



# **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**



Q1. 'Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)', recently seen in news relates to:

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

Q2. Recently India held first edition of their Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue, consider the following:

- 1. It was held between India and USA.
- 2. The dialogue involved Indian Home and External Affairs Minister and their counterparts.
- 3. COMCASA was signed in the dialogue.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q3. With reference to 'BIMSTEC', consider the following:

- 1. It is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.
- 2. It constitutes seven Member States: five deriving from South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Indonesia.
- 3. Recently its 4th summit was held in Nepal.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q4. Consider the following questions regarding the 'Indian Ocean Conference':

- 1. It is initiated by India Foundation along with its partners from Singapore, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- 2. It is an annual effort to bring together Heads of States/Governments, Ministers, Thought Leaders, scholars, diplomats, bureaucrats and practitioners from across the region.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q5. Which among the following countries does not share its borders with Caspian Sea?

- a) Iran
- b) Russia
- c) Azerbaijan
- d) Uzbekistan

Q6. Which of the following country recently became the first country to adopt a 'feminist foreign policy'?

- a) India
- b) USA
- c) Sweden
- d) Norway

Q9. Consider the following statements about 'Invest India':

- 1. It is India's official agency dedicated to investment promotion and facilitation.
- 2. It is a not-for-profit, single window facilitator, set up in 2010.

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

Q11. Which of the following is not a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) member?

- 1. India
- 2. Australia
- 3. Russia
- 4. China
- 5. USA

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q12. With reference to 'Financial Action Task Force (FATF)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. India is not a full member of FATF but it has partial membership status of this organization.
- 2. All permanent members of the Security Council except China are members of FATF.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Q14. Which of the following country/countries is/are not a member of 'Gulf Cooperation Council'?

- a) Iran
- b) Iraq
- c) Oman
- d) Both a and b

Q15. With reference to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. In January, 2019 Qatar left the membership of OPEC.
  2. Angola and Venezuela are the members of this organization from South America.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Q16. Consider the following statement about the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):

1. The IAEA is not an autonomous organization and it is under the direct control of the United Nations.
  2. Signature and ratification of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) are preconditions for membership in the IAEA.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Q17. A regional trade organization consists of four European countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland) and operates in parallel with the European Union. It's all four member states participate in the European Single Market and is part of the Schengen Area. Which trade organization has these features?

- a) European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
- b) European Union Customs Union (EUCU)
- c) European Economic Community
- d) None

Q18. 'Hodeidah Operation' often seen in the news is related to:

- a) Yemen
- b) Oman
- c) Kuwait
- d) Syria

Q19. Consider the following pairs:

- | Port City | Country |
|-----------|---------|
| 1. Mocha  | : Yemen |

2. Duqm : Yemen

3. Salalah : Oman

Which of the above pairs is /are correctly matched?

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

Q20. Consider the following pairs  
Rebel Group: Country

1. Houthis : Oman

2. Hezbollah: Syria

3. Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front: Myanmar

Which of the above pairs is /are correctly matched?

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

Q21. A multilateral conference held annually in New Delhi. It is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics. It has started in 2016. It is organized in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs of India. Which conference has these features?

- a) Raisina Dialogue
- b) Shangri-La Dialogue
- c) Wuhan Dialogue
- d) None of the above.

Q22. Exercise Pitch Black 2018 was hosted by

- a. South Africa
- b. Australia
- c. USA
- d. Israel

Q23. Consider the following statements about the World Customs Organisation:

1. It is a specialized UN body to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations.
  2. India is the permanent head of the Asia Pacific region of the Organisation.
- Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q24. 'New Southern Policy' often seen in the news was adopted by

- a. USA
- b. Japan
- c. South Korea
- d. Russia

Q25. Consider the following statements about the African Development Bank:

1. It is a multilateral financing agency with all African countries as its members.
2. India is the only South Asian Nation member of the African Development Bank.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q28. Consider the following about the Malabar Exercise:

1. It is a trilateral naval exercise between India, USA, and Japan.
2. The 2018 edition was held in the Bay of Bengal near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q30. 'Operation Nistar' recently seen in the news is related to

- a. A surgical strike on terror camps
- b. Indian Navy rescue mission
- c. Swachh Bharat Gramin
- d. Sarva Siksha Abhiyan

Q31. Consider the following statements about the International Nitrogen Initiative:

1. It has been launched by the World Bank Group to monitor the nitrogen emission.
2. It aims to both optimize the benefits and reduce the negative impacts of Nitrogen in food and energy production.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q32. Consider the following statements about the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation:

1. It is an intergovernmental organization to promote cooperation in trade, politics, and culture.
2. The Anti-Terrorist structure of SCO is located in Beijing.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q33. With reference to '10th BRICS Summit Johannesburg Declaration' consider the following statements:

1. The theme of this summit was 'Stronger Partnership for brighter Future.'
2. The leaders agreed to the establishment of a BRICS women's forum and BRICS vaccine Centre.

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

Q34. Consider the following statements about 'SAARC Development Fund (SDF)'

1. It was created in 1996 as a first funding mechanism in SAARC by merging the SAARC Fund for Regional Projects (SFRP) and the SAARC Regional Fund.

2. It serves as the umbrella financial mechanism for all SAARC projects and programmes.

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

Q35. With reference to the 'UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)' consider the following statements:

1. It was established in 1949 as an armed military observer in Jammu and Kashmir to supervise the ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

2. It assists the Military Adviser to the UN Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP), established in 1948 by the UN Security Council.

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

Q36. Recently 10th edition of the Delhi Dialogue (DD X) was held in New Delhi. Delhi Dialogue is a premier annual track 1.5 event to discuss politico-security, the economic and socio-cultural engagement between India and which of the following?

- a) European Union
- b) ASEAN



- c) Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- d) African Union

Q37. Consider the following statements about 'Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)'

1. It was previously known as the Bangkok Agreement.
2. It is an initiative of ESCAP and it aims at promoting intra-regional trade through exchange of mutually agreed concessions by member countries.
3. Both India and Pakistan are members of APTA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q38. The term 'General Data Protection Regulation' often seen in the news is related to which of the following?

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

Q39. The New Southern Policy is an important roadmap of a nation to spread the footprint of its economy in Southeast Asia and South Asia. It envisions to boost cooperation with ASEAN countries and strengthen strategic and economic cooperation with India. Which of the following nation is being referred to in the above statements?

- a) South Korea
- b) China
- c) Japan
- d) USA

Q40. The Equator passes through which among the following countries of Africa?

1. Gabon
2. Kenya
3. Somalia
4. South Sudan
5. Nigeria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q41. With reference to the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2018, consider the following

statements:

1. It has been developed jointly by Cornell University, INSEAD and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).
2. India has been steadily improving its GII ranking in the last decade.

3. India is the most innovative country in its region of central and southern Asia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q43. With reference to 'Mission Satyanishtha' consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
2. It aims to help understand the policies on ethics and integrity and the employee's role in upholding the same.

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

Q44. Consider the following statements about 'United Nations e-government index 2018'

1. United Nation releases this Survey every two years.
2. Denmark is the world leader in E-Government index and India is among the top ten countries.
3. It includes the E-Government Development Index (EGDI) which is a composite index based on three indices.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q1.**

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

COMCASA stands for Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement and is one of the four foundational agreements that the U.S. signs with allies and close partners to facilitate interoperability between militaries and sale of high end technology.

**Q2**

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

2+2 DIALOGUE

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: India hosted the inaugural 2+2 Dialogue with the United States in New Delhi.
- STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The dialogue involved Indian Defence and External Affairs Minister and their counterparts.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: COMCASA was signed in the dialogue.  
Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)
  1. COMCASA stands for Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement and is one of the four foundational agreements that the U.S. signs with allies and close partners to facilitate interoperability between militaries and sale of high end technology.
  2. COMCASA is an India-specific version of the Communication and Information on Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA).
  3. It comes into force immediately, and is valid for a period of 10 years.
  4. COMCASA allows India to procure transfer specialised equipment for encrypted communications for US origin military platforms like the C-17, C-130 and P-8Is. Currently, these platforms use commercially available communication systems.
  5. This will also enable greater communications interoperability between the militaries of India and the US. Data acquired through such systems cannot be disclosed or transferred to any person or entity without India's consent.

Related Topics: General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA).

**Q3**

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

BIMSTEC (The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.
- STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: It constitutes seven Member States: five deriving from South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: Recently its 4th summit was held in Nepal.
- This sub-regional organization came into being on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- The regional group constitutes a bridge between South and South East Asia and represents a reinforcement of relations among these countries.
- The objective of building such an alliance was to harness shared and accelerated growth through mutual cooperation in different areas of common interests by mitigating the onslaught of globalization and by utilizing regional resources and geographical advantages.

Related Topics: SAARC, ASEAN, SCO

**Q4**

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

'INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE'

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Indian Ocean Conference initiated by India Foundation along with its partners from Singapore, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: It is an annual effort to bring together Heads of States/Governments, Ministers, Thought Leaders, scholars, diplomats, bureaucrats and practitioners from across the region.
- Two successful editions of the Conference have been hosted so far in 2016 and 2017 in Singapore and Sri Lanka respectively. Both the Conferences were supported by the Ministry of External Affairs of India and had participation from over 35 countries with a global media coverage.
- The third edition of the Conference was hosted by India Foundation in association with the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies and Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies on 27-28 August 2018 in Hanoi, Vietnam.
- The theme for the year is "Building Regional Architectures".

Related Topics: Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

**Q5**

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

Context: Recently, five Caspian Sea States – Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan - signed a breakthrough agreement on Caspian Sea's legal status.

Related Topics: SCO

**Q6.**

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

The Asia Pacific Institute of Broadcasting Development (AIBD)

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), established in 1977 under the auspices of UNESCO, is a unique regional inter-governmental organisation servicing countries of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) in the field of electronic media development. It is hosted by the Government of Malaysia and the secretariat is located in Kuala Lumpur.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: Recently India has been elected for the post of President of AIBD for the first time
- The AIBD is mandated to achieve a vibrant and cohesive electronic media environment in the Asia-Pacific region through policy and resource development.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) are founding organisations of the Institute and they are non-voting members of the General Conference. The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) is a founding organisation of the Institute and is a non-voting member of the General Conference.

Approach: Recently India has been elected for the post of President of AIBD for the first time. Since it is a big development from India's point of view, the topic becomes important for prelims in International Relations field.

Related Topics: The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organisation (UNESCO).

**Q7.**

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

#### **FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY**

Equality between women and men is a fundamental aim of Swedish foreign policy. Ensuring that women and girls can enjoy their fundamental human rights is both an obligation within the framework of our international commitments, and a prerequisite for reaching Sweden's broader foreign policy goals on peace, and security and sustainable development.

- Sweden released a handbook of its "feminist foreign policy" today for rights groups and foreign governments, showcasing lessons from the Scandinavian nation's flagship approach to promoting women's rights globally.
- Sweden began its feminist foreign policy "in response to the discrimination and systematic subordination that still mark the daily lives of countless women and girls around the world", the handbook said.
- It added that while gender equality was "an object in itself," it was "essential" in achieving more general government objectives, like peace, security and sustainable development.

**Q8.**

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

8888 UPRISING: pro-democracy movement of Myanmar.

- It was a people's movement that challenged the then ruling Burma Socialist Programme Party's grip on political, economic and social affairs which led the country into extreme poverty.
- The objective was two-fold: to push for the transfer of power from the military to a civilian leadership and a change in the political system from an authoritarian regime to multi-party democracy.

Context: August 8, 2018 marks the 30th anniversary of the people's uprising in Myanmar.

**Q9.**

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

INVEST INDIA

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is India's official agency dedicated to investment promotion and facilitation.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: It is a not-for-profit, single window facilitator, set up in 2010. It is set up as a joint venture company between the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- It provides sector specific and state specific information to a foreign investor, assists in expediting regulatory approvals, and offers hand-holding services.

Context: Invest India and Business France have signed a MoU to promote investment facilitation and cooperation between startups of India and France.

**Q10**

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

#### **PEACE MISSION 2018**

- STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: It is a joint military exercise of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The exercise will provide an opportunity to the armed forces of all nations for greater cultural understanding, sharing experiences and strengthening mutual trust and cooperation.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: The scope of the exercise includes professional interaction,

mutual understanding of drills and procedures, establishment of joint command and control structures and elimination of terrorist threats in urban counter terrorist scenario.

- STATEMENT 3 is correct: This is the first time India and Pakistan participated in the exercise.
- The exercise will provide an opportunity to the armed forces of SCO nations to train in counter terrorism operations in urban scenario in a multinational and joint environment.

Approach: It is a joint military exercise of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held at Russia. It is extremely important as it was the first time India and Pakistan military participated in it.

### **Q11**

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

- It is a proposed free trade agreement between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) including Brunei, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and six Free Trade Agreement(FTA) partners of the ASEAN like Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand.
- RCEP was set up in November 2012 at the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia.
- The scope of RCEP includes include trade in goods, competition, economic and technical cooperation, intellectual property and investments, and dispute settling mechanisms.
- The ASEAN will be in total control of the RCEP set up.

Approach: A lot of negotiations are going on with regard to RCEP between the ASEAN and their FTA members. So from International relations point of view it is important.

Related Topics: All the issues related to RCEP.

### **Q12.**

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as India became a full member in 2010. It does not have partial membership status for this organization. Saudi Arabia and Israel are —observer countries (partial membership). The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 by the Ministers of its Member jurisdictions. The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. The FATF is therefore a “policy-making body” which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as all permanent members of the Security Council including China are members of FATF.

Approach: There was some news regarding FATF which highlights the issue of money laundering and terror financing. So we should about function and member of FATF.

Related Topic: Read about the issue of money laundering, terror financing and related organization.

### **Q13.**

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC, after the initials in Spanish) are Colombia's largest rebel group. They were founded in 1964 as the armed wing of the Communist Party and follow a Marxist-Leninist ideology.

Their main founders were small farmers and land workers who had banded together to fight against the staggering levels of inequality in Colombia at the time.



While the FARC has some urban groups, they have always been an overwhelmingly rural guerrilla organization.

Approach: There was news regarding Columbian peace process between president —Juan Manuel Santos and FARC leadership (communist rebels), which ended the 50-year civil war.

URL

**Q14**

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a political and economic alliance of six countries in the Arabian Peninsula: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Iran and Iraq are not a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Established in 1981, the GCC promotes economic, security, cultural and social cooperation between the six states and holds a summit every year to discuss cooperation and regional affairs.

Due to their geographic proximity, similar political systems, and common sociocultural stances, the immediate goal was for these countries to protect themselves from threats after the Iran-Iraq War.



Related Topic: OPEC, ASEAN, AND SCO. Map of West Asia

**Q15.**

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct: As in January, 2019 Qatar left the membership of OPEC. Qatar's exit from OPEC should be seen through the lens of its long-term economic vision and its divergence from the oil cartel's business trajectory to capacity and global presence in the natural gas sector.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect : Ecuador and Venezuela are members of OPEC from South America. Angola is also a member of OPEC but it is from Africa and not South America. So STATEMENT 2 is also incorrect.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded in Baghdad, Iraq, with the signing of an agreement in September 1960 by five countries namely Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. They were to become the Founder Members of the Organization.

These countries were later joined by Qatar (1961), Indonesia (1962), Libya (1962), the United Arab Emirates (1967), Algeria (1969), Nigeria (1971), Ecuador (1973), Gabon (1975), Angola (2007), Equatorial Guinea (2017) and Congo (2018).

Context: Qatar left the membership of OPEC.



Related Topics: OPEC, ASEAN, AND SCO.

**Q16**

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as IAEA is an autonomous organization and it is not under direct control of the United Nations. Though established independently of the United Nations through its own international treaty, the IAEA Statute, the IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Signature and ratification of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) are preconditions for membership in the IAEA. Many NON-NPT countries are also member of IAEA.

Context: Iran has notified IAEA of its nuclear enrichment plans.

Related Topics: Structure, functions and member states of the IAEA Nuclear supply group, the Wassenaar Arrangement, and Australian Group.

**Q17.**

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

European Union Customs Union (EUCU) consist of more than 4 European countries. So it cannot be the correct option.

The European Economic Community's initial aim was to bring about economic integration, including a common market and customs union, among its six founding members: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany. So it cannot be the correct option.

European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is an intergovernmental Organisation of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. It was set up in 1960 by its then seven Member States for the promotion of free trade and economic integration between its members. It's all four member states participate in the European Single Market and is part of the Schengen Area. So European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is the correct option.

Related Topic: European custom Union and Schengen Area.

**Q18.**

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

Hodeidah Operation is intentionally calibrated to help UN Special to persuade the Houthis to facilitate the peaceful and unconditional handover of Hodeidah to the legitimate Yemeni government. The operation at Hodeidah is ongoing and its main target is to fight terrorism.

Yemen government forces — backed by the Arab coalition started this operation on the rebel-held port city of Al Hodeidah.

Related topics: Houthi rebels

**Q19**

**ANSWER: C**

**Explanation:**

Mocha port city is in Yemen. So correctly matched. Mocha is a port city on the Red Sea coast of Yemen. Until Aden and Hodeidah eclipsed it in the 19th century, Mocha was the principal port for Yemen's capital Sana'a.

Duqm port city is in Oman. So it is correctly matched. Situated on the southeastern seaboard of

the Sultanate of Oman, overlooking the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean beyond, Port of Duqm is fast becoming an important reality of the Middle East region's rapidly transforming maritime landscape. With its deep draft, lengthy quay walls, and expansive basin, Port of Duqm has the trappings of a world-class, multipurpose commercial gateway. And as the principal anchor of a huge Special Economic Zone envisioned at Duqm, it also has the potential to develop into one of the Middle East's largest ports over the long term

Salalah port is in Oman. So it is correctly matched.

Approach:

Related Topic: Port of Aden, Strait Hormuz

**Q20.**

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

Houthi rebels are functioning in Yemen. So it is not correctly matched. Officially known as Ansar Allah (Partisans of God), the Houthi rebels began as a theological movement that preached tolerance and peace in the early 1990s.

Hezbollah rebels are functioning in Syria. So, it is correctly matched.

Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front rebels are functioning in Myanmar. So it is correctly matched.

**Q21**

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

The Raisina Dialogue is a multilateral conference held annually in New Delhi. Since its inception in 2016, the conference has emerged as India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics. The conference is hosted by the Observer Research Foundation, an independent think tank, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs of India.

The conference is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussion, involving a variety of global policymakers including heads of state, cabinet ministers and local government officials. In addition, The Dialogue also welcomes major private sector executives, as well as members of the media and academia. It is designed on the lines of Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue.

So it is the correct option.

The Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD) is a "Track One" inter-governmental security forum held annually by an independent think tank, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) which is attended by defense ministers, permanent heads of ministries and military chiefs of 28 Asia-Pacific states. The forum gets its name from the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore where it has been held since 2002. So it is not the correct option.

Wuhan Dialogue is an informal dialogue between India and China.

Related Topics: Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD) and Wuhan dialogue.

**Q22.**

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

Exercise Pitch Black is a biennial Multinational large force employment warfare exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Hence the option B is correct.

Indian Air Force had earlier participated in the exercise as observers and it was for the first time that IAF participated with air assets in the Exercise Pitch Black in 2018.

The objectives for the exercise were to foster a closer relationship between the participating friendly forces and to promote interoperability through an exchange of knowledge and experience.

Approach: The military-related questions frequently appear in the prelims. Hence keep a note of the defense exercises in which India participates.

Related Topics: Red Flag and Blue Flag Exercises.

**Q23**

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It is an independent intergovernmental body. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

STATEMENT 2: India is elected for a term of two years. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

The World Customs Organization (WCO), established as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) is an independent intergovernmental body with a mission to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations.

It represents 183 Customs administrations across the globe that collectively process approximately 98% of world trade.

India has been elected as the head of the WCO Asia Pacific for two years from 2018 to 2020.

**Q24**

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

New Southern Policy is the foreign policy adopted by South Korea. The policy is steered by South Korean President Moon Jae. It aims to develop close ties with ASEAN and South Asian Countries.

Related Topics: India's look east policy.

**Q25**

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

The African Development Bank (AfDB) Group is a regional multilateral development finance institution established to contribute to the economic development and social progress of African countries that are the institution's Regional Member Countries. The AfDB comprises three entities: the African Development Bank (ADB), the African Development Fund (ADF) and the Nigeria Trust Fund (NTF).

Among the Non-regional members, India is the only country from the South Asian region.

Related Topics: India Africa Forum Summit.

**Q26.**

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

CUTLASS EXPRESS is a military exercise to improve law enforcement capacity, promote regional security and progress interoperability between the armed forces of the participating nations for the purpose of interdicting illegal maritime activity in the Western Indian Ocean. From India INS Trikand, a front-line warship of the Indian Navy had participated in the event.

Approach: Military related question frequently appears in the prelims. Hence keep a note on the defense exercises in which India participates.

**Q27**

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 2: OIC has 57 members and IMCTC has only 41. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced the formation of an Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition in 2015 to form a unified pan-Islamic front against terrorism. It aims to intensify efforts in fighting terrorism through joint work according to their capabilities, based on the desire of each member country to participate in operations or programs within the IMCTC framework as per its policies and procedures, and without compromising the sovereignty of the Coalition member countries. It consists of 41 member countries and countries like Iran is not part of the coalition.

Related Topics: Organization of Islamic Countries, Gulf Cooperation Council

**Q28.**

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 2: The 2018 edition was conducted in the Pacific Ocean near Guam. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

The Malabar trilateral naval exercise of the US, Japan, and India was conducted on June 7, 2018, at Guam in the Pacific Ocean and will continue till June 16, 2018. The Malabar exercise usually features both ashore and at-sea training.

Context: It is seen as one of the important efforts to prevent the aggressive actions of China in the Indian Ocean region.

Related Topics: Milan 2018 and Quad group.

**29**

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

Countering American Adversaries Through Sanctions Act is legislation of the USA targeting Russia, Iran, and North Korea. It puts sanctions on individuals and business entities who have transactions with those sanctioned. India has received a waiver from the act in case of Chabahar port in Iran.

Related Topics: How India is affected by CAATSA.

**Q30.**

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

Operation Nistar was a swift Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Operation by Indian navy to help the 38 stranded off the Socotra Island due to the cyclonic storm Mekunu. INS Sunayna which was near the Gulf of Aden carried out the mission.

Related Topics: Operation Samudra Maitri

**Q31**

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It is formed by the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program and Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

The International Nitrogen Initiative (INI) is an international program formed under the sponsorship of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) and from the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP). It aims to optimize nitrogen's beneficial role in sustainable food production and minimize nitrogen's negative effects on human health and the environment resulting from food and energy production.

Context: Recently INI elected its chairperson who is an Indian.

Related Topics: Impact of Nitrogen on Indian agriculture.

**Q32.**

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 2: Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure is based in Tashkent. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation for strengthening mutual trust and neighbourliness among the member states; promoting their effective cooperation in politics, trade, the economy, research, technology and culture, as well as in education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental protection, and other areas; making joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region; and moving towards the establishment of a democratic, fair and rational new international political and economic order.

The organization has two permanent bodies — the SCO Secretariat based in Beijing and the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) based in Tashkent.

At present, it comprises eight member states, namely the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Related Topics: Afghanistan Peace deal and India-Central Asia Policy.

**Q33.**

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect

The 10th BRICS Summit will convene in South Africa. The theme for the 10th BRICS Summit is, 'BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution'.

BRICS endorsed an initiative of enhancing BRICS cooperation in health through the establishment of a BRICS vaccine Centre, which will promote research and development in the medical field. The bloc recognized the potential inherent in the tourism sector and in BRICS countries then endorsed the development of a BRICS Tourism Track within BRICS. The leaders also agreed to woman empowerment –the establishment of a BRICS women's forum.

**Q34**

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: SDF which was established by the heads of the eight SAARC Member States in April 2010 with the aim to:

- promote the welfare of the people of the SAARC region,
- improve their quality of life, and
- Accelerate economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the region.

In 1996, the first funding mechanism was created in SAARC, 'South Asian Development Fund (SADF)', merging the SAARC Fund for Regional Projects (SFRP) and the SAARC Regional Fund.

A primary reason for establishing SDF was that the existing South Asian Development Fund (SADF) was found to be inadequate. The Thirteenth SAARC Summit (Dhaka, 12-13 November 2005) finally decided to reconstitute the SADF into SDF to serve as the "umbrella financial mechanism" for all SAARC projects and programmes.

**Q35.**

**Answer: C**



**Explanation:**

In 1948, the UN Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) was established, deploying unarmed military observers to mediate the dispute between the two countries.

In 1949, UNCIP was absorbed into the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) which supervises the ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

Although India and Pakistan agreed on the "Line of Control" established in 1972, the UN has maintained UNMOGIP's presence of unarmed military observers to supervise and report on the border.

Context: The UNCIP appears in the news when there is an escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan.

Related topics: Geneva Convention

**Q36.****Answer: B****Explanation:**

Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister (EAM) hosted the 10th edition of the Delhi Dialogue (DD X) in New Delhi from 19-20 July 2018.

Delhi Dialogue is a premier annual track 1.5 event to discuss politico-security, the economic and socio-cultural engagement between India and ASEAN. The theme of DD X is "Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation". This is the first major event to be organized after the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit, that was held in New Delhi in January 2018.

Related topics: Read about India -ASEAN relation, locate all members of ASEAN on map

**Q37****Answer: B****Explanation:**

- The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), previously named the Bangkok Agreement, signed in 1975 as an initiative of ESCAP.
- It is a preferential tariff arrangement that aims at promoting intra-regional trade through exchange of mutually agreed concessions by member countries.
- APTA has five members namely Bangladesh, China, India, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Sri Lanka. ESCAP functions as the secretariat for the Agreement.

Related Topic: Free trade agreement (FTA)

**Q38****Answer: A****Explanation:**

The General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 is a regulation in EU law on data protection and privacy for all individuals within the European Union and the European Economic Area. It also addresses the export of personal data outside the EU and EEA areas.

Related topics: India-EU relations, Brexit, the importance of General Data Protection Regulation etc

**Q39.****Answer: A****Explanation:**

The New Southern Policy is an important roadmap of the South Korea government to spread the footprint of the South Korean economy in Southeast Asia and South Asia. It was first articulated in Moon's Berlin Doctrine speech which envisions to boost cooperation with ASEAN countries and strengthen strategic and economic cooperation with India, a South Asian giant.



Approach: Policies of any country which affects Indian interest becomes important

Related topics: India-South Korea relation, the location of South Korea, ASEAN, south china sea etc

**Q40.**

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**



Approach: In recent time India-Africa relations is taking a new shape so keep a close watch of all the developments.

**Q41**

**Ans: B**

**Explanation**

Statement 2 is incorrect

India has been steadily improving its GII ranking in the last four years after a precipitous drop in 2014 and 2015 so steadily improving since last decade is wrong.

The GII is being developed jointly by Cornell University, the Paris-based business school Insead and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in Geneva.

GI ranks 126 economies based on 80 indicators. It is now in its 11th edition and has become a major input for policymakers on innovation around the world.

In 2018 India although ranked at 57, is a top performer in the lower middle-income group, where it is ranked at fifth position. India is the most innovative country in its region of central and southern Asia.

Approach: There are several indices released by different bodies like WTO, World Bank, IMF etc study their reports with respect to India and its surroundings.

**Q42**

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

Israel's parliament recently adopted a law defining the country as the nation-state of the Jewish people, provoking fears it could lead to blatant discrimination against Arab citizens.

Related topics: Locate the countries around the Red Sea, Mediterranean sea on the map, study about the Israel-Palestine conflict, Other geographical features of the region

**Q43.****Answer: B****Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect

Mission Satyanishtha was launched recently by the Ministry of Railways.

The objectives of the Mission are:

- To train every employee to understand the need and value of ethics in Personal and Public life.
- To deal with ethical dilemmas in life and Public Governance.
- To help understand the policies of Indian Railways on ethics and integrity and the employee's role in upholding the same.
- To develop inner governance by tapping inner resources.

**Q44****Answer: B****Explanation:**

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect

- Denmark is at the top position in the E-Government index while India is at 96th rank.
- But On the e-participation index, India ranks 15th and has emerged as sub-region leader.
- The UN releases this Survey every two years.
- 'Gearing E-Government to Support Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies' is the theme for 2018.

United Nations e-government index includes the E-Government Development Index (EGDI) and it is a composite index based on three indices:

- Telecommunications Infrastructure Index (TII)
- Human Capital Index (HCI)
- Online Service Index (OSI)

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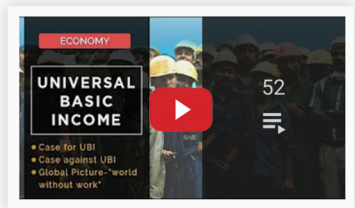
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