



## UPSC PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS PAPER – I - 2018 WITH ANSWERS SET A

1. Consider the following statements :

- 1) In the first Lok Sabha, the single largest party in the opposition was the Swatantra Party.
- 2) In the Lok Sabha, a "Leader of the Opposition" was recognised for the first time in 1969.
- 3) In the Lok Sabha, if a party does not have a minimum of 75 members, its leader cannot be recognised as the Leader of the Opposition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

**(b) 2 only**

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Explanation:**

The **Swatantra Party** was an Indian liberal-conservative political party that existed from 1959 to 1974. It was founded by C. Rajagopalachari in reaction to what he felt was the Jawaharlal Nehru-dominated Indian National Congress's increasingly socialist and statist outlook.

In the 1962 general election, the first after its formation, Swatantra received 6.8 percent of the total votes and won 18 seats in the third Lok Sabha (1962–67). It emerged as the main opposition to the dominant Congress in four states—Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Orissa. By the next general election in 1967, Swatantra had become a significant force in some parts of India; it won 8.7 percent of the votes and became the single-largest opposition party in the fourth Lok Sabha (1967–71) with 44 seats.

Mr. Ram Subhag Singh of Indian National Congress was recognized as LoP in the fourth Lok Sabha from 17.12.1969 to 27.12.1970

The leaders of opposition in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha received statutory recognition through the *Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977* which defines the term "Leader of the Opposition" as that member of the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha who, for the time being, is the Leader of that House of the Party in Opposition to the Government having the greatest numerical strength and recognised, as such, by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha or the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

However, in order to get formal recognition, the concerned party must have at least 10% of the total strength of the House (55 seats in the Lok Sabha). If any party fails to get 10% seats in opposition, the House will not have recognised leader of the opposition.<sup>[1][2]</sup> A single party has to meet the 10% seat criteria, not an alliance.

2. Which of the following leaf modifications occur(s) in the desert areas to inhibit water loss?

- 1) Hard and waxy leaves
- 2) Tiny leaves
- 3) Thorns instead of leaves

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

**(a) 2 and 3 only**

(b) 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3



**Explanation:**

In desert plants, leaves are a source to water loss. Smaller shrubs in desert regions have evolved to have tiny leaves to reduce transpirational loss of water.

In perennial desert plants, leaves are significantly reduced and/or modified into other structures. While hard and waxy leaves are adaptations found in desert plants, in fact, they are not leaves but stem. In those plants, stems are modified into leaves and leaves into thorns.

Hence, statement 1 is wrong

3. As per the NSSO 70<sup>th</sup> Round "Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households", consider the following statements:

- 1) Rajasthan has the highest percentage share of agricultural households among its rural households.
- 2) Out of the total agricultural households in the country, a little over 60 percent belong to OBCs.
- 3) In Kerala, a little over 60 percent of agricultural households reported to have received maximum income from sources other than agricultural activities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 and 3 only

(b) 2 only

**(c) 1 and 3 only**

(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Explanation:**

Rajasthan had highest percentage of agricultural households (78.4 percent) among its rural households followed by Uttar Pradesh (74.8 percent) and Madhya Pradesh (70.8 percent).

During the reference period of July 2012- June 2013, about 45 percent out of the total agricultural households in the country belonged to Other Backward Classes (OBC).

During the same period about 45 percent of the rural households of the country belonged to OBC.

In Kerala about 61 percent of the agricultural households reported to have earned maximum income from sources other than agricultural activities.

4. How is the National Green Tribunal (NGT) different from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)?

- 1) The NGT has been established by an Act whereas the CPCB has been created by an executive order of the Government.
- 2) The NGT provides environmental justice and helps reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts whereas the CPCB promotes cleanliness of streams and wells, and aims to improve the quality of air in the country.

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

**Explanation:**

**NGT:**

The National Green Tribunal has been established on 18.10.2010 under the **National Green Tribunal Act 2010** for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any **legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.**



The Tribunal's dedicated jurisdiction in environmental matters shall provide speedy environmental justice and help reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts.

### Central Pollution Control Board

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), statutory organisation, was constituted in September, **1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**. Further, CPCB was entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests of the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Principal Functions of the CPCB, as spelt out in the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, (i) **to promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the States by prevention, control and abatement of water pollution, and (ii) to improve the quality of air and to prevent, control or abate air pollution in the country.**

5. Consider the following statements :

- 1) The Parliament of India can place a particular law in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
- 2) The validity of a law placed in the Ninth Schedule cannot be examined by any court and no judgement can be made on it.

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*

### Explanation:

Article 31-B was inserted by the First Constitutional (Amendment) Act 1951 which states that without prejudiced to the generality of the provisions contained in Article 31-A, none of the Acts and Regulations specified in the Ninth Schedule nor any of the provisions thereof shall be deemed to be void, or ever to have become void, on the ground that such Act, Regulation or provisions is inconsistent with, or takes away or abridges any of the rights conferred by , any provisions of this part, and notwithstanding any judgment , decree or order of any court or tribunal to the contrary, each of the said Acts and Regulations shall, subject to the power of any competent legislature to repeal or amend it, continue in force. Thus Article 31-B of the Constitution of India ensured that any law in the Ninth Schedule could not be challenged in courts and Government can rationalize its programme of social engineering by reforming land and agrarian laws. In other words laws under Ninth Schedule are beyond the purview of judicial review even though they violate fundamental rights enshrined under part III of the Constitution. On the one hand considerable power was given to legislature under Article 31-B and on the other hand the power of judiciary was curtailed, this is the starting point of tussle between legislature and judiciary.

In a landmark ruling on 11 January 2007, the Supreme Court of India ruled that all laws (including those in the Ninth Schedule) would be open to Judicial Review if they violated the basic structure of the constitution. Chief Justice of India, Yogesh Kumar Sabharwal noted, "If laws put in the Ninth Schedule abridge or abrogate fundamental rights resulting in violation of the basic structure of the constitution, such laws need to be invalidated."

The Supreme Court judgment laid that the laws placed under Ninth Schedule after April 24, 1973 shall be open to challenge in court if they violated fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 14, 19, 20 and 21 of the Constitution.



6. Which one of the following best describes the term "Merchant Discount Rate" sometimes seen in news?
- (a) *The incentive given by a bank to a merchant for accepting payments through debit cards pertaining to that bank.*
  - (b) *The amount paid back by banks to their customers when they use debit cards for financial transactions' for purchasing goods or services.*
  - (c) *The charge to a merchant by a bank for accepting payments from his customers through the bank's debit cards.***
  - (d) *The incentive given by the Government to merchants for promoting digital payments by their customers through Point of Sale (PoS) machines and debit cards.*

**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reduced the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) for debit card transactions and prescribed separate cap for small and large merchants based on their annual turnover. The move is aimed to encourage merchants to accept online mode of payments.

MDR is the fee that a merchant have to pay to a bank for every transaction which is split between the bank which has issued the card, the lender whose point-of-sale terminal is being used and payment gateways like MasterCard or Visa.

The fee for merchants with turnover up to Rs 20 lakh in the last financial year is capped at 0.4% for transactions via PoS terminals or online while if transaction is via QR code-based card acceptance infrastructure, the fee is capped at 0.3%. In both cases, Rs 200 has been set as the absolute cap.

For merchants with annual turnover of more than Rs 20 lakh, a cap of 0.9% is prescribed for physical PoS and online card transaction while 0.8% cap is mandated for QR code based transaction. The absolute cap in this case is Rs 1000.

The new caps will come into effect from January 1.

At present, MDR for debit card transactions were capped at 0.75% of the transaction amount for value upto Rs 2000 and 1% of transaction amount for value above Rs 2000

7. What is/are the consequence/ consequences of a country becoming, the member of the 'Nuclear Suppliers Group'?
- 1) It will have access to the latest and most efficient nuclear technologies.
  - 2) It automatically becomes a member of "The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)".

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

**Explanation:**

Membership of the NSG means:

- 1) to technology for a range of uses from medicine to building nuclear power plants for India from the NSG which is essentially a traders' cartel. India has its own indigenously developed technology but to get its hands on state of the art technology that countries within the NSG possess, it has to become part of the group.
- 2) With India committed to reducing dependence on fossil fuels and ensuring that 40% of its energy is sourced from renewable and clean sources, there is a pressing need to scale up nuclear power production. This can only happen if India gains access to the NSG. Even if India



today can buy power plants from the global market thanks to the one time NSG waiver in 2008, there are still many types of technologies India can be denied as it is outside the NSG.

- 3) India could sign the nuclear non proliferation treaty and gain access to all this knows how but that would mean giving up its entire nuclear arsenal. Given that it is situated in an unstable and unpredictable neighbourhood India is unlikely to sign the NPT or accede to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) that puts curbs on any further nuclear tests.
- 4) With access to latest technology, India can commercialize the production of nuclear power equipment. This in turn will boost innovation and high tech manufacturing in India and can be leveraged for economic and strategic benefits.  
For example, India has signed a civil nuclear energy co-operation pact with Sri Lanka. Currently, this entails training people in peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including use of radioisotopes, nuclear safety, radiation safety, nuclear security, radioactive waste management and nuclear and radiological disaster mitigation. Should India get access to advanced nuclear technologies, it can start building updated versions of its own fast breeder reactor and sell it to countries such as Sri Lanka or Bangladesh. Bangladesh is currently looking at buying Russian reactors for power generation.
- 5) Having the ability to offer its own nuclear power plants to the world means spawning of an entire nuclear industry and related technology development. This could give the Make in India programme a big boost.
- 6) Should India get membership to the NSG, it can block Pakistan from its membership as entry into the grouping is by consensus only. This is one of the reasons why China is pushing to include Pakistan as well as pointing out that India as a non signatory to the NPT cannot be a member. It comes down to a power game—keep India out and deny it access to various technologies. India's contention is that its nuclear technologies are indigenously developed and it has a clean non proliferation record unlike Pakistan whose non proliferation record was tainted with the revelations that its nuclear scientist A.Q Khan sold nuclear technologies to countries such as North Korea. China's non proliferation record too is tainted with allegations that it has helped Pakistan on the sly, but given its economic clout the country is unlikely to attract sanctions.

8. With reference to India's decision to levy an equalization tax of 6% on online advertisement services offered by non-resident entities, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1) It is introduced as a part of the Income Tax Act.
- 2) Non-resident entities that offer advertisement services in India can claim a tax credit in their home country under the "Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements".

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**

**Explanation:**

Equalisation levy of 6% on services pertaining to cross border digital transactions will come into effect from June 1. At present, equalisation levy is leviable only on payments relating to online advertisements.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified the rules for equalisation levy and said the tax will come into force from June 1, 2016

In order to tap tax on income accruing to foreign e-commerce companies from India, the Finance Act 2016 said a person making payment to a non-resident (who does not have a permanent



establishment) exceeding in aggregate Rs 1 lakh in a year will withhold tax at 6% of gross amount paid, as equalisation levy.

The levy will only apply to business to business transactions.

As per the BEPS action plan, OECD has recommended to impose a final withholding tax on certain payments for digital goods or services provided by a foreign e-commerce provider or imposition of an equalisation levy on consideration for certain digital transactions.

"Industry chamber Assocham today suggested the government to introduce the equalisation levy as part of Indian Income Tax Act itself and not as a separate chapter in the Finance Act as it would only increase cost of doing business.

"Introducing equalisation levy separately under Finance Act and not incorporating it as a part of the existing Income Tax Act would only increase cost of doing business for Indian companies, as foreign companies would insist that this being a domestic levy should not affect payments made to them, as such domestic companies would be required to gross up equalisation levy while making payments, thereby adding to the cost," Assocham said in statement.

9. Consider the following statements:

- 1) The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Review Committee Report has recommended a debt to GDP ratio of 60% for the general (combined) government by 2023, comprising 40% for the Central Government and 20% for the State Governments.
- 2) The Central Government has domestic liabilities of 21% of GDP as compared to that of 49% of GDP of the State Governments.
- 3) As per the Constitution of India, it is mandatory for a State to take the Central Government's consent for raising any loan if the former owes any outstanding liabilities to the latter.

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

**Explanation:**

**Public debt to GDP ratio should be considered as a medium-term anchor for fiscal policy in India.** The combined debt-to-GDP ratio of the centre and states should be brought down to 60 per cent by 2023 (comprising of 40 per cent for the Centre and 20% for states) as against the existing 49.4 per cent, and 21per cent respectively.

The Union government, which has larger domestic liabilities of 49.23% of GDP as compared to that of the States (21% of GDP), benefits more due to a negative interest rate-growth differential.

Constitution of India under Clause (3) of Article 293 makes it mandatory for a State to take the Central government's consent for raising any loan if the former owes any outstanding liabilities to the latter

10. Consider the following statements:

- 1) The quantity of imported edible oils is more than the domestic production of edible oils in the last five years.
- 2) The Government does not impose any customs duty on all the imported edible oils as a special case.

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

**Explanation:**  
**Statement-1**

Year	Production (mt)	Import (mt)
2013-14	7.11	11.62
2014-15	6.17	14.42
2015-16	5.82	14.59
2016-17	7.05	15.20
2017-18	7.66	15.12

**Statement-2**

The government hiked the import duty on Crude Palm Oil (CPO) to 44 per cent from 30 per cent and on Refined Bleached Deodorized (RBD) palmolein to 54 per cent from 40 per cent with effect from March 1, 2018. There is no change in duty on soft oils.

11. He wrote biographies of Mazzini, Garibaldi, Shivaji and Shrikrishna; stayed in America for some time; and was also elected to the Central Assembly. He was
- (a) Aurobindo Ghosh  
(b) Bipin Chandra Pal  
(c) **Lala Lajpat Rai**  
(d) Motilal Nehru

**Explanation:**

Lala Lajpat Rai visited USA where he kept in touch with the Indian revolutionaries. He joined Swaraj Party in 1926 and was elected its Deputy Leader in the Central Legislative Assembly. He moved the resolution in the Central Legislative Assembly refusing co-operation with the Simon Commission as the latter had no Indian member.

He was a prolific writer and authored several works like – “Unhappy India”, “Young India: An Interpretation”, “History of Arya Samaj”, “England’s Debt to India” and a **series of popular biographies on Mazzini, Garibaldi** and Swami Dayanand. He also wrote biography of Shivaji and Shri Krishna

**Source: PIB**

12. Consider the following statements :
- 1) Aadhaar card can be used as a proof of citizenship or domicile.
  - 2) Once issued, Aadhaar number cannot be deactivated or omitted by the Issuing Authority.
- 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**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1**

**Aadhaar Card Is Not Proof Of Citizenship: Calcutta HC**

Aadhaar card is not a proof of Indian citizenship, the Calcutta High Court has ruled, while rejecting a claim of citizenship on the ground that the accused possessed Aadhaar card.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi was considering bail plea of a person who was booked under Section 14F of the Indian Foreigners Act, who had contended that she is an Indian citizen and that the Aadhaar card was issued in view of long residence of the petitioner in the country.



The court referred to provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, and said that the Aadhaar card by itself shall not confer any right of or be proof of, citizenship or domicile in respect of the holder thereto. The court also held that the letter issued by the representative of the local body as to the residence of the petitioner also does not, ipso facto, confer citizenship on the petitioner. Rejecting the bail plea of the accused, the court said materials collected during investigation prima facie showed that the petitioner was a foreign national.

**Statement 2**

Aadhaar numbers were deactivated due to reasons mentioned in Sections 27 and 28 of Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations, 2016. As per the provision in these sections, a person's Aadhaar number will be deactivated/cancelled if:

- More than one Aadhaar number has been issued under one name
- There are discrepancies in the biometric data or documents provided by the individual
- Children, who enrolled while under the age of 5, haven't updated their biometric data when they turned 5 and/or when they turned 15. The UIDAI gives the person a window of 2 years to get his/her data updated.

13. Which of the following has/have shrunk immensely/dried up in the recent past due to human activities?

- 1) Aral Sea
- 2) Black Sea
- 3) Lake Baikal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Explanation:**

The fashion industry is linked to the environmental devastation in the Central Asian inland sea – once the world's fourth largest lake, the Aral sea 'completely dried'.

Baikal might share the destiny of the Aral Sea. 'Construction of three hydro power stations on the Selenga River and its tributaries can cause the unique lake to dry out.'

The 25 million year old lake - a UNESCO world heritage site - is 'on the edge of environmental catastrophe and if certain measures are not taken, it might disappear just like the Aral sea.'

14. "Rule of Law Index" is released by which of the following?

- (a) Amnesty International  
(b) International Court of Justice  
(c) The Office of UN Commissioner for Human Rights  
**(d) World Justice Project**

**Explanation:**

The *World Justice Project Rule of Law Index*® measures how the rule of law is experienced and perceived by the general public across the globe. It is the world's leading source for original, independent data on the rule of law.

15. Which one of the following links all the ATMs in India?

- (a) Indian Banks' Association  
(b) National Securities Depository Limited





**(c) National Payments Corporation of India**

*(d) Reserve Bank of India*

**Explanation:**

**National Payments Corporation of India**

One of the key products of NPCI is National Financial Switch which connects 1,98,953 ATMs of 449 banks.

16. Consider the following statements :

- 1) Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) is the amount that banks have to maintain in the form of their own funds to offset any loss that banks incur if the account-holders fail to repay dues.
- 2) CAR is decided by each individual bank.

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*

**Explanation:**

The Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) is a measure of a bank's Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) is the ratio of a bank's capital in relation to its risk weighted assets and current liabilities. It is decided by central banks and bank regulators to prevent commercial banks from taking excess leverage and becoming insolvent in the process.

17. The identity platform 'Aadhaar' provides open "Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)". What does it imply?

- 1) It can be integrated into any electronic device.
- 2) Online authentication using iris is possible.

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*

**Explanation:**

Application Programming Interface, which is a software intermediary that allows two applications to talk to each other. An open API is a publicly available application programming interface that provides developers with programmatic access to a proprietary software application or web service.

Aadhaar has open API the enable private app developers to use this interface and develop various utility applications for citizens. Hence statement 2 is correct.

While statement 1 is correct but made ambiguous with the use of the word "any", it is safe to assume that the statement is correct also.

18. Very recently, in which of the following countries have lakhs of people either suffered from severe famine/acute malnutrition or died due to starvation caused by war/ethnic conflicts?

*(a) Angola and Zambia*

*(b) Morocco and Tunisia*

*(c) Venezuela and Colombia*

**(d) Yemen and South Sudan**



**Explanation:**

In February Leer was one of two counties in South Sudan declared to be in a state of famine by the UN. Between them they are home to 100,000 people. It is the first time since 2011 that the term has been used and only the second since the organisation adopted the IPC scale, a scientific way of determining levels of food insecurity. Another 1.1m people live in areas in an “emergency” situation, one step short of famine, but where people are still dying from lack of food. Across South Sudan as a whole, the UN judges that some 250,000 children under the age of five suffer from “severe acute” malnutrition, meaning that if they do not receive treatment they will probably die. Some 5.8m people will rely on food aid this year.

South Sudan is not alone. According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS Net), run by the American government, 70m people around the world will need food assistance this year, a level it says is “unprecedented in recent decades”. Three other countries, Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen, have what it calls a “credible risk of famine”. Between the four, 20m people risk starvation. Like extreme poverty, famine has been driven from most of the world.

19. Regarding Wood's Dispatch, which of the following statements are true?

- 1) Grants-in-Aid system was introduced.
- 2) Establishment of universities was recommended.
- 3) English as a medium of instruction at all levels of education was recommended.

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

**Explanation:**

Wood's Despatch proposed the setting up of vernacular primary schools in the villages at the lowest stage followed by Anglo-Vernacular high schools and an affiliated college at the district level.

It recommended a system of grants-in-aid to encourage and foster private enterprise in the field of education.

Universities on the model of the London University were proposed for Calcutta, Bombay and Madras.

20. With reference to the Parliament of India, which of the following Parliamentary Committees scrutinizes and reports to the House whether the powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules, by-laws, etc. conferred by the Constitution or delegated by the Parliament are being properly exercised by the Executive within the scope of such delegation ?

(a) Committee on Government Assurances

**(b) Committee on Subordinate Legislation**

(c) Rules Committee

(d) Business Advisory Committee

**Explanation:**

Committee on Subordinate Legislation.—(i) The Committee on Subordinate Legislation is constituted under Rule 318. It consists of 15 members nominated by the Speaker for a term not exceeding one year. A Minister is not nominated a member of the Committee, and if a member, after nomination to the Committee, is appointed to such an office, such member ceases to be a member of the Committee from the date of such appointment under Rule 318(i). The Chairperson



of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the members of the Committee. (ii) The functions of the Committee are to scrutinize and report to the House whether the powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules, bye-laws etc. conferred by the Constitution or delegated by Parliament are being properly exercised within such delegation. (iii) The Committee considers each regulation, rule, sub-rule, bye-law etc. framed in pursuance of the provisions of the Constitution or the legislative functions delegated by Parliament to a subordinate authority, and which is required to be laid before the House, with particular reference to—(a) whether it is in accord with the general objects of the Constitution or the Act pursuant to which it is made; (b) whether it contains matter which in the opinion of the Committee should more appropriately be dealt with in an Act of Parliament; (c) whether it contains imposition of any tax; (d) whether it directly or indirectly bars the jurisdiction of the courts; (e) whether it gives retrospective effect to any of the provisions in respect of which the Constitution or the Act does not expressly give any such power; 125 (f) whether it involves expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India or the Public revenues; (g) whether it appears to make some unusual or unexpected use of the powers conferred by the Constitution or the Act pursuant to which it is made; (h) whether there appears to have been unjustifiable Delay in its publication or in laying it before Parliament; and (i) whether for any reason its form or purport calls for any elucidation.

21. Consider the following statements :

- 1) As per the Right to Education (RTE) Act, to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in a State, a person would be required to possess the minimum qualification laid down by the concerned State Council of Teacher Education.
- 2) As per the RTE Act, for teaching primary classes, a candidate is required to pass a Teacher Eligibility Test conducted in accordance with the National Council of Teacher Education guidelines.
- 3) In India, more than 90% of teacher education institutions are directly under the State Governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

**(b) 2 only**

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 3 only

**Explanation:**

Section 23. Qualifications for appointment and terms and conditions of service of teachers

Any person possessing such minimum qualifications, as laid down by an academic authority, authorized by the Central Government, by notification, shall be eligible for appointment as a teacher.

The National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE), as the academic authority notified by the Central Government, under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE), Act 2009, has laid down the minimum educational & professional qualifications for a person to be eligible for an appointment as a teacher for classes I-VIII, which are applicable to all schools imparting elementary education, including the schools under the State Governments and to qualify under a Teacher Eligibility Test (TET). (c) & (d): Some States are finding it difficult to appoint teachers due to the non-availability of qualified candidates because of the inadequate number of teacher education institutions and due to delays in the Teacher Eligibility Tests (TET) because of court cases. (e) & (f): A total of 13 States had requested a relaxation in the professional qualifications as laid down by the NCTE, which has been duly considered and permitted by the



Central Government under certain conditions. Some States had also sought relaxation from the TET, which has not been agreed to.

In 1947, India had 230 teacher education institutions (TEI). It grew to about 1,800 by 1966, and hovered around that number till 1995. Between 1995 and 2012, the number exploded to about 15,000. This dramatic growth was powered by the mushrooming of private teacher education colleges. The number is about the same today, and over 90% are privately owned and managed.

22. Consider the following pairs :

Tradition	State
1) Chapchar Kut festival	- Mizoram
2) Khongjom Parba ballad	- Manipur
3) Thang-Ta dance	- Sikkim

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 2 and 3 only

**Explanation:**

1. Chapchar Kut Festival – Mizoram
2. Khongjom Parba ballad – Manipur
3. Thang-Ta dance – Sikkim

23. Consider the following statements:

- 1) The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 replaced the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.
- 2) The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is under the charge of Director General of Health Services in the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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

**Explanation:**

The objective of the food law is to make available safe, pure, wholesome and nutritious food to the public. In 1954, the Indian government enacted the food law known as Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules were made there under in 1955. Besides this Act and the Rules, many other orders related to food like FPO, 1955, Milk and Milk Product Order, 1973 and many others were being implemented in the country and the multiplicity of food laws and multi departmental control was there.

With the change in scenario regarding food habits of the public, development in food technologies and use of processed food of different varieties world wide, and to end the multiplicity of food laws and multi departmental control, the need was felt to have a integrated new food law. The Indian Government enacted a new food law known as the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and to give effect to the provisions of this Act, Rules and Regulations have been made there under known as the Food Safety and Standards Rules, 2011 and Regulations 2011. The Act, Rules and Regulations have come into force w.e.f. 5th August'2011.

This Food Safety Act consolidates all the previously existing laws relating to food and to establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying down science based standards for



articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption. The Food Authority acts as a single window to provide guidance and issue clarifications/advisories for all matters related to food safety

On 5th August 2011 The new Food Safety & Standards Act, Rules and Regulations replaces the following food laws that were being implemented in the country.

- 1) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.
- 2) The Fruit Products Order, 1955.
- 3) The Meat Food Products Order, 1973.
- 4) The Vegetable Oil Products Order, 1947.
- 5) The Edible Oil Packaging Order, 1988.
- 6) The Solvent Extracted Oil, De oiled Meal, and Edible Flour Order, 1967.
- 7) The Milk and Milk Products Order, 1992 and
- 8) Any order relating to food issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is an autonomous body established under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. The FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India. FSSAI is responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety.

The FSSAI is headed by a non-executive Chairperson, appointed by the Central Government, either holding or has held the position of not below the rank of Secretary to the Government of India. Ashish Bahuguna is the current Chairperson for FSSAI and Pawan Kumar Agarwal is the current Chief Executive Officer for FSSAI

The FSSAI has its headquarters at New Delhi.

The Directorate General of Health Services (Dte.GHS) is a repository of technical knowledge concerning Public Health, Medical Education and Health Care. It is an attached organisation of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The Dte.GHS is headed by Director General of Health Services (DGHS), a Secretary level officer of Central Health Services, who renders technical advice on all medical and public health matters to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Directorate coordinates with the Health Directorates of all States/UTs for implementation of various National Health Programmes through its Regional Offices of Health and Family Welfare. The Dte.GHS oversees the functioning of Central Government Hospitals and their management. It also addresses health concerns of the people through its Subordinate Offices/Institutes spread all over the country.

24. The term "two-state solution" is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of

- (a) China
- (b) Israel**
- (c) Iraq
- (d) Yemen

**Explanation:**

The "two-state solution" would create an independent Israel and Palestine, and is the mainstream approach to resolving the conflict. The idea is that Israelis and Palestinians want to run their countries differently; Israelis want a Jewish state, and Palestinians want a Palestinian one. Because neither side can get what it wants in a joined state, the only possible solution that satisfies everyone involves separating Palestinians and Israelis.

25. With reference to the provisions made under the National Food Security Act, 2013, consider the following statements :

- 1) The families coming under the category of 'below poverty line (BPL)' only are eligible to receive subsidised food grains.
- 2) The eldest woman in a household, of age 18 years or above, shall be the head of the household for the purpose of issuance of a ration card.
- 3) Pregnant women and lactating mothers are entitled to a take-home ration' of 1600 calories per day during pregnancy and for six months thereafter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2

**(b) 2 only**

(c) 1 and 3

(d) 3 only

**Explanation:**

National Food Security Act envisaged covering 75 per cent of the country's population, 90 per cent in rural areas and 50 per cent in urban areas.

Act seeks to offer rice at Rs 3 per kg, wheat at Rs 2 per kg and coarse cereals at Rs 1 per kg to the intended beneficiaries. Up to 75 per cent of the rural population and 50 per cent of the urban population will get 5 kg of foodgrain monthly. The poorest who fall under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana will continue with their present monthly entitlement of 35 kg of food grains.

States are given the responsibility to decide on eligibility criteria based on socio-economic and caste census (SECC) data.

- Pregnant women and lactating mothers would receive a maternity benefit of at least Rs 6,000
  - Children aged six months to 14 years will get take-home rations or hot cooked food
- The eldest woman who is not less than 18 years of age, in every eligible household, shall be head of the household for the purpose of issue of ration cards.

26. India enacted The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 in order to comply with the obligations to

(a) ILO

(b) IMF

(c) UNCTAD

**(d) WTO**

**Explanation:**

The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 (GI Act) is a *sui generis* Act of the Parliament of India for protection of geographical indications in India. India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Act to comply with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. The GI tag ensures that none other than those registered as authorised users (or at least those residing inside the geographic territory) are allowed to use the popular product name. Darjeeling tea became the first GI tagged product in India, in 2004–05, since then 261 goods had been added to the list as of June 2016.

27. Consider the following statements :

- 1) In India, State Governments do not have the power to auction non-coal mines.
- 2) Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand do not have gold mines.
- 3) Rajasthan has iron ore mines.



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Explanation:**

According to the Union mines ministry, the states have been able to auction only 21 mines so far. In June 2015, various mineral-rich states presented a non-coal mineral auction plan to the Central government, wherein they stated that 100 mines would be auctioned by December 2015. Unlike coal auction, it was the states that were going to conduct the auction for non-coal minerals.

Jharkhand is all set to become the second state in the country to auction gold mine

The state will bring out notice inviting tenders (NITs) for the Pahardia block in the West Singhbhum district and the Parasi block in the Ranchi district.

Andhra Pradesh has a huge potential for gold mining and there are known deposits of gold bearing quartz rocks in the Rayalaseema region of AP, including Anantapur, Chittoor and Kurnool. Rajasthan Has iron ore mines in Jaipur, Bhilwara, Udaipur , etc.,

28. With reference to digital payments, consider the following statements :

- 1) BHIM app allows the user to transfer money to anyone with a UPI-enabled bank account.
- 2) While a chip-pin debit card has four factors of authentication, BHIM app has only two factors of authentication.

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

**Explanation:**

While a chip-pin debit card has two factors of authentication, BHIM app has only three factors of authentication.

The BHIM apps has three levels of authentication. For one, the app binds with a device's ID and mobile number, second a user needs to sync whichever bank account (UPI or non-UPI enabled) in order to the conduct transaction. Third, when a user sets up the app they are asked to create a pin which is needed to log into the app. Further, the UPI pin, which a user creates with their bank account is needed to go through with the transaction.

29. Among the following cities, which one lies on a longitude closest to that of Delhi?

- (a) Bengaluru**
- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) Nagpur
- (d) Pune

30. International Labour Organization's Conventions .138 and 182 are related to

- (a) Child labour**
- (b) Adaptation of agricultural practices to global climate change
- (c) Regulation of food prices and food security
- (d) Gender parity at the workplace



**Explanation:**

It is a historic moment for India as we are going to take another giant step to affirm our commitment for a child labour free India by ratifying the two Core Conventions of International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions 138 regarding admission of age to employment and Convention 182 regarding worst forms of Child Labour.

31. Regarding Money Bill, which of the following statements is not correct?

- (a) *A bill shall be deemed to be a Money Bill if it contains only provisions relating to imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax.*
- (b) *A Money Bill has provisions for the custody of the Consolidated Fund of India or the Contingency Fund of India.*
- (c) *A Money Bill is concerned with the appropriation of moneys out of the Contingency Fund of India.***
- (d) *A Money Bill deals with the regulation of borrowing of money or giving of any guarantee by the Government of India.*

**Explanation:**

110. Definition of Money Bill

(1) For the purposes of this Chapter, a Bill shall be deemed to be a Money Bill if it contains only provisions dealing with all or any of the following matters, namely

- (a) the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax;
- (b) the regulation of the borrowing of money or the giving of any guarantee by the Government of India, or the amendment of the law with respect to any financial obligations undertaken or to be undertaken by the Government of India;
- (c) the custody of the consolidated Fund or the Contingency Fund of India, the payment of moneys into or the withdrawal of moneys from any such Fund;
- (d) the appropriation of moneys out of the consolidated Fund of India;
- (e) the declaring of any expenditure to be expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India or the increasing of the amount of any such expenditure;
- (f) the receipt of money on account of the Consolidated Fund of India or the public account of India or the custody or issue of such money or the audit of the accounts of the Union or of a State; or
- (g) any matter incidental to any of the matters specified in sub clause (a) to (f)

32. With reference to the election of the President of India, consider the following statements :

- 1) The value of the vote of each MLA varies from State to State.
- 2) The value of the vote of MPs of the Lok Sabha is more than the value of the vote of MPs of the Rajya Sabha.

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

**Explanation:**

Electoral College to elect president of India consists of:

The elected members of both Houses of Parliament (543 in Lok Sabha and 233 in Rajya Sabha) and the 4120 elected members of all the 31 Legislative Assemblies of the States (MLAs) including NCT of Delhi and the Union Territory of Puducherry.





In the college each MP and MLA is allocated a value to determine the vote value of an MLA, it is calculated on the basis of the population of the state to which the MLA belongs in 1971. Hence, the value of the vote of a MLA remains the same within his/her state but varies across different states. For instance, the value of an Uttar Pradesh MLA is 208 while that of a Sikkim MLA is 7. The sum total of the value of all MLAs' votes is equal to the value allocated to votes of all the MPs combined. All the MPs are allocated the same value for their vote.

Value of vote of a MLA is calculated as: Total population of the MLA's state in 1971 / (No. of elected MLAs in the state x 1000)

Value of vote of a MP is calculated as: Total value of votes of 4120 MLAs/776 (Total Number of MPs)

33. In the Indian context, what is the implication of ratifying the 'Additional Protocol' with the 'International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'?

**(a) The civilian nuclear reactors come under IAEA safeguards.**

(b) The military nuclear installations come under the inspection of IAEA.

(c) The country will have the privilege to buy uranium from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

(d) The country automatically becomes a member of the NSG.

**Explanation:**

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) March 3 approved an additional protocol to India's safeguards agreement, ostensibly providing the agency with greater authority to monitor India's civilian nuclear activities. New Delhi, which is not a member of the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), reached an "India-specific" agreement with the agency to place some of its nuclear facilities under safeguards while other facilities remain available for use for India's nuclear weapons efforts. That agreement paved the way for the 45-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) to adopt an exemption for sharing nuclear technology with India.

34. Consider the following countries :

- 1) Australia
- 2) Canada
- 3) China
- 4) India
- 5) Japan
- 6) USA

Which of the above are among the 'free-trade partners' of ASEAN ?

(a) 1, 2, 4 and 5

(b) 3, 4, 5 and 6

**(c) 1, 3, 4 and 5**

(d) 2, 3, 4 and 6

**Explanation:**

ASEAN has five free trade agreements (FTAs) with six Dialogue Partners, namely China, Japan, Republic of Korea, India, and Australia and New Zealand. All Parties have ratified the FTA Agreements.

35. With reference to the 'Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1) GACSA is an outcome of the Climate Summit held in Paris in 2015.
- 2) Membership of GACSA does not create any binding obligations.
- 3) India was instrumental in the creation of GACSA.



Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 3 only

**(b) 2 only**

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Explanation:**

The concept of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) was originally developed by FAO and officially presented and at the Hague Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change in 2010, through the paper "Climate-Smart Agriculture: Policies, Practices and Financing for Food Security, Adaptation and Mitigation".

Being a member does not create any binding obligations and members determine their particular voluntary actions according to their needs and priorities.

India is not even a member to this alliance and thus statement 3 is wrong.

36. Which of the following is/are the aim/aims of "Digital India" Plan of the Government of India?

1) Formation of India's own Internet companies like China did.

2) Establish a policy framework to encourage overseas multinational corporations that collect Big Data to build their large data centres within our national geographical boundaries.

3) Connect many of our villages to the Internet and bring Wi-Fi to many of our schools, public places and major tourist centres.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only

**(b) 3 only**

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Explanation:**

Digital India aims to provide the much needed thrust to the nine pillars of growth areas, namely

1) Broadband Highways,

2) Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity,

3) Public Internet Access Programme,

4) e-Governance: Reforming Government through Technology,

5) e-Kranti - Electronic Delivery of Services,

6) Information for All,

7) Electronics Manufacturing,

8) IT for Jobs

9) Early Harvest Programmes.

37. Consider the following pairs :

<b>Towns sometimes mentioned in news</b>	<b>Country</b>
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Aleppo	- Syria
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Kirkuk	- Yemen
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Mosul	- Palestine
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Mazar-i-sharif	- Afghanistan
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Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) 1 and 2 only

**(b) 1 and 4 only**

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 3 and 4 only



**Explanation:**

1. Aleppo – Syria
2. Kirkuk – Iraq
3. Mosul – Iraq
4. Mazar – i-sharif – Afghanistan

38. In the Federation established by The Government of India Act of 1935, residuary powers were given to the

- (a) Federal Legislature  
**(b) Governor General**  
(c) Provincial Legislature  
(d) Provincial Governors

**Explanation:**

The act divided the powers between the Centre and provinces in terms of three list-Federal List (for Centre, with 59 items), Provincial List (for Provinces, with 54 items), and Concurrent list (for both, with 36 items). Residuary powers were given to the Viceroy.

39. Consider the following statements :

- 1) The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly shall vacate his/her office if he/she ceases to be a member of the Assembly.
- 2) Whenever the Legislative Assembly is dissolved, the Speaker shall vacate his/her office immediately.

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

**Explanation:**

**Article 179: Vacation and resignation of, and removal from, the offices of Speaker and Deputy Speaker.**

A member holding office as Speaker or Deputy Speaker of an Assembly 2014

- a) shall vacate his office if he ceases to be a member of the Assembly;
- b) may at any time by writing under his hand addressed, if such member is the Speaker, to the Deputy Speaker, and if such member is the Deputy Speaker, to the Speaker, resign his office; and
- c) may be removed from his office by a resolution of the Assembly passed by a majority of all the then members of the Assembly:

Provided that no resolution for the purpose of clause (c) shall be moved unless at least fourteen days' notice has been given of the intention to move the resolution:

Provided further that, whenever the Assembly is dissolved, the Speaker shall not vacate his office until immediately before the first meeting of the Assembly after the dissolution.

40. Which one of the following reflects the most appropriate relationship between law and liberty?

- (a) *If there are more laws, there is less liberty.*  
**(b) If there are no laws, there is no liberty.**  
(c) *If there is liberty, laws have to be made by the people.*  
(d) *If laws are changed too often, liberty is in danger.*



**Explanation:**

**In 1689, John Locke wrote that “the end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom.”** *The end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom: for in all the states of created beings capable of laws, where there is no law, there is no freedom: for liberty is, to be free from restraint and violence from others; which cannot be, where there is no law: but freedom is not, as we are told, a liberty for every man to do what he lists: (for who could be free, when every other man’s humour might domineer over him?) but a liberty to dispose and order as he lists, his persons, actions, possessions, and his whole property, which the allowance of those laws under which he is, and therein not to be subject to the arbitrary will of another, but freely follow his own. — John Locke, Two treatises of government, p. 234 (1689).*

41. Consider the following statements :

- 1) No criminal proceedings shall be instituted against the Governor of a State in any court during his term of office.
- 2) The emoluments and allowances of the Governor of a State shall not be diminished during his term of office.

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

**Explanation:**

According to Article 361 (2) No criminal proceedings whatsoever shall be instituted or continued against the President, or the Governor of a State, in any court during his term of office.

According to Article 158 (4) The emoluments and allowances of the Governor shall not be diminished during his term of office.

42. The well-known painting "Bani Thani" belongs to the

- (a) Bundi school
- (b) Jaipur school
- (c) Kangra school
- (d) Kishangarh school**

43. What is "Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)", sometimes seen in the news?

- (a) An Israeli radar system
- (b) India's indigenous anti-missile programme
- (c) An American anti-missile system**
- (d) A defence collaboration between Japan and South Korea

**Explanation:**

Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), formerly Theater High Altitude Area Defense, is an **American anti-ballistic missile defense system** designed to shoot down short-, medium-, and intermediate-range ballistic missiles in their terminal phase (descent or reentry) by intercepting with a hit-to-kill approach. THAAD was developed after the experience of Iraq's Scud missile attacks during the Gulf War in 1991. The THAAD interceptor carries no warhead, but relies on its kinetic energy of impact to destroy the incoming missile. A kinetic energy hit minimizes the risk of exploding conventional-warhead ballistic missiles, and the warhead of nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles will not detonate on a kinetic-energy hit.



44. With reference to cultural history of India, consider the following statements :

- 1) Most of the Tyagaraja Kritis are devotional songs in praise of Lord Krishna.
- 2) Tyagaraja created several new ragas.
- 3) Annamacharya and Tyagaraja are contemporaries.
- 4) Annamacharya kirtanas are devotional songs in praise of Lord Venkateshwara.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

**(b) 2 and 4 only**

(c) 1, 2 and 3

(d) 2, 3 and 4

**Explanation:**

Sri Tallapaka Annamacharya (1408-1503) the mystic saint composer of the 15th century is the earliest known musician of South India to compose songs called "sankirtanas" in praise of Lord Venkateswara.

Tyagaraja (1767-1847) was a renowned music composer during the latter half of the 18th century and continues to remain an iconic figure in classical Carnatic music.

Both Tyagaraja and Annamacharya are not contemporaries.

45. Which of the following are regarded as the main features of the "Rule of Law"?

- 1) Limitation of powers
- 2) Equality before law
- 3) People's responsibility to the Government
- 4) Liberty and civil rights

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 4 only

(c) 1, 2 and 4 only

**(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4**

**Explanation:**

A V Dicey stated three principles to the term 'Rule of Law'.

1. Supremacy of Law 2. Equality before Law 3. Predominance of of Legal spirit

- The Rule of Law impacted the Administrative Law of England while the Doctrine of Separation of Powers impacted the Administrative Law of the United States.

**Supremacy of Law**

- 'Supremacy of Law' is the central and most characteristic feature of Common Law.
- Law is the absolute supreme and predominant as opposed to influence of arbitrary power or discretionary power.
- English men are ruled by the Rule of Law and law alone.
- A man can be punished by rule of law, and by nothing else.
- Wade: Government is a subject of the Rule of Law, rather than the law being a subject of the Government.

**Equality before Law**

- There must be equality before law or equal subjection of all classes to the ordinary law.
- All people should be subject to one and the same law.
- There is no need for extraordinary tribunals or special courts to deal with cases of Government and its servants (such as the one seen in *Droit Administratif*).
- Of course, Dicey accepted that administrative authorities are exercising 'judicial' functions though they are not 'courts'.

- Lord Denning: "Our English law does not allow a public officer to shelter behind a *driot administratif*.

### **Predominance of Legal spirit**

- Rights (such as right to personal liberty, freedom from arrest etc.) are the result of judicial decisions in England.
- The rights are a result of court judgements rather than from being enshrined in the Constitution.
- The Constitution is a consequence (and not the source) of the rights of the individuals.
- Thus, Courts are the guarantors of the liberty
- Rights would be secured more adequately if they were enforceable in courts rather than just being written in the Constitutional document.
- Mere incorporation in a written constitution is of no use in the absence of effective remedies of protection and enforcement
- liberty is "the freedom of every person to make full use of his faculties, so long as he does not harm other persons while doing so... [and] the re-restricting of the law only to its rational sphere of organizing the right of the individual to lawful self-defense...."<sup>11</sup> Thus, the workable ideal of liberty is a range of individual choice unhampered by deliberate human interference except insofar as intervention is necessary to assure equal liberty to all individuals.
- The equality comprehended by the Declaration of Independence and the libertarian tradition was equality of birth, without vested privileges provided by the state, and equality before the law, an equal liberty to utilize one's faculties and potential to his own ends, to succeed or fail, to determine his own destiny without special favor of discrimination.

46. Which one of the following statements correctly describes the meaning of legal tender money?

- (a) *The money which is tendered in courts of law to defray the fee of legal cases*
- (b) *The money which a creditor is under compulsion to accept in settlement of his claims***
- (c) *The bank money in the form of cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, etc.*
- (d) *The metallic money in circulation in a country*

#### **Explanation:**

Legal tender is any official medium of payment recognized by law that can be used to extinguish a public or private debt, or meet a financial obligation. The national currency is legal tender in practically every country. A creditor is obligated to accept legal tender toward repayment of a debt.

47. If a commodity is provided free to the public by the Government, then

- (a) *the opportunity cost is zero.*
- (b) *the opportunity cost is ignored.*
- (c) *the opportunity cost is transferred from the consumers of the product to the tax-paying public.***
- (d) *the opportunity cost is transferred from the consumers of the product to the Government.*

#### **Explanation:**

Opportunity cost is the cost of choosing one alternative over another and missing the benefit offered by the forgone opportunity, investing or otherwise. Opportunity cost refers to a benefit that a person could have received, but gave up, to take another course of action. Stated differently, an opportunity cost represents an alternative given up when a decision is made. This cost is, therefore, most relevant for two mutually exclusive events. In investing, it is the difference in return between a chosen investment and one that is necessarily passed up.

48. Increase in absolute and per capita real GNP do not connote a higher level of economic development, if
- (a) industrial output fails to keep pace with agricultural output.
  - (b) agricultural output fails to keep pace with industrial output.
  - (c) poverty and unemployment increase.**
  - (d) imports grow faster than exports.

**Explanation:**

GNP is the total value of all the goods and services produced by a country in a year including income from foreign investments, divided by the number of people living there.

Growth is an increase in the country's output.

Development is an improvement in factors such as health, education, literacy rates and a decline in poverty levels.

Development alleviates people from low standards of living into proper employment with suitable shelter. Economic Growth does not take into account the depletion of natural resources which might lead to pollution, congestion & disease. Development, however, is concerned with sustainability which means meeting the needs of the present without compromising future needs.

49. Consider the following statements : Human capital formation as a concept is better explained in terms of a process which enables
- 1) individuals of a country to accumulate more capital.
  - 2) increasing the knowledge, skill levels and capacities of the people of the country.
  - 3) accumulation of tangible wealth.
  - 4) accumulation of intangible wealth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

**Explanation:**

Human Capital is a measure of the skills, education, capacity and attributes of labour which influence their productive capacity and earning potential.

50. Despite being a high saving economy, capital formation may not result in significant increase in output due to
- (a) weak administrative machinery
  - (b) illiteracy
  - (c) high population density
  - (d) high capital-output ratio**

**Explanation:**

A frequently used tool that explain the relationship between the level of investment made in the economy and the consequent increase in GDP is capital output ratio. The concept of capital output ratio expresses the relationship between the value of capital invested and the value of output.

Capital output ratio is the amount of capital needed to produce one unit of output.

A lower capital output ratio shows that only low level of investment is needed to produce a given growth rate in the economy. This is considered as a desirable situation. Lower capital output ratio shows that capital is very productive or efficient.

Capital output ratio thus explain the relationship between level of investment and the corresponding economic grow



51. After the Santhal Uprising subsided, what was/were the measure/measures taken by the colonial government?

- 1) The territories called 'Santhal Paraganas' were created.
- 2) It became illegal for a Santhal to transfer land to a non-Santhal.

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

**Explanation:**

The colonial Government pacified the Santhals by creating a separate district of Santhal Parganas once the Santhal Uprising subsided.

52. Economically, one of the results of the British rule in India in the 19th century was the

- (a) increase in the export of Indian handicrafts  
(b) growth in the number of Indian owned factories  
**(c) commercialization of Indian agriculture**  
(d) rapid increase in the urban population

**Explanation:**

Commercialisation of Indian Agriculture is the result of the measures taken by the British through the Land Revenue Settlements which changed the contours of rural agrarian Economy.

53. If the President of India exercises his power as provided under Article 356 of the Constitution in respect of a particular State, then

- (a) the Assembly of the State is automatically dissolved.  
**(b) the powers of the Legislature of that State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of the Parliament.**  
(c) Article 19 is suspended in that State.  
(d) the President can make laws relating to that State.

**Explanation:**

According to Article 356 (1) (b) the President may by Proclamation declare that the powers of the Legislature of the State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament;

According to Art 357 (1) Whereby a Proclamation issued under clause ( 1 ) of Article 356, it has been declared that the powers of the Legislature of the State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament, it shall be competent

(a) for Parliament to confer on the President the power of the Legislature of the State to make laws, and to authorise the President to delegate, subject to such conditions as he may think fit to impose, the power so conferred to any other authority to be specified by him in that behalf;

54. Consider the following pairs :

<b>Craft</b>	<b>Heritage of</b>
Puthukkuli shawls	- Tamil Nadu
Sujni embroidery	- Maharashtra
Uppada Jamdani saris	- Karnataka





Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

**(a) 1 only**

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 2 and 3 only

**Explanation:**

1. Puthukkuli shawls – Tamil Nadu
2. Sujni embroidery – Bihar
3. Uppada Jamdani saris – Andhra Pradesh

55. In which of the following areas can GPS technology be used?

- 1) Mobile phone operations
- 2) Banking operations
- 3) Controlling the power grids

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**

**Explanation:**

GPS timing is important for telecommunications applications, particularly for mobile telephone networks. Synchronous technologies are much more efficient than asynchronous technologies but require a time source with appropriate accuracy, stability and reliability to operate effectively or at all, and GPS satellites can provide this.

Global financial systems increasingly need precise timing systems to schedule and prioritise local and international money transfers, settlements and trades and to provide an audit trail for financial transactions. For example, the time signal provided by the atomic clocks on board the GPS satellites is used by financial institutions worldwide for providing date and time stamps for Electronic Funds Transfers. In some developed countries up to 80% of retail transactions involve either credit or debit cards. With millions of these transactions occurring every minute, a very high level of timing accuracy has become a critical component of financial trading networks.

Power companies and utilities have fundamental requirements for time and frequency to enable efficient power transmission and distribution. Repeated power blackouts have demonstrated to power companies the need for improved time synchronization throughout the power grid. Analyses of these blackouts have led many companies to place GPS-based time synchronization devices in power plants and substations. By analyzing the precise timing of an electrical anomaly as it propagates through a grid, engineers can trace back the exact location of a power line break.

56. Consider the following statements :

- 1) The Reserve Bank of India manages and services Government of India Securities but not any State Government Securities.
- 2) Treasury bills are issued by the Government of India and there are no treasury bills issued by the State Governments.
- 3) Treasury bills offer are issued at a discount from the par value.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 3 only



**(c) 2 and 3 only**

(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Explanation:**

A Government Security (G-Sec) is a tradeable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments. It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation. Such securities are short term (usually called treasury bills, with original maturities of less than one year) or long term (usually called Government bonds or dated securities with original maturity of one year or more). In India, the Central Government issues both, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the State Development Loans (SDLs). G-Secs carry practically no risk of default and, hence, are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments.

Treasury bills or T-bills, which are money market instruments, are short term debt instruments issued by the Government of India and are presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91 day, 182 day and 364 day. Treasury bills are zero coupon securities and pay no interest. They are issued at a discount and redeemed at the face value at maturity. For example, a 91 day Treasury bill of Rs100/- (face value) may be issued at say Rs 98.20, that is, at a discount of say, Rs1.80 and would be redeemed at the face value of Rs100/-. The return to the investors is the difference between the maturity value or the face value (that is Rs100) and the issue.

57. Consider the following statements :

- 1) The Earth's magnetic field has reversed every few hundred thousand years.
- 2) When the Earth was created more than 4000 million years ago, there was 54% oxygen and no carbon dioxide.
- 3) When living organisms originated, they modified the early atmosphere of the Earth.

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

58. The terms WannaCry, Petya and EternalBlue' sometimes mentioned in the news recently are related to

(a) Exoplanets

(b) Cryptocurrency

**(c) Cyber attacks**

(d) Mini satellites

**Explanation:**

The leaked NSA cyber weapon, EternalBlue is an exploit of Microsoft Windows that attacks SMB file-sharing services. It was leaked by the Shadow Brokers hacker group and has since been used as part of the catastrophic WannaCry attack that started on May, 2017.

59. With reference to the circumstances in Indian agriculture, the concept of "Conservation Agriculture" assumes significance. Which of the following fall under the Conservation Agriculture ?

- 1) Avoiding the monoculture practices
- 2) Adopting minimum tillage
- 3) Avoiding the cultivation of plantation crops
- 4) Using crop residues to cover soil surface
- 5) Adopting spatial and temporal crop sequencing/crop rotations



Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

**Explanation:**

Conservation Agriculture is a farming system that promotes maintenance of a permanent soil cover, minimum soil disturbance (i.e. no tillage), and diversification of plant species.

According to this concept, statement 2, 4 and 5 are directly associated.

At the same time, statement 1, 3 and 5 seems to convey the concept of crop rotation, there is no combinations of answers (such as 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) to choose.

Hence, 2, 4 and 5 is the correct answer

60. The term "sixth mass extinction/sixth extinction" is often mentioned in the news in the context of the discussion of

- (a) *Widespread monoculture practices in agriculture and large-scale commercial farming with indiscriminate use of chemicals in many parts of the world that may result in the loss of good native ecosystems.*
- (b) *Fears of a possible collision of a meteorite with the Earth in the near future in the manner it happened 65 million years ago that caused the mass extinction of many species including those of dinosaurs.*
- (c) *Large scale cultivation of genetically modified crops in many parts of the world and promoting their cultivation in other parts of the world which may cause the disappearance of good native crop plants and the loss of food biodiversity.*
- (d) *Mankind's over-exploitation/misuse of natural resources, fragmentation/loss of natural habitats, destruction of ecosystems, pollution and global climate change.***

**Explanation:**

Many scientists say it's abundantly clear that Earth is entering its sixth mass-extinction event, meaning three-quarters of all species could disappear in the coming centuries.

Humans have increased in population and distribution faster and more efficiently than practically any other living thing in the history of the planet. In fact, some scholars even think that we need a new designation for the period in Earth history impacted by humans. They call it the **Anthropocene**, and this the **Anthropocene Extinction** because it's being caused by our actions. In fact, scientists estimate that 99% of currently endangered species are at risk due to human impacts on the environment.

61. With reference to the Indian Regional Navigation. Satellite System (IRNSS) consider the following statements :

- 1) IRNSS has three satellites in geostationary and four satellites in geosynchronous orbits.
- 2) IRNSS covers entire India and about 5500 sq. km beyond its borders.
- 3) India will have its own satellite navigation system with full global coverage by the middle of 2019.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only**
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) None



**Explanation:**

IRNSS is an independent regional navigation satellite system being developed by India. It is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary, which is its primary service area.

*It is a constellation of 7 satellites with 3 being in geostationary orbit and the other four in geosynchronous orbit.*

*The third statement is wrong because IRNSS is a regional navigation system not with a global coverage.*

62. Consider the following phenomena :

- 1) Light is affected by gravity.
- 2) The Universe is constantly expanding.
- 3) Matter warps its surrounding space-time.

Which of the above is/are the prediction/predictions of Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, often discussed in media?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 3 only

**(c) 1 and 3 only**

(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Explanation:**

In 1905, Albert Einstein determined that the laws of physics are the same for all non-accelerating observers, and that the speed of light in a vacuum was independent of the motion of all observers. This was the theory of special relativity. It introduced a new framework for all of physics and proposed new concepts of space and time.

Applications of this theory inculcate of the understanding that the light can be influenced by gravity. As the case in black hole, light is bent so enormously by the black hole that it will never come out of it.

The third statement is also correct.

But the second statement is wrong on two accounts. It is not a part of theory of relativity as expansion of universe was known only after 1960s. Also, the third statement by itself is wrong because universe is undergoing accelerated expansion due to dark matter and dark energy.

63. With reference to the Genetically Modified mustard (GM mustard) developed in India, consider the following statements :

- 1) GM mustard has the genes of a soil bacterium that give the plant the property of pest-resistance to a wide variety of pests.
- 2) GM mustard has the genes that allow the plant cross-pollination and hybridization.
- 3) GM mustard has been developed jointly by the IARI and Punjab Agricultural University.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

(a) 1 and 3 only

**(b) 2 only**

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Explanation:**

DMH -11 is transgenic mustard had been developed by a team of scientists in Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants at Delhi University. It is genetically modified variety of Herbicide Tolerant (HT) mustard. It was created by using "barnase/barstar" technology for genetic modification by adding genes from soil bacterium that makes mustard self-pollinating plant. DMH



-11 contains three genes viz. Bar gene, Barnase and Barstar sourced from soil bacterium. The bar gene had made plant resistant to herbicide named Basta.

64. Consider the following pairs :

Terms sometimes seen in news	Context/Topic
Belle II	- Artificial experiment Intelligence
Blockchain technology	- Digital/ Cryptocurrency
CRISPR - Cas9	- Particle Physics

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

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Explanation:**

In the Belle II experiment, various elementary particles generated from high energy electron-positron collisions will be observed using the 8-meter tall Belle II detector consisting of seven types of subdetectors.

A **blockchain** is a digitized, decentralized, public ledger of all cryptocurrency transactions. ... Originally developed as the accounting method for the virtual currency **Bitcoin**, blockchains – which use what's known as distributed ledger **technology** (DLT) – are appearing in a variety of commercial applications today.

CRISPR-Cas9, which is short for clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats and CRISPR-associated protein 9. The CRISPR-Cas9 system has generated a lot of excitement in the scientific community because it is faster, cheaper, more accurate, and more efficient than other existing genome editing methods.

65. Which of the following statements best describes "carbon fertilization"?

(a) **Increased plant growth due to increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere**

(b) *Increased temperature of Earth due to increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere*

(c) *Increased acidity of oceans as a result of increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere*

(d) *Adaptation of all living beings on Earth to the climate change brought about by the increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere*

**Explanation:**

The carbon fertilization effect (CFE) is simply that the larger amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that has resulted from rising anthropogenic emissions should help the growth of plants, which use carbon dioxide during photosynthesis. The effect ought to increase crop yields.

66. When the alarm of your smartphone rings in the morning, you wake up and tap it to stop the alarm which causes your geysers to be switched on automatically. The smart mirror in your bathroom shows the day's weather and also indicates the level of water in your overhead -tank. After you take some groceries from your refrigerator for making breakfast, it recognises the shortage of stock in it and places an order for the supply of fresh grocery items. When you step out of your house and lock the door, all lights, fans, geysers and AC machines get switched off automatically. On your way to office, your car warns you about traffic congestion ahead and suggests an alternative route, and if you are late for a meeting, it sends a message to your office accordingly.



In the context of emerging communication technologies, which one of the following terms best applies to the above scenario?

(a) Border Gateway Protocol

**(b) Internet of Things**

(c) Internet Protocol

(d) Virtual Private Network

**Explanation:**

The internet of things (IoT) is a computing concept that describes the idea of everyday physical objects being connected to the internet and being able to identify themselves to other devices.

67. With reference to solar power production in India, consider the following statements :

1) India is the third largest in the world in the manufacture of silicon wafers used in photovoltaic units.

2) The solar power tariffs are determined by the Solar Energy Corporation of India.

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

68. The staple commodities of export by the English East India Company from Bengal in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century were

(a) Raw cotton, oil-seeds and opium

(b) Sugar, salt, zinc and lead

(c) Copper, silver, gold, spices and tea

**(d) Cotton, silk, saltpetre and opium**

**Explanation :**

- India's most important article of export of cotton textiles .
- India also exported **raw silk, and silk fabrics, hardware, indigo, saltpeter, opium , rice, wheat , sugar, pepper and other spices**, precious stones and drugs.

**Reference : Old NCERT , Bipin Chandra , pg no: 26.**

69. Which one of the following is a very significant aspect of the Champaran Satyagraha?

(a) Active all-India participation of lawyers, students and women in the National Movement

(b) Active involvement of Dalit and Tribal communities of India in the National Movement

**(c) Joining of peasant unrest to India's National Movement**

(d) Drastic decrease in the cultivation of plantation crops and commercial crops

70. Who among the following were the founders of the "Hind Mazdoor Sabha" established in 1948?

(a) B. Krishna Pillai, E.M.S. Namboodiripad and K.C. George

(b) Jayaprakash Narayan, Deen Dayal Upadhyay and M.N. Roy

(c) C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, K. Kamaraj and Veeresalingam Pantulu

**(d) Ashok Mehta, T.S. Ramanujam and G.G. Mehta**

**Explanation:**

- HMS was founded in Calcutta -24th to 26th December 1948.



- The Founding Conference elected Com. R.S. Ruikar as the first President, Com. Ashok Mehta as the General Secretary and Com. G.G. Mehta and V.S. Mathur as Secretaries. Ms. Maniben Kara and Com. T.S. Ramanujam were elected as Vice-Presidents of HMS and Com. R.A. Khedgikar as the Treasurer.  
Representations from different sections were attended the conference which lead to the birth of HMS .
- Railways: Jay Prakash Narayan, Sibnath Banerjee, R.A. Khedgikar and Ms. Maniben Kara.
- Post & Telegraph employees: Shri Dalvi and Shri Ramanujam
- Miners: Basawan Singh and P.B. Sinha
- Textile workers: R.S. Ruikar, Anthony Pillai and P.S. Chinnadurai.

Reference : <http://www.hindmazdoorsabha.com/about-hms.php>

71. With reference to the religious practices in India, the "Sthanakvasi" sect belongs to

(a) Buddhism

**(b) Jainism**

(c) Vaishnavism

(d) Shaivism

**Explanation:**

- **Sthanakwasi: sect of Jainism.**

- The Sthanakwasi arose not directly from the Shwetambaras but as reformers of an older reforming sect, viz., the Lonka sect of Jainism.
- This Lonka sect was founded in about 1474 A.D. by Lonkashah, a rich and well-read merchant of Ahmedabad.
- The Sthanakwasis are also called by terms as
  - Dhundhiya (searchers)
  - Sadhumargi (followers of Sadhus i.e., ascetics)

**Note:**

- **Recently in 2015, Supreme Court passed the judgement that Santhara (vow taken to purify the soul) was an age old practice by Jain communities from samvat 1389 and not illegal.**
- **This over ruled judgement of Rajasthan High Court based on the petition filed by Sthanakvasi Jain Shravak Sangh.**

72. With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following statements :

- 1) White marble was used in making Buland Darwaza and Khankah at Fatehpur Sikri.
- 2) Red sandstone and marble were used in making Bara Imambara and Rumi Darwaza at Lucknow.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

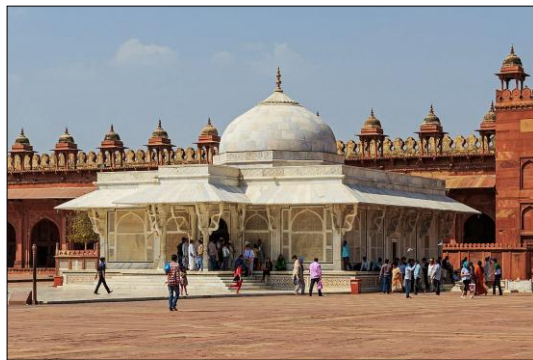
**(b) 2 only**

(c) Both 1 and 2

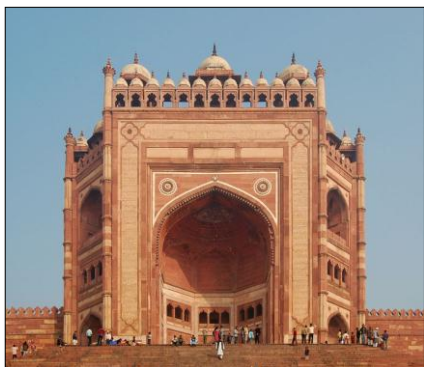
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Explanation:**

kankah of Sheik Salim at Fatehpur sikri was earlier existed , Akbar made a tomb - white marble.



**Buland Darwaza (Gate of victory ) - made of red sandstone by Akbar in 1601 AD.**



Bara imambara was built by

73. Which one of the following foreign travellers elaborately discussed about diamonds and diamond mines of India?

- (a) *Francois Bernier*
- (b) *Jean-Baptiste Tavernier***
- (c) *Jean de Thevenot*
- (d) *Abbe Barthelemy Carre*

74. With reference to Indian history, who among the following is a future Buddha, yet to come to save the world?

- (a) *Avalokiteshvara*
- (b) *Lokesvara*
- (c) *Maitreya***
- (d) *Padmapani*

75. Which one of the following statements does not apply to the system of Subsidiary Alliance introduced by Lord Wellesley?

- (a) *To maintain a large standing army at other's expense*
- (b) *To keep India safe from Napoleonic danger*
- (c) *To secure a fixed income for the Company*
- (d) *To establish British paramountcy over the Indian States***

76. Which of the following led to the introduction of English Education in India?

- 1) Charter Act of 1813
- 2) General Committee of Public Instruction, 1823





3) Orientalist and Anglicist Controversy

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

77. Which one of the following is an artificial lake?

- (a) Kodaikanal (Tamil Nadu)**
- (b) Kolleru (Andhra Pradesh)
- (c) Nainital (Uttarakhand)
- (d) Renuka (Himachal Pradesh)

78. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, consider the following statements :

- 1) It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- 2) It, among other things, will also impart training in soft skills, entrepreneurship, financial and digital literacy.
- 3) It aims to align the competencies of the unregulated workforce of the country to the National Skill Qualification Framework.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Explanation:**

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme for skill training of youth to be implemented by the new Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship through the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). The scheme will cover 10 million youth during the period 2016 -2020.

Under this Scheme, Training and Assessment fees are completely paid by the Government.

Skill training would be done based on the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and industry led standards.

79. In 1920, which of the following changed its name to "Swarajya Sabha" ?

- (a) All India Home Rule League**
- (b) Hindu Mahasabha
- (c) South Indian Liberal Federation
- (d) The Servants of India Society

80. Which among the following events happened earliest?

- (a) Swami Dayanand established Arya Samaj.
- (b) Dinabandhu Mitra wrote Neeldarpan.**
- (c) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote Anandmath.
- (d) Satyendranath Tagore became the first Indian to succeed in the Indian Civil Services Examination.

81. Which of the following is/are the possible consequence/s of heavy sand mining in riverbeds ?

- 1) Decreased salinity in the river



- 2) Pollution of groundwater
- 3) Lowering of the water-table

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

82. With reference to agricultural soils, consider the following statements :

- 1) A high content of organic matter in soil drastically reduces its water holding capacity.
- 2) Soil does not play any role in the sulphur cycle.
- 3) Irrigation over a period of time can contribute to the salinization of some agricultural lands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

83. The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), a UN mechanism to assist countries transition towards greener and more inclusive economies, emerged at

- (a) *The Earth Summit on Sustainable Development 2002, Johannesburg*
- (b) *The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012, Rio de Janeiro***
- (c) *The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2015, Paris*
- (d) *The World Sustainable Development Summit 2016, New Delhi*

**Explanation:**

The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) was launched in 2013 as a response to the call at Rio+20 to support those countries wishing to embark on greener and more inclusive growth trajectories.

84. "3D printing" has applications in which of the following?

- 1) Preparation of confectionery items
- 2) Manufacture of bionic ears
- 3) Automotive industry
- 4) Reconstructive surgeries
- 5) Data processing technologies

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

**Explanation:**

The uses of 3D printing are indeed varied and extensive. The most obvious uses are outlined in options 1, 2, 3 and 4.

As there is no answer combination for the same, we need to choose option d (all are correct) as the right answer even though the use of 3D printing in data processing is questionable. But also please follow the link given below that vouches that the fifth use is indeed correct.

<http://dataconomy.com/2016/05/three-unexpected-uses-3d-printing-big-data/>



85. Consider the following statements :

- 1) The Barren Island volcano is an active volcano located in the Indian territory.
- 2) Barren Island lies about 140 km east of Great Nicobar.
- 3) The last time the Barren Island volcano erupted was in 1991 and it has remained inactive since then.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

**(a) 1 only**

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1 and 3 only

86. Why is a plant called *Prosopis filliflora* often mentioned in news?

(a) Its extract is widely used in cosmetics.

**(b) It tends to reduce the biodiversity in the area in which it grows.**

(c) Its extract is used in the synthesis of pesticides.

(d) None of the above

**Explanation:**

It is an invasive alien species well known to negatively affect the biodiversity of the region.

87. Consider the following statements :

- 1) Most of the world's coral reefs are in tropical waters.
- 2) More than one-third of the world's coral reefs are located in the territories of Australia, Indonesia and Philippines.
- 3) Coral reefs host far more number of animal phyla than those hosted by tropical rainforests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

**(a) 1 and 2 only**

(b) 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

88. "Momentum for Change : Climate Neutral Now" is an initiative launched by

(a) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

(b) The UNEP Secretariat

**(c) The UNFCCC Secretariat**

(d) The World Meteorological Organization

**Explanation:**

In September 2015, the UNFCCC secretariat launched its Climate Neutral Now initiative to urge individuals, companies and governments to measure their climate footprint, reduce their greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible, and offset what they cannot reduce using UN-certified emissions reductions.

89. With reference to educational institutions during colonial rule in India, consider the following pairs :

**Institution**

**Founder**

Sanskrit College at Benaras - William Jones

Calcutta Madarsa - Warren Hastings

Fort William College - Arthur Wellesley



Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

**(b) 2 only**

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 3 only

**Explanation:**

- Government Sanskrit College - **Jonathan Duncan** in 1791.
- Calcutta Madrasa - Warren Hastings in 1781.
- Fort William - **Lord Wallesey** in 1800.

90. Consider the following pairs :

Regions sometimes mentioned in news	Country
Catalonia	- Spain
Crimea	- Hungary
Mindanao	- Philippines
Oromia	- Nigeria

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only

(b) 3 and 4 only

**(c) 1 and 3 only**

(d) 2 and 4 only

**Explanation:**

Catalonia	- Spain
Crimea	- Crimea
Mindanao	- Philippines
Oromia	- Ethiopia

91. Consider the following events :

- 1) The first democratically elected communist party government formed in a State in India.
- 2) India's then largest bank, 'Imperial Bank of India', was renamed 'State Bank of India'.
- 3) Air India was nationalised and became the national carrier.
- 4) Goa became a part of independent India.

Which of the following is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?

(a) 4 - 1 - 2 - 3

**(b) 3 - 2 - 1 - 4**

(c) 4 - 2 - 1 - 3

(d) 3 - 1 - 2 - 4

92. Right to Privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty. Which of the following in the Constitution of India correctly and appropriately imply the above statement?

(a) Article 14 and the provisions under the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution

(b) Article 17 and the Directive Principles of State Policy in Part IV

**(c) Article 21 and the freedoms guaranteed in Part III**

(d) Article 24 and the provisions under the 44th Amendment to the Constitution

**Explanation:**

Article 21



93. Consider the following :

- 1) Areca nut
- 2) Barley
- 3) Coffee
- 4) Finger millet
- 5) Groundnut
- 6) Sesamum
- 7) Turmeric

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has announced the Minimum Support Price for which of the above?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 7 only  
**(b) 2, 4, 5 and 6 only**  
(c) 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only  
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

94. In which one of the following States is Pakhui 4 Wildlife Sanctuary located?

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh**  
(b) Manipur  
(c) Meghalaya  
(d) Nagaland

95. With reference to India's satellite launch vehicles, consider the following statements:

- 1) PSLVs launch the satellites useful for Earth resources monitoring whereas GSLVs are designed mainly to launch communication satellites.
- 2) Satellites launched by PSLV appear to remain permanently fixed in the same position in the sky, as viewed from a particular location on Earth.
- 3) GSLV Mk III is a four-staged launch vehicle with the first and third stages using solid rocket motors; and the second and fourth stages using liquid rocket engines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Explanation:**

Both PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) and GSLV (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle) are the satellite-launch vehicles (rockets) developed by ISRO. PSLV is designed mainly to deliver the "earth-observation" or "remote-sensing" satellites with lift-off mass of up to about 1750 Kg to Sun-Synchronous circular polar orbits of 600-900 Km altitude.

The GSLV is designed mainly to deliver the communication-satellites to the highly elliptical (typically 250 x 36000 Km) Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). The satellite in GTO is further raised to its final destination, viz., Geo-synchronous Earth orbit (GEO) of about 36000 Km altitude (and zero deg inclination on equatorial plane) by firing its in-built on-board engines.

GSLV MK-III is a three-staged vehicle with first stage using solid rocket motor, second stage using Liquid fuel and the third stage, called Cryogenic Upper Stage, using cryogenic engine.

96. With reference to the governance of public sector banking in India, consider the following statements :



- 1) Capital infusion into public sector banks by the Government of India has steadily increased in the last decade.
- 2) To put the public sector banks in order, the merger of associate banks with the parent State Bank of India has been affected.

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

**Explanation:**

GOI infused `1,18,724 crore in PSBs during 2008-09 to 2016-17. For the period, 2008-09 to 2014-15, the amount of GOI capital to be infused in a year was decided through the annual budgetary process. In August 2015, the Indradhanush Plan was announced which provided for GOI capital infusion of `70,000 crore in PSBs over 2015-16 to 2018-19. The inter-se distribution of capital among the PSBs is carried out by DFS following the procedure detailed at Paragraph 3.1 above. The following table indicates the quantum of GOI capital infusion, PSB-wise, during the FYs 2008-09 to 2016-17

2008-09 = 1900 Crores

2009-10 = 1200 Crores

2010-11 = 20117 Crores

2011-12 = 12000 Crores

2012-13 = 12517 Crores

2013-14 = 14000 Crores

2014-15 = 6990 Crores

2015-16 = 25000 Crores

2016-17 = 25000 Crores

Total = 118724

Rs 2.11 lakh crore recapitalisation plan, approved by the Cabinet in October 2017, Rs 1,35,000 crore will be mobilised through the issuance of recapitalisation bonds and around Rs 58,000 crore by the dilution of government equity in various PSBs. The government will provide a budgetary support of Rs 18,139 crore under the existing Indradhanush plan (excluding the close to Rs 1,900 crore already provided until then). The government intends to issue recapitalisation bonds worth Rs 80,000 crore in the current fiscal itself. It recently approved a proposal to infuse Rs 7,577 crore into six weak PSBs as part of the Indradhanush plan. Massive capital infusion into PSBs was necessitated as their gross NPAs surged from 5.4% of gross advances in March 2015 to 13.7% by June 2017. This led to a jump in their provisioning requirements to Rs 3,79,080 crore between FY15 and Q1FY18, much higher than the Rs 1,96,937 crore made during the preceding ten years.

Five associates and the Bharatiya Mahila Bank became part of the State Bank of India (SBI) catapulting the country's largest lender to among the top 50 banks in the world.

State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur (SBBJ), State Bank of Hyderabad (SBH), State Bank of Mysore (SBM), State Bank of Patiala (SBP) and State Bank of Travancore (SBT), besides Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB), merged with SBI with effect from April 1, 2017.

"With this six-way mega merger, SBI has again displayed its ability to change and evolve in order to continue as the country champion among banks in India and to create enduring value," SBI said.

With this merger, the bank will join the league of top 50 banks globally in terms of assets, it added.



The total customer base of the bank will reach 37 crores with a branch network of around 24,000 and nearly 59,000 ATMs across the country.

The merged entity will have a deposit base of more than Rs 26 lakh crore and advances level of Rs.18.50 lakh crore.

97. Consider the following items :

- 1) Cereal grains hulled
- 2) Chicken eggs cooked
- 3) Fish processed and canned
- 4) Newspapers containing advertising material

Which of the above items is/are exempted under GST (Goods and Services Tax)?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1, 2 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Explanation:**

**List of Goods Exempted under GST Regime, GST 0% Rate List 2017 :**

Cereal grains hulled revised from 5% to 0% on 11th June 2017.

All fish goods, other than processed, cured or in frozen state

Birds' eggs, in shell, fresh, preserved or cooked

Newspapers, journals and periodicals, whether or not illustrated or containing advertising material.

98. Consider the following statements :

- 1) The definition of "Critical Wildlife Habitat" is incorporated in the Forest Rights Act, 2006.
- 2) For the first time in India, Baigas have been given Habitat Rights.
- 3) Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change officially decides and declares Habitat Rights for Primitive and Vulnerable Tribal Groups in any part of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Explanation:**

Forest Rights Act 2006 defines CWHs as 'areas of national parks and sanctuaries where it has been specifically and clearly established, case by case, on the basis of scientific and objective criteria, that such areas are required to be kept as inviolate for the purposes of wildlife conservation'. In order to notify a CWH, the Act requires state governments to establish that the presence of right-holders is causing irreversible damage to wildlife and their habitats, and that co-existence between rights holders and wildlife was not a reasonable option.

the government of Madhya Pradesh has for the first time recognised the habitat rights of seven villages in Dindori district, mostly inhabited by the Baigas in 2016.

Habitat' under Section 2(h) of the FRA (Forest Rights Act) is defined as area comprising customary habitat and such other habitats in reserved forests and protected forests of primitive tribal groups and pre-agricultural communities and other forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes conferred by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

99. Consider the following :



- 1) Birds
- 2) Dust blowing
- 3) Rain
- 4) Wind blowing

Which of the above spread plant diseases?

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

**Explanation:**

Abiotic factors of transmission of plant diseases.

100. With reference to organic farming in India, consider the following statements :

- 1) The National Programme for Organic Production' (NPOP) is operated under the guidelines and directions of the Union Ministry of Rural Development.
- 2) 'The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority' (APEDA) functions as the Secretariat for the implementation of NPOP.
- 3) Sikkim has become India's first fully organic State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Explanation:**

Ministry of Commerce has implemented the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) since 2001. The objectives of NPOP are as under:

- 1) To provide the means of evaluation of certification programme for organic agriculture and products (including wild harvest, aquaculture, livestock products) as per the approved criteria.
- 2) To accredit certification programmes of Certification Bodies seeking accreditation.
- 3) To facilitate certification of organic products in conformity with the prescribed standards.
- 4) To facilitate certification of organic products in conformity with the importing countries organic standards as per equivalence agreement between the two countries or as per importing country requirements.
- 5) To encourage the development of organic farming and organic processing.

APEDA shall function as the Secretariat for the implementation of the NPOP.

As prescribed under NPOP Chapter 4, clause 4.3.1.4 under Analysis and Residue Testing, the testing is to be carried out in ISO 17025 accredited and preferably APEDA approved laboratories.

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act passed by the Parliament in December, 1985.

In accordance with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985, (2 of 1986) the following functions have been assigned to the Authority.

- Development of industries relating to the scheduled products for export by way of providing financial assistance or otherwise for undertaking surveys and feasibility studies, participation in enquiry capital through joint ventures and other reliefs and subsidy schemes;
- Registration of persons as exporters of the scheduled products on payment of such fees as may be prescribed;





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- Fixing of standards and specifications for the scheduled products for the purpose of exports;
  - Carrying out inspection of meat and meat products in slaughter houses, processing plants, storage premises, conveyances or other places where such products are kept or handled for the purpose of ensuring the quality of such products;
  - Improving of packaging of the Scheduled products;
  - Improving of marketing of the Scheduled products outside India;
  - Promotion of export oriented production and development of the Scheduled products;
  - Collection of statistics from the owners of factories or establishments engaged in the production, processing, packaging, marketing or export of the scheduled products or from such other persons as may be prescribed on any matter relating to the scheduled products and publication of the statistics so collected or of any portions thereof or extracts therefrom;
  - Training in various aspects of the industries connected with the scheduled products;
  - Such other matters as may be prescribed.
  - Sikkim has become India's first fully organic state by implementing organic practices on around 75,000 hectares of agricultural land