



IASBABA'S PRELIMS EXCLUSIVE PROGRAMME (PEP) 2021

CURRENT AFFAIRS TEST JANUARY 2020

Q.1) Solution (b)

Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)

- RATS headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, is a permanent organ of the SCO which serves to promote cooperation of member states against the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism.
- The Head of RATS is elected to a three-year term. Each member state also sends a permanent representative to RATS.

Q.2) Solution (b)

Pensi-la (Pensi Pass) is a mountain pass in the Ladakh. It is known as the Gateway to Zaskar. Pensi La is 14,436 ft above sea level and connects the Suru Valley region to the Zaskar Valley region.

The pass is about 25 km from Rangdum Monastery.

Q.3) Solution (a)

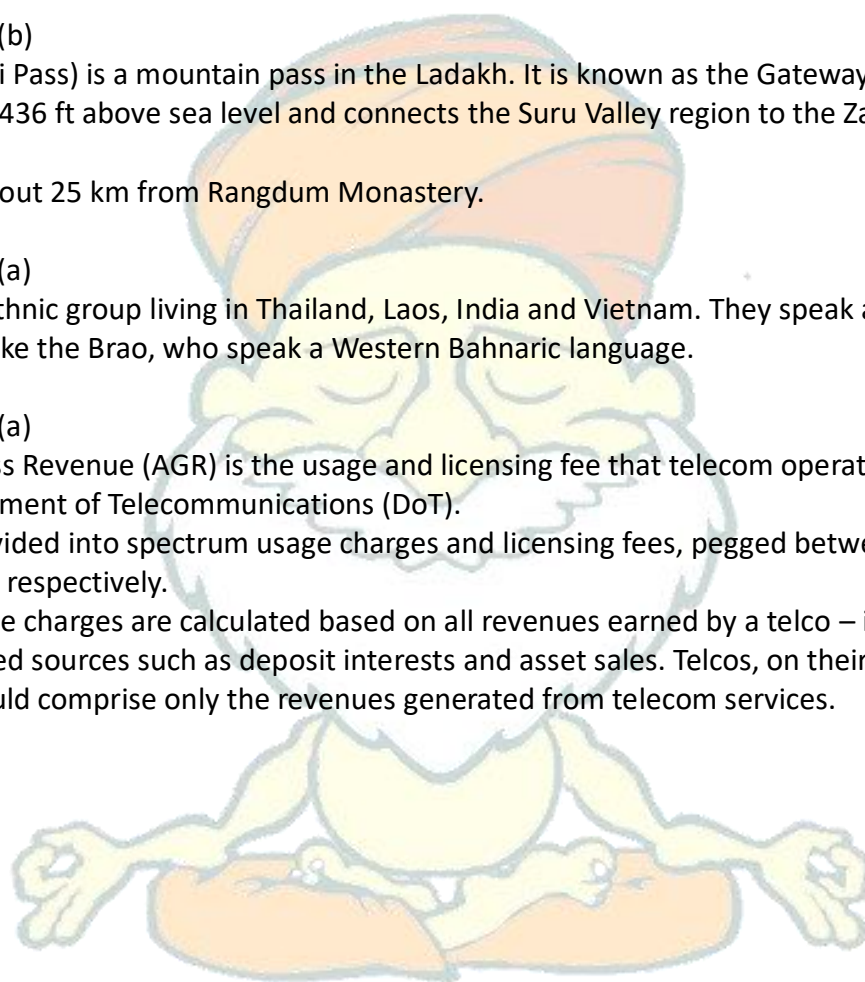
They are an ethnic group living in Thailand, Laos, India and Vietnam. They speak a Katuic language, unlike the Brao, who speak a Western Bahnaric language.

Q.4) Solution (a)

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) is the usage and licensing fee that telecom operators are charged by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

The AGR is divided into spectrum usage charges and licensing fees, pegged between 3-5 percent and 8 percent respectively.

As per DoT, the charges are calculated based on all revenues earned by a telco – including non-telecom related sources such as deposit interests and asset sales. Telcos, on their part, insist that AGR should comprise only the revenues generated from telecom services.



THE ISSUE

AGR is annual revenue from all carriers combined that accrues to the government. Licence fees, SUC is paid as a percentage of this revenue. Lower the AGR, lower all levies, fees and payouts to the government

Definition of AGR has been a contentious issue since 2003, with operators arguing that definition in licence agreement was broad, covers non-core revenue and government saying all revenue should be included

WHAT TELCOS SAY

Revenue arising out of rendering telecom services should comprise AGR

WHAT TELECOM DEPARTMENT SAYS

A telco's AGR should include all revenue earned by a service provider, including that emanating from non-core sources such as rent, profit on sale of fixed assets or **sale of scrap, corporate deposits, real estate transactions, handset sales, dividend income** and interest and miscellaneous income

NOTE

A single judge bench of Tripura High Court in May ruled that revenue of telcos from 'non-licensed activities' cannot be included while computing a carrier's AGR

WHY NOW

Last week, CAG said that Bharti Airtel, Vodafone India, Idea Cellular, Aircel, Reliance Communications and Sistema Shyam Teleservices understated their revenue by **₹61,064.5 crore**

SSTL from FY 2006-07 till FY 2014-15

First five telcos were reviewed from FY 2010-11 till FY 2014-15

CAG had also found Bharti Airtel, Vodafone India, Idea Cellular, Reliance Communications, Tata Teleservices and Aircel understated income by **₹46,045.75 cr** from 2006-07 to 2009-10

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Q.5) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
It is a multi-stakeholder initiative to bring together governments, the private sector and civil society to promote high-quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development. The network is “ratings mechanism” that would grade infrastructure projects in the Indo-Pacific region on different parameters to ensure transparency and is planned as direct counter to China’s Belt and Road Initiative.	It has been jointly launched by the US Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

Q.6) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
Kerala was the first state to adopt a code of conduct for elections.	The MCC is not enforceable by law. However, certain provisions of the MCC may be enforced through invoking corresponding provisions in other statutes such as the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Q.7) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
A very small aperture terminal (VSAT) is a two-way ground station that transmits and receives data from satellites.	VSAT handles data, voice, and video signals.

Additional Information:

It is a satellite communications system that serves home and business users. A VSAT end user needs a box that interfaces between the user's computer and an outside antenna with a transceiver. The transceiver receives or sends a signal to a satellite transponder in the sky. The satellite sends and receives signals from an earth station computer that acts as a hub for the system. Each end user is interconnected with the hub station via the satellite in a star topology.

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For one end user to communicate with another, each transmission has to first go to the hub station which retransmits it via the satellite to the other end user's VSAT.

Q.8) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is a statutory body under Ministry of Power.	Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is nominated as the Central Nodal Agency to facilitate installation of Charging Infrastructure.

Q.9) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Through the SLP, an aggrieved party can appeal to higher authorities against any judgement passed by any court or tribunal. This leave is granted when the case involves a question of law relevant to the general public as well.	The Constitution of India, under article 136, gives the Supreme Court the power to grant special permission or leave to an aggrieved party to appeal against an order passed in any of the lower courts or tribunals in India.

Q.10) Solution (d)

The Biligirirangana Hills, commonly called BR Hills, is a hill range situated in south-eastern Karnataka, at its border with Tamil Nadu (Erode District) in South India. The area is called Biligiriranganatha Swamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary or simply BRT Wildlife Sanctuary. It is a protected reserve under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972. Being at the starting point of the Eastern Ghats and very close to Western Ghats, the sanctuary is home to eco-systems that are unique to both the mountain ranges.

Q.11) Solution (c)

Treaty of Yandabo

- It was the peace treaty that ended the First Anglo-Burmese War.
- The Treaty of Yandaboo treaty brought peace between East India Company and the King of Ava that ended the first Anglo-Burmese war.
- The treaty was signed on 24 February 1826, nearly two years after the war formally broke out on 5 March 1824, by General Sir Archibald Campbell on the British side, and the Governor of Legaing Maha Min Hla Kyaw Htin from the Burmese side.
- With the British army at Yandabo village, only 80 km from the capital Ava, the Burmese were forced to accept the British terms without discussion.

According to the treaty, the Burmese agreed to:

- Cede to the British Assam, Manipur, Rakhine (Arakan), and the Taninthayi (Tenasserim) coast south of the Salween River.
- Cease all interference in Cachar and the Jaintia Hills district.
- Pay an indemnity of one million pounds sterling in four installments.
- Allow an exchange of diplomatic representatives between Ava and Calcutta.
- Sign a commercial treaty in due course.

Q.12) Solution (c)

East Asian Observatory

- India is in preliminary discussions to be a part of the East Asian Observatories Consortium of eight countries committed to build large telescopes and pool resources.
- The EAO (East Asian Observatory) is formed by EACOA (East Asian Core Observatories Association) for the purpose of pursuing joint projects in astronomy within the East Asian region.
- The EAO is chartered as a non-profit Hawaii corporation. Its first task is to assume the operation of the James Clerk Maxwell Submillimetre Telescope (JCMT) on the summit of Maunakea, Hawai'i. Pursuant to an agreement with the University of Hawaii, the EAO also provides engineering and IT support to the UKIRT Observatory (UKIRT).
- Partners – China, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia.

Q.13) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
It is a proposed extremely large telescope (ELT) that has become controversial due to its planned location on Mauna Kea, on the island of Hawaii, a mountain which is considered sacred by some Native Hawaiians.	The TMT has government-level support from the following countries: Canada, China, Japan and India. The United States is also contributing some funding, but less than the formal partnership. It is being designed and developed by the TMT International Observatory LLC (TIO). The TIO is a non-profit international partnership between the California Institute of Technology, the University of California, the National Institutes of Natural Sciences of Japan, the National Astronomical Observatories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Department of Science and

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Technology of India, and the National
Research Council (Canada).

Q.14) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
The 1t.org project aims to unite governments, non-governmental organisations, businesses and individuals in a "mass-scale nature restoration".	1t.org is a World Economic Forum initiative, designed to support the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, led by UNEP and FAO. 1t.org offers a platform for leading governments, businesses, civil society and ecopreneurs committed to serving the global trillion trees community.

Q.15) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
Biorock Technology, or mineral accretion technology is a method that applies safe, low voltage electrical currents through seawater, causing dissolved minerals to crystallize on structures, growing into a white limestone similar to that which naturally makes up coral reefs and tropical white sand beaches.	Biorock methods speed up coral growth in damaged areas and restore authentic coral reef habitat and species. Biorock structures become rapidly colonized by a full range of coral reef organisms, including fish, crabs, clams, octopus, lobster, sea urchins.

Q.16) Solution (d)

Polycrack is world's first patented heterogeneous catalytic process which converts multiple feed stocks into hydrocarbon liquid fuels, gas, carbon and water.

Polycrack's strength includes not requiring pre-segregation of waste, allowing waste as collected to be directly used. With a high moisture tolerance, drying of waste is not required

All waste and organic materials in general are preferred feed stocks for the unit. The list is vast but few examples as below:

- Plastics (Any kind)
- Vegetable Oil
- Animal Fat
- Petroleum by products / Sludge / Wax
- Used Motor Oil / Rubber Tires
- Sewage Waste
- Jathropa Fruits

- Palm Fruit Waste
- Sludge from Edible Oil Industry
- De-oiled Cake from Edible Oil Industry
- Bamboo (Gasification only)
- Wood Chips (Gasification only)
- Other Organic Matters which contain Lipids.

The product and by-products of the process are on the basis of the feedstocks, in general the following products and by- products are produced/generated:

- Liquid fuel
- Liquefied petroleum gas
- Petroleum Coke / carbon residue
- Water

Q.17) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
It is a multi-stakeholder, permanent global dialogue forum initiated by the Government of Nepal. It is scheduled to be held biennially in Nepal. The Sambaad (dialogue) is named after the world's tallest mountain Sagarmatha (Mount Everest) which is also a symbol of friendship and is meant to promote the notions of common good and collective well-being of humanity.	The first-ever Sambaad is to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 2–4 April 2020 on the topic of "Climate Change, Mountains, and the Future of Humanity".

Q.18) Solution (b)

India has added 10 more wetlands to sites protected by the Ramsar Convention.

Maharashtra gets its first Ramsar site (Nandur Madhameshwar), Punjab which already had 3 Ramsar sites adds 3 more (Keshopur-Miani, Beas Conservation Reserve, Nangal) and UP with 1 Ramsar site has added 6 more (Nawabganj, Parvati Agra, Saman, Samaspur, Sandi and SarsaiNawar).

Q.19) Solution (d)

In 2010, the central government set up an expert panel for reintroducing the cheetah in India. This panel recommended that the home of the fastest animal in the world could be Kuno Palpur in Madhya Pradesh, Velavadar National Park in Gujarat and Tal Chapar sanctuary in Rajasthan.

Q.20) Solution (b)

Indian Navy launched Operation Vanilla in the Southern Indian Ocean. The Operation has been launched to assist the population of Madagascar that were affected by Cyclone Diane.

Q.21) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
They were brought to India by Portuguese merchants about 400 years ago. They are an ethnic group who descended from the Bantu-speaking people of Southeast Africa.	The Siddi community is currently estimated at around 50,000–60,000 individuals, with Karnataka, Gujarat and Hyderabad in India.

Q.22) Solution (c)

Oyilattam is a folk dance with origins in the Madurai region of Tamil Nadu. The dance has its origins in southern Tamil Nadu and is primarily performed in Madurai district, Tirunelveli district and Tiruchirapalli district.

Q.23) Solution (c)

Orchha is a historical town in the Niwari district of Madhya Pradesh. The town encompasses a very dense collection of the historical buildings, gardens and traditional housings. It was the seat of an eponymous former princely state of central India, in the Bundelkhand region. The historical settlement derived its name from the phrase 'Ondo chhe' meaning 'low' or 'hidden'. The site was indeed bowl-like, buffered by bluffs and forests, lying on the Betwa River. Orchha was founded in the 16th century by the Bundela chief Rudra Pratap Singh, who became the first King of Orchha.

Read More - <https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6404/>

Q.24) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
She was a great votary for abolition of child marriages and sati practice. She worked alongside Pandit Ramabhai, the renowned social activist of Maharashtra. She gave up her practice in 1929 and devoted her time entirely for social work.	She was the first female graduate from Bombay University; the first woman to study Law at the prestigious Oxford University as no Indian woman has ever went to study in England before; she was the first female advocate in India and she was also the first

woman to practice Law even in Britain.

Q.25) Solution (c)

The Dyanganga wildlife sanctuary is situated 8 km from Buldhana and 20 km from Khamgaon town of Maharashtra.

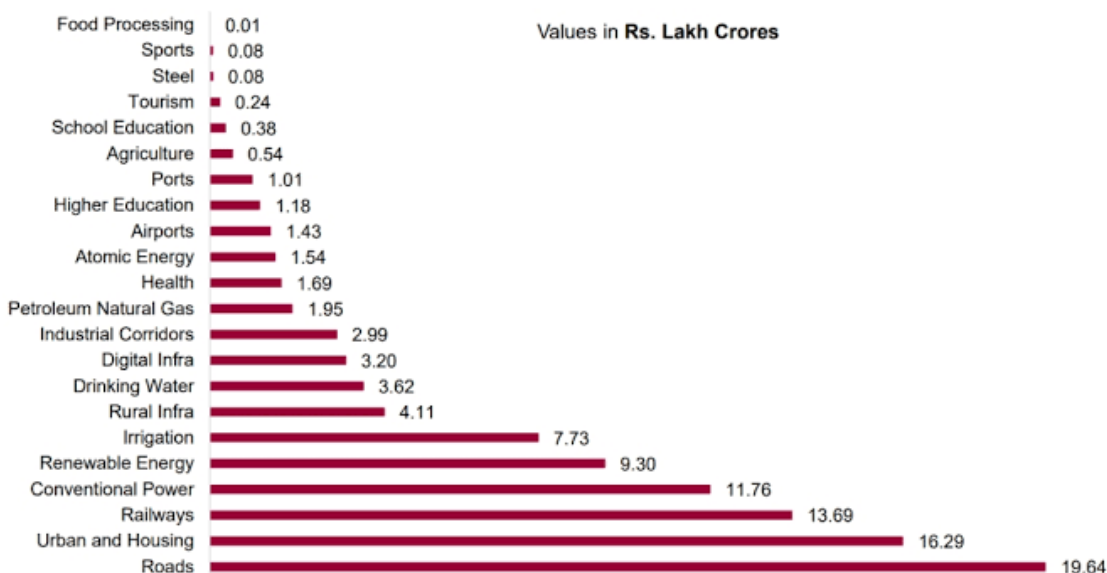
Q.26) Solution (c)

Senna Spectabilis

- It is a plant species of the legume family (Fabaceae) in the subfamily Caesalpinioideae native to South and Central America.
- The plant has become an invasive alien species in Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

Q.27) Solution (b)

Sector-wise break-up of the NIP



Q.28) Solution (a)

Anchar Lake

- It is a lake in highly deteriorated condition located near Soura area in the city of Srinagar.
- The lake is connected with the famous Dal Lake via a channel "Amir Khan Nallah", just as the Dal-gate connects Dal to the Nigeen Lake. In case of flooding, the excessive water of Dal is diverted here.

Q.29) Solution (b)

China is the world's largest aluminum producing country.

Q.30) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Moving beyond ODF, ODF+ and ODF++, the Water PLUS protocol aims to provide a guideline for cities and towns to ensure that no untreated wastewater is released into the environment thereby enabling sustainability of the sanitation value chain.	It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) as part of Swachh Bharat Mission.

Q.31) Solution (c)

The Juang are an Austroasiatic ethnic group found mainly in the Gonsaika hills of Keonjhar district of Odisha. Some Juangs, however migrated to neighbouring plains of Dhenkanal district of Odisha during the Bhuiyan revolt in the late 19th century. The 2011 census showed their population to be around 50,000. The Juang language belongs to the Munda family of the Austroasiatic languages. They are classified as a Scheduled Tribe by the Indian government.

Q.32) Solution (b)

Sonowal Kacharis

- They are one of the Indigenous peoples of the state of Assam.
- They belong to the Sino-Tibetan languages family, more specifically to the Tibeto-Burmese stock and are closely associated with other Ethnic groups of Assam which are commonly referred as Kirata, Kirati people or Kachari people. They are part of greater Bodo race.
- The Constitution Order (Scheduled Tribes), 1950 had listed the Sonowal Kachari as a Scheduled Tribe as per the Constitution of India in the state of Assam.
- The headquarters of the Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council is at Dibrugarh.

Q.33) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The fruit fly <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> has been extensively studied for over a century as a model organism for genetic investigations. It also has many characteristics which make it an ideal organism for the study of animal	They are sexually dimorphic (males and females are different), making it is quite easy to differentiate the sexes.

development and behavior, neurobiology, and human genetic diseases and conditions. It turns out that approximately 60% of a group of readily identified genes that are mutated, amplified, or deleted in a diverse set of human diseases have a counterpart in *Drosophila*. Studying these genes in *Drosophila* lets scientists bypass some of the ethical issues of biomedical research involving human subjects.

Q.34) Solution (b)

Camp Simba is US military base in Kenya.

Q.35) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
The IDRSS is planned to track and be constantly in touch with Indian satellites, in particular those in low-earth orbits which have limited coverage of earth.	The system will also reduce the dependence on the ground stations in tracking satellites. The other benefit is that the communication and data transfer could be in real time as the remote sensing satellites can relay the data gathered to IDRSS satellites which in turn can transmit them to the ground.

Additional Information:

- IDRSS will maintain a continuous communication link with India's remote sensing/earth observation satellites and also with the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III) that would carry three Indian astronauts to space in 2022.
- IDRSS satellites of the 2,000 kg class would be launched on the GSLV launcher to geostationary orbits around 36,000 km away.
- In such apparently fixed orbits, they would be covering the same area on earth. A satellite in GEO covers a third of the earth below and three of them can provide total coverage.
- IDRSS will be like a hub as it can receive the commands from the ground stations and in turn relay the same to other satellites.

Q.36) Solution (a)

Yuelu Proclamation

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About

- It is the first UNESCO document of its kind dedicated to the protection of linguistic diversity, and is also an important supporting document for the “UN International Year of Indigenous Languages 2019”.
- It calls upon the international community, states, governments and non-governmental organizations, among others, to reach a consensus on the protection and promotion of linguistic diversity in the world.
- It confirms that protecting linguistic diversity is the cornerstone for building a global community with a shared future, and for promoting equality, mutual learning and understanding, and facilitating exchanges around the world.
- The document calls on member states to formulate action plans to promote language and cultural diversity, and urges academic and indigenous organizations to provide the resources required to help combat the loss of indigenous languages.
- The proclamation is considered to be a landmark document of historic importance that will play a central role in guiding the efforts of countries and regions around the world to protect linguistic resources and diversity.

Do You Know?

- Kasaragod district (Kerala) is called ‘Sapta bhasha Samgama Bhumi (the confluence of seven languages)’.
- Article 29 of the Constitution provides that a section of citizens having a distinct language, script or culture have the right to conserve the same.

THINK!

- Schedule VIII of the Constitution

Q.37) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
It is an online service provided by Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) under its Digital India initiative. DigiLocker provides an account in cloud to every Indian citizen to access authentic documents/certificates such as driving license, vehicle registration, academic mark list in digital format from the original issuers of these certificates.	It also provides 1GB storage space to each account to upload scanned copies of legacy documents. The issued documents in DigiLocker system are deemed to be at par with original physical documents.

Additional Information:

DigiLocker is aimed at the concept of paperless governance. It offers the following benefits:

- Citizens can access their digital documents anytime, anywhere and share it online. This is convenient and time saving.
- It reduces the administrative overhead of Government departments by minimizing the use of paper.
- Digital Locker makes it easier to validate the authenticity of documents as they are issued directly by the registered issuers.

Q.38) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
Jallikattu is typically practised in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu as a part of Pongal celebrations on Mattu Pongal day, which occurs annually in January.	It is an event in which a bull (Bos indicus), such as the Pulikulam or Kangayam breeds, is released into a crowd of people, and multiple human participants attempt to grab the large hump on the bull's back with both arms and hang on to it while the bull attempts to escape.

Q.39) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
Today the bustard is restricted to isolated pockets in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.	It is critically endangered.

Q.40) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State government jobs and admission to State government educational institutions, as per provisions of the newly inserted Articles 15(6) and 16(6) of the Constitution, is to be decided by the State government	The Act introduces 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of society for admission to Central Government-run educational institutions and private educational institutions (except for minority educational institutions)

<p>concerned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supreme Court that it would be the States' prerogative to provide 10% economic reservation in government jobs and admission to education institutions. 	
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Q.41) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<p>In GOCO model, the assets owned by government will be operated by the private industries.</p> <p>Under the GOCO model, the private companies need not make investments on land, machinery and other support systems.</p>	<p>The GOCO model was one of the recommendations of the Lt. Gen. DB Shekatkar (Retd.) committee to enhance combat capability and re-balancing defence expenditure.</p>

Q.42) Solution (a)

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

- Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY, or APY lands) is a large, sparsely-populated local government area (LGA) for Aboriginal Australians, located in the remote north west of South Australia.
- It consists of the Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara and Ngaanyatjarra anangu (i.e. people), and has a population of around 2300 people.

Q.43) Solution (a)

Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement between India and France

- The Agreement represents a major milestone in enhancing people-to-people contacts, fostering mobility of students, academics, researchers and skilled professionals and strengthening cooperation on issues related to irregular migration and human trafficking between the two sides.
- The Agreement is a testimony to India's rapidly expanding multi-faceted relationship with France and symbolizes the increasing trust and confidence between the two sides.
- The Agreement is initially valid for a period of seven years, incorporates provision for automatic renewal and a monitoring mechanism through a Joint Working Group.

Q.44) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

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Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
The Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, also known as the Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, or the Madrid Protocol, is part of the Antarctic Treaty System. It provides for comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems.	India signed the protocol in 1998.

Q.45) Solution (b)

Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary and Mollem National Park is a 240 square kilometres protected area located in the Western Ghats of South India, in Sanguem taluk, Goa State, along the eastern border with Karnataka.

Q.46) Solution (a)

'India Wins Freedom' book is written by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

Q.47) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The conservation status of the Indian Skimmer is 'vulnerable', according to the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.	Indian skimmers are more widespread in winter and are found in coastal estuaries of western and eastern India. The species can be sighted only in three places in the country, including the Chambal river in Central India.

Additional Information:

- The Indian skimmer or Indian scissors-bill (*Rynchops albicollis*) is one of the three species that belong to the skimmer genus *Rynchops* in the family Laridae.
- It is found in southern Asia, where it is patchily distributed and declining in numbers. They are mainly found in rivers or estuaries.
- At present, the last strongholds of the Indian Skimmer are India, and Bangladesh.

Q.48) Solution (c)

It is a bilateral exercise between China and Pakistan. It was held in the northern Arabian Sea.

Q.49) Solution (a)

In the Philippines, a volcano called Taal on the island of Luzon, 50 km from Manila, erupted. The Taal volcano in the Philippines does not rise from the ground as a distinct, singular dome but consists of multiple stratovolcanoes, conical hills and craters of all shapes and sizes.

Q.50) Solution (a)

Al-Shabaab

- It is a jihadist fundamentalist group based in East Africa. In 2012, it pledged allegiance to the militant Islamist organization Al-Qaeda.
- Al-Shabaab's composition is multiethnic, with its leadership positions mainly occupied by Afghanistan- and Iraq-trained ethnic Somalis and foreigners.
- Al-Shabaab began as the armed wing of the Islamic Courts Union (ICU), which later splintered into several smaller factions after its defeat in 2006 by Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the TFG's Ethiopian military allies.
- It was ousted from Mogadishu in 2011 by international forces.
- It has been designated as a terrorist organization by Australia, Canada, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States.

