

Answer & Explanation for GS Test-11 held on 13th May 2018

1. What is 'SurfNet', that was in the news recently?
- (a) It is an artificial intelligence software that can create 3D models from two dimensional photographs.
 - (b) It is a ransomware, a type of malware that blocks access to a computer or its data and demands money to release it.
 - (c) It is a software that helps the blind people to surf the internet through voice commands.
 - (d) It is a software that tracks the prices of virtual currencies globally.

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Scientists, including one of Indian origin, have developed a new artificial intelligence (AI) software called SurfNet that can create three dimensional (3D) models from 2D photographs. When fully developed SurfNet could have significant applications in the fields of 3D searches on the internet. In advance version it may allow future robots to navigate in the real world.

2. Timothy Gonsalves Committee, in the news recently, was set up with a mandate to
- (a) Examine specific issues in India's arbitration ecosystem and present a roadmap required to make India a robust centre for international and domestic arbitration.
 - (b) To frame uniform rules for the States to avoid delay in proper implementation of the Rights of Persons with disabilities in India.
 - (c) To draft the National Education Policy.
 - (d) To find ways to increase the number of girl students in the Indian Institutes of Technology.

Answer: (d)

Explanation: Concerned by the slump in number of girl students entering IITs, the joint admission board (JAB) has set up a panel under the chairmanship of professor Timothy Gonsalves to find ways to rectify the situation in the Institutes. The Committee has suggested creating up to 20% supernumerary seats for girls out of the total number of seats. But only candidates who have already qualified in JEE-Advanced will be considered.

3. Which of the following statements is correct?
- (a) The quorum to constitute a meeting of either House of the Parliament is 1/10th of the total number of members of the House, including the Presiding Officer of the House.
 - (b) The quorum to constitute a meeting of either House of the Parliament is 1/10th of the total number of members of the House, excluding the Presiding Officer of the House.
 - (c) The quorum to constitute a meeting of either House of the Parliament is 1/10th of the effective strength of the House, including the Presiding Officer of the House.
 - (d) The quorum to constitute a meeting of either House of the Parliament is 1/10th of the effective strength of the House, excluding the Presiding Officer of the House.

Ans: (a)

Exp: Refer Art. 100(3) of the Constitution.

4. Recently, a draft Model Contract Farming Act 2018 was released by the Ministry of Agriculture to encourage contract farming. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding contract farming?
- (1) Under contract farming, agricultural production can be carried out based on a pre-

harvest agreement between buyers and producers.

- (2) Presently, it requires registration with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to undertake contract farming.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Contract farming: Under it, agricultural production (including livestock and poultry) can be carried out based on a pre-harvest agreement between buyers (such as food processing units and exporters), and producers (farmers or farmer organisations). Hence, statement 1 is correct. Under contract farming, the producer can reduce the risk of fluctuating market price and demand, and the buyer can reduce the risk of non-availability of quality produce. **Existing regulatory structure:** Currently, contract farming requires registration with the **Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC)** in few states. This means that contractual agreements are recorded with the APMCs which can also resolve disputes arising out of these contracts. Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.

5. Which of the following is considered as the Magna Carta of English education in India?
(a) Woods Despatch 1854
(b) Macaulay's Minute 1835
(c) The Hunter Education Commission 1882-83
(d) The Hartog Committee 1929

Answer: (a)

Explanation: In 1854, Sir Charles Wood, the President of the Board of Control, prepared a despatch on an educational system for India. The despatch came to be considered as the Magna Carta of English education in India. This document was the first comprehensive plan for the spread of English education in India. It proposed setting up of Universities in the Presidency towns of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras.

6. The world's first 'White Tiger safari' opened up in which of the following States?
(a) Chhattisgarh
(b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Odisha
(d) Karnataka

Answer: (b)

Explanation: World's first White Tiger Safari was inaugurated at Mukundpur in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh. The first of its kind safari is situated adjacent to the Mukundpur Zoological Park. The first white tiger in Madhya Pradesh's was spotted in Vindhya region in 1915.

7. What is 'MILES-18', recently in the news?
(a) It was the first-ever multi-nation naval exercise at sea held at the Andaman Sea.
(b) It is an annual international marathon held in Mumbai, India.
(c) It is a new unmanned tank for surveillance missions developed by DRDO.
(d) It is a new Indian-made drone developed on the lines of predator drones of the USA.

Answer: (a)

Explanation: The MILES-18, first-ever multi-nation naval exercise at sea was held at the Andaman Sea. The three days exercise was conducted as part of 10th edition of MILAN 2018. 11 naval ships of 8 countries (Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand) and nine Indian ships had participated in MILES-18. It was aimed to enhance inter-operability between participating countries. It also had enabled honing of search and rescue operations procedures, maritime interdiction operations, core operational skills and exercise and variety of maritime security scenarios.

8. Regarding International “North-South” Transport (INSTC) Corridor, consider the following nations:

- (1) Georgia
- (2) India
- (3) Kazakhstan
- (4) Azerbaijan
- (5) Afghanistan

Who among the above are members of INSTC?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a 7,200-km-long multi-mode network of ship, rail, and road route for moving freight between India, Iran, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe. The following are member states in the NSTC project: India, Iran, Russia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Belarus, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Oman, Ukraine, Syria. Observer member - Bulgaria.

9. On the line of ‘One Nation One Scheme’ theme, the Government of India has launched Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. Which of the following are the objectives of this scheme?

- (1) To stabilise the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming.
- (2) To ensure flow of credit to agricultural sector.
- (3) To encourage farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: Following are the objectives of PMFBY:

1. To stabilise the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming.
2. To ensure flow of credit to agricultural sector.
3. To encourage farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices.
4. To provide insurance coverage and financial support to famers in the event of failure of any of the notified crop as a result of natural calamities, pests and/or diseases.

10. Which of the following were related with the protest movement against partition of Bengal in 1905?

- (1) Raksha-Bandhan
- (2) Arandhan
- (3) Amar Sonar Bangla
- (4) Vande Mataram

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: The partition of Bengal officially came into effect on 16 October, 1905. The leaders of the protest movement declared it to be a day of National mourning. Rabindranath Tagore called for the observance of Raksh-Bandhan. Ramendra Sunder Trivedi called for Arandhan (the keeping of the hearth unlit at all the homes as a sign of mourning). Vande Mataram composed in Sanskrit by Bankim Chandra overnight became the national song for whole country (it was sung for the first time in 1896 session of INC). Rabindranath Tagore composed "Amar Sonar Bangla" for the occasion which was sung by huge crowds parading the streets.

11. Consider the following pairs:

	Initiative/ Programme		Launched by
1.	SHe Box	:	Ministry of Women and Child Development
2.	JIGYASA	:	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan
3.	Mathru Poorna	:	Karnataka Government

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: Ministry of Women and Child Development launched a comprehensive SHe-Box online complaint Management System for women working in both public and private organizations to lodge complaints of sexual harassment at workplace. Jigyasa, a student-scientist connect programme was officially launched recently. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has joined hands with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) to implement this programme. The focus is on connecting school students and scientists so as to extend student's classroom learning with that of a very well planned research laboratory based learning. The Karnataka government launched Mathru Poorna, a scheme meant to meet the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women in rural areas. Under the programme, pregnant and lactating poor women in rural areas will get one nutritious meal daily for 25 days in a month.

12. "One Vision, One Identity, One Community" is the motto of which of the following regional groups?

- (a) SAARC
- (b) ASEAN

- (c) SCO
- (d) BIMSTEC

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The motto of ASEAN is “One Vision, One Identity, One Community”.

13. The Nabakalebara festival is an ancient ritual that was in the news recently. With reference to it, consider the following statements:
- (1) In this festival the idols of Gods are replaced by new idols.
 - (2) This festival is mostly observed in the Shaiva temples of Tamil Nadu.
- 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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: The President of India Ram Nath Kovind has recently released coins in denominations of Rs. 10 and Rs. 1,000 commemorating Nabakalebara festival of 2015 during the centenary celebration of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan in Puri, Odisha on March 18, 2018. The Nabakalebara festival is an ancient ritual that is observed in most of the Jaganath temples in Odisha. In this fest, the idols of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra and Sudarshan are replaced by new idols. The occasion occurs every 8th, 12th, or 19th year of the previous Nabakalebara.

14. Recently, the Centre has approved a project to abate pollution of a river at Navelim in Goa. The name of the river is:
- (a) Mandovi
 - (b) Zuari
 - (c) Sal
 - (d) Chapora

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The Centre has approved a project to abate pollution of river Sal at Navelim in Goa at an estimated cost of Rs 61.74 crore.
 - The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) had in 2015 identified the river stretch at Navelim as one of the 302 polluted river stretches across the country based on Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels
 - Cost of the project, covering setting up sewage treatment facilities and sewer network, will be shared equally between the Centre and State government.
 - The project was approved by the Union Environment Ministry last week under its National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) which covers 31 rivers (other than Ganga and its tributaries) in 14 states.
15. Which of the following can be considered to be the implications or effects of inflation targeting?
- (1) It reduces flexibility in monetary policy.
 - (2) It helps in avoiding boom and bust cycles.
 - (3) Workers do not demand higher wages.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: Inflation targeting has a restriction of keeping inflation in the targeted range, hence flexibility in monetary policy is reduced.

When inflation is kept in a certain limit, boom and bust cycles are automatically prevented. In addition, people do not have higher inflation expectations, hence producers do not plan to charge higher prices and workers do not plan to demand higher wages.

16. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

	Revolutionary Movement		Founder
1.	Anushilan Samiti	:	Satish Chandra Basu
2.	Mitra Mela	:	V.D. Savarkar
3.	India House	:	Shyamji Krishna Varma
4.	Hindustan Republican Association/ Army	:	Sukh Dev

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

	Revolutionary Movement		Founder
1.	Anushilan Samiti	:	Satish Chandra Basu, Barindra Kumar Ghosh, Jatindra Nath Banerjee
2.	Mitra Mela	:	V.D. Savarkar and his brother which merged with Abhinav Bharat in 1904
3.	India House/ Indian Home Rule Society	:	Shyamji Krishna Varma, Lala Har Dayal, V.D. Savarkar, Madan Lal Dingra
4.	Hindustan Republican Association/ Army	:	Ram Prasad Bismil, Joseph Chandra Chatterjee, Sachindranath Sanyal

Note: Bhagat Singh, Sukh Dev, Bhagawati Charan Vohra founded/renamed Hindustan Socialist Republican Association or HSRA.

17. Which of the following pollutants are considered for calculating the Air Quality Index in India?

- (1) Ammonia
- (2) Lead
- (3) Ozone
- (4) Carbon dioxide

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: The National AQI is published for every month by CPCB along with a numerical value and a colour code which helps in comparing air pollution levels in cities. It is determined on the basis of concentration of 8 pollutants, including Particulate Matter (PM 2.5, PM 10), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O₃), ammonia (NH₃) and lead (Pb). The colour categories are classified into 6 categories depending upon numerical value as Good (0-50), Satisfactory (51-100), Moderately polluted (101-200), Poor (201-300), Very poor (301-400) and Severe (401-500).

18. Recently under which of the following Mission/Yojana the Union government will employ Embryo Transfer Technology to optimize genetic improvement in cattle?
- (a) Rashtriya Gokul Mission
 - (b) National Mission on Bovine Productivity
 - (c) Govardhan Gram Yojana
 - (d) National Mission on Bovine Breeding

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries in co-operation with 12 States have undertaken a Mass Embryo Transfer programme in Indigenous Breeds under the scheme, National Mission on Bovine Productivity.

19. Regarding the International Energy Agency (IEA), which of the following statements is/are correct?
- (1) It is a cartel which controls the oil prices in the international market.
 - (2) India is an associate member of the IEA.
 - (3) IEA is headquartered in Paris, France.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The International Energy Agency (IEA) is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organization established in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1974 in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis. The IEA was initially dedicated to responding to physical disruptions in the supply of oil, as well as serving as an information source on statistics about the international oil market and other energy sectors. Presently it has 30 member countries including India. It is headquartered in Paris, France. Its prime focus is on the "3Es" of effectual energy policy: energy security, economic development and environmental protection. It also seeks to promote alternate energy sources (including renewable energy), rational energy policies and multinational energy technology co-operation.

20. In the context of the 'Banks Board Bureau (BBB)', which was in the news recently, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (1) It replaced the system of Board of Appointments under the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- (2) It recommends appointment of directors in public sector banks (PSBs) and advises on ways of raising funds and dealing with issues of stressed assets.
- (3) Secretary, Department Financial Services is the Chairman of the Banks Board Bureau.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: With a view to improve the Governance of Public Sector Banks (PSBs), the Government had decided to set up an autonomous Banks Board Bureau. The Bureau recommends for selection of heads - Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions and help Banks in developing strategies and capital raising plans. It has three ex-officio members and three expert members in addition to Chairman. All the Members and Chairman will be part time. It replaced the existing system of Board of Appointments led by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

21. Regarding the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) project, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (1) The project is to be set up in the Brahmagiri mountain range in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra.
- (2) The project is jointly supported by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Recently the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF's) has given environmental clearance to India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) project to be set up in Bodi West hills in Tamil Nadu. The approval was given by MoEF's Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) after taking up INO project issue as special case. The project aims at building a world-class underground laboratory with a rock cover of approximately 1200 meter. Its mandate is to conduct basic research on elementary particle called neutrino. It is jointly supported by Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Department of Science & Technology (DST), with DAE acting as the nodal agency. The observatory will be located underground in order to provide adequate shielding to the neutrino detector from cosmic background radiation.

22. What do we mean by "unemployment trap"?

- (a) When opportunity cost of going to work is too high in relation to unemployment allowances.
- (b) When highly skilled workers are unable to find work matching their skills.
- (c) When workers are forced to work at low wages.
- (d) When more workers than required are employed.

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Governments of some countries provide unemployment allowances to those who are unemployed. A situation of unemployment trap arises when these allowances discourage workers to go to work and they are encouraged to do nothing and keep taking these allowances.

- 23.** A two-week long multinational military exercise “Shanti Prayas III” was held in Nepal in 2017. What was the aim of this exercise?
- (a) To promote peace-keeping skill through mutual cooperation and collaboration among armies of different countries.
 - (b) To promote collective security of the Indian Ocean Region and peaceful co-existence of all.
 - (c) To promote peace in South Asian Region and collective efforts against terrorism.
 - (d) To bring stability and peace in Afghanistan by putting joint effort against terrorism in the country.

Answer: (a)

Explanation: A two-week long multi-national military exercise of the armies from 28 countries, including India and the US, concluded at Nepal's Birendra Peace Operation Training Centre in Panchkhal, 60-km east of Kathmandu. A total of 1,135 army personnel participated in the Shanti Prayash III jointly organised by Nepal Army and US Pacific Command. Defence Minister Balkrishna Khand was the chief guest at the ceremony, which was attended by Nepal Army Chief Rajendra Chhetri and other senior army officials. A Global Peace Operations Initiative capstone exercise, Shanti Prayas III trained partner for their participation in United Nations peacekeeping missions. Nepal, the US, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and the UK were among the participating countries. The multinational exercise includes Staff Training Event, Field Training, Critical Enabler and Capability Enhancement as well as Regional Seminar on Capability Development and Improving Performance in Peace Keeping. The aim of the exercise was to promote peace keeping skill through mutual cooperation and collaboration among armies of different countries, said a statement issued by the Nepal Army headquarters.

- 24.** Consider the following Regional Autonomy Movements in the European Union:

	Regions		Countries
1.	Basque	:	Spain
2.	Flanders	:	Italy
3.	Faroe Island	:	Denmark

Which of the above is/are NOT correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

	Regions		Countries
1.	Basques	:	Spain
2.	Flanders	:	Belgium
3.	Faroe Island	:	Denmark
4.	Lombardy and Veneto	:	Italy
5.	Catalonia	:	Spain

25. Consider the following statements regarding Bamboo:
- (1) Bamboo grown in non-forest areas has now been omitted from the definition of trees.
 - (2) In the forest areas, it would continue to be governed by the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.
- 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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- For 90 years Bamboo - taxonomically a grass - was registered as a tree in the Indian Forest Act, 1927, but the recent amendment has axed bamboo from a list of plants that also included palms, skumps, brush-wood and canes.
- Bamboo grown in non-forest areas has now been omitted from the definition of trees.
- The government hoped to promote cultivation of bamboo in non-forest areas to achieve the “twin objectives” of increasing the income of farmers and also increasing the green cover of the country. Bamboo grown in the forest areas would continue to be governed by the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

26. Consider the following statements regarding 'She Means Business' programme:
- (1) It has been launched by Odisha government and Facebook jointly.
 - (2) Under the scheme, 25,000 women entrepreneurs and self-help-groups (SHG) members will be given training on digital marketing skills.
 - (3) It is launched only in India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 3 only
 - (c) 1, 2 and 3
 - (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Odisha government and social networking giant Facebook have launched 'She Means Business' programme to train women entrepreneurs in the state. It was launched in partnership between Odisha's MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) department and Project Mission Shakti. Under this initiative, 25,000 women entrepreneurs and self-help group (SHG) members from the state will be given training on digital marketing skills within by the end of 2018. Facebook will monitor the growth of the MSMEs in Odisha after imparting training to them in next one year. It will also prepare a data base of the MSMEs through registrations in which they will take the email ids and mobile numbers of entrepreneurs in all the workshops. The programme has been launched in 16 countries around the world including India. It is designed to reach out to aspiring and established women entrepreneurs to help them build and grow their business online.

27. Recently the Kadaknath chicken got Geographical Indication tag. The breed, unique for its black colour due to its black-feathers, is found in which of the following States of India?
- (a) Odisha
 - (b) Jharkhand

- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) West Bengal

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India has awarded Geographical Indication (GI) Tag to Madhya Pradesh's Kadaknath chicken. Kadaknath chicken breed is unique for its black colour due to its black-feathers. Its black colour stems from the deposition of melanin pigment. This breed of chicken is popular for its adaptability and flavourful good-tasting black meat, which is believed to have medicinal properties. It is native to tribal districts of Jhabua, Alirajpur and parts of Dhar in Madhya Pradesh.

28. In the context of the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC), in the news recently, consider the following statements:

- (1) All the member countries of SAARC are the members of SASEC.
- (2) Asian Development Bank is the Secretariat and lead financier of SASEC program.

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) SASEC program is project-based partnership to promote regional prosperity by improving cross-border connectivity, boosting trade among member countries and strengthening regional economic cooperation. It was established in 2001. Its seven members are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka. ADB is secretariat and lead financier of SASEC program.

29. What is 'K2-229b', recently in the news?

- (a) It is a super-heavy thermonuclear-armed intercontinental-range ballistic missile tested by Russia.
- (b) It is a sharp-eyed surveillance satellite launched by China.
- (c) It is a hot, metallic, Earth-sized planet orbiting a dwarf star.
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Scientists using Kepler 2 telescope have discovered hot, metallic, Earth-sized planet named K2-229b orbiting dwarf star located 260 million light years away. They had employed Doppler spectroscopy technique also known as 'wobble method' to discover and characterise this faraway planet. K2-229b planet is almost 20% larger than Earth but has mass which is over two-and-a-half times greater.

30. The slogan "No Taxation without representation" is related with which constitutional reform?

- (a) Indian Councils Act 1861
- (b) Indian Councils Act 1892
- (c) Act for the Better Government of India 1858
- (d) Indian Councils Act 1909

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The early Nationalists worked with the long term objective of a democratic self government their demands for constitutional reforms were conceded in 1892 in the form of the Indian Councils Act. These reforms were severely criticised at Congress Sessions, where the Nationalists made no secret of their dissatisfaction with them. They gave the slogan “No taxation without representation”.

- 31.** Consider the following statements about National Investment and Infrastructure Fund:
- (1) NIIF is a sovereign wealth fund which will invest in infrastructure related sectors in India.
 - (2) It will cater to greenfield, brownfield as well as stalled projects.
 - (3) It is fully owned by the government.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

Explanation: NIIF is India’s first sovereign wealth fund and it will invest in areas such as energy, transportation, housing, water, waste management and other infra related projects. It is not wholly owned by government. The entire corpus is of Rs 40,000 crore out of which government holds 49% stake and the rest is to be raised by third party investors such as sovereign wealth funds, insurance and pension funds, endowments etc.

- 32.** Consider the following statements regarding the Andaman and Nicobar Islands:
- (1) Nicobar is India’s southernmost district.
 - (2) Car Nicobar is Nicobar’s southernmost island.
- 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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Nicobar is India’s southernmost district. Car Nicobar is its northernmost island and headquarters.

- 33.** With reference to Modern Indian history the Extremists were different from Moderates because:
- (1) The Extremists believed that political connection with Britain would perpetuate British exploitation of India.
 - (2) The Extremists demanded constitutional reforms and share for Indians in service.
 - (3) The Extremists used extra constitutional methods like boycott and passive resistance to achieve their objectives.
 - (4) The Extremists believed in England’s providential Mission in India.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Ideology of Extremists:

- (1) Rejected England's providential mission theory as an illusion.
- (2) Believed that political connections with Britain would perpetuate British exploitation of India.
- (3) Demanded Swaraj as the panacea for Indian ills.
- (4) Did not hesitate to use extra-constitutional methods like boycott and passive resistance to achieve their objectives.

Note: Moderates demanded constitutional reforms and share for Indians in service.

Source: Spectrum's A brief history of Modern India (19th edition 2013) p. 87.

34. What is Breakthrough Listen Project, which was in the news recently?

- (1) It is to search for intelligent extraterrestrial communications in the Universe.
- (2) The program has been jointly launched by NASA, ESA and ISRO.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Breakthrough Listen Project (BLP) BLP is US\$100-million global astronomical initiative launched in 2015 by Internet investor Yuri Milner and cosmologist Stephen Hawking. It has teams from around the world to find signs of intelligent life in universe. The 10-year programme aims to survey 1,000,000 closest stars to Earth by scanning entire galactic plane of Milky Way. It will listen for messages from the 100 closest galaxies at 10 billion different frequencies originated beyond our galaxy.

35. With reference to the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (1) It is a multi-State Cooperative Society under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (2) It aims at promoting and marketing tribal products, tribal art and crafts within the country.
- (3) The Ministry of Culture provides the promotion and marketing of tribal products and tribal art and crafts outside India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) is multi-State Cooperative Society under Ministry of Tribal Affairs. It was established in August 1987 by then Ministry of Welfare under Multi State Cooperative Societies Act 1984 (which has now been replaced by Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002). It is headquartered in New Delhi. It aims at promoting and marketing tribal products, tribal art and crafts **within the country and abroad** by providing marketing support to tribal product through its network of retail outlets. It also organizes exhibitions like National Tribal Craft Expo called "Aadi Mahotsav" etc.

36. Which of the following are recognised as constraints on the government's powers?

- (1) Rule of Law
- (2) Fundamental Rights
- (3) Directive Principles of State Policy
- (4) Judicial Review

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: (b)

37. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has released India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2017. In this context which of the following statements is NOT correct?
- (a) The India State of Forest Report is prepared by Forest Survey of India on a biennial basis.
 - (b) The Forest Report has been prepared by using Resourcesat-2 satellite data.
 - (c) The Report shows that there has been an increase of 1% in forest cover at the national level.
 - (d) All the North Eastern States have witnessed an increase in forest cover.

Answer: (d)

Explanation: Many states have witnessed an increase in forest cover. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha and Telangana have shown increase of 2141 sq km, 1,101 sq km, 1043 sq km, 885 and 565 sq km respectively. States which has shown a decrease in the forest cover includes Mizoram (531 sq km), Nagaland (450 sq km) and Arunachal Pradesh (190 sq km), Tripura (164 sq km) and Meghalaya (116 sq km).

Other Important Information:

In terms of area, Madhya Pradesh (77,414 sq km) has the largest forest cover followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Maharashtra. In terms of percentage of the total geographical area Lakshadweep stands at the highest with 90.33%, followed by Mizoram (86.27%), Andaman & Nicobar Island (81.73%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.96%), Manipur (77.69%) and Meghalaya (76.45%), Nagaland (75.33%) and Tripura (73.68%).

38. GOLD and ICON Mission, which was in the news recently is related to
- (a) The exploration of Earth's crust launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, India.
 - (b) The Study of Oceanic crust launched by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
 - (c) The exploration of Ionosphere launched by NASA.
 - (d) The exploitation of raw materials from asteroids and other minor planets, including near-Earth objects initiated by ISRO.

Answer: (c)

Explanation: GOLD and ICON are space missions of NASA. Both will be launched in 2018. They will team up to explore the ionosphere, located 96 km above Earth's surface. GOLD stands for Global-scale Observations of the Limb and Disk (GOLD) ICON stands for Ionospheric Connection Explorer The two missions will be complementary to each other.

39. The following hydro-electric projects between India and Pakistan were in news recently. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

	Project		Place
1.	Miyar Hydroelectric Project	-	Miyar Nalla, Jammu and Kashmir
2.	Lower Kalnai Project	-	Lower Kalnai Nalla, Jammu and Kashmir
3.	Pakal Dul Project	-	River Marudsar, Jammu and Kashmir.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Miyar project is a barrage type of dam. It is located on the river Miyar Nalla, a right bank tributary of Chenab in Himachal Pradesh. Pakul Dul is a proposed project on the river Marudsar, a tributary of Chenab. It will be a concrete dam. It will be located in the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir. Lower Kalnai is a proposed project on the Lower Kalnai Nalla, a tributary of Chenab. It would be located in Doda district in Jammu and Kashmir.

Two other controversial hydropower projects — Kishanganga and Ratle — over which Pakistan was seeking International Court of Arbitration through the World Bank were not discussed. New Delhi had suspended negotiations over the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty, which grants control of the eastern Sutlej, Beas and Ravi rivers to India while the western Indus, Jhelum and Chenab rivers to Pakistan, following an attack by militants that killed 19 Indian soldiers last year. Pakistan accuses India of violating the World Bank-brokered treaty by building dams on the western rivers, which all flow through Indian territory before reaching the Pakistani side. India complains Pakistan benefits from a greater volume of water under the agreement.

40. Which one of the following is the best description of 'Portal PENCIL' what was in the news recently?
- (a) It is an endeavour to spread literacy in India.
 - (b) It is to achieve the target of child labour free society.
 - (c) It is to distribute pencils and text books to the students
 - (d) None of the above

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment launched Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) Portal at National Conference on Child Labour. The PENCIL portal is an electronic platform that aims at involving Centre, State, District, Governments, civil society and general public in achieving the target of child labour free society.

41. "Hywind" Project is seen in news sometimes. It is related to which of the following?
- (a) It is world's first floating wind farm in Scotland.
 - (b) It is world's largest wind farm being developed in China.
 - (c) It is Kerala's project to develop offshore wind energy.
 - (d) It is a project to develop most efficient way store wind energy being done by Elon Musk.

Answer: (a)

Explanation: The world's first floating wind farm has started delivering electricity to the Scottish grid. Five giant turbines have been tethered to the seabed about 15 miles from Peterhead in Aberdeenshire. The wind farm has been officially opened by Nicola Sturgeon. The first minister said the project, which will generate enough power for about 20,000 homes, was testament to Scotland's "international reputation" for renewable energy. At 175m from sea surface to blade tip, the turbines are almost as tall as the Queens ferry Crossing. They extend another 78 metres below the surface and are chained to the seabed to stay in place. Norwegian energy firm Statoil has been working on developing the project, known as Hywind, for more than 15 years. The floating approach allows turbines to be installed in much deeper waters than conventional offshore wind farms. This wind farm is positioned in water depths of up to 129m, whereas those fixed to the seabed are generally at depths of up to 50m. Statoil says up to 80 per cent of potential offshore wind sites are in waters more than 60m deep. The company believes floating turbines have the potential to work in depths of up to 800m.

42. In which of the following elections the NOTA option is NOT used?

- (1) Election to the office of the President
 - (2) Election to the office of the Vice President
 - (3) Elections to the Rajya Sabha
 - (4) Elections to the State Legislative Councils
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Exp:

NOTA is used in the Lok Sabha, MLA, MLC, Panchayats and Rajya Sabha elections but is not used in the elections to the office of the President and the Vice-President.

43. The Anarchical and Revolutionary Crime Act 1919, formally known as Rowlatt Act, gave power to the British government in India regarding the suspension of which right?

- (a) Right of Habeas Corpus
- (b) Right of Speech
- (c) Right of Publication of Newspaper/Magazine
- (d) Right to form association

Answer: (a)

Explanation: The Anarchical and Revolutionary Crime Act, 1919 formally known as Rowlatt Act gave authority to the government to search a place and arrest a person without warrant and detain without a trial for a maximum period of two years. In other words, Rowlatt Act gave powers to the Government regarding the suspension of the right of Habeas Corpus.

44. With reference to the National Tiger Estimates, consider the following statements:

- (1) The national tiger estimates are conducted once in four years, with the first conducted in 2006.
- (2) The world's single largest tiger population in a landscape exists in the Bandipur-Nagarahole-Mudumalai-Wayanad complex.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The national tiger estimates are conducted once in four years, with the first conducted in 2006. The Western Ghat landscape, comprising Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Goa, accounted for 776 tigers in 2014, with the Bandipur-Nagarahole-Mudumalai-Wayanad complex harbouring 570 tigers — reckoned to be the world’s single largest tiger population in a landscape. The last nationwide assessment, held in 2014, pegged the tiger figures across the country at 2,226. Karnataka alone was home to 400 tigers, a bulk of them in Bandipur and Nagarahole.

45. The Channakeshava temple in Belur, was in news recently. Consider the following statements regarding it:

- (1) The temple was commissioned by Hoysala King Vishnuvardhana.
- (2) It is a Vaishnava temple that reverentially includes many themes from Shaivism and Shaktism, as well as images of a Jina from Jainism and the Buddha from Buddhism.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The Channakeshava temple in Belur – a masterpiece of Hoysala architecture – turned 900 last year. The temple, commissioned by Vishnuvardhana of the Hoysala dynasty, is a monument recognised by the ASI. It attracts thousands of tourists from different parts of the country and abroad. Considered to be the first temple of Hoysala style, it was built between 1104 and 1117(103 years), according to Srivatsa Vati, a historian and an expert in Hoysala architecture. Soon after winning a war in 1104, Vishnuvardhana took up the construction of the temple, and according to an inscription, the temple was ready by March 1117.

Channakeshava is a form of the Hindu god Vishnu. The temple is dedicated to Vishnu and has been an active Hindu temple since its founding. It is reverentially described in medieval Hindu texts and remains an important pilgrimage site in Vaishnavism. The temple is remarkable for its architecture, sculptures, reliefs, friezes as well its iconography, inscriptions and history. The temple artwork depicts scenes of secular life in the 12th century, dancers and musicians, as well as a pictorial narration of Hindu texts such as the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Puranas through numerous friezes. It is a Vaishnava temple that reverentially includes many themes from Shaivism and Shaktism, as well as images of a Jina from Jainism and the Buddha from Buddhism. The Channakeshava temple is a testimony to the artistic, cultural and theological perspectives in 12th century South India and the Hoysala Empire rule.

The Belur temple complex along with the nearby Hindu and Jain Temples at Halebidu have been proposed to be listed under UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

46. Moving from Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir) to Aurangabad (Maharashtra), what is the minimum number of states that one has to pass through (including the initial and end point)?

- (a) 4
- (b) 5
- (c) 6

(d) 7

Answer: (b)

Explanation: At minimum one has to pass through 5 States of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, MP/Gujarat and Maharashtra.

47. Consider the following statements with regard to different trade groupings:

- (1) A Free Trade Area/Agreement has little or no tariffs among member countries.
- (2) A Customs Union is a Free Trade Area/Agreement wherein each member sets its own tariff policies towards non-members.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: A Free Trade Area/Agreement is a group of countries having little or no trade barriers amongst themselves. A Customs Union is a step further wherein all member countries set common barriers vis-a-vis non-members.

48. Consider the following Marine National Parks in India:

	Marine National Park		Area
1.	Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park	:	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
2.	Gahirmatha	:	Odisha
3.	Rani Jhansi Marine National Park	:	Maharashtra

Which of the above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

	Marine National Park		Area
1.	Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park	:	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
2.	Gahirmatha	:	Odisha
3.	Rani Jhansi Marine National Park	:	Andaman and Nicobar Island
4.	Malvan Marine Sanctuary	:	Sindhudurg district in Konkan region of Maharashtra

49. With reference to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, which was in the news recently, consider the following statements:

- (1) Ministry of Law and Justice is the nodal ministry to enforce the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

- (2) The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act operationalize Article 17 of the Indian Constitution.

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Ministry of Social Justice is the nodal ministry to enforce the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted to prevent atrocities against scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Article 17 of Indian Constitution seeks to abolish 'untouchability' and to forbid all such practices. It is basically a "statement of principle" that needs to be made operational with the ostensible objective to remove humiliation and multifaceted harassments meted to the Dalits and to ensure their fundamental and socio-economic, political, and cultural rights.

- 50.** In the context of the 'Peatland ecosystems', which was in the news recently, consider the following statements:

- (1) Peatlands are wetlands that contain mixture of decomposed organic material partially submerged in layer of water lacking oxygen.
(2) The Cuvette Centrale region in Congo Basin is the world's largest natural tropical peatlands.
(3) Brazzaville Declaration aims to implement coordination and cooperation between different government sectors to protect the benefits provided by peatland ecosystems.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The Brazzaville declaration was signed recently to promote better management and conservation world's largest tropical peatlands-Cuvette Centrale region in Congo Basin from unregulated land use and prevent its drainage and degradation. It was signed jointly by Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Republic of Congo and Indonesia on the sidelines of Third Partners Meeting of Global Peatlands Initiative held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. Peatlands are wetlands that contain mixture of decomposed organic material, partially submerged in layer of water, lacking oxygen. The complex biodiversity of peatlands means they are home to variety of species. Their high carbon content makes them uniquely vulnerable to incineration if they are drained. They are globally important carbon store. The unregulated exploitation of peatlands can potentially be detrimental to environment and to climate, as it could release carbon emissions that have been locked in for millennia. Global Peatlands Initiative GPI is multi-partner United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) initiative launched at the Global Landscapes Forum in Marrakesh in 2016.

- 51.** Recently, Living Will has been in the news. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding a Living Will?

- (1) It is a health care directive, in which people can state their wishes for their end-of-life care, in case they are not in a position to make that decision
- (2) Every person has a right to make a Living Will.
- (3) If there are more than one Living Will, they are all deemed a void.

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

Ans: (a)

Exp:

Only an adult with a sound and healthy mind can make a Living Will. It should be voluntarily executed, based on informed consent and expressed in specific terms in a language "absolutely clear and unambiguous".

It shall contain the circumstances in which medical treatment should be withdrawn. It should specify that the Will can be revoked any time. It should give the name of the "guardian or close relative" who will give the go-ahead for starting the procedure of passive euthanasia. If there are more than one Living Will, the latest one will be valid.

- 52.** Recently in news, which of the following statement is related to "Disarib"?
- (a) It is an adrenergic receptor agonist developed by Indian scientists, used as a "reliever" inhaler in the management of asthma symptoms and as a tocolytic to delay preterm labour.
 - (b) It is medicine developed by Indian scientists which specifically used to treat multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) when other treatment cannot be used.
 - (c) It is a novel small molecule, designed and synthesized by Indian researchers which has shown promise in targeted killing of cancer cells.
 - (d) None of the above.

Answer: (c)

Explanation: A novel small molecule, designed and synthesized by Indian researchers, has shown promise in targeted killing of cancer cells. The molecule (Disarib) works by binding itself to a protein called BCL2, which suppresses the death of cancerous cells. While BCL2 protein is produced in excess in cancer cells, its expression is almost undetectable in normal cells. Hence, Disarib targets and kills only cancer cells while sparing normal cells. Inside a cell there is always a balance between proteins that promote cell death (apoptosis) and those that suppress cell death. When the proteins BAX and BAK that promote cell death get bound to BCL2, cell death is suppressed and cancer cells are able to live longer. A team led by Sathees C. Raghavan at the Department of Biochemistry, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, showed that Disarib was able to disrupt the binding of BCL2 and apoptosis-causing BAK protein. This action induced the death of cancer cells.

- 53.** Union Government has launched "Tarang Sanchar Portal". What is Tarang Sanchar Portal?
- (a) It will allow people to register their grievances against mobile companies especially against call drops.
 - (b) It will allow people to track radiation emitted from mobile towers within a locality.
 - (c) It will help mobile companies to bid for available spectrum online, thus improving Ease of Doing Business.

- (d) It will help Indian Government in increasing tele-density in the country by registering people without mobile phone and then subsidizing their purchase.

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Ministry of Communications launched Tarang Sanchar, a web portal for Information sharing on Mobile Towers and EMF Emission Compliances. It will go a long way in clearing the myths and misconceptions of public on mobile towers and emissions from them. The portal will empower common man to know at the convenience of a mouse click, about towers working in a particular locality and whether they are compliant to the EMF emission norms defined by the Government. The portal will allow users to get a tower or base station checked for radiation emission, for a fee of Rs 4,000. Mobile phone today has become an essential requirement for all including the poor in the remotest corner of the country and no one should be allowed to spread misconception about the harmful radiation from the towers to impede the growth of the country. There are over 25,000 studies by WHO in the last 30 years on the subject and there is no proof that EMF radiation has any harmful effect on human health. Brushing aside growing concerns over the emanating electromagnetic frequency (EMF) radiations from mobile towers, the Telecom Ministry once again reminded that Indian norms had prescribed 10 times stricter limits for radiation emission in comparison to global standards. Measures are being taken to penalize the erring entities.

54. "Asian Premium", a term in news refers to:
- An additional custom duty charged on Asian imports.
 - An additional custom duty charged on exports of goods from Asian countries.
 - An additional charge on oil imported by Asian countries.
 - A charge on movement of people among Asian nations.

Answer: (c)

Explanation: An additional charge on oil imported by Asian countries from OPEC nations.

55. Through which constitutional reform the right to vote was given to Indian women for the first time?
- Morley-Minto Reforms 1909
 - Montague-Chelmsford Reforms 1919
 - Indian Councils Act, 1892
 - Indian Councils Act, 1861

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Provisions of Montague-Chelmsford Reform 1919.

- Dyarchy i.e. Rule of two executive councillors and popular ministers was introduced.
- The system of communal and class electorates were further consolidated.
- Women were also given to right to vote.
- The legislative councils could reject the budget but the governor could restore it if necessary.

56. An RBI discussion paper has proposed to setup long term finance banks. Which of the following statements are correct regarding these banks?
- The minimum capital required for the banks to fund Infrastructure project would be Rs. 1,000 crore.
 - These banks will be exempted from opening branches in rural and semi-urban areas.

- (3) These banks will not be forced to lend to agriculture and weaker sections of the society.

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) discussion paper has proposed setting up of long-term finance banks, especially to fund infrastructure and greenfield projects of industries, with a minimum capital requirement of Rs 1,000 crore. The eligibility criteria of promoters for a Wholesale and Long-term Finance Bank (WLTFB) will be the same as those for an 'on tap' universal banking license. It means large industrial houses cannot take more than 10 per cent stake in these banks. Individuals with 10 years of experience in banking and finance at a senior level with a successful track record can also apply for the license along with business groups, which have total assets of at least Rs 5,000 crore and which do not own more than 40 per cent of their total income from non-financial sources. These banks will be exempted from opening branches in rural and semi-urban areas and will not be forced to lend to agriculture and weaker sections of the society. These banks shall focus on lending to infrastructure and core industries. These sectors traditionally remain deprived of regular bank credit due to asset-liability mismatch issues, which arise on the balance sheet of banks because of long gestation repayment period of assets in such sectors.

57. Which of the following is the best description of 'Day Zero' that was in the news recently?
- (a) Production and use of solar energy by the households to achieve zero electricity bill.
(b) To cut water use substantially by turning off a city's taps.
(c) A regular practice of fasting to improve digestive efficiency.
(d) An award for the school children who get 100% attendance.

Answer: (b)

Explanation: An analysis shows that at least 200 cities across the world are facing a severe water crisis while 10 metropolitan cities, among them Bengaluru, are fast moving towards 'Day Zero' - a situation where taps start running dry. The assessment by Down To Earth, a magazine published by green think-tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), sounds alarm bells for many cities across the globe, a day ahead of the World Water Day which is observed every year on March 22. The report says Bengaluru could go the Cape Town way. Cape Town, one of the richest cities of Africa, has been reeling under one of the worst ever water crisis with many reports estimating that the city's taps will run dry this year, within the next few months. The city has recently introduced the idea of 'Day Zero' to cut water use substantially when most of the city's taps will literally be turned off.

58. NASA's Hubble Space Telescope recently has beamed back images of an astronomical body "Phobos". Which of the following option correctly describes Phobos?
- (a) It is a tiny Martian Moon.
(b) It is red dwarf, a small low-mass star, in the constellation of Centaurus.
(c) It is the largest object in the asteroid belt that lies between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.
(d) It is an exoplanet orbiting a star like our Sun.

Answer: (a)

Explanation: NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has beamed back images of the tiny Martian moon Phobos in its orbital trek around the red planet. Over the course of 22 minutes, Hubble took 13 separate images, allowing astronomers to create a time-lapse video showing the diminutive moon's orbital path. The Hubble observations were intended to photograph Mars, and the moon's cameo appearance was a bonus, scientists said. A football-shaped object of size just 26x21x17 kilometers, Phobos is one of the smallest moons in the solar system. The moon completes an orbit in just seven hours and 39 minutes, which is faster than Mars rotates. Rising in the Martian west, it runs three laps around the Red Planet in the course of one Martian day, which is about 24 hours and 40 minutes. It is the only natural satellite in the solar system that circles its planet in a time shorter than the parent planet's day.

59. Madhya Pradesh recently sent a proposal for the Mughal-era structure 'Khooni Bhandara' to get UNESCO World Heritage tag. What was the use of this structure during Mughal times?
- (a) It was an underground scientifically managed granary.
 - (b) It was an underground water management system.
 - (c) It was an unique maze type jail system without any gates.
 - (d) It was a place where criminals were executed.

Answer: (b)

Explanation: A unique underground water management structure of the Mughal era in Burhanpur district of Madhya Pradesh, known as the 'Kundi Bhandara' or 'Khooni Bhandara,' is eyeing the tag of UNESCO world heritage site as the state government makes a case for it with the Centre. A proposal in this regard has been sent to the union government to forward the process. Khooni Bhandara is a network of Kundis (well-like structures), which are interconnected through an underground tunnel. The system ensured a smooth course of water from the first to the last Kundi, based on the law of gravity. An iron stairs or rope is used to go down in the tunnel through these well-like structures. These structures were developed during the Mughal era for water supply. The structure, also a popular tourist spot, is still functional and serves high-quality drinking water to a portion of Burhanpur.

60. Recently the Middle-Income Group Scheme was launched in India. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Scheme?
- (1) The Scheme is launched by the Supreme Court of India.
 - (2) It is a self-supporting Scheme which provides legal services to the middle-income group citizens
 - (3) Citizens whose gross income is not exceeding Rs. 60,000 per month or Rs. 7,50,000 per annum can avail benefits under this Scheme.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

Explanation: The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has introduced the Middle-Income Group Scheme. It is a self-supporting scheme which provides legal services to the middle-income group citizens i.e. citizens whose gross income is not exceeding Rs.60, 000 per month or Rs. 7, 50, 000 per annum. As per the Supreme Court rules it is only through advocates on record cases can be filed before it.

A sum of Rs.500/- shall be payable to the Supreme Court Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society (SCMIGLAS) as service charges. The applicant shall have to deposit the fee indicated by the Secretary, which will be in accordance with the schedule attached to the Scheme. It is the Secretary, who will register the case under the MIG Legal Aid Scheme and proceed to forward the papers to the Advocate-on-Record/Arguing Counsel/Senior Counsel on the panel for opinion.

If Advocate-on-Record is satisfied that it is a fit case to be proceeded with, then the Society will consider that the applicant is entitled to legal aid. The view expressed by the Learned Advocate-on Record will be final insofar as the eligibility of the applicant for obtaining the benefit of the Scheme is concerned.

Under the scheme, middle class people who can't afford the expensive litigation in the Supreme Court can avail the services of the society for a nominal amount. The person desirous of availing the benefit of the Scheme shall have to fill up the form prescribed and accept all the terms and conditions contained therein.

As per the scheme, contingent fund will be created to meet the miscellaneous expenditure in connection with the case under the Scheme by requiring the applicant to deposit upto the stage of admission, a sum of Rs.750/- in addition to the charges required to be deposited with the Society, out of this contingent fund.

61. Consider the following international agreements which have a bearing on Biodiversity:

- (1) Convention on Biological Diversity
 - (2) World Heritage Convention
 - (3) UN Convention to Combating Desertification
 - (4) Convention on International Trade on Endangered species
- India is a part of which of the above agreements?
- (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
 - (c) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

India is a party to the following International Agreements bearing on the Biodiversity:

- (1) Convention on Biological Diversity
- (2) World Heritage Convention
- (3) UN Convention to Combating Desertification
- (4) Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species
- (5) Bonn Convention on Migratory Species
- (6) WTO
- (7) UNFCCC
- (8) UNSCLOS, etc.

62. Consider the following statements regarding the offence of 'money laundering':

- (1) It is a standalone offence according to FATF (Financial Action Task Force) rules.
- (2) India made money laundering a standalone offence after becoming a member of the FATF.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: According to FATF rules, money laundering is a stand alone offence. However, India has not yet declared it to be so. FATF has asked India to take the necessary step by December 2020.

- 63.** With reference to Indian freedom struggle “an edge of a volcano” is related with:
- (a) Mass pressure against the trial of INA (Indian National Army) prisoners of war (PoWs) after World War II.
 - (b) Mass demonstration during Quit India Movement, 1942
 - (c) First War of Independence of 1857
 - (d) Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, 1919.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

INA Trials: Mass pressure against the trial of INA POWs, sometimes described as “an edge of a volcano” brought about a decisive shift in the government’s policy. The British had initially decided to hold public trials of several hundreds of INA prisoners besides dismissing them from service and detaining without trial around 7000 of them.

- 64.** “Time Crystal” is a new and strange state of matter unveiled by scientists in 2017. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding “Time Crystal”?
- (1) A time crystal is a structure that repeats in time, as well as in space unlike normal three-dimensional crystals which have a repeating pattern in space but remain unchanged as time passes.
 - (2) A time crystal never reaches thermal equilibrium.
- 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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: A **time crystal** or **space-time crystal** is a structure that repeats in time, as well as in space. Normal three-dimensional crystals have a repeating pattern in space (Crystals, such as diamond and quartz, are made of atoms arranged in a repeating pattern in space) but remain unchanged as time passes. Time crystals repeat themselves in time as well, leading the crystal to change from moment to moment. It was first predicted in 2012 by Nobel Prize winner Frank Wilczek from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A time crystal never reaches thermal equilibrium, as it is a type of non-equilibrium matter — a form of matter proposed in 2012, and first observed in 2017. This state of matter cannot be isolated from its environment – it is an open system in non-equilibrium.

- 65.** The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was passed in 2017. Which of the following statements is NOT correct about the Act?
- (a) Maternity leave available to working women is to be increased from 12 weeks to 26 weeks for the first two children.
 - (b) Maternity leave for children beyond the first two will be 12 weeks.
 - (c) Every establishment with more than 50 employees is to provide for crèche facilities for working mothers.

- (d) Every establishment will be required to make these benefits available to the women after 6 months from the time of her appointment.

Answer: (d)

Explanation: Every establishment will be required to make these benefits available to the women from the time of her appointment.

The Lok Sabha passed the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in 2017. With this, the Bill stands passed in the Parliament. The Bill seeks to amend the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 to provide for the following:- Maternity leave available to the working women to be increased from 12 weeks to 26 weeks for the first two children; Maternity leave for children beyond the first two will continue to be 12 weeks; Maternity leave of 12 weeks to be available to mothers adopting a child below the age of three months as well as to the “commissioning mothers”. The commissioning mother has been defined as biological mother who uses her egg to create an embryo planted in any other woman; Every establishment with more than 50 employees to provide for crèche facilities for working mothers and such mothers will be permitted to make four visits during working hours to look after and feed the child in the crèche; The employer may permit a woman to work from home if it is possible to do so; Every establishment will be required to make these benefits available to the women from the time of her appointment.

66. The Greater Adjutant Stork, an endangered bird species according to IUCN is most likely to found in which of the following regions?
- (a) Rajasthan
 - (b) Assam
 - (c) Western Ghats
 - (d) None of the above

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The greater adjutant is a member of the stork family. Its genus includes the lesser adjutant of Asia and the marabou stork of Africa. Once found widely across southern Asia, mainly in India but extending east to Borneo, the greater adjutant is now restricted to a much smaller range with only two breeding populations; one in India, with the largest colony in Assam and the other breeding region in Cambodia. They disperse after the breeding season. This large stork has a massive wedge-shaped bill, a bare head and a distinctive neck pouch. During the day, they soar in thermals along with vultures with whom they share the habit of scavenging. They feed mainly on carrion and offal; however, they are opportunistic and will sometimes prey on vertebrates.

Purnima Barman of Assam has won the prestigious Whitley Award, popularly known as Green Oscars, for her efforts in wildlife conservation in 2017. The awards are instituted by the U.K.-registered charity Whitley Fund for Nature, which supports nature conservationists in their endeavour to conserve wildlife and nature. Ms. Barman has won the award for her work in conservation of Assam’s Greater Adjutant Stork and its habitat.

67. India's largest floating solar power plant was inaugurated at Kerala in 2017. Which of the following statement is true regarding the power plant?
- (1) It has a capacity of 500 kilowatts (KW).
 - (2) It is situated at the Banasura Sagar dam in Wayanad district.
- 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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The largest floating solar plant of India was inaugurated on December 4, 2017, by Kerala Electricity Minister M M Mani at the Banasura Sagar dam in Wayanad district, Kerala. It has a capacity of 500 kilowatts (KW). The plant consists of 1,938 solar panels, with a capacity of 260 watts, a 500-kilovolt ampere (KVA) transformer, and 17 inverters. The unique feature of this plant is the anchoring mechanism used by the overwhelming technology to maintain the plant with the alteration of the water level. The plant has been constructed by the Thiruvananthapuram-based Ad Tech Systems. It will generate seven lakh units of power in a year. The total cost of the project is Rs 9.25 crore. The power produced will be transmitted to the 11-kV line of the KSEB and the Board will further consider installing two windmills with a capacity of 500 KW each on the dam top.

68. Recently the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) under Ministry of Communication launched its innovation “WiDHWAN”. What is the role of WiDHWAN?
- (a) To provide cheap wireless internet services in rural areas under BharatNet Project.
 - (b) To cater to the recurring call-drop issues in no-signal and low-signal network scenarios.
 - (c) To provide tele-education services to the remote Northern-Eastern Regions.
 - (d) To check the theft of money in mobile wallet application.

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The Minister of Communications Shri Manoj Sinha has called upon C-DOT, Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) to innovate and develop Telecom products at reasonable costs for exporting to SAARC countries and other developing regions of the world. In a message on the occasion for 34th Foundation Day celebrations of C-DOT, he said that the premier Telecom R&D centre of the Government of India, can develop products having far reaching impact in the areas of Agriculture, Education and Health care. The Minister said that in an era of M2M communications, Internet of Things, 5G, Cognitive learning and hyper speed networks, C-DOT has to play an important role in developing state of the art telecom infrastructure at affordable rate for the common man. Referring to the launch of C-DOT’s latest innovation, “WiDHWAN”, Shri Sinha said that, it has been exclusively designed to cater to the recurring call drop issues in no-signal and low-signal network scenarios in places such as offices and homes. He also congratulated C-DOT for regularly organizing lecture series on its foundation day, attracting national and international talents from the fields of IT and Engineering to brainstorm on the future challenges facing the sector.

69. Who is praised and given the title of ‘Socrates of South Asia’?
- (a) Swami Vivekanand
 - (b) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
 - (c) Swami Dayanand Saraswati
 - (d) E.V. Ramaswamy

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Periyar E.V. Ramaswamy was given the title ‘Periyar’ on 27th June 1970 by the UNESCO Organisation and praised and adorned with the title “Socrates of South Asia”.

Source: Tamil Nadu Text Book (First Edition) 2007) Class XII) page 135.

70. Sunderbans Tiger Reserve with support from experts have coordinated a recovery program for critically endangered “Batagur Baska”. Batagur Baska is a:

- (a) Snake
- (b) Spider
- (c) Deer
- (d) Turtle

Answer: (d)

Explanation: Batagur Baska, the 60-cm-long turtle that is presumed extinct in several Southeast Asian countries, is classified as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in its Red List of threatened species. The tiger, by comparison, is endangered. For the past ten years, officials of the Sunderban Tiger Reserve with support from experts at Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA), have coordinated a recovery program for what is described as the world's second most endangered turtle, through captive conservation breeding. The Yangtze giant softshell turtle, Rafetus swinhoei, is considered the most endangered freshwater turtle.

71. The Kisan Credit Card scheme is in operation throughout the country and is implemented by:
- (a) Regional Rural Banks
 - (b) Commercial Banks
 - (c) Cooperative Banks
 - (d) All of the above

Answer: (d)

72. In 2017, Union Government brought "Samadhan" doctrine. To what does "Samadhan" doctrine relate to?
- (a) To solve amicably disputes with international neighbours who are willing to do so.
 - (b) To tackle cross border terrorism.
 - (c) To tackle separatist movement in the North-Eastern states.
 - (d) To tackle Left Wing Extremism.

Answer: (d)

Explanation: The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on 8 May 2017 announced a new doctrine, SAMADHAN. The doctrine was announced during the Review Meeting of Left Wing Extremism affected States which was chaired by Rajnath Singh.

The new doctrine, 'SAMADHAN' will have 8 pillars and they are

1. S- Smart Leadership
2. A- Aggressive Strategy
3. M- Motivation and Training
4. A- Actionable Intelligence
5. D- Dashboard Based KPIs (Key Performance Indicators)
6. H- Harnessing Technology
7. A- Action plan for each Theatre
8. N- No access to Financing

The doctrine was released at the time when the union government is being questioned on its agenda and plan to tackle the menace of the Maoists or left-wing extremism. Questions were raised after 25 CRPF jawans were killed by Maoists in an ambush in Burkapal, Sukma district of Chhattisgarh.

73. The term "Synlight" is seen in news recently. It is related to which of the following?

- (a) It is the name of the spaceship being developed by Elon Musk's SpaceX to ferry humans to space.
- (b) It is the world's largest artificial Sun made up of a honeycomb of several spotlights.
- (c) It is world's fastest wireless internet service started by Google using LiFi technology.
- (d) It is world's biggest solar power plant being established by China.

Answer: (b)

Explanation: On March 23, 2017, the world's largest artificial sun started emitting light in German town Jülich. The artificial sun, which is powered by 149 industrial-grade film projector spotlights, is designed to create an alternate source of energy which can in-turn be used to generate climate-friendly fuel. The experiment has been officially named Synlight. The project has been designed by German Aerospace Center (DLR) scientists. The project has been set-up in a three storey building and each projector emits light which is 4,000 times the average bulb. For Synlight to remain operational for four hours, it uses electricity equivalent to that used by a four-person household in a year. The project is designed in a way that it has three separate radiation chambers. These generate solar radiation of up to 380 kilowatts and two times up to 240 kilowatts with a maximum flux density of more than 11 megawatts per square meter. Synlight comes with a multi-focus capability, which means it can be used for one large application or it can also be split into smaller areas. Sunlight in central Europe is unreliable and irregular, so an artificial Sun is the preferred choice for developing production processes for solar fuel.

74. Consider the following pairs:

	Viceroy		Important work/ event
1.	Lord Chelmsford	:	Establishment of Benaras Hindu Vishwavidyalaya
2.	Lord Linlithgow	:	Cripps Mission
3.	Lord Irwin	:	3 rd Round Table Conference
4.	Lord Ripon	:	Establishment of Census System

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

	Viceroy		Important work/ event
1.	Lord Chelmsford	:	Establishment of Benaras Hindu Vishwavidyalaya
2.	Lord Linlithgow	:	Crispp Mission came to India
3.	Lord Willington	:	3 rd Round Table Conference
4.	Lord Ripon	:	Establishment of Census System

Source: NCERT

- 75.** Which of the following are taken into consideration while calculating MSP for food crops?
- (1) Cost of production
 - (2) Price trend in domestic and international markets
 - (3) Likely impact of MSP on consumers
 - (4) Demand and supply of the crop
 - (5) Terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1, 4 and 5 only
 - (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
 - (c) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: (d)

Explanation: Following factors are taken into consideration while calculating MSP:

- (1) Cost of production
- (2) Demand and Supply
- (3) Price trend in domestic and international markets
- (4) Likely impact of MSP on consumers
- (5) Terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors
- (6) Inter crop price parity

- 76.** The Central Government has launched a pilot project called “Project Blue Flag”. What is the objective of the project?
- (a) It is a project for lakes' redevelopment and cleanup
 - (b) It is a project for making clean water accessible to all by 2022.
 - (c) It is a project for beach cleanup and development.
 - (d) It is a project for desiltation of Ganges and development of waterways.

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Don't be confused with Blue Flag which is a military aviation exercise held by the Israeli Air Force.

With the prime objective of enhancing standards of cleanliness, upkeep and basic amenities at beaches, the Environment Ministry has launched a pilot project for beach cleanup and development, also striving for the “Blue Flag” Certification for such identified beaches. Under the pilot programme, each of the coastal State/UT was requested to identify/nominate a beach, to be funded through the ongoing Integrated Coastal Management Programme. All the coastal States have nominated the pilot beaches in their receptive territories including Goa. Formal nominations are, however, awaited from the coastal UTs viz., Daman & Diu, Puducherry, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar.

- 77.** Some new species of animals have been recently discovered in India. Match the newly discovered species with the place it has been discovered at:

	Species		Place
1.	Barilius torsie	:	River Torsa in Brahmaputra basin
2.	Chub Mackerel	:	Tamil Nadu coast
3.	Rita bakalu	:	Godavari river basin

Which of the above have been correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Chub Mackerel has been discovered at the Gujarat coast and not Tamil Nadu coast.

78. Which of the local movements rose as a result of the Non-Cooperation Movement, 1920?

- (1) Awadh Kisan Movement (UP)
- (2) Mappila Revolt (Malabar)
- (3) Tebhaga Movement (Bengal)
- (4) Sikh agitation for the removal of mahant (Punjab)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Non-Cooperation Movement, 1920 the spirit of defiance and unrest gave rise to many local struggle such as awadh Kisan Movement (UP), Eka Movement (UP), Mappila Revolt (Malabar) and the Sikh agitation for the removal of mahant in Punjab.

79. A rare disease called "Agra or Nalband Mutation" was in news recently. Which of the following statements correctly describes the disease?

- (a) It causes neurodegenerative disease caused by the mutation in a gene of a chromosome.
- (b) It is an autosomal recessive disease that causes mutation and progressive damage to the nervous system.
- (c) It is a genetic disorder of the connective tissue caused by mutation of the nervous system.
- (d) It is a disorder that occurs when structures that produce energy for a cell malfunction due to mutation in the cell.

Answer: (a)

Explanation: It causes neurodegenerative disease caused by the mutation in the gene MLC-1 in the chromosome 21. It is found among Nalband communities in Agra. The Nalband community, all Muslim, is about 5,000 strong, and spread across Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Pakistan. The name literally translates to 'makers of horse shoes' though today, a wide range of professions characterise the members of the community.

80. Consider the following statements about CIBIL (Credit Information Bureau of India Limited):

- (1) CIBIL score was introduced in 2007 as India's first credit scoring model for banking and financial institutions in the country.
- (2) CIBIL is known for maintaining one of the largest collections of consumer information at global level.
- (3) CIBIL is licensed by the Reserve Bank of India and is governed by Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act of 2005.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

81. With reference to landform development during different stages of a stream, consider the following statements:

- (1) V-shaped valleys and waterfalls are observed in the youth stage.
- (2) In the mature stage, most of landscape is at sea level.
- (3) Waterfalls and rapids disappear in the old stage.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: (a)

Exp:

In the youth stage of stream, V-shaped valleys with no flood plains are observed. Waterfalls and rapids are common at this stage. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.

Most of the landscape is at sea level or slightly above it during the old stage and not in mature stage. Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.

Waterfalls and rapids disappear at the mature stage. Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.

82. In 2017 work has started under Indo-Netherlands joint project named “LOTUS HR”. What is the objective of the project?

- (a) To develop new methods of sustainable large scale organic farming.
- (b) To demonstrate use of IoT (Internet of Things) and AI (Artificial Intelligence) in public health sector and making it effective and affordable.
- (c) It is a long-term storage facility representing world’s largest collection of crop diversity.
- (d) To demonstrate a novel holistic (waste-) water management approach.

Answer: (d)

Explanation: The Project Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Reuse (LOTUS^{HR}) is an Indo-Netherlands joint project funded by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt of India and NWO/STW, The Govt of Netherlands. The project has stakeholders from both Academia and Industry from India and Netherlands. It is coordinated by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi with participation of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi and National Environment Research Institute, Nagpur from India while Technical University Delft is coordinating it from The Netherlands, with participation of Environmental Engineering and Water Technology Department, UNESCO, Wageningen University and its Aquatic Ecology Department. There is also commitment from industry, especially from The Netherlands, in terms of both cash and kind towards the project.

The project aims to demonstrate a novel holistic (waste-) water management approach, that will produce clean water that can be reused for various proposes (e.g. industry, agriculture,

construction etc.), while simultaneously recovering nutrients and energy from the urban waste water, thus converting drain into profitable mines. Special attention will be paid to pathogen removal and removing conventional and emerging pollutants.

Foundation Stone were laid for the on-site laboratory and pilot plant for cleaning and beautification of the Barapullah Drain under the project.

83. Recently, Indian and Chinese armies clashed along the Pangong lake in Ladakh. Consider the following statements regarding Pangong Lake:

- (1) It is a landlocked lake in the Ladakh Himalayas.
- (2) It is part of the Indus river basin area.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Pangong Tso is a long narrow, deep, landlocked lake located at a height of over 14,000-feet in the Ladakh Himalaya and around 1300- km west of Sikkim.
- It is a brackish water lake freezes over in winter, and becomes ideal for ice skating and polo.
- It is not a part of Indus river basin area.
- The lake is in the process of being identified under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance. This will be the first trans-boundary wetland in South Asia under the convention.

84. Arrange the following passes from East to West:

- (1) Banihal
- (2) Lipulekh
- (3) Jelep
- (4) Shipki La

Which of the code given below gives the correct arrangement?

- (a) 1-4-2-3
- (b) 3-2-1-4
- (c) 3-2-4-1
- (d) 1-4-3-2

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Arranged from East to West – Jelep La (Sikkim) - Lipulekh (Uttarakhand) - Shipki La (Himachal Pradesh) – Banihal (J&K)

85. Rangoli or decorative designs on floor are known by different names in different states. Consider the following names and states:

	Name		State
1.	Aipan	:	Uttarakhand
2.	Rangavalli	:	Madhya Pradesh
3.	Kollam	:	Tamil Nadu

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The artistic expression of the Indian people is not limited to painting on canvas or paper only. Decorative painting on walls of homes even in rural areas is a common sight. Rangoli or decorative designs on floor are made for auspicious occasions and pujas whose stylised designs have been passed on from one generation to the other. The designs are called rangoli in the North, alpna in Bengal, aipan in Uttaranchal, rangavalli in Karnataka, Kollam in Tamil Nadu and mandana in Madhya Pradesh.

86. Arrange the following mountain ranges from North to South:

- (1) Balaghat Range
- (2) Satmala Range
- (3) Satpura Range
- (4) Ajanta Range

Which of the code below gives the correct arrangement?

- (a) 1-2-4-3
- (b) 3-4-2-1
- (c) 3-2-4-1
- (d) 1-4-3-2

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Arranged from North to South – Satpura Range – Ajanta Range – Satmala Range – Balaghat Range.

87. “Firdausu-Hikmat” is a book written on the medicinal system of which branch?

- (a) Ayurveda
- (b) Unani
- (c) Siddh
- (d) Homeopathy

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The Unani Tibb system of medicine flourished in India during the medieval period. Ali-binRabban summarized the whole system of Greek medicine as well as the Indian medical knowledge in the book, Firdausu-Hikmat. The Unani medicine system came to India along with the Muslims by about the eleventh century and soon found patronage for its growth.

88. In the context of Indian National Movement, the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre led to

- (1) Change in Gandhiji’s outlook towards the Britishers.
- (2) The participation of the Princes of States in the Indian National Movement.
- (3) Renunciation of British titles and positions by many Indians.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, also known as the Amritsar massacre, took place on 13 April 1919 when troops of the British Indian Army under the command of Colonel Reginald Dyer fired machine guns into a crowd of Baishakhi pilgrims, who had gathered in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, Punjab. Gandhi declared that the British have lost the moral right to rule. On May 30, 1919 Rabindranath Tagore renounced his knighthood. Gandhi returned the Kaiser-i-Hind Gold medal given to him for his work during Boer War.

89. In the context of Ashgabat Agreement, consider the following statements:

- (1) It envisages facilitation of transit and transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.
- (2) All the four founding members have consented to the accession of India and India's accession entered into force in February 2018.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Ashgabat is the capital of Turkmenistan. Ashgabat Agreement aims to develop a shortest trade route between Central Asian countries and Iranian and Omani ports. It has Oman, Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as founding members. It would diversify India's connectivity options with Central Asia and promote India's trade and commerce with this region.

90. Consider the following statements:

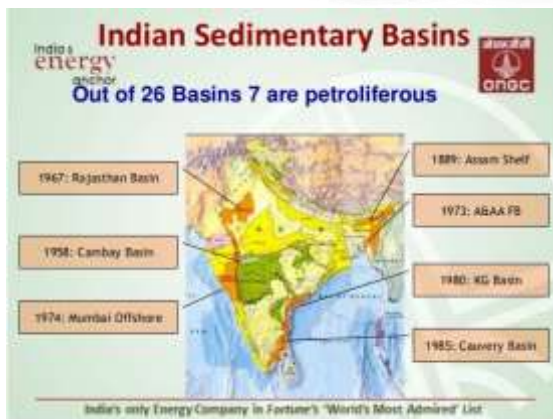
- (1) Currently India has 26 proved sedimentary basins of which only 7 are petroliferous.
- (2) Assam shelf is the oldest discovered sedimentary basin.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:



91. Consider the following tributaries of the Indus river:

- (1) Chenab

- (2) Ravi
- (3) Satluj
- (4) Beas
- (5) Kishanganga

On which of the above rivers under Indus Waters Treaty, the World Bank has permitted India to construct Hydroelectric facilities?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Under the Indus Waters Treaty(IWT), India is permitted to construct hydroelectric power facilities on tributaries of the Jhelum and Chenab rivers with certain restrictions, the World Bank has said.
- The World Bank said the IWT designates these two rivers (Jhelum and Chenab) as well as the Indus as the "Western Rivers" to which Pakistan has unrestricted use, whereas India was assigned unrestricted use of waters of rivers Sutlej, Beas and Ravi (Eastern rivers).
- The IWT was signed in 1960 after nine years of negotiations between India and Pakistan with the help of the World Bank, which is also a signatory.
- Ratle is a run of the river Hydroelectric Power plant on the Chenab river. Whereas Kishanganga is on the river Kishanganga, a tributary of Jhelum.

92. Consider the statements with respect to KUSUM (Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) Scheme:

- (1) Installation of grid-connected Solar Power Plants in rural areas.
- (2) Installation of Standalone off grid solar water pumps.
- (3) Solarization of lift irrigation projects of government sector.

Which of the above statements is/are objective(s) of the KUSUM Scheme?

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

Answer: (d)

93. With reference to Jet Streams, consider the following statements:

- (1) They flow just below the stratopause
- (2) They flow at a greater height near the equator and at lower height near the poles
- (3) By flying along the jet streams, commercial aircrafts reduce fuel consumption.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Exp:

Jet streams are fast flowing, narrow air currents found in the atmosphere. The main jet streams are located near the tropopause. Hence, statement 1 is wrong.

The major jet streams on Earth are westerly winds (flowing west to east). Jetstreams flow at greater heights near the the equator and lower at the poles. Flight time can be dramatically affected by either flying with the flow or against the flow of a jet stream. If the aircraft is flowing east to west – it increases flight time and fuel consumption. Hence, statements 2 and 3 are correct.

94. In the context of Centrally Sponsored Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM), consider the following statements:

- (1) AB-NHPM will have a defined benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family with no cap on family size in the scheme.
- (2) It will subsume the ongoing centrally sponsored schemes Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna (PMSBY) and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojna (PMJJY).

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

Answer: (a)

95. Recently, FSSAI issued regulation on organic food in country. Consider the following statements in this regard:

- (1) Mandatory labelling of Organic food is to start from July, 2018.
- (2) Organic certification will also help farmer to earn a premium but would also increase the cost of the product.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Mandatory labelling of Organic food from July, 2018 which should convey full and accurate information on the organic status of the product.

Significance

- It will help in curbing fraudulence and malpractices prevalent in organic market sector where inorganic products are being sold as organic.
- Impetus to Growth: A study by Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) in 2017 found that organic food market is expected to grow at 20% in the next five years if supported with right policies providing the necessary impetus.
- Empowering consumers who can now check the authenticity of organic food products.
- Empowering Farmer: Organic certification will also help farmer to earn a premium for their produce

Concern

- Issue with dual certification system – There is no linkage between the two certification systems.
- PGS also fails to have a transformational impact as consumers don't believe PGS due to its self-certification character.

- Lack of interest by big retail player in promoting organic produce as a lot of time is spent on authenticating the source of product.
- Expensive product – as compared to the alternative present in market.

- 96.** With reference to the political history of Gandhiji consider the following statements:
- (1) Gandhiji's Champaran Movement was for solving the problem of the Indigo farmers.
 - (2) Gandhiji started Dandi March in 1930 against the announcement of communal award.
 - (3) Gandhiji opposed untouchability and he wanted it to be declared a crime under law.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The Salt March, also known as the Dandi March and the Dandi Satyagraha, was an act of non-violent civil disobedience in colonial India led by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi to produce salt from the sea-water in the coastal village of Dandi (now in Gujarat), as was the practice of the local populace until British officials introduced taxation on salt production, deemed their sea-salt reclamation activities illegal, and then repeatedly used force to stop it. The Servants of India Society was formed in Pune, Maharashtra, on June 12, 1905 by Gopal Krishna Gokhale. Gandhiji opposed the untouchability and he wanted the people of India to give treatment of equality to the untouchables.

- 97.** The UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution approving an agreement to make the International Organisation for Migration part of the UN as a related Organisation. In this regard, consider the following statements:
- (1) It was established in 1951.
 - (2) It does not work in the area of forced migration.
- 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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Solution:

- Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.
- IOM was granted Permanent Observer status to the UN General Assembly in 1992, and a cooperation agreement between IOM and the UN was signed in 1996.
- IOM works in the four broad areas of migration management:
 - Migration and development
 - Facilitating migration
 - Regulating migration
 - Forced migration.

- 98.** Consider the following statements regarding the IMF reforms that followed the approval by the US Congress:
- (1) More than six per cent of the quota shares will shift to emerging and developing countries from the U.S. and European countries.
 - (2) The reforms bring India and Brazil into the list of the top 10 members of IMF.
- 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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Effect of IMF reforms on Voting Rights:

- The emerging and developing economies gained more influence in the governance architecture of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- More than six per cent of the quota shares will shift to emerging and developing countries from the U.S. and European countries.
- India's voting rights increase to 2.6 per cent from the current 2.3 per cent, and China's, to 6 per cent from 3.8, as per the new division.
- The reforms bring India and Brazil into the list of the top 10 members of IMF, along with the U.S, Japan, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, China and Russia.

- 99.** With reference to snowline, consider the following statements:
- (1) The snowline in the western Himalayas begins at a lower elevation than that in the eastern Himalayas.
 - (2) In the Great Himalayas range, the snowline begins at a lower elevation on the southern slopes than on the northern slopes.
- 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

Ans: (c)

Exp:

The snowline in the western Himalayas begins at a lower elevation than that in the eastern Himalayas. While the glaciers of Kanchenjunga in Sikkim hardly move below 4000 mts, and those of Kumaon to about 3600 mts, the glaciers of the Kashmir Himalayas may descend to about 2500 mts above the sea level. It is due to the increase in latitude from 28 N in Kanchenjunga to 36 N in the Karakoram. Though the total precipitation is much less in the western Himalayas, it all takes place in the form of snow. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.

In the Great Himalayas range, the snowline is at a lower elevation on the southern slopes than on the northern slopes because the southern slopes are steeper and receive more precipitation as compared to the northern slopes. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.

- 100.** In the context of Global Centre for Cyber security, consider the following statements:
- (1) It was officially launched by World Trade Organisation (WTO).
 - (2) Interpol is a natural strategic partner for the WTO's Global Cyber 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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: The World Economic Forum officially launched Global Centre for Cyber Security. Its headquarters is in Geneva to help build a safe and secure global cyberspace. Interpol is a natural strategic partner for the World Economic Forum's Global Cyber Centre. Both are unique because their global dimension underpins our collective response against the cyber threat.

