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Q.41)

Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) is the correct answer.

Ex Garuda 2019, a bilateral Indo-French large force employment warfare exercise hosted by French Air Force (FAF) from 01 to 12 Jul 19 at Mont-de-Marsan France, was successfully completed with the IAF contingent landing back in India on 19 Jul 19.

Source) https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1579692

Q.42)

Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) is the correct answer.

Statement 1 and 2 are correct. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is an intergovernmental forum for 21 member economies in the Pacific Rim that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Following the success of ASEAN's series of post-ministerial conferences launched in the mid-1980s, APEC started in 1989, in response to the growing interdependence of Asia-Pacific economies and the advent of regional trade blocs in other parts of the world; it aimed to establish new markets for agricultural products and raw materials beyond Europe. Headquarter in Singapore, APEC is recognized as one of the highest-level multilateral blocs and oldest forums in the Asia-Pacific region, and exerts a significant global influence.

Statement 3 is correct. APEC has been criticised for promoting free trade agreements that would impose restrictions on national and local laws, which regulate and ensure labour rights, environmental protection and safe and affordable access to medicine. According to the organisation, it is "the premier forum for facilitating economic growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region" established to "further enhance economic growth and prosperity for the region and to strengthen the Asia-Pacific community". The effectiveness and fairness of its role has been questioned, especially from the viewpoints of European countries that cannot take part in APEC and Pacific Island nations that cannot participate but stand to be affected by its decisions.

KB) India has requested membership in APEC and received initial support from the United States, Japan, Australia, and Papua New Guinea.

Officials have decided not to allow India to join for various reasons, considering that India does not border the Pacific Ocean, which all current members do.

Source) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia-Pacific_Economic_Cooperation#Criticism https://www.apec.org/

Q.43)

Ans) a

Exp) Option (a) is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Established in 1947 in Shanghai, China, as the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) to assist in post-war economic reconstruction, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) moved its headquarters to Bangkok in January 1949.