

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The majority of the African and Asian countries, after the end of Second World War, and during the 1950s demanded enormous tasks for development. The first East Asian Rural Reconstruction Conference was held in Tokyo in August 1955 in which twelve countries, namely, Cambodia, R O China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam participated. Two leaders of their time, Dr Punjabrao S. Deshmukh, the then India's Union Minister of Agriculture and Dr Hiroshi Nasu, at one time Ambassador of Japan to India, conceived the idea to establish a forum for the Asian countries to jointly discuss their many common problems.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It is headquartered in New Delhi.

Q 12.C

- The Global Competitiveness Report which includes the Global Competitive Index assesses the competitiveness landscape of economies, providing insight into the drivers of their productivity and prosperity. It is a yearly report published by the World Economic Forum.

Q 13.C

- *Salix alba* (white willow) is a species of willow native to Europe and western and central Asia. The name derives from the white tone to the undersides of the leaves.
- It is a medium-sized to large deciduous tree growing up to 30 m tall, with a trunk up to 1 m diameter and an irregular, often-leaning crown. The bark is grey-brown, and deeply fissured in older trees. Its twigs are used for making baskets and wood for cricket bats.

Q 14.B

- UN-Habitat is the United Nations programme working towards a better urban future. Its mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.
- Mandated by the UN General Assembly in 1978 to address the issues of urban growth, it is a knowledgeable institution on urban development processes, and understands the aspirations of cities and their residents. For close to forty years, UN-Habitat has been working in human settlements throughout the world, focusing on building a brighter future for villages, towns, and cities of all sizes. Because of these four decades of extensive experience, from the highest levels of policy to a range of specific technical issues, UN-Habitat has gained a unique and a universally acknowledged expertise in all things urban. This has placed UN-Habitat in the best position to provide answers and achievable solutions to the current challenges faced by our cities.

Q 15.C

- The Dooars or Duars are the floodplains and foothills of the eastern Himalayas in North-East India around Bhutan. In place of the Shiwaliks in the Darjeeling and Sikkim Himalayas the "duar formations" are important, which have also been used for the development of tea gardens.

Q 16.D

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Ganga is the most important river of India both from the point of view of its basin and cultural significance. It rises in the Gangotri glacier near Gaumukh (3,900 m) in the Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand. Here, it is known as the Bhagirathi. The Alaknanda has its source in the Satopanth glacier above Badrinath.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The Alaknanda consists of the Dhauti and the Vishnu Ganga which meet at Joshimath or Vishnu Prayag. The other tributaries of Alaknanda such as the Pindar joins it at Karna Prayag while Mandakini or Kali Ganga meets it at Rudra Prayag.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** The Son is Ganga's major right bank tributary. The important left bank tributaries are the Ramganga, the Gomati, the Ghaghara, the Gandak, the Kosi and the Mahananda.

Q 17.C

- Statement 1 is correct: MSS is a satellite-based monitoring system which aims to establish a regime of responsive mineral administration, through public participation, by curbing instances of illegal mining activity through automatic remote sensing detection technology.