri Ibex, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. It is endemic to southern Western Ghats, found only in the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
2. It is listed as endangered species under IUCN Red list.
3. Mukurthi National Park has the highest Niligiri Ibex population in wild among other national Parks.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.2) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
NilgiriTahr / Nilgiri Ibex is	Listed in Schedule I of	An estimated 700-800 Nilgiri

endemic to the Nilgiri Hills and the southern portion of the Western Ghats. Found only in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.	Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and as <b>Endangered on IUCN Red List</b> . It is state animal of Tamil Nadu.	Tahr inhabit <b>Eravikulam National Park (Kerala)</b> , making it the largest wild population in the world.
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### Prelims 2020 Exclusive :Current Affairs Classes

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### Q.3) The 'Water Revolution' frequently seen in news is related with

- Pro-democracy demonstrations in Hong Kong.
- Civil protests are taking place throughout Chile in response to increased cost of living.
- Pro-independence demonstrators in the Catalonia region of Spain.
- A campaign in the Australia to arrest increasing situation of water stress.

### Q.3) Solution (a)

- The **pro-democracy demonstrations** that have roiled **Hong Kong in 2019** is came to be known as the **"water revolution"**
- Demonstrators have adhered to a **"be water" strategy** - to be formless, shapeless like water which can flow or it can crash.
- The protests have at times been placid and calm, with millions of citizens flowing peacefully through the streets and then melting away. At other times, they have been whipped into a frenzy as clashes break out between riot police
- "Umbrella revolution" of 2014** - when idealistic youth occupied parts of central Hong Kong for 79 days calling for universal suffrage in the territory.

**Q.4) Shailesh Nayak Committee gave recommendations for the regulation of**

- a) Crypto currencies in India
- b) The functioning of media
- c) Coastal Regulation Zones
- d) Combination drug or a fixed-dose combination (FDC)

**Q.4) Solution (c)**

- **Coastal regulation Zone (CRZ)** Notification of 2018 was based on the recommendations of **Shailesh Nayak committee**.
- The committee has made some recommendations that could dilute several aspects of protection to CRZ areas. For instance, It divides CRZ III (relatively undisturbed areas including rural areas) areas into densely populated rural areas and rural areas with lesser regulation through the reduction of the “no development zone” to 50 metres.

**Q.5) With reference to National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) Scheme, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. The scheme aims to use Artificial Intelligence to make learning more personalized and customized as per the requirements of the learner.
2. It is a Public Private Partnership scheme.
3. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) would be the implementing agency for the NEAT programme.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.5) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
MHRD has announced a new National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) to use technology for better learning	NEAT is a <b>Public Private Partnership scheme</b> . It proposes to create a National Alliance with	All India Council for Technical Education ( <b>AICTE</b> ) would be the <b>implementing agency</b>

outcomes in Higher Education. The <b>scheme aims to use Artificial Intelligence to make learning</b> more personalized and customized as per the requirements of the learner.	EdTech Companies working in development of technologies in Adaptive Learning through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.	for the NEAT programme.
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**Q.6) ‘Weddell Gyre’ was in news recently. Where is it located?**

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

**Q.6) Solution (b)**

The Weddell Gyre is one of the two gyres that exist within the Southern Ocean. The gyre is formed by interactions between the Antarctic Circumpolar Current and the Antarctic Continental Shelf. The gyre is located in the Weddell Sea, and rotates clockwise. South of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC) and spreading northeast from the Antarctic Peninsula, the gyre is an extended large cyclone.

Note – Do revise the concept of gyres.

**THINK!**

- Andrex Project

**Q.7) The ‘Global Liveability Index’ is released by the**

- a) Economist Intelligence Unit
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) Heritage Foundation
- d) INSEAD

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

In India, New Delhi and Mumbai rank 118th and 119th out of 140 cities according to the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index 2019.

**Q.8) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Central Adverse List’.**

1. They are category of voters in Assam who are disenfranchised by the government on the account of their alleged lack of proper citizenship credentials.
2. They are determined by special tribunals under the Foreigners Act.

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 Only

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

**Q.8) Solution (d)****Adverse List**

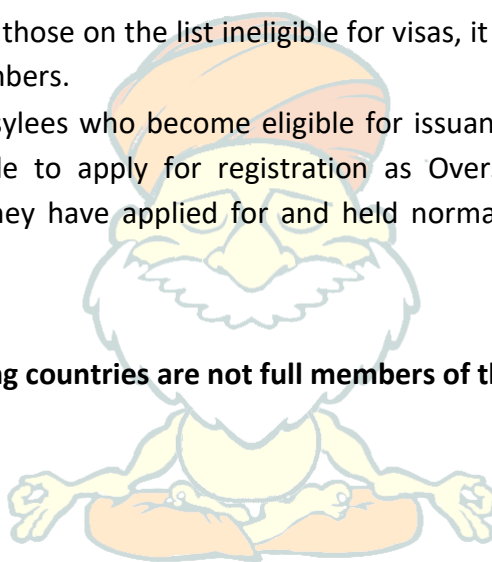
**News:** Union Ministry of Home Affairs has removed the names of 312 Sikhs of Indian origin from an “adverse list”, and only two individuals remained on the list.

**About**

- During the separatist movement in the 1980s, some Sikhs left India to avoid being arrested and became foreign nationals. They were placed in the blacklist till 2016, making them ineligible to avail visa services to visit or return to India.
- The Central Adverse List was prepared by the intelligence agencies and was available with various Indian missions abroad.
- Apart from making those on the list ineligible for visas, it also hampered the chances of their family members.
- All categories of asylees who become eligible for issuance of long term Indian visa will also be eligible to apply for registration as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder after they have applied for and held normal visas for a period of two years.

**Q.9) Which of the following countries are not full members of the ‘CARICOM Community’.**

1. Jamaica
2. Colombia
3. Mexico
4. Venezuela

**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.9) Solution (b)**

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM or CC) is an organisation of fifteen Caribbean nations and dependencies having primary objectives to promote economic integration and cooperation among its members, to ensure that the benefits of integration are equitably shared, and to coordinate foreign policy.



Full Members - Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Associate Members – Bermuda, British Virgin Island, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands

Observers – Aruba, Colombia, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, Venezuela

**Q.10) 'Faheema Shirin v. State of Kerala' Judgement is concerned with**

- a) Right to Marry
- b) Right to Internet
- c) Right to Property
- d) Right to Vote

**Q.10) Solution (b)**

Kerala High Court in its judgment titled Faheema Shirin RK Vs State of Kerala and others has taken a giant step forward by declaring clearly, categorically and convincingly that right to access internet is a fundamental right forming part of right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

**Q.11) Sometimes seen in news, the 'Yogyakarta Principles' is related with**

- a) Responsible consumption and production
- b) Human Rights in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity
- c) Water sharing across international borders
- d) Set of rules followed by the Jain monks

**Q.11) Solution (b)**

- **Yogyakarta Principles recognize freedom of sexual orientation and gender identity as part of Human Rights.**
- They were outlined in 2006 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia by a distinguished group of International Human Right experts.
- Supreme Court in Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India Case decriminalised homosexuality by striking off parts of Section 377 of IPC which were held violative of Fundamental Rights of LGBTQ Community.
- Supreme Court stated Yogyakarta Principles in its judgement.

**Q.12) Consider the following statements about NIRVIK scheme:**

1. It aims to enhance loan availability and ease the lending process for exporters and importers.
2. Insurance cover guaranteed will now cover up to 90% of the principal and interest from earlier 60%.
3. Insurance cover will include both pre and post-shipment credit.

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

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

**Q.12) Solution (a)**

- The Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) is a fully government-owned company that was established in 1957 to promote exports by providing credit insurance services.
- The Government of India had initially set up Export Risks Insurance Corporation in 1957.
- After the introduction of insurance covers to banks during the period 1962-64, the name was changed to Export Credit & Guarantee Corporation Ltd in 1964.
- Its objective was to promote exports from the country by providing credit risk insurance and related services for exports.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<b>Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC)</b> has introduced the Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS) called NIRVIK to enhance loan availability and ease the lending process <b>for Exporters.</b>	It is an <b>insurance cover guarantee that will cover up to 90% of the principal and interest.</b> The ECGC earlier provides credit guarantee of up to 60% loss.	The <b>insurance cover will include both pre and post-shipment credit.</b> The insurance cover is expected to bring down the cost of credit due to capital relief, less provision requirement and liquidity due to quick settlement of claims.



**Q.13) The term ‘Sycamore’ seen in news in the context of**

- a) Techniques of removing space debris
- b) Quantum Supremacy
- c) Antimicrobial Resistance
- d) Controlled Human Infection Model

**Q.13) Solution (b)**

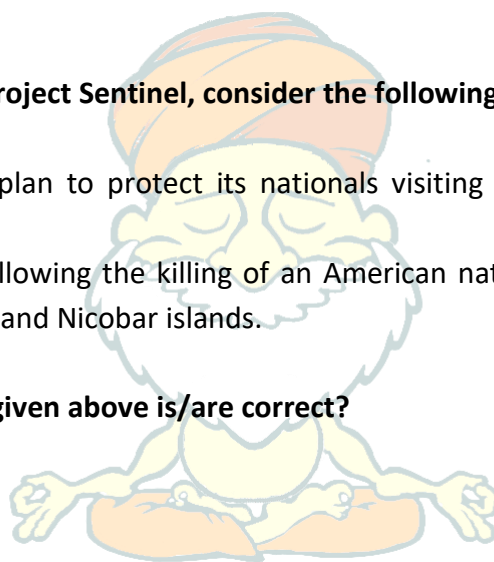
- **Google’s quantum computer**, named **Sycamore**, claimed ‘supremacy’ because it reportedly did the task in 200 seconds that would have apparently taken a supercomputer 10,000 years to complete.
- Quantum supremacy refers to a problem-solving process by the quantum computer that cannot be solved by a classical computer in its normal lifetime.

**Q.14) With reference to Project Sentinel, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an American plan to protect its nationals visiting to Island regions of Indian Ocean.
2. It was launched following the killing of an American national in the North Sentinel Island of Andaman and Nicobar islands.

**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.14) Solution (d)**

- **‘Project Sentinel’** is an American plan to protect ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz.
- Though Europe needs to keep the Persian Gulf open to guarantee the flow of oil and ensure its economic security, France and Germany have refused to join Project Sentinel of USA.

**Q.15) Pulikali is a folk art of which of the following state?**

- a) Sikkim
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Kerala
- d) Tamil Nadu

**Q.15) Solution (c)**

- **Pulikali (Tiger Dance)** is one among the **folk art forms of Kerala**. The term Pulikkali literally means 'play of the tigers'.
- The art is performed on the fourth day of Onam. Performers are painted like tigers.
- The main theme of this folk art is tiger hunting with participants playing the role of tiger and hunter.

**Q.16) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Peace Forest Initiative'.**

1. It was launched at the 14th session of Conference of Parties (COP14) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
2. It was brainchild of India.

**Select the correct statements**

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



**Q.16) Solution (a)**

South Korea launched the Peace Forest Initiative, at the ongoing 14th session of Conference of Parties (**COP14**) to the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** in India.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/korea-for-using-forestry-to-grow-peace-on-borders/article29384871.ece>

**Q.17) 'Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience' Report is brought out by**

- a) Global Commission on Adaptation
- b) UN Environment
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) None of the above

**Q.17) Solution (a)**

The report is jointly by the **Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA)** and the **World Resources Institute (WRI)**.

**Q.18) ‘Goldschmidtite’, a new mineral was discovered from**

- a) South Africa
- b) Australia
- c) Russia
- d) Canada

**Q.18) Solution (a)**

A new, curious mineral has been discovered inside a diamond unearthed from a mine in South Africa. The mineral has been named goldschmidtite, after Victor Moritz Goldschmidt, the Norwegian scientist acknowledged as the founder of modern geochemistry.

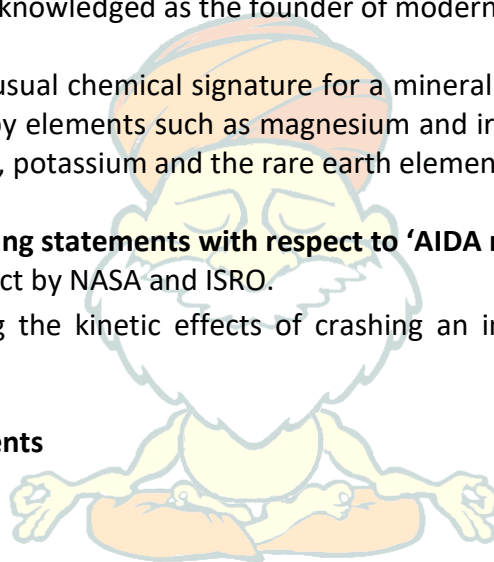
Goldschmidtite has an unusual chemical signature for a mineral from Earth’s mantle. While the mantle is dominated by elements such as magnesium and iron, goldschmidtite has high concentrations of niobium, potassium and the rare earth elements lanthanum and cerium.

**Q.19) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘AIDA mission’.**

1. It is a joint by project by NASA and ISRO.
2. It aims at studying the kinetic effects of crashing an impactor spacecraft into an asteroid.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.19) Solution (b)**

It is a joint by project by **NASA and ESA**.

It is a joint research mission to study the viability of diverting an asteroid by crashing a spacecraft into its surface. The project aims to deflect the orbit of one of the two Didymos asteroids between Earth and Mars, with an observer craft gauging the effect of the impact more effectively than ground-based observers could manage.

NASA will provide the collider, the **Double Asteroid Impact Test (DART)**. It should launch in summer 2021 and will smack into the smaller of the two Didymos asteroids at about 14,764MPH. An Italian cubesat, LICIACube, will study the moment of impact. After that, the

ESA will launch a **Hera probe** in October 2024 to study the target asteroid, including the impact crater, mass and a radar probe (the first ever for an asteroid).

**Q.20) The '1995 Basel Ban Amendment' was in news recently. It is associated with**

- a) Banking Sector
- b) Ship Recycling
- c) Waste Dumping
- d) Whaling

**Q.20) Solution (c)**

The 1995 Basel Ban Amendment, a global waste dumping prohibition, has become an international law after Croatia ratified it. Croatia became the 97th country to ratify the ban, which was adopted by the parties to the **Basel Convention** in 1995, to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes.

The Ban Amendment prohibits all export of hazardous wastes, including electronic wastes and obsolete ships from 29 wealthiest countries of the **Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** to non-OECD countries.

**Q.21) India is planning to replicate the Girinka programme of which of the following African countries?**

- a) Nigeria
- b) Gambia
- c) Rwanda
- d) Tanzania



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

- India is planning to replicate the **Girinka programme of Rwanda**.
- It is a unique programme in Rwanda, where the government gives cows to villages with the condition that the first female calf born to the cow will be taken back and given to those who do not have a cow.
- It is Rwanda's home-grown solutions designed to combat socio-economic challenges.

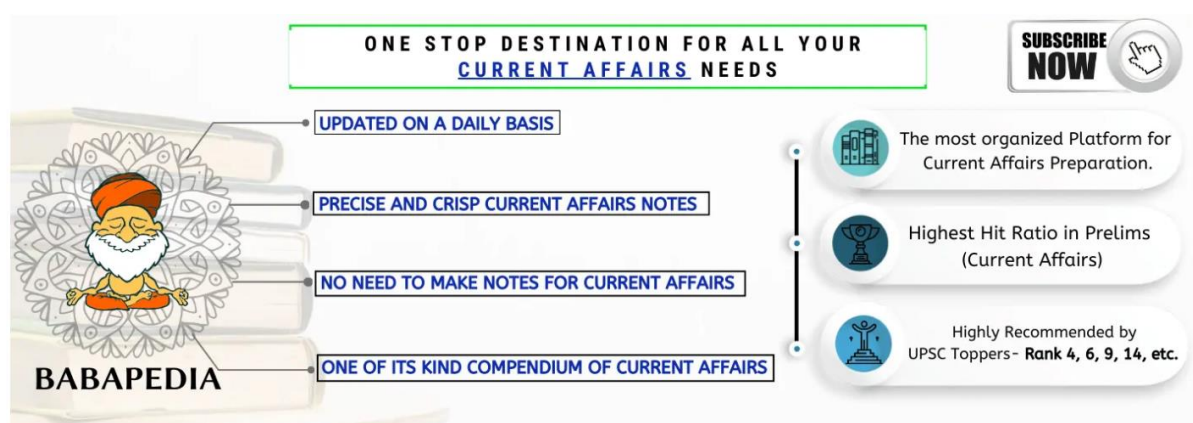
**Q.22) Hope Island seem in news is a part of which of the following sanctuaries?**

- a) Pulicat Wildlife Sanctuary
- b) Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary
- c) Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary

d) Malvan Wildlife Sanctuary

### Q.22) Solution (b)

- **Hope Island**, a part of the **Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary** located in coastal Andhra Pradesh.
- Recently a Mangrove Genetic Resources Conservation Centre has been developed in the core area of the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary in the Godavari estuary.



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Q.23) Consider the following pairs:

<i>Military Exercises</i>	<i>Countries involved</i>
1. TSENTR	China
2. MAITREE	Bangladesh
3. KAZIND	Kazakhstan
4. MALABAR	Japan

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

### Q.23) Solution (d)

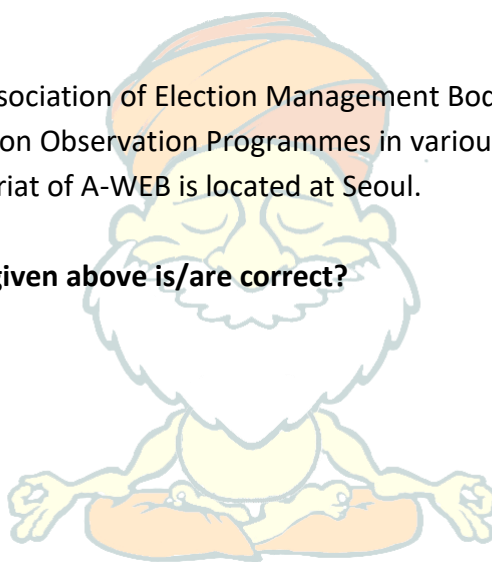
- **MAITREE-2019** will be the third consecutive army engagement between India and **Thailand's** forces.
- The 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Trilateral Maritime Exercise **MALABAR**, is scheduled between the navies of **India, Japan and USA** from 26 September to 04 October 2019 off the coast of Japan.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of annual military exercise **KAZIND 2019** between India and **Kazakhstan** army held at Pithoragarh.
- Exercise **TSENTR (CENTRE) 2019** will be conducted by Central Military Commission of Russia. Apart from host Russia, military contingents from **China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan** will also take part in this mega event.

**Q.24) With reference to 'Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)', consider the following statements:**

1. A-WEB is largest association of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide.
2. It undertakes election Observation Programmes in various countries.
3. Permanent secretariat of A-WEB is located at Seoul.

**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.24) Solution (d)**

- A-WEB's vision is to foster efficiency and effectiveness in conducting free, fair, transparent and participative elections worldwide.
- Election Commission of India (ECI) hosted the 4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) at Bengaluru on 3rd September 2019.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<b>A-WEB is largest association of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide.</b> At present A-WEB have 115 EMBs as Members and 20 Regional	<b>A-WEB undertakes</b> election ICT Programmes, Election Visitor and <b>Observation Programmes in various countries</b> to study various election management	A-WEB was established on October 14, 2013 in Song-do, South Korea. <b>Permanent secretariat</b>



Associations /Organisations as Associate Members.	practices and share knowledge with other Member of EMBs.	of A-WEB is located at Seoul.
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**Q.25) Consider the following statements about 'International Migrant Stock 2019' report:**

1. It is released by International Organization for Migration (IOM).
2. As per the report India is the leading country of origin of international migrants in 2019 followed by Mexico.

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

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

**Q.25) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
International Migrant Stock 2019 is a dataset released by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). It provides the latest estimates of the number of international migrants by age, sex and origin for all countries and areas of the world. "Global Migration Report 2020" has been released by International Organisation for Migration's (IOM).	<b>India is the leading country of origin of international migrants in 2019 with a 17.5 million strong diaspora, followed by Mexico (11.8 million), China (10.7 million), Russia (10.5 million) and Syria (8.2 million). USA hosts largest number international migrants (51 million) followed by Germany and Saudi Arabia hosting 13 million each.</b>

**Q.26) 'Gandan Tegchenling Monastery' was in news recently. Where is it located?**

- a) India
- b) Bhutan
- c) Tibet
- d) Mongolia

**Q.26) Solution (d)**

Gandan Tegchenling Monastery is a prominent centre of Mongolian Buddhists and a treasure house of valuable Buddhist heritage. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting

Mongolian President Khaltmaagiin Battulga today jointly unveiled a statue of Lord Buddha at Gandan Monastery in Ulaanbaatar.

**Q.27) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)'**

1. The PDNA tool is developed by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
2. It is supported by the World Bank, and the European Union.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.27) Solution (b)**

The PDNA tool was developed by the UN Development Group, the World Bank and the European Union as one of the key commitments of their 2008 agreement to develop and use common assessment and recovery planning approaches in post-crisis settings. The main goal is to assess the full extent of a disaster's impact, define the needs for recovery, and, in so doing, serve as the basis for designing a recovery strategy and guide donors' funding. A PDNA looks ahead to restoring damaged infrastructure, houses, livelihoods, services, governance and social systems, and includes an emphasis on reducing future disaster risks and building resilience.

The PDNA is an exercise led by the government and supported by UN agencies, the World Bank, and the European Union.

**Q.28) 'Shondol dance' is associated with which of the following regions?**

- a) Terai
- b) Ladakh
- c) Chhota Nagpur
- d) Khandesh

**Q.28) Solution (b)**

Shondol is famous dance, which used to be performed by artists for King of Ladakh on special occasion. It is known as the 'royal dance of Ladakh'.

**Q.29) 'Hangul', can be spotted in which of the following National Parks?**

- a) Namdapha National Park
- b) Dachigam National Park
- c) Galathea National Park
- d) Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park

**Q.29) Solution (b)**

The Kashmir stag, also called hangul, is a subspecies of elk native to India. It is found in dense riverine forests in the high valleys and mountains of the Kashmir Valley and northern Chamba district in Himachal Pradesh

In Kashmir, it's found in the Dachigam National Park (and its nearby areas at elevations of 3,035 meters), Rajparian Wildlife Sanctuary, Overa Aru, Sind Valley, and in the forests of Kishtwar & Bhaderwah.

**Q.30) 'Thalweg Principle' was in news recently. What is it associated with?**

- a) Border demarcation between nation states
- b) Extradition Treaties
- c) Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
- d) Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes

**Q.30) Solution (a)**

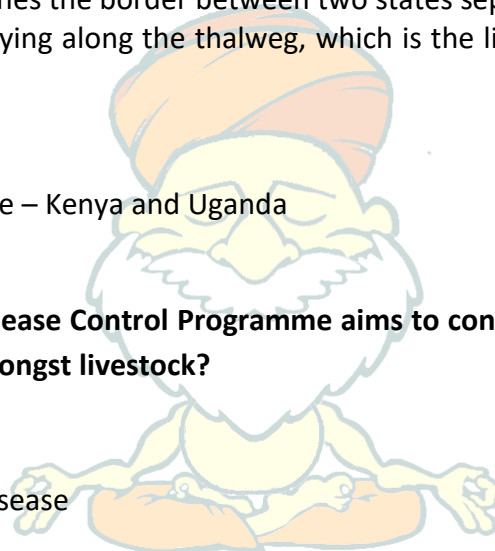
The Thalweg Doctrine defines the border between two states separated by a watercourse or flowing body of water as lying along the thalweg, which is the line of greatest depth of the channel or watercourse.

**THINK!**

- Sir Creek Issue
- Migingo Island Issue – Kenya and Uganda

**Q.31) National Animal Disease Control Programme aims to control and eradicate which of the following diseases amongst livestock?**

1. Anthrax
2. Foot and Mouth Disease
3. Brucellosis
4. Rinder Pest



Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.31) Solution (b)**

- The **National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)**, aims to control and eradicate the **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)** and **Brucellosis** amongst the **livestock**.

- Objectives of NADCP:
  - To vaccinate more than 500 Million Livestock including cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs against FMD.
  - To vaccinate 36 Million Female Bovine Calves annually in its fight against Brucellosis disease.
  - To control the livestock diseases by 2025, and eradicate them by 2030.
- The project will be fully funded by the Central Government.
- The PM also launched the National Artificial Insemination Programme and a country-wide workshop in all the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) throughout the 687 districts on 'vaccination and disease management, Artificial Insemination and Productivity'.

**Q.32) Which of the following Ministries provide grants under the 'PACEsetter Fund' Programme?**

- a) Ministry of Science and Technology
- b) Ministry of Commerce
- c) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**Q.32) Solution (c)**

- **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** awards grants to four projects in second round of **PACEsetter Fund programme**.
- The PACEsetter fund was constituted by India and the USA in 2015 as a joint fund to provide early-stage grant funding to accelerate the commercialization of innovative off-grid clean energy products, systems, and business models.
- The Fund's main purpose is to improve the viability of off-grid renewable energy businesses that sell small scale (less than 1 Megawatt) clean energy systems to individuals and communities without access to grid-connected power or with limited access.

**Q.33) With reference to 'International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)', which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. IAEA is the international centre for cooperation in the nuclear field which reports to UN General Assembly and Security Council.
2. India is a founding member of IAEA.
3. IAEA opened world's first Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Bank in its Headquarters.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.33) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
IAEA is widely known as the world's "Atoms for Peace and Development" organization within the United Nations family, the <b>IAEA is the international centre for cooperation in the nuclear field.</b> It reports annually to the UN General Assembly and also to the UN Security Council when necessary.	IAEA was created in 1957 in response to the deep fears and expectations generated by the discoveries and diverse uses of nuclear technology. Objective is to promote safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies. Total Membership: 171 (as of 5 February 2019). India is a member since 1957 ( <b>India is a founding member of IAEA.</b> )	<b>IAEA has opened world's first low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Bank in Oskemen in Kazakhstan.</b> LEU Bank acts as a last resort supply and ensures no disruption to nuclear fuel trade. The IAEA has its headquarters in Vienna, Austria.

**Q.34) Which of the following tribes can recall the name of their ancestor from 20 generations ago?**

- a) Galos
- b) Nyishi
- c) Apatani
- d) Abor

**Q.34) Solution (a)**

- Members of the **Galo community in Arunachal Pradesh can recall the name of their ancestor from 20 generations ago** i.e. right up to the founder of their clan. This is made possible by their system of naming- prefixing the second syllable of a father's name to that of a son.
- The Galos belong to the Tani group inhabiting Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, besides Tibet. Galos trace their common origin to a primeval ancestor, Abotani.

- Galo community has been recognized as a Scheduled Tribe in the Amendment to the Constitution (ST), Order, 1950, Part-XVIII.
- **Mopin is the main festival** in Galos which is celebrated for the prosperity of the villages. The Galos perform **Popir dance**.

**Q.35) Recently seen in news, INS Nilgiri is**

- A Stealth frigate built under Project 75I
- A Submarine built under Project 75I
- A Stealth frigate built under Project 17A
- A Submarine built under Project 17A

**Q.35) Solution (c)**

- **INS Nilgiri** is first of the Navy's seven **new stealth frigates under Project 17A**. It is designed indigenously by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design, New Delhi.
- It is the first major warship in India which is built using an integrated construction methodology that involves constructing small modules and assembling them together.
- Project 17A frigates are a design derivative and upgrade of the existing Shivalik class frigates with advanced features and indigenous weapons. To be built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.

**Q.36) Consider the following statements with respect to 'The "Sustainability, Stability and Security" (3S) Initiative.**

1. It was launched to address the root causes of instability in Africa – in particular migration and conflict related to the degradation of natural resources.
2. It was launched by the 'Asia-Africa Growth Corridor' at the Third India–Africa Forum Summit.

**Select the correct statements**

- 1 Only
- 2 Only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

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

The "Sustainability, Stability and Security" (3S) Initiative is an inter-governmental action launched by Morocco and Senegal to address the root causes of instability in Africa – in particular migration and conflict related to the degradation of natural resources – through an innovative approach.



**Q.37) Consider the following statements with respect to 'TReDS' platform.**

1. It is a platform for financing/factoring of trade receivables of MSME Sellers against Corporate Buyers, Govt. Departments and PSUs.
2. It is operated by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.37) Solution (a)**

TReDS is an electronic platform for facilitating the financing / discounting of trade receivables of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through multiple financiers. These receivables can be due from corporates and other buyers, including Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

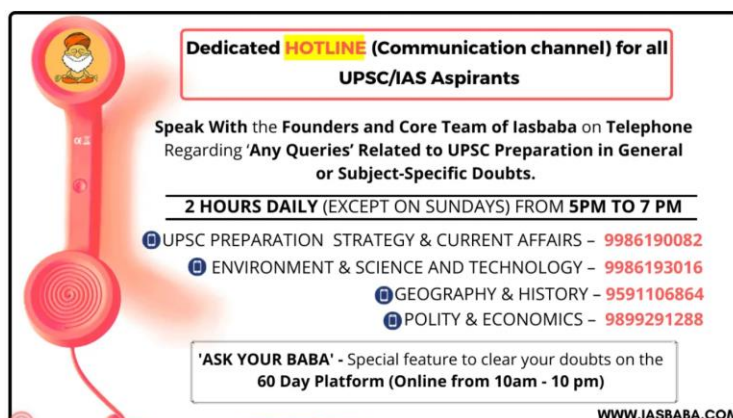
Receivables Exchange of India Limited (RXIL), a joint venture between National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has been authorised by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate the TReDS platform.

**Q.38) 'U.K. Sinha Committee' is associated with**

- a) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- b) Corporate Governance
- c) Digital Payments
- d) Data Privacy

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

The U K Sinha committee was set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to suggest expeditious ways to strengthen MSMEs.



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**Q.39) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Global Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Development Hub (Global AMR R&D Hub)’**

1. The operation of the Global AMR R&D Hub is supported through a Secretariat, established in Berlin
2. India is a member of the Global AMR R&D Hub.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.39) Solution (c)**

India has joined the Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development (R&D) Hub as a new member.

The Global AMR R&D Hub was launched in May 2018 in the margins of the 71st session of the World Health Assembly, following a call from G20 Leaders in 2017. The Global AMR R&D Hub supports global priority setting and evidence-based decision-making on the allocation of resources for AMR R&D through the identification of gaps, overlaps and potential for cross-sectoral collaboration and leveraging in AMR R&D.

The operation of the Global AMR R&D Hub is supported through a Secretariat, established in Berlin and currently financed through grants from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG).

**Q.40) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. Karnataka has the highest number of GI-tagged products.
2. Tamil Nadu leads in the number of GI-tagged agricultural products.

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

Karnataka has the highest number of GI-tagged products. However, when geographical area is factored in, Kerala has the highest.

While Tamil Nadu has the highest number of handicraft GIs, Maharashtra leads in the number of GI-tagged agricultural products.

**Q.41) India’s first international Women's Trade Centre (iWTC) is established in which of following State/UT?**

- a) Kerala

- b) Maharashtra
- c) Delhi
- d) Gujarat

**Q.41) Solution (a)**

- Kerala will set up India's first international women's trade centre (iWTC), in consonance with the United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs), in Kozhikode.

**Q.42) The term '51 Pegasi b' sometimes seen in news in the context of**

- a) Cyber Attacks
- b) Solar Mission
- c) Artificial Intelligence
- d) Exoplanet discovery

**Q.42) Solution (d)**

- Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz were awarded The Nobel Prize in Physics 2019 for discovering first exoplanet named '51 Pegasi b' orbiting a solar-type star.
- Exoplanet or extrasolar planet is a planet outside the Solar System.
- NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), a space telescope designed to search for exoplanet.

**Q.43) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Article 131 of the Constitution declares Delhi as the seat of the Supreme Court.
2. Constitution authorises the President of India to appoint other place or places as seat of the Supreme Court.

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

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

**Q.43) Solution (d)****Statement 1    Statement 2**

Incorrect        Incorrect

The Constitution declares Delhi as the seat of the Supreme Court under Article 130. Article 131 deals with original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

Constitution authorises the chief justice of India to appoint other place or places as seat of the Supreme Court. He can take decision in this regard only with the approval of the President.

**Q.44) Keeladi is an urban settlement of Sangam Age on the banks of which of the following river?**

- a) Cauvery
- b) Vaigai
- c) Pennar
- d) Ponnaiyar

**Q.44) Solution (b)**

- Keeladi/Keezhadi is a archaeological excavation site belonging to Sangam period located in Sivagangai district, Tamil Nadu.
- The excavation study suggested that the second urbanisation (the first being Indus) of the Vaigai plains happened in Tamil Nadu around 6th century BCE as it happened in the Gangetic plains.
- Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department (TNAD) published a report titled ‘Keeladi- An Urban Settlement of Sangam Age on the Banks of River Vaigai.’

**Q.45) Consider the following statements about Debug Fresno Project:**

1. Under the project, male anopheles mosquitoes carrying Wolbachia are released into the environment.
2. It uses the approach called Sterile Insect Technique (SIT).
3. It was undertaken in African countries affected by malaria.

**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.45) Solution (d)**

Under “Debug Fresno”, the male *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes carrying Wolbachia is released into environment to shrink the numbers of the disease-carrying *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes.

*Aedes aegypti* is responsible for spreading zika, dengue and chikungunya. Approach adapted is known as Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) - released male *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, made effectively sterile by carrying Wolbachia (a bacterium used to sterilise mosquitoes)

Debug Fresno is the USA’s largest release of male mosquitoes carrying Wolbachia. Similar action by Singapore is called “Project Wolbachia”.

**Q.46) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Black softshell turtle'.**

1. It is listed as 'Critically Endangered' under the IUCN Red List.
2. In India it can generally be found in Assam.

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

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

**Q.46) Solution (b)**

The black softshell turtle or Bostami turtle (*Nilssonia nigricans*), previously placed in genus *Aspideretes*) is a species of freshwater turtle found in India (Assam) and Bangladesh (Chittagong and Sylhet).

IUCN – Extinct in the Wild

**Q.47) 'Ambergris', is a term associated with**

- a) Olive Ridley Turtles
- b) Sperm Whales
- c) Indian Pangolins
- d) Red Sanders

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

Ambergris is formed from an intestinal secretion of the sperm whale. It is highly valued by perfumers as a fixative that allows the scent to last much longer.

**Q.48) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Thylacine'.**

1. Fossilised remains of thylacines have been found across the Indus Valley Civilization sites.
2. It was once the world's largest marsupial carnivore.

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

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

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

Thylacine now extinct, is one of the largest known carnivorous marsupials, evolving about 4 million years ago. The last known live animal was captured in 1933 in Tasmania. It is commonly known as the Tasmanian tiger because of its striped lower back, or the Tasmanian wolf because of its canid-like characteristics. It was native to Tasmania, New Guinea, and the Australian mainland.

Fossilised remains of thylacines have been found across Australia and Papua New Guinea.

**Q.49) Which of the following is associated with Arunachal Pradesh?**

1. Solung Festival
2. River Sisseri
3. Chapchar Kut

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

Solung Festival is a popular agricultural festival celebrated by the Adi Tribes of Arunachal. River Sisseri (known as Sissar in the Adi language) flows through Arunachal Pradesh. The Chapchar Kut is a festival of Mizoram.

**Q.50) 'Hershey-Chase experiment' was in news recently. It is concerned with?**

- a) Deoxyribonucleic Acid
- b) Antiretroviral Therapy
- c) Reverse Osmosis
- d) None of the above

**Q.50) Solution (a)**

The Hershey–Chase experiments were a series of experiments conducted in 1952 by Alfred Hershey and Martha Chase that helped to confirm that DNA is genetic material.

**Q.51) Which of the following statement is/are correct about National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED)?**

1. NAFED is the national level marketing agency for agricultural products in the Cooperative Sector.
2. NAFED was founded before the establishment of NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development).
3. NAFED is registered as a society under The Societies Registration Act, 1860.

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

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



d) 1, 2 and 3

#### Q.51) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<b>NAFED</b> is apex organization of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce in India. Its headquarters is in New Delhi.	<b>NAFED</b> was founded in <b>October 1958</b> to promote trade of agricultural produce and forest resources across the nation. <b>NABARD</b> was established on <b>12 July 1982</b> to implement the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act 1981.	<b>NAFED</b> is registered under the <b>Multi State Co-operative Societies Act</b> .

- National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) was setup with the object to promote Co-operative marketing of agricultural produce to benefit the farmers.
- Agricultural farmers are the main members of NAFED, who have the authority to say in the form of members of the General Body in the working of NAFED.

#### Q.52) With reference to 'Forest-PLUS 2.0', consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint of programme of India and United States of America.
2. It is a 2 year programme focused on forest landscape management.

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.52) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<b>Forest-PLUS 2.0</b> launched by <b>US Agency for International Development (USAID)</b> and <b>Ministry of Environment of India</b> . It was initiated in December, 2018 after Forest-PLUS completed its five years in 2017.	It is a <b>five-year programme</b> that focuses on developing tools and techniques to bolster ecosystem management and harnessing ecosystem services in <b>forest landscape management</b> . It helps India participate in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest

## Degradation Plus (REDD+).

- The targets of Forest-PLUS 2.0 are
  1. 1,20,000 hectares of land under improved management.
  2. New, inclusive economic activity worth \$12 million.
  3. Measurable benefits accrued to 8 lakh households.

**Q.53) Global Carbon Project is a research project of which of the following?**

- a) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- b) Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research
- c) Future Earth
- d) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat

**Q.53) Solution (c)**

- **Global Carbon Project** is a Global Research Project of 'Future Earth' and a research partner of the 'World Climate Research Programme'.
- Formed in 2001 to help the international science community to establish a common, mutually agreed knowledge base that supports policy debate and action to slow the rate of increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
- It integrates knowledge of greenhouse gases for human activities and the Earth system.

**Q.54) With reference to Measles-Rubella, which of the following statement is NOT correct?**

- a) Measles is a highly contagious (airborne) infectious disease caused by the measles virus.
- b) Rubella is also known as 'German measles' or 'three-day measles' is an infection caused by the rubella virus.
- c) Rubella has serious consequences if infection occurs in children below 5 years, causing Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS).
- d) Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccine is covered under Universal Immunisation Programme of Ministry of Health.

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

- India has resolved to eliminate Measles and control CRS by 2020.

- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has initiated Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccination campaign in the in a phased manner across the nation. Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccine is covered under Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).
- Measles is a highly contagious (airborne) infectious disease caused by the measles virus.
- Rubella is also known as 'German measles' or 'three-day measles' is an infection caused by the rubella virus.
- Rubella is not the same as measles, though the two illnesses do share some characteristics, including the red rash. However, rubella is neither as infectious nor usually as severe as measles.
- But Rubella has serious consequences if infection occurs in pregnant women, causing Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS), which is a cause of public health concern. Hence statement (c) is incorrect.
- CRS is characterized by congenital anomalies in the foetus and newborns affecting the eyes (glaucoma, cataract), ears (hearing loss), brain (microcephaly, mental retardation) and heart defects.

**Q.55) The Stockholm Peace Agreement aims end the conflict in which of the following?**

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Syria
- c) Palestine
- d) Yemen

**Q.55) Solution (d)**

- The **Stockholm Peace Agreement** is a voluntary accord between the parties of the **conflict in Yemen**. It was agreed in Stockholm, Sweden, on 13 December 2018.
- The Security Council endorsed the Stockholm agreement under resolution 2451 (2018).

**Q.56) The Munich Agreement was signed among which of the following countries?**

1. Germany
2. Russia
3. United States of America
4. Great Britain

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1 and 2

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

**Q.56) Solution (c)**

The Munich Agreement was signed among Germany, France, Italy, and Great Britain on September 29-30, 1938.

**Q.57) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Interpol'.**

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation headquartered in Lyon, France.
2. India joined the organisation in 2009.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.57) Solution (a)**

The Interpol The International Criminal Police Organisation, or Interpol, is a 194-member intergovernmental organisation headquartered in Lyon, France. It was formed in 1923 as the International Criminal Police Commission, and started calling itself Interpol in 1956. India joined the organisation in 1949, and is one of its oldest members.

**Q.58) Which of the following statements with respect to 'Dadabhai Naoroji' is/are correct?**

1. He helped found the London Indian Society and the East India Association.
2. He first ran for the British Parliament in 1892.

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

In 1865 and 1866, Naoroji helped found the London Indian Society and the East India Association respectively. The two organisations sought to bring nationalist Indians and sympathetic Britons on one platform.

Naoroji first ran for the British Parliament in 1886, but did not get elected. His second bid in 1892 was successful, when he won the Central Finsbury seat on a Liberal Party ticket.

**Q.59) The ‘Travel & Tourism Competitiveness’ Report is released by**

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) Economist Intelligence Unit
- c) The Lonely Planet
- d) Airbnb

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

The biennial “Travel and Tourism Competitive Report” is released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

The study scored countries on four indicators — enabling environment; travel and tourism policy and enabling conditions; infrastructure; natural and cultural rankings.

**Q.60) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

Refineries –	State
1. Numaligarh Refinery -	Assam
2. Barauni Refinery -	Rajasthan
3. Manali Refinery –	Tamil Nadu

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.60) Solution (c)**

Numaligarh Refinery - Assam

Barauni Refinery - Bihar

Manali Refinery – Tamil Nadu

**Q.61) Consider the following statements about Eight Core Industries:**

1. These are main industries which has a multiplier effect on the economy.
2. These industries comprise of more than 50% of the weight of items included in Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
3. Among these industries, refinery products have highest weightage in IIP Index.

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

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

**Q.61) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Core industry can be defined as the main industry which has a multiplier effect on the economy.	<b>Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27% of the weight</b> of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).	The 8 Core Industries in decreasing order of their weightage: <b>Refinery Products &gt; Electricity &gt; Steel &gt; Coal &gt; Crude Oil &gt; Natural Gas &gt; Cement &gt; Fertilizers.</b>

**Q.62) In which of the following states, Govind Wildlife Sanctuary is located?**

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) West Bengal
- c) Assam
- d) Uttarakhand

**Q.62) Solution (d)**

- **Govind Pashu Vihar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in Uttarakhand.
- The park lies in the higher reaches of the Garhwal Himalayas.
- The **Snow Leopard Project** started by the Government of India is being managed at this sanctuary.



**Q.63) With reference to Non-Aligned-Movement (NAM), consider the following statements:**

1. It was founded in the Asia-Africa Conference held in Bandung, Indonesia in 1955.
2. Its recent Summit was held in Venezuela.

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

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

**Q.63) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The Movement has its origin in the Asia-Africa Conference held in Bandung, Indonesia in 1955. "Ten Principles of Bandung", were proclaimed at that Conference was guiding principles of NAM. Six years after Bandung, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries was <b>founded at the First Summit Conference of Belgrade</b> , which was held on September 1-6, <b>1961</b> under the leadership of India, Yugoslavia, Egypt, Ghana, and Indonesia.	Vice President of India attended the <b>18th NAM Summit in 2019 held in Baku, Azerbaijan</b> . NAM has 120 members comprising 53 countries from Africa, 39 from Asia, 26 from Latin America and the Caribbean and 2 from Europe (Belarus, Azerbaijan). There are 17 countries and 10 international organizations that are Observers at NAM.

**Q.64) Recently seen in news, MOSAiC Mission is an international research expedition to study**

- a) Outermost part of the Sun's Atmosphere
- b) Arctic Climate
- c) Submarine Hydrothermal Vents
- d) Potentially Habitable Exoplanets

**Q.64) Solution (b)**

- **MOSAIC (The Multidisciplinary Drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate)** is an international research expedition to study the physical, chemical, and biological processes that coupled the Arctic atmosphere, sea ice, ocean, and ecosystem.
- It is the largest ever Arctic expedition in history.
- MOSAiC is the first year-round expedition into the central Arctic exploring the Arctic climate system.
- Project has been designed by an international consortium of leading polar research institutions, under the umbrella of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC).

**Q.65) Section 124A of IPC (Indian Penal Code) often seen in news lays down punishment for**

- a) Defamation
- b) Election offences
- c) Sedition
- d) Blasphemy

**Q.65) Solution (c)**

- The Indian Penal Code defines **sedition (Section 124A)** as an offence committed when "any person by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India"
- The word 'disaffection' in this section includes disloyalty and feelings of enmity.
- Sedition is a non-bailable offence. Punishment under the Section 124A ranges from imprisonment up to three years to a life term, to which fine may be added.

**Q.66) Which of the following statement is/are correct regarding GOAL (Going Online as Leaders) Programme?**

1. It is a digital skill training programme for women members of local governing bodies.
2. It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Panchayat Raj and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

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

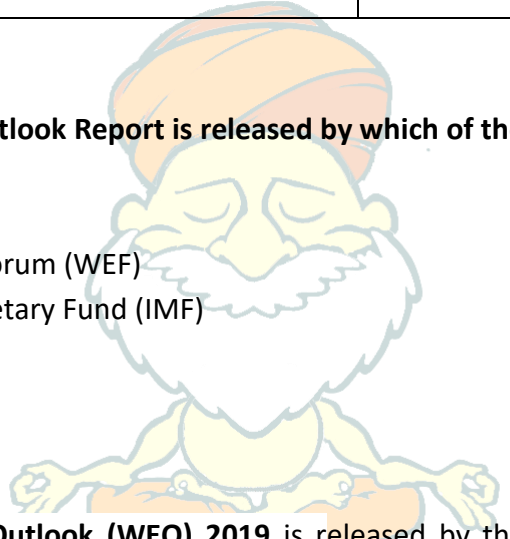
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
GOAL - Going Online as Leaders is a <b>Digital Skill Training Programme for Tribal Women</b> . The program is aimed at closing the digital gender gap by enabling more women to get online and access digital services. The program will include weekly one-to-one mentoring sessions, focused on a range of skills such as digital literacy, entrepreneurship and online safety. Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp will be part of the training.	<b>Ministry of Tribal Affairs along with Niti Aayog and Facebook are running GOAL</b> . Launched in March 2019, GOAL connects underprivileged young tribal women with senior expert mentors in the areas of business, fashion and arts to learn digital and life skills.

**Q.67) World Economic Outlook Report is released by which of the following?**

- 
- a) World Bank
  - b) World Economic Forum (WEF)
  - c) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
  - d) None of the above

**Q.67) Solution (c)**

- **World Economic Outlook (WEO) 2019** is released by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.
- It is published twice a year.
- The global economy is projected to grow at 3 percent in 2019 and 3.5 percent in 2020.

**Q.68) Consider the following statements about Guru Ravidas:**

1. He was a Dalit-poet saint from the Bhakti movement era.
2. He was a Saguna saint.
3. Muktabai was a disciple of Guru Ravidas.

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

- a) 1 only

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<b>Guru Ravidas was a Dalit-poet saint from the Bhakti movement era in northern India</b> during the 15th to 16th Century. He belonged to a community whose profession involved processing dead animals and their skins.	The 41 hymns of Guru Ravidas have been included in the Guru Granth Sahib. The famous saint poetess, <b>Mirabai was a disciple of Guru Ravidas.</b> Muktabai or Mukta was a saint in the Varkari tradition in 13th century.	He emphasized on universal brotherhood and tolerance. <b>He abandoned Saguna</b> (with attributes, image) forms of supreme beings, and <b>focussed on the Nirguna</b> (without attributes, abstract) form of worship.

**Q.69) Recently seen in news, Cape Town Agreement is related with which of the following?**

- a) Safety of fishing vessels
- b) Wreck removal and Ship recycling
- c) Marine plastic removal
- d) Oil spills prevention measures

**Q.69) Solution (a)**

- The **Cape Town Agreement** was adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 2012 to help combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing.
- The agreement is **aimed at facilitating better control of fishing vessel safety by flag, port and coastal states.**
- India is yet to ratify the Cape Town Agreement for safety of fishing vessels.

**Q.70) In which of the following emerging computer technologies the data is analysed locally, closer to where it is stored, in real-time without latency, rather than sending it far away to a centralised data centre?**

- a) Cloud Computing

- b) Cluster Computing
- c) Edge Computing
- d) Quantum Computing

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

- **Edge computing** enables data to be analysed, processed, and transferred at the edge of a network. Meaning, the data is analysed locally, closer to where it is stored, in real-time without latency.
- The basic difference between edge computing and cloud computing lies in where the data processing takes place i.e. cloud computing means storing and accessing data and programs over the Internet instead of computer's hard drive.
- Edge computing, on the other hand, manages the massive amounts of data generated by Internet of Things (IoT) devices by storing and processing data locally.

**Q.71) In the context of the affairs of which of the following is the phrase “Special and differential treatment (S&DT)” mentioned in the news frequently?**

- a) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
- b) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement
- c) Financial Action Task Force
- d) World Trade Organization

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

- **Special and differential treatment (S&DT)** are provisions which give developing countries special rights and which give developed countries the possibility to treat developing countries more favourably than other **World Trade Organization (WTO)** Members. These special provisions include, for example, longer time periods for implementing Agreements and commitments or measures to increase trading opportunities for developing countries.
- S&DT is given to all developing members due to the uneven level of development between developed and developing Members.

**Q.72) Shirui lily Festival is celebrated in the State of**

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

**Q.72) Solution (b)**

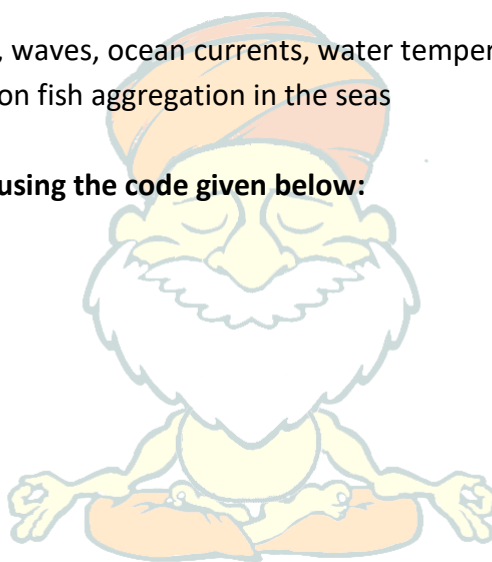
- **Shirui lily Festival** is being hosted in the Ukhrul district of **Manipur**, where flowers are in full bloom during October.
- Shirui Lily grows at a height of about 8,500 ft above sea level. It was declared as the **State Flower of Manipur** in 1989. The flower is today considered an endangered species.
- The rare, pink-white flower is only found in this area, and is also known as Siroy Lily, or Lilium Macklinae.

**Q.73) Gagan Enabled Mariner's Instrument for Navigation and Information (GEMINI) device provides which of the following information to fisherman?**

1. Disaster warnings
2. Forecasts on winds, waves, ocean currents, water temperature
3. Probable locations on fish aggregation in the seas

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.73) Solution (d)**

- **Gagan Enabled Mariner's Instrument for Navigation and Information (GEMINI) System** to aid fishermen. The device is developed for effective dissemination of emergency information and communication on disaster warnings, Ocean States Forecast (OSF) and mapping of Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ) to fishermen.
- PFZ Advisories provide information on the **probable locations on fish aggregation** in the seas, OSF provide the accurate state of the ocean. Ocean State Forecasts include the **forecasts on winds, waves, ocean currents, water temperature**, etc.
- Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) with Airports Authority of India (AAI) is utilizing the GAGAN (GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation) satellite system to transmit the PFZ, OSF and disaster warnings to fishermen with GAGAN system consisting of three geosynchronous satellites (GSAT-8, GSAT-10 and GSAT-15).

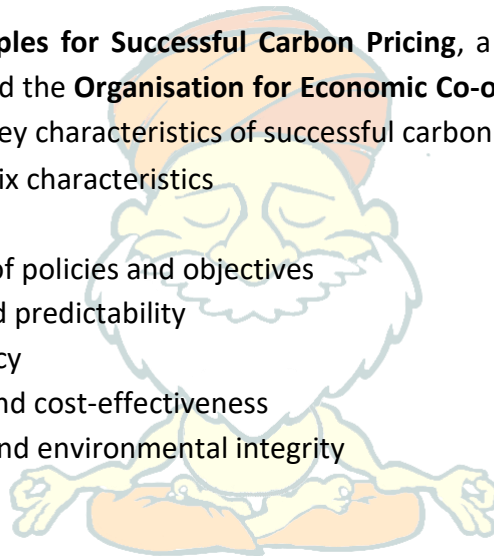
- Drawback of this device - it only allows one-way communication i.e. fisherman can't make a call.

**Q.74) Recently seen in news 'FASTER Principles for Successful Carbon Pricing' is jointly developed by**

- a) World Bank and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- b) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and UN Environment
- c) UN Environment and UNFCCC Secretariat
- d) UNFCCC Secretariat and World Bank

**Q.74) Solution (a)**

- The **FASTER Principles for Successful Carbon Pricing**, a guide jointly developed by the **World Bank** and the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, distils six key characteristics of successful carbon pricing.
- Following are the Six characteristics
  - 1) Fairness
  - 2) Alignment of policies and objectives
  - 3) Stability and predictability
  - 4) Transparency
  - 5) Efficiency and cost-effectiveness
  - 6) Reliability and environmental integrity



**Q.75) Consider the following statements about Universal Postal Union (UPU):**

1. It is a specialized agency of UN (United Nation).
2. It is the oldest international organization worldwide, established in 1874 by the Treaty of Bern.

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

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

**Q.75) Solution (b)**



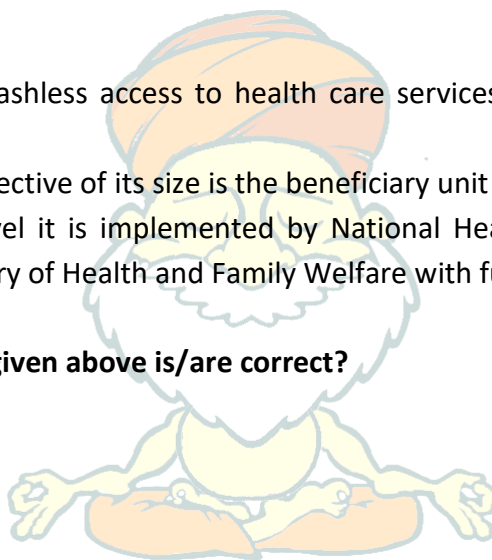
Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<b>Universal Postal Union (UPU) is a specialized agency of UN.</b> India joined the UPU in 1876. UPU's headquarter is located in Bern, Switzerland, and consists of 192 member countries. It frames rules for international mail exchange and performs advisory, mediating and liaison role between postal sector players. It sets the rules for international mail exchanges and makes recommendation to stimulate growth of the sector.	UPU was established by the <b>Treaty of Bern</b> . It was established in <b>1874</b> and is the <b>second oldest international organization worldwide</b> after International Telecommunication Union (1865).

**Q.76) Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY):**

1. PM-JAY provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service.
2. Entire family irrespective of its size is the beneficiary unit under the scheme.
3. At the national level it is implemented by National Health Authority, an attached office of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with full functional autonomy.

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

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



**Q.76) Solution (d)**

- **Ayushman Bharat**, a flagship scheme of Government of India to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) comprising of two inter-related components, which are -
  1. Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)
  2. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)
- **Key Features of PM-JAY**
  - PM-JAY is the world's largest health insurance/ assurance scheme fully financed by the government.

- It **provides a cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year** for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.
- Over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable entitled families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) are eligible for these benefits.
- **PM-JAY provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service**, that is, the hospital.
- PM-JAY envisions to help mitigate catastrophic expenditure on medical treatment which pushes nearly 6 crore Indians into poverty each year.
- It covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.
- **There is no restriction on the family size, age or gender.**
- All pre-existing conditions are covered from day one.
- Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country i.e. a beneficiary can visit any empanelled public or private hospital in India to avail cashless treatment.
- Services include approximately 1,393 procedures covering all the costs related to treatment, including but not limited to drugs, supplies, diagnostic services, physician's fees, room charges, surgeon charges, OT and ICU charges etc.
- Public hospitals are reimbursed for the healthcare services at par with the private hospitals.
- **National Health Authority (NHA)** is the apex body responsible for implementing Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY. An **attached office of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with full functional autonomy**, NHA is governed by a Governing Board chaired by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare. It is headed by a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), an officer of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India, who manages its affairs.

**Q.77) The High Mountain Summit 2019 was organized by**

- a) World Meteorological Organization
- b) Mountain Research Initiative
- c) International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
- d) Mountain Partnership

**Q.77) Solution (a)**

- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** convened the **High Mountain Summit** from 29 to 31 October 2019 at its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

- It aims to foster high-level dialogue and engage decision makers and local actors to develop a roadmap to science-based, user-driven knowledge and information systems supporting sustainable development and risk reduction in mountain and downstream regions.

**Q.78) Moscow Declaration sometimes seen in news aims to end**

- a) Neglected Tropical diseases
- b) Tuberculosis
- c) Cardiovascular diseases
- d) Mental disorders

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

- **Moscow declaration** emphasis need for fixing multi-sectoral responsibility towards ending **Tuberculosis (TB)** by 2035, the global target. It recognizes need for multi-sectoral accountability framework to end TB, which is both political and technical.
- Moscow Declaration to End TB is the outcome of first global ministerial conference on ending TB, in 2017.

**Q.79) Which of the following are architectural heritage of Mamallapuram?**

1. Descent of the Ganges
2. Olakkanneshvara Temple
3. Brihadeeswara Temple
4. Varaha Cave
5. Pancha Rathas

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

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

**Q.79) Solution (c)**

- The **Pallavas** ruled from Kanchipuram and built **Mamallapuram** into a ‘paradise city’ in the 7th century under the rule of Narasimhavarman (630-688 CE), also known as Mamalla.
- The town has a collection of 7th and 8th century religious monuments that has been declared as a **UNESCO World Heritage site**.
- Some of important structures include: **Olakkanneshvara Temple**, **Descent of the Ganges** or Arjuna's Penance, **Varaha Cave Temple** and **Pancha Rathas** (Five Chariots).
- Brihadeeswara Temple is in Thanjavur.

**Q.80) A new trapdoor spider species has been discovered and named ‘Idiops nilagiri’ after Nilagiri town, is found in which of the following?**

- a) Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary
- b) Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary
- c) Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary
- d) Kuldhia Wildlife Sanctuary

**Q.80) Solution (d)**

- A new trapdoor spider species has been discovered in a deciduous forest near Nilagiri town in Odisha. It was found in **Kuldhia Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- This is a medium-size spider that measures about 8-13 mm in length.
- New mygalomorph species has been described based on female specimens and named ‘**Idiops nilagiri**’ after Nilagiri town, from where the spider was recorded.

**Q.81) ‘Askot Wildlife Sanctuary’ is located in**

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Sikkim
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Goa

**Q.81) Solution (c)**

Askot Musk Deer Sanctuary is located 54 km from Pithoragarh near Askot in Uttarakhand state of India. This sanctuary has been set up primarily with the object of conserving the musk deer (*Moschus leucogaster*) and its habitat.

**Q.82) 'Teesta River' flows through**

1. Sikkim
2. West Bengal
3. Bangladesh
4. Tibet
5. Bhutan

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

It flows through Sikkim, West Bengal in India, Bangladesh, and Tibet.

**Q.83) \_\_\_\_\_ is the nodal agency for Fake Indian Currency Note (FICN) related cases.**

- a) National Investigation Agency (NIA)
- b) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
- c) Directorate of Enforcement (ED)
- d) Criminal Investigation Department (CID)

**Q.83) Solution (a)**

The NIA is the nodal agency for FICN related cases.

**Q.84) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)'**

1. It is responsible for the exploration, production, refining, of petroleum, natural gas, petroleum products, and liquefied natural gas in India.
2. It is under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOP&NG).

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.84) Solution (d)**

Petroleum And Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) is a department formed by Government of India under Department for the Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to administer Explosives Act 1884, Explosive Substance Act, Petroleum Act 1934, Inflammable substance Act 1952 and Environment Protection Act 1986 to control import, export, transport, storage and usage of explosive

materials, flammable materials, pressure vessels, cryogenic vessels, design and installation of all necessary and relevant infrastructure etc.

**Q.85) Consider the following statements**

1. Parts or the whole of the six northeastern States fall under the Sixth Schedule, which makes special provisions for tribal areas.
2. Sixth Schedule provides for separate Regional Councils for each area constituted as an autonomous region.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.85) Solution (b)**

The Sixth Schedule consists of provisions for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, according to Article 244 of the Indian Constitution. Passed by the Constituent Assembly in 1949, it seeks to safeguard the rights of tribal population through the formation of Autonomous District Councils (ADC).

The governors of these states are empowered to reorganise boundaries of the tribal areas. Along with ADCs, the Sixth Schedule also provides for separate Regional Councils for each area constituted as an autonomous region.

**THINK!**

- Hajong, Koch, Rabha, Boro and Mann Tribes

**Q.86) 'International Co-operation Review Group (ICRG)' is associated with**

- a) World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- b) Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- c) International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- d) Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS)

**Q.86) Solution (b)**

The FATF continually identifies and reviews jurisdictions with strategic AML/CFT deficiencies that present a risk to the international financial system and closely monitors their progress. The FATF's International Co-operation Review Group (ICRG) oversees the process.

**Q.87) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

1. Thengar Char – Bangladesh
2. Trak Island – Myanmar
3. Tulagi Island – Japan

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1 Only

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

**Q.87) Solution (a)**

Thengar Char – Bangladesh

Trak Island – India

Tulagi Island – Solomon Islands

**Q.88) 'Theyyam', a popular ritual form of worship is associated with which of the following states?**

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

**Q.88) Solution (a)**

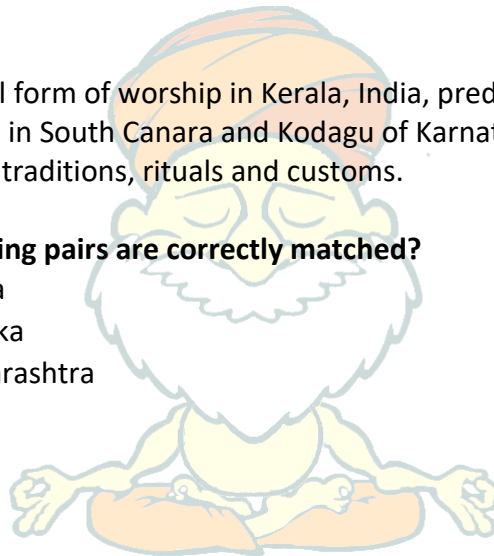
Theyyam is a popular ritual form of worship in Kerala, India, predominantly in the Kolathunadu area and also in South Canara and Kodagu of Karnataka as a living cult with several thousand-year-old traditions, rituals and customs.

**Q.89) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

- 1. Anaval Pidi – Kerala
- 2. Kambala – Karnataka
- 3. Hori Habba – Maharashtra

**Select the correct code:**

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



**Q.89) Solution (a)**

Anaval Pidi – Kerala

Kambala – Karnataka

Hori Habba – Karnataka

**Q.90) The 'Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship' was in news recently. It is associated with which of the following countries?**

- a) Ethiopia and Eritrea
- b) Israel and Palestine
- c) USA and North Korea
- d) Taiwan and China

**Q.90) Solution (a)**

The declaration marked a start to normalization of ties between Eritrea and Ethiopia .

**Q.91) 'Fire Coral fungus' which was in news recently is not found in**

- a) Australia
- b) India
- c) Japan
- d) Papua New Guinea

**Q.91) Solution (b)**

The fungus was once thought to be only native to Korea and Japan, but recent discoveries have been made in Java, Papua and northern Australia.

**Q.92) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Matua Mahasangha'.**

1. It was launched as a reformation by the followers of Swami Vivekananda.
2. It originated in the North West Frontier Province.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.92) Solution (d)**

Matua Mahasangha or MMS is a religious reformation movement that originated in what is today Bangladesh, with a considerable number of adherents both in Bangladesh as well as in West Bengal in India. Matua is a sect of Vaishnavite Hinduism. The movement was launched as a reformation by the followers of Harichand Thakur.

**Q.93) 'Gossypol' was in news recently. It is associated with which of the following crops?**

- a) Cotton
- b) Mustard
- c) Paddy
- d) Ragi

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

Gossypol is a natural phenol derived from the cotton plant.

**Q.94) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Skandagupta'.**

1. He was the last emperor in India to be given the title of Vikramaditya.
2. He successfully fought the battle against the invading Huns.

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 Only



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

**Q.94) Solution (c)**

Skandagupta was the last emperor in India to be given the title of Vikramaditya. He successfully defeated rampaging herds of Huns from running over India in the fourth century AD.

**Q.95) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bombay blood group'.**

1. The group is deficient in expressing antigen H.
2. Bombay blood group can donate their blood to A,B,O blood types.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.95) Solution (c)**

The Bombay blood group, also called hh, is deficient in expressing antigen H, meaning the RBC has no antigen H. The difference is that the O group has Antigen H, while the hh group does not.

A person with a Bombay blood group can give blood to an ABO blood group person. But they can't receive blood from them. A person can take blood only from its own blood type ie Hh blood type.

**Q.96) The Huns were Nomadic People from which of the following regions?**

- a) Central Asia
- b) Northern Africa
- c) South East Asia
- d) North East Asia

**Q.96) Solution (a)**

The Huns were a nomadic people who lived in Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Eastern Europe, between the 4th and 6th century AD.

**Q.97) 'State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2019-20' Report was released by**

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Reserve Bank of India
- c) Ministry of Finance
- d) GST Council

**Q.97) Solution (b)**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the report titled “State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2019-20”, an annual publication that provides information, analysis and an assessment of the finances of state governments. This publication has been prepared in the Division of State Finances of the Department of Economic and Policy Research.

**Q.98) ‘Rajiv Gauba Committee’ is associated with which of the following sectors?**

- a) Telecom Sector
- b) Education Sector
- c) Health Sector
- d) Energy Sector

**Q.98) Solution (a)**

The government has set up a committee of secretaries (CoS) under Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba to suggest measures to mitigate financial stress in the telecom sector, which is looking at a payout of Rs 1.33 trillion to clear statutory dues.

**Q.99) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (CPLC)’**

1. The CPLC Secretariat is administered by The World Bank Group.
2. It is a voluntary partnership of national and sub-national governments.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.99) Solution (c)**

The Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (CPLC) is a voluntary initiative that catalyzes action towards the successful implementation of carbon pricing around the world. The CPLC brings together leaders from government, business, civil society and academia to support carbon pricing, share experiences and enhance the global, regional, national and sub-national understanding of carbon pricing implementation. The CPLC Secretariat is administered by The World Bank Group.

CPLC is a voluntary partnership of 34 national and sub-national governments, over 164 businesses from a range of sectors and regions, and upwards of 85 strategic partners representing civil society organizations, NGOs, and academic institutions.

**Q.100) ‘FASTER principles’ is concerned with**

- a) Electric Vehicles
- b) Carbon Pricing
- c) Banking Regulations
- d) Multilateral Tax Treaties

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

The FASTER principles for successful carbon pricing is developed by OECD and the World Bank Group.

**Q.101) 'Currency Derivatives' in Indian Pairs like 'USDINR' and 'GBPINR' are traded on**

- a) NFO
- b) BSE
- c) MCX
- d) CDS

**Q.101) Solution (d)**

'Currency Derivatives' in Indian Pairs like 'USDINR' and 'GBPINR' are traded on CDS (NSE Currency Derivative Segment).

**Q.102) Recently announced Einstein Challenge, is related to which of the following?**

- a) To ensure the ideals of Gandhi are remembered by future generations.
- b) To build all modules in a timely manner for India's own Space station.
- c) To develop innovative solutions to the social problems of India.
- d) To make all urban areas within India Open Defecation Free (ODF).

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

- PM Modi announced **Einstein Challenge to ensure the ideals of Gandhi are remembered by future generations.**
- In this he invited thinkers, entrepreneurs and tech leaders to take the lead to spread Gandhi's ideas through innovation.

**Q.103) Consider the following statements about C40 Clean Air Cities Declaration:**

1. It was unveiled at the WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health.
2. Delhi is the only Indian city to sign the declaration.

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

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

**Q.103) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<b>‘C40 Clean Air Cities Declaration’ was unveiled at the C40 World Mayors Summit.</b> Through this Declaration, mayors commit to using their power and influence to reduce air pollution and work towards meeting the WHO’s Air Quality Guidelines.	Among 35 cities, <b>Bengaluru and Delhi</b> are the two Indian cities signing the C40 Clean Air Cities Declaration. Six Indian cities are currently members of C40: Bengaluru; Chennai; Delhi NCT; Jaipur; Kolkata and Mumbai.

**Q.104) The Future Investment Initiative (FII) is an annual investment forum held in**

- a) Switzerland
- b) Saudi Arabia
- c) Singapore
- d) South Africa

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

- **The Future Investment Initiative (FII) is an annual investment forum held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.**
- It is held to discuss trends in the world economy and investment environment in the context of the Saudi Vision 2030 program of economic and social reform to diversify the kingdom’s economy and reduce its dependence on petroleum products.
- It is hosted by the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia (PIF), Saudi Arabia's main sovereign wealth fund.
- The Future Investment Initiative (FII) is widely described as **“Davos in the desert”**. The informal name derives from the World Economic Forum’s annual meeting that is held in Davos, Switzerland, where world leaders discuss agendas for pressing international issues.

**Q.105) Recently seen in news, Phazolicin is**

- a) A semi-Dirac metal
- b) An organoid grown in lab
- c) A new antibiotic discovered
- d) A cancer drug discovered

**Q.105) Solution (c)**

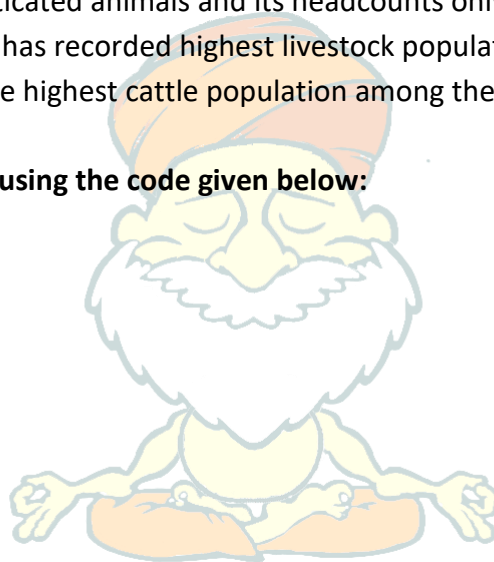
- Phazolicin is a new antibiotic discovered in the soil of a tropical rainforest of Mexico.
- Found in the root nodules of wild beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*), this unusual antibiotic is produced by a symbiotic soil bacterium.
- The bacterium that produces phazolicin is an unidentified species of *Rhizobium*.
- The antibiotic phazolicin is a class of peptide produced in the ribosome.
- This has specific application in agriculture.

**Q.106) Which of the following is/are correct regarding the 20<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census of India?**

1. It covers all domesticated animals and its headcounts only in rural areas.
2. Uttar Pradesh (UP) has recorded highest livestock population followed by Rajasthan.
3. West Bengal has the highest cattle population among the Indian States.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.106) Solution (c)**

- Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has released the 20th Livestock Census report.
- The total Livestock population is **535.78** million in the country showing an increase of **4.6%** over Livestock Census-2012.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<b>Census covers all domesticated animals and its headcounts both in rural and urban areas.</b> Various species of animals (Cattle, Buffalo, Yak, Sheep, Goat, Pig, Donkey Camel, Dog, Rabbit, Elephant etc.)/poultry birds possessed by the households,	State-wise <b>Uttar Pradesh (UP)</b> has recorded <b>highest livestock population</b> in 2019 followed by Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Andhra	In terms of cattle population, <b>West Bengal</b> has the <b>highest</b> population followed by Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra.

enterprises and institutions are counted at their site.	Pradesh and Maharashtra.	
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**Q.107) As per Global Hunger Index (GHI) Report 2019, the severity of hunger problem of India falls in which of the following category?**

- a) Low
- b) Moderate
- c) Serious
- d) Alarming

**Q.107) Solution (c)**

- In the recently released Global Hunger Index (GHI) Report-2019, **India** was ranked at 102nd position out of 117 countries. **With the score of 30.3, it is listed as country with 'serious' hunger problem.**
- The report is an annual publication that is jointly prepared by the Concern Worldwide (an Irish agency) and the Welt Hunger Hilfe (a German organization).
- The report is based on four GHI indicators namely, undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality.

**Q.108) Which of the following global efforts aims to conserve Snow Leopard?**

1. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Program
2. Global Tiger Initiative
3. SECURE Himalaya

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

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

**Q.108) Solution (d)**

- All the 3 programmes aim to protect the Vulnerable (IUCN status) Snow Leopard.
- The 12 Snow Leopard Range countries: India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Mongolia, Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

- **Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Program (GSLEP)** is an inter-governmental alliance of all the 12 Snow Leopard range countries.
- The GSLEP is a range-wide effort that unites range country governments, nongovernmental and inter-governmental organizations, local communities, and the private sector around a shared vision to conserve snow leopards and their valuable high-mountain ecosystems.
- The **Global Tiger Initiative (GTI)** was launched in 2008 as a global alliance of governments, international organizations, civil society, the conservation and scientific communities and the private sector, with the aim of working together to save wild tigers from extinction. In **2013, the scope was broadened to include Snow Leopards.**
- The **SECURE Himalaya** project is working in select **Snow Leopard** landscapes of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim to develop a long-term strategy to conserve the **Snow Leopard** and its ecosystems, by adopting a landscape-based approach.

**Q.109) Sometimes seen in news, Soli Chip Technology is developed by**

- a) Google
- b) Qualcomm
- c) Samsung
- d) Intel

**Q.109) Solution (a)**

- **Google's ATAP (Advanced Technology and Projects) division** has been developing **Soli Chip technology**, which can be used in wearables, phones, computers, cars and IoT devices.
- Recently launched Google Pixel 4 uses a radar-based Soli chip to introduce Motion Sense, a feature that provides similar touchless gesture-based controls.
- Soli is a dedicated radar chip on the front of the Pixel to collect raw data of hand gestures and then interpret them correctly for the right commands.
- Soli relies on a custom-built Machine Learning (ML) model to understand a large range of possible movements.

**Q.110) Consider the following statements:**

1. RBI will setup the framework for Acceptance Development Fund (ADF) to increase acceptance of debit and credit cards in tier II cities.
2. It was recommended by the Nandan Nilekani Committee.

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.110) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
RBI has said that the <b>framework for Acceptance Development Fund (ADF) will be set up to increase acceptance of debit and credit cards in tier III and VI cities.</b>	This was indicated in the Payment System Vision Document 2021 of RBI and <b>also recommended by the Committee</b> on Deepening of Digital Payments (Chaired by <b>Nandan Nilekani</b> ).

**Q.111) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. States' gross fiscal deficit (GFD) has remained within the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM) threshold of 3% of gross domestic product (GDP) during 2017-18
2. States' gross fiscal deficit (GFD) has exceeded the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM) threshold of 3% of gross domestic product (GDP) during 2018-19.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.111) Solution (a)**

States' gross fiscal deficit (GFD) has remained within the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM) threshold of 3% of gross domestic product (GDP) during 2017-18 and 2018-19.

**Q.112) 'Urban Cooperative Banks' are under the regulation and supervision of**

1. Reserve Bank of India
2. Central Government
3. State Governments

**Select the correct code:**



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

**Q.112) Solution (d)**

UCBs are only partly regulated by the RBI. While their banking operations are regulated by the RBI, which lays down their capital adequacy, risk control and lending norms, their management and resolution in the case of distress is regulated by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies either under the State or Central government.

**Q.113) The term 'Forward guidance' is economic parlance is associated with**

- a) Monetary Policy
- b) Fiscal Slippage
- c) Strategic Disinvestment
- d) Micro Finance Institutions

**Q.113) Solution (a)**

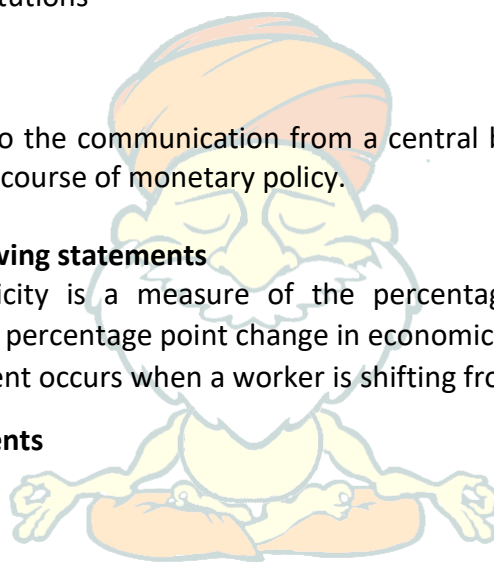
Forward guidance refers to the communication from a central bank about the state of the economy and likely future course of monetary policy.

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

1. Employment elasticity is a measure of the percentage change in employment associated with a 1 percentage point change in economic growth.
2. Open Unemployment occurs when a worker is shifting from one job to the other.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.114) Solution (a)**

Open unemployment is a situation where in a large section of the labour force does not get a job that may yield them regular income.

Employment elasticity is a measure of the percentage change in employment associated with a 1 percentage point change in economic growth. The employment elasticity indicates the ability of an economy to generate employment opportunities for its population as per cent of its growth (development) process.

**Q.115) The Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) is applicable to**

1. Commercial banks
2. Urban Cooperative banks
3. NBFCs

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.115) Solution (a)**

The PCA framework is applicable only to commercial banks and not extended to co-operative banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to impose restrictions on urban cooperative banks (UCBs) for deterioration of financial position, in line with the prompt corrective action (PCA) framework that is imposed on commercial banks.

Under this revised **Supervisory Action Framework (SAF)**, UCBs will face restrictions for worsening of three parameters: when net non-performing assets exceed 6% of net advances, when they incur losses for two consecutive financial years or have accumulated losses on their balance sheets, and if capital adequacy ratio falls below 9%.

**Q.116) Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPSS) is associated with**

- a) PM-AASHA
- b) PM-KISAN
- c) Soil Health Card Scheme
- d) RKVY-RAFTAAR

**Q.116) Solution (a)**

The Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPSS) is part of the wider umbrella of PM-AASHA framed to ensure maximum farmers get the benefit of MSP.

**Q.117) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Photochemical Smog'.**

1. It tends to occur more often in winter.
2. It depends on primary pollutants as well as the formation of secondary pollutants.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.117) Solution (b)**

Photochemical smog is a mixture of pollutants that are formed when nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) react to sunlight, creating a brown haze above cities. It tends to occur more often in summer, because that is when we have the most sunlight.

The two major primary pollutants, nitrogen oxides and VOCs, combine to change in sunlight in a series of chemical reactions, outlined below, to create what are known as secondary pollutants.

The secondary pollutant that causes the most concern is the ozone that forms at ground level. While ozone is produced naturally in the upper atmosphere, it is a dangerous substance when found at ground level. Many other hazardous substances are also formed, such as peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN).

**Q.118) 'Tangkhuls' primarily live in the state of**

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

**Q.118) Solution (a)**

The Tangkhuls are a major ethnic group living in the Indo-Burma border area occupying the Ukhrul district in Manipur, India and the Somra tract hills, Layshi township, Homalin township and Tamu Township in Burma.

**Q.119) Which of the following pairs are incorrectly matched?**

- 1. Transnistria – Spain
- 2. Somaliland – Senegal
- 3. Mindanao – Philippines

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

Transnistria – Moldova  
Somaliland – Somalia  
Mindanao – Philippines



**Q.120) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Nuclear Energy Agency'.**

- 1. It is under the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.
- 2. It is an intergovernmental agency that facilitates co-operation among countries with advanced nuclear technology infrastructures to seek excellence in nuclear safety, technology, science, environment and law.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.120) Solution (c)**

The Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) is an intergovernmental agency that facilitates co-operation among countries with advanced nuclear technology infrastructures to seek excellence in nuclear safety, technology, science, environment and law. The NEA, which is under the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, is headquartered in Paris, France.

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