

Answer & Explanation for G.S. Test-10 held on 22nd April 2018

1. Consider the following statements:
- (1) One State in India is not bound to accord faith and credit to the legislations of another State.
 - (2) Article 245 states that the legislature of a State may make law for the whole or any part of the State.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Article 261 of Constitution of India deals with Public acts, records and judicial proceedings. According to it

- (1) *Full faith and credit shall be given throughout the territory of India to **public acts**, records and judicial proceedings of the Union and of every State.*
- (2) *The manner in which and the conditions under which the acts, records and proceedings referred to in clause (1) shall be proved and the effect thereof determined shall be as provided by law made by Parliament.*
- (3) *Final judgments or orders delivered or passed by civil courts in any part of the territory of India shall be capable of execution anywhere within that territory according to law.*

Article 245 of the Constitution of India deals with Extent of laws made by Parliament and by the Legislatures of States

- (1) *Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Parliament may make laws for the whole or any part of the territory of India, and the **Legislature of a State may make laws for the whole or any part of the State***
- (2) *No law made by Parliament shall be deemed to be invalid on the ground that it would have extra territorial operation*

2. The folk singing style of Pandavani is associated with which of the following State?
- (a) Rajasthan
 - (b) Gujarat
 - (c) Bihar
 - (d) Chhattisgarh

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Pandavani is a folk singing style involving narration of tales from the ancient Indian epic Mahabharata. The singing also involves musical accompaniment. Bhima, the second of the Pandavas is the hero of the story in this style.

This form of folk theatre is popular in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh and in the neighbouring areas of Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

Jhaduram Dewangan and Teejan Bai are the most renowned singers of this style.

3. The Hague Abduction Convention or the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction is a multilateral treaty developed by the Hague Conference on private international law. Consider the following statements in this regard:

- (1) It provides for an expeditious method to return a child internationally abducted by a parent from one member country to another.
- (2) Even though India is a signatory to the Convention, the Indian Supreme Court has recently ruled against India joining the Convention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction or Hague Abduction Convention is a multilateral treaty developed by the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) that provides an expeditious method to return a child internationally abducted by a parent from one member country to another.

India is not a signatory to the Convention. A recent Supreme Court judgement accorded courts in India unlimited discretion to determine which parent should have the custody of minor children involved in International parental child abduction. The verdict holds that Indian courts can decline the relief of repatriation of a child to the parent living abroad even if a foreign court, located in the country from where the child was removed, has already passed orders for the child's repatriation.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the Rock System of India:

- (1) Diamond bearing regions from which Panna and Golconda diamonds have been mined are part of the Dharwar System.
- (2) Mount Everest is composed of Upper Carboniferous limestones.
- (3) Vindhyan System are the oldest metamorphosed rocks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Diamond bearing regions from which Panna and Golconda diamonds have been mined are part of the Vindhyan System.
- Mount Everest is composed of Upper Carboniferous limestones.
- Dharwar system are the oldest metamorphosed rocks.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the river Narmada:

- (1) Indira Sagar and Sardar Sarovar are two major hydro power projects on the river.
- (2) The Narmada basin extends only over the three States of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- (3) The river is west flowing, through a rift valley between the Satpura and the Vindhyan ranges.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

1. There are 5 major power projects on the Narmada: Indira Sagar, Sardar Sarovar, Omkareshwar, Bargi and Maheshwar.
2. The Narmada Basin extends over the States of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.
3. The river is west flowing, through a rift valley between the Satpura and the Vindhyan ranges.

6. Consider the following statements regarding a Bill to amend the Constitution:

- (1) It can be introduced only in the House of People, i.e. the Lok Sabha.
- (2) It can be introduced only with the prior approval of the President 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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated by the introduction of a Bill for the purpose in either Houses of the Parliament but not in the State legislatures.
- The Bill can be introduced either by a Minister or by a private Member of a House and does not require prior permission of the President.

7. Consider the following events of Buddha's life and symbols of their representation:

	Events in Buddha's life		Symbols of representation
1	Buddha's birth	:	Lotus and Bull
2	The Great Departure (Mahabhinishkramana)	:	Horse
3	First Sermon (Dharmachakraparivartan)	:	Bodhi Tree

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b)

8. Consider the following mechanisms of dispute resolution:

- (1) Questions
- (2) Differences
- (3) Disputes

Which of the above are recognised mechanisms of resolutions under the Indus Water Treaty?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Dispute resolution mechanism

The Treaty recognizes three categories of such divergence and mechanism for their resolution:

- 'Questions' to be discussed and resolved at the level of the Indus Commission, or at the level of the two governments;
- 'Differences' (that is, unresolved 'questions') to be referred to a Neutral Expert (NE) if they are of certain kinds (that is, broadly speaking, differences of a technical nature); and
- 'Disputes' (going beyond 'differences') that can be referred to a Court of Arbitration.

9. Consider the following statements regarding the Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

- (1) The RBI has the sole authority to print all types of notes.
- (2) The Governor of RBI holds office at the pleasure of the Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- RBI has the sole autonomy to print notes. Govt has the sole authority to mint coins and one rupee notes.
- The power to appoint RBI Governor solely rest with the Centre and he holds office at the pleasure of Central Government (tenure not exceeding 5 years).

10. Khakhara form of architectural style is the feature of which of the following region?

- (a) Kalinga
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Kashmir

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Khakhara is one of the three styles of Kalinga architecture, the other two being Rekha and Pidha.

11. Consider the following statements regarding Principles of Ecology:

- (1) The presence of specific features or certain habits, which enable a plant or an animal to live in its surroundings, is called Evolution.
- (2) Small changes that take place in the body of a single organism over short periods, to overcome small problems due to changes in the surroundings, is called acclimatization.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Evolution is the change in the genetic composition of a population during successive generations, often resulting in the development of new species. It happens in order to make the organism better suited to the present environment. Evolution involves the processes of natural selection, adaptation, variation etc. Evolution leads to speciation or formation of new species.
- Small changes that take place in the body of a single organism over short periods, to overcome small problems due to changes in the surroundings, are called acclimatization.

12. Which of the statement given below with respect to Jal Kranti Yojana is **incorrect**?

- (a) In Jal Kranti Abhiyan, a Model Command Area of 1000 hectares in a State shall be created.
- (b) Jal Gram Yojana, a component of Jal Kranti Abhiyan, will train people at the block and district levels to check ground water pollution.
- (c) A key focus of the Abhiyan is on installation of solar power panels for developing a Model Command Area in a State.
- (d) Jal Kranti Abhiyan was launched in 2015.

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The training is only at block level.

Broadly, the following activities are supposed to be undertaken for development of Model Command Area. They are Water Conservation; Installation of Solar Power Panels; Use of Primary Treated Water for Irrigation; Use of Ground Water along with Artificial Recharge of Ground Water etc.

13. Match the following pairs:

	List - I (Books)		List - II (Authors)
A.	A Brief History of Time	1.	Mendeleev
B.	The Realm of the Nebulae	2.	Edwin Hubble
C.	The Selfish Gene	3.	Richard Dawkins
D.	The Periodic Table	4.	Primo Levi
		5.	Stephen Hawking

Codes

	A	B	C	D
(a)	5	3	4	1
(b)	5	3	2	1
(c)	5	2	4	1
(d)	5	2	3	4

Answer: (d)**Explanation:**

14. The President of India can make regulations for the peace, progress and good governance of the four Union Territories which have the same force and effect as an Act of the Parliament. Which of the following is **not** one of these Union Territories?

- (a) The Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- (b) Puducherry
- (c) Dadra and Nagar Haveli
- (d) Daman and Diu

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The President can make regulations for the peace, progress and good government of the four Union Territories—the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. A regulation so made has the same force and effect as an act of Parliament. It may also repeal or amend any act of Parliament in relation to these union territories.

15. Consider the following statements:

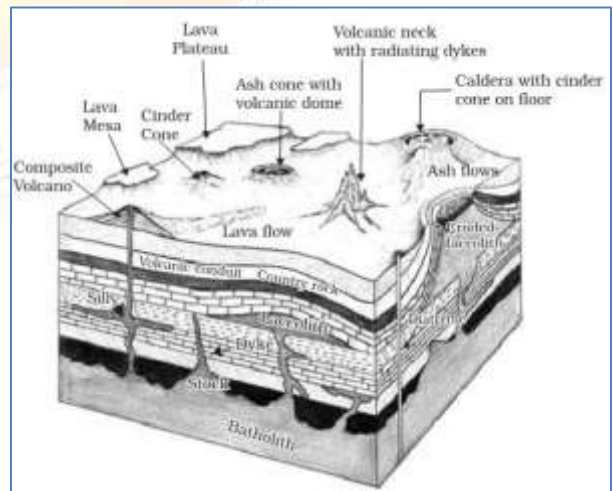
- (1) Battle of Khanwa was fought between Babur and Rana Sanga.
- (2) Battle of Chausa was fought between Babur and Sher Shah Suri.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- Babur defeated Mewar's Rana Sanga in the battle of Khanwa in 1527.
- Battle of Chausa was fought between Humayun and Sher Shah Suri. Humayun was defeated in this battle in 1539.



16. Which of the following is the major reason for formation of the Great Basin and Mojave Desert?

- (a) Rain-shadow effect
- (b) Far inland location away from the coast
- (c) High Pressure Conditions of atmosphere
- (d) Western location of these places on the continent in the Trade Wind Belt.

Answer: (a)

Explanation: The Great Basin and Mojave deserts of the western United States lie in rain shadows created by the western coastal mountains. The wind descending from the mountains warms and dries, leading to low precipitation.

17. Consider the following statements:
- (1) Sill and Laccolith are examples of Plutonic rocks.
 - (2) Caldera is an example of volcanic landform.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

18. Consider the following statements regarding the islands of India:
- (1) Sriharikota is made of coral reefs and is situated in the foremost part of Pulicat Lake.
 - (2) Pamban Island is situated in the Gulf of Khambat, near Dwarka.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Sriharikota** is made of Coral reefs and is situated in the foremost part of Pulicat Lake.
- **Pamban Island** is situated in the Gulf of Mannar between India and Srilanka. It is a part of the Adam's Bridge.

19. Consider the following statements regarding the National Medical Commission Bill, 2017:
- (1) While the National Health Policy, 2017 proposes to encourage medical pluralism the National Medical Commission Bill, 2017 (as being considered by the Parliamentary Standing Committee) does not promote it.
 - (2) The National Medical Commission Bill, 2017 proposes to prevent "Cross-Pathy".
 - (3) The National Medical Commission Bill, 2017 proposes to maintain three separate national registers for different categories of doctors.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 2 only
 - (d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The Bill provides for bridge course for the AYUSH/NON-allopathic doctors to ensure that they are trained to prescribe modern medicine in a limited way.

Cross – pathy i.e, unqualified cross-over of health-care providers from one system to another will not be allowed.

Only two registers are to be maintained-one for allopathic doctors and second for those AYUSH doctors who have completed the bridge course.

20. The semi-classical Chhau dance is associated with which of the following State(s)?

- (1) Jharkhand
- (2) Maharashtra
- (3) Odisha
- (4) West Bengal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

21. Petrapole Integrated Check Post (ICP) was recently inaugurated by the Prime Minister. It is a land border crossing between India and

- (a) Myanmar
- (b) Nepal
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) Bhutan

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Indian and Bangladesh Prime Minister jointly inaugurated the Petrapole ICP in July 2016 through videoconferencing.
- Petrapole-Benapole is an important land border crossing for India-Bangladesh trade. More than 50 per cent of the India-Bangladesh trade passes through Petrapole.
- Petrapole ICP will be the second ICP on the India-Bangladesh border after the Agartala ICP at the Agartala (India)-Akhaura (Bangladesh) land border.
- It will also be the biggest land port in South Asia.

22. Consider the following statements regarding Micro, Small and Medium enterprises:

- (1) enterprises having investment of less than or equal to Rupees 25 lakhs are considered “micro” enterprises, between Rupees 25 lakhs and 1 crore are “small” and between Rupees 5 crore and 10 crore are “medium” for all kinds of activities.
- (2) SFURTI scheme primarily focuses on traditional industries and artisans.
- (3) the aim of “Stand-up” India scheme is to facilitate loans for at least one SC,ST or woman per bank branch.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- (a) For Manufacturing sector:
Enterprises having plant and machinery investment of \leq 25 lakh-“micro” enterprise
For Service sector:
Investment of \leq 10 lakh-“micro”
10 lakh to 2 crore-“small”
2 crore to 5 crore-“medium”
25 lakh to 5 crore-“small” enterprise
5 crore to 10 crore-“medium’ enterprise
- (b) SFURTI-Scheme of Fund for Regenerating of Traditional Industries has an objective to organise the traditional industries and artisans into clusters to make them competitive and provide them support for their long term sustainability, employment and enhance marketability of the product.
- (c) the aim of “stand-up” India scheme is to facilitate loans for at least one SC,ST and a woman per bank branch.

23. Consider the following:

- (1) Carbon cycle
- (2) Nitrogen cycle
- (3) Phosphorus cycle

Which of the above cycles include constituents from the atmosphere?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Phosphorus plays a central role in aquatic ecosystems and water quality.
- Unlike carbon and nitrogen, which come primarily from the atmosphere, phosphorus occurs in large amounts as a mineral in phosphate rocks and enters the cycle from erosion and mining activities.
- The main storage for phosphorus is in the earth’s crust. On land phosphorus is usually found in the form of phosphates.

24. Which of the following are reasons for the declining flora and fauna in India?

- (1) Enrichment plantation
- (2) Teak plantation in South India
- (3) Chir Pine plantation in the Himalayas
- (4) Expansion of Railways

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

25. The 4K in LED TVs means:

- (a) The TV can showcase 4000 colours distinctly.
- (b) It has 4 times the colours present in normal TVs.

- (c) It has 4 times the resolution of a normal Full HD TV
- (d) The pixel size is 4 times the size in a Full HD TV.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

When used in a home context, **4K/UHD** means the **TV's** screen has a minimum resolution 3,840 pixels wide and 2,160 pixels high, making it the equivalent to two 1080p screens in height and two in length. This resolution was originally known as "Quad HD," and it's used by basically every **4K TV**.

26. Consider the following statements regarding the disqualification of members of both the Houses:

- (1) An independent member of a House becomes disqualified to remain a member of the House if he joins any political party after such election.
- (2) A nominated member of a House may join any political party within six months of taking his seat in the House without inviting disqualification.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

1. Disqualification of Members of Political Parties: A member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified for being a member of the House,

(a) if he voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party; or
 (b) if he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party without obtaining prior permission of such party and such act has not been condoned by the party within 15 days. From the above provision it is clear that a member elected on a party ticket should continue in the party and obey the party directions.

(c) **Independent Members:** An independent member of a House (elected without being set up as a candidate by any political party) becomes disqualified to remain a member of the House if he joins any political party after such election.

(d) **Nominated Members:** A nominated member of a House becomes disqualified for being a member of the House if he joins any political party after the expiry of six months from the date on which he takes his seat in the House. This means that he may join any political party within six months of taking his seat in the House without inviting this disqualification.

27. Regarding the taxation system of Sultanate period, consider the following statements:

- (1) Kharaj was a primary tax collected from agrarian sector.
- (2) Zakat was a tax paid by non-Muslims.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Zakat – Zakat was a religious tax levied on Muslims.

Jizya - Jizya was tax levied on non-Muslims and non followers of Islam.

28. Consider the following statements regarding WTO:

- (1) India and China, in a joint proposal to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), have called for elimination of trade-distorting agricultural subsidies given by developed countries under “Amber Box” support.
- (2) In order to qualify, Blue box subsidies must not distort trade, or at most cause minimal distortion.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: In order to qualify, Green box subsidies must not distort trade, or at most cause minimal distortion. They have to be government-funded (not by charging consumers higher prices) and must not involve price support.

Amber box - Nearly all domestic support measures considered to distort production and trade (with some exceptions) fall into the amber box, which is defined in Article 6 of the Agriculture Agreement as all domestic supports except those in the blue and green boxes. These include measures to support prices, or subsidies directly related to production quantities.

Blue Box - This is the “amber box with conditions” — conditions designed to reduce distortion. Any support that would normally be in the amber box, is placed in the blue box if the support also requires farmers to limit production (details set out in Paragraph 5 of Article 6 of the Agriculture Agreement).

29. Consider the following statements:

- (1) MANAV initiative by the Ministry of Science and Technology aims to create a comprehensive and integrated human map by assimilating all the known macro-level and micro-level information from scientific literature and public databases.
- (2) SOHUM is an indigenously developed newborn hearing screening device launched by Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

30. Consider the following statements:

- (1) At higher Himalayas where Himalayan rivers originate, Ox bow lake formation as a relief feature is visible.
- (2) The Peninsula region witnesses occasional seismic activity.
- (3) The Plains of Indus and Ganga are relatively seismically stable.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

Explanation: At higher Himalayas – erosion is visible while ox-bow lakes are seen at middle and lower Himalayan river flows.

31. Which of the following statements is **incorrect**?

- (a) There are more than 500 cryptocurrencies in the world today
- (b) The RBI has explicitly referred to cryptocurrency as being a ponzi scheme
- (c) All cryptocurrencies are based on blockchain technology
- (d) Altcoin is an alternative cryptocurrency launched after the success of bitcoin

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Not all cryptocurrencies are based on blockchain technology

- (a) There are more than 500 cryptocurrencies in the world today.
- (b) The RBI and Finance Ministry of India have explicitly referred to cryptocurrency as being a ponzi scheme and have warned investors to be wary of investing in this investment bubble.
- (c) Not all cryptocurrencies are based on blockchain technology, for example - **IOTA** - it is based on a **mathematical 'tangle'**.
- (d) **Altcoins** are the **alternative** cryptocurrencies launched after the success of Bitcoin. Generally, they project themselves as better substitutes to Bitcoin.

32. Consider the following statements regarding the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 amended in 2016:

- (1) The minimum thickness of plastic carry bags was increased from 40 microns to 50 microns.
- (2) For the first time, the producers and brand owners have been made responsible for collecting waste generated from their products.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Main Changes

- Increasing the minimum thickness of plastic carry bags from 40 microns to 50 microns. This would increase the cost and the tendency to provide free carry bags would come down.
- Responsibility of local bodies: Rural areas are brought under the rules since plastic has reached rural areas as well. The gram sabhas have been given responsibility of implementation.
- Extended Producer Responsibility: Earlier, EPR was left to the discretion of the local bodies. First time, the producers and brand owners have been made responsible for collecting waste generated from their products.
- Record Keeping: Producers are to keep a record of their vendors to whom they have supplied raw materials for manufacturing. This is to curb manufacturing of these products in unorganised sector.

- Responsibility of waste generator: All institutional generators of plastic waste shall segregate and store the waste generated by them in accordance with the Rules, and handover segregated wastes to authorized waste disposal facilities.
 - Responsibility of street vendors and retailers: Not to provide such carry bags or fine would be imposed. Only the registered shopkeepers on payment of a registration fee to local bodies would be allowed to give out plastic carry bags on charge.
 - To promote the use of plastic for road construction or energy recovery.
- 33.** Consider the following statements regarding tides:
- (1) The 'tide-generating' force is the difference between two forces; i.e. the gravitational attraction of the Moon and the centripetal force.
 - (2) Normally, there is a seven day interval between the spring tides and neap tides.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The 'tide-generating' force is the difference between these two forces; i.e. the gravitational attraction of the Moon and the centrifugal force.

- 34.** "An area is ill-drained, damp (marshy) and thickly forested narrow tract. The soil here is rich in nitrogen and organic matter but deficient in phosphate." Which of the following most closely resembles the area in the description?
- (a) Bhabhar
 - (b) Terai
 - (c) Bhangar
 - (d) Khadar

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Terai is an **ill-drained, damp (marshy) and thickly forested narrow tract** (15-30 km wide) to the south of Bhabhar running parallel to it.
- The underground streams of the Bhabhar belt re-emerge in this belt. It is a swampy lowland with silty soils.
- The terai soils are **rich in nitrogen** and organic matter but are **deficient in phosphate**.
- These soils are generally covered by tall grasses and forests but are suitable for a number of crops such as wheat, rice, sugarcane, jute etc..

- 35.** Consider the following countries:

- (1) Switzerland
- (2) Norway
- (3) Iceland
- (4) Liechtenstein

Which of the above are part of the India's proposed free trade agreement with EFTA?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- India's proposed free trade agreement with EFTA — a bloc comprising Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein — has hit a rough patch, with the group of four insisting on stringent commitments in intellectual property rights without ceding ground in the matter of liberalising visas for professionals.
- One of the primary demands of EFTA countries is that India should drop Section 3(d). But India has to protect its generic companies, which supply cheap medicines to the poor not only in India but other regions.
- The trade gap is heavily in favour of the EFTA countries, with total two-way trade at \$19 billion in 2016-17 and India's exports at less than \$2 billion.

36. Which of the following is/are **not** a component of Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana?

- (1) Financial inclusion for tribals.
- (2) Promotion of sports in tribal areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

37. Match **List-I** with **List-II** and select the correct answer using the code given below:

	List - I Dance Form		List - II Feature
A.	Kathak	1.	Colourful painted faces
B.	Kathakali	2.	Fast footwork and spin
C.	Kuchipudi	3.	Radha and Krishna's love
D.	Manipuri	4.	Plate and pot action

Codes

	A	B	C	D
(a)	2	1	4	3
(b)	1	3	4	2
(c)	2	3	1	4
(d)	3	4	2	1

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The main feature of Kuchipudi is Tarangam which requires the artist to stand on a brass plate and balance with pot on head and burning lamps on each hand.

38. Match **List-I** with **List-II** and select the correct answer using the code given below:

	Seismic Waves		Characteristic of motion in a rock
A.	Primary Waves	1.	Contraction and expansion

B.	Secondary waves	2.	Ground shakes sideways with no vertical
C.	Rayleigh Waves	3.	Ground surface moves in a rolling, elliptical motion that dies down with depth.
D.	Love Waves	4.	Shear stress

Codes

	A	B	C	D
(a)	4	1	3	2
(b)	1	4	3	2
(C)	1	4	2	3
(d)	4	1	2	3

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Primary Waves (P- Waves) are compressional waves – these waves push and pull particles in the direction of their path of travel.
- The Secondary Waves (S- Waves) are shear waves – these waves push the material at right angles to their path of travel.
- Rayleigh Waves (R- Waves) are like the waves on the surface of water – these are Orbital Waves – these waves make the particles move in an elliptical orbital path.
- Love Waves (L-Waves) – these waves make the particles move perpendicular to the direction of wave movement in a horizontal plane. These are most damaging to building-foundations.
- The sequence of arrival of seismic waves to a seismograph is P, S, L and R.

39. The world’s longest sandstone cave named KremPuri was discovered in:

- Meghalaya
- Odisha
- Tripura
- Himachal Pradesh

Answer: (a)

Explanation: The world’s longest sandstone cave named KremPuri was discovered near Laitsohum village in Mawsynram area in East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya. The cave is 24,583 metres (24.5 km) in length. KremPuri underground cavern is more than 6,000 metres longer than world record-holder Cueva Del Saman in Edo Zulia, Venezuela, a quartzite sandstone cave measuring 18,200metres (18.2 km).Mawsynram is known as wettest place on earth for its record-breaking rainfall.

40. In February this year, astronomers had announced the discovery of seven Earth-sized planets orbiting the ultracool dwarf star TRAPPIST-1. In this regard, consider the following statements:

- (1) A white dwarf is what stars like the Sun become after they have exhausted their fuel.
- (2) There is a limit to the amount of mass a white dwarf can have, known as Rameshwaran limit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2

- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a)

Explanation: A white dwarf is what stars like the Sun become after they have exhausted their nuclear fuel. Only the hot core of the star remains. A white dwarf's faint luminosity comes from the emission of stored thermal energy; no fusion takes place in a white dwarf. The nearest known white dwarf is Sirius B, at 8.6 light years, the smaller component of the Sirius binary star. There is a limit on the amount of mass a white dwarf can have. Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar discovered this limit to be 1.4 times the mass of the Sun. This is appropriately known as the "Chandrasekhar limit".

41. Which of the following statements is NOT correct regarding "Global Manufacturing Index"?
- (a) India ranks better than all BRICS member nations except China
 - (b) China has topped the index
 - (c) It is prepared by the World Economic Forum
 - (d) It has categorised 100 countries in 4 categories based on their current manufacturing level and future potential

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Not China but **Japan** has topped the index

- (a) **Japan** has secured rank 1.
- (b) India has secured **30th** position-lower than only China among BRICS nations.
- (c) The index is prepared by **World Economic Forum** - this is WEF's first 'Readiness for the Future of Production' report.
- (d) It has categorised 100 countries in 4 categories based on their current manufacturing level and future potential - **Leading, High Potential, Legacy** (India comes in this category) and **Nascent**.

42. Consider the following food items:

- (1) Table salt
- (2) Sea-food
- (3) Dairy products

Which of the above are considered to have rich content of Iodine?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: All of these are good source of Iodine. Along with them some other good sources of Iodine are Baked Potato, Boiled eggs, Yogurt, Bananas, etc.

43. Which Ministry is responsible for conducting census in India?

- (a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (b) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- (c) Ministry of Human Resource Development
- (d) Ministry of Finance

Answer: (a)

44. Consider the following statements regarding Madhav Gadgil Committee on Western Ghats:

- (1) It recommended that entire Western Ghats be declared as Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA).
- (2) State governments should have the authority to regulate and encourage activities in each zone.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Madhav Gadgil committee recommendations

- It recommended making entire Western Ghats an Ecologically Sensitive Area because of its rich biodiversity and its ecosystem services like irrigation and drinking water to people.
- Local self-government should have the authority to regulate and encourage activities in each zone.
- The activities to be banned in Ecologically sensitive zones would be GM crops, SEZs, change of land use, thermal plants, sand mining etc.

Kasturirangan Committee

- A committee headed by K. Kasturirangan recommended that only about 60,000 sq km or about 37% of the WG be declared as ESA. This was a significant reduction from that of the Gadgil committee.

45. Consider the following programmes:

- (1) Jan Aushadhi Scheme is run under the Ministry of Health.
- (2) Start up India Scheme is run under the Ministry of Finance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Jan Aushadhi Scheme is run under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- Start up India Scheme is run under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

46. Consider the following Treaties and regions which it effects:

	Treaties		Region
1.	Treaty of Pelindaba	:	African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty
2.	Treaty of Semei	:	Central Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone
3.	Treaty of Rarotonga	:	South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty

Which of the above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: Apart from NPT, a number of Nuclear weapon free zones, comprising of multi-country has been established. These include:

1. African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)
2. Central Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (Treaty of Semey)
3. South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga)
4. Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Bangkok)
5. Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco).

47. Consider the following statements:

- (1) The Resolution declaring Poorna Swaraj as the Congress' objective was passed at Lahore session in 1929.
- (2) A Resolution on Fundamental Rights and the National Economic Programme was adopted at Karachi session in 1931.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The Karachi Session of Congress is notable for a resolution on Fundamental Rights and the National Economic Program. The resolution guaranteed basic civil and political rights to the people.
- Jawaharlal Nehru was made the President of the Congress at the historic Lahore session of 1929. This event had its romantic side, as son had succeeded his father (i.e. Motilal Nehru, father of Jawaharlal Nehru was President of the Congress in 1928).
- The Lahore session of the Congress gave voice to the new, militant spirit. It passed a resolution declaring *Poorna Swaraj* (Full Independence) to be the Congress objective.

48. Consider the following statements about Savanna or Sudan Climate:

- (1) Extreme diurnal range of temperature.
- (2) Hot and dry summer season with rainfall in winters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Savanna climate has hot and wet summers because rainfall takes place in the summer months. Winters are cool and dry.

49. Consider the following statements regarding space related studies:
- (1) SOHO is a joint project of ISRO and NASA in the field of dual frequency radar imaging.
 - (2) NISAR mission is a joint project of European Space Agency and NASA in the field of solar studies.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ISRO and NASA are jointly working on the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission to co-develop and launch a dual frequency synthetic aperture radar satellite.
- SOHO (Solar and Heliospheric Observatory) - a joint project of the European Space Agency and NASA.

50. If you are standing in a Biosphere Reserve in the bio-geographical region of Deccan Peninsula and the highest peak is Dhoopgarh, then the name of the Biosphere reserve is
- (a) Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve
 - (b) Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
 - (c) Simlipal Biosphere Reserve
 - (d) Panna Biosphere Reserve

Answer: (a)

Explanation: The Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve is located in the biogeographical region of the Deccan Peninsula and the Biotic Province of Central India. The Satpura mountain ranges cross India from west to east and Pachmarhi lies directly in its centre. The highest peak of the region is the Dhoopgarh. (Source – UNESCO website).

51. Consider the following statements regarding Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP):
- (1) It was launched by Ministry of Women and Child Development.
 - (2) Internship and dedicated mentorship for women entrepreneurs will be provided by flipkart.com.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

NITI Aayog launched the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) on March 8, 2018, on the occasion of International Women's day. The partners of the platform include ShopClues.com, which has offered to provide internship and dedicated mentorship and Mann Deshi Foundation to provide digital and financial literacy to aspiring women entrepreneurs.

52. Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana:

- (1) Eligibility for a person to join the Scheme is 18 to 70 years of age, with an annual premium of Rs. 12.
- (2) The Scheme is offered by Life Insurance Corporation and other public/private insurance companies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Eligibility is 18 to 50 years.

Premium is Rs. 330 per annum.

Eligibility for a person to join the Scheme is 18 to 70 years of age, with an annual premium of Rs.12 per annum is the feature of Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana.

53. Consider the following statements:

- (1) Vermin are those animals which help the farmers in their livelihood especially farming.
- (2) Furrowing wild boars ensure germination of seeds in the forest area.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Any animal which poses a threat to human and their livelihood especially farming, can be declared Vermin under Schedule V of Wildlife Protection act 1972
- Tamil Nadu government has planned to allow Forest Department personnel to cull the wild boar for a limited period of time.

Issue Involved:

- Ecologists warn that culling of wild boar will harm biodiversity
- Wild boars: Scavenger in food chain
- Adverse effect on some animals because it is important prey for carnivorous animals.
- Furrowing wild boars ensure germination of seeds in the forest area.
- However Wild boars are among the most significant causes of losses that farmers face. They devour tapioca, bananas, rice and oil seeds.

54. Consider the following statements regarding Rohingya Refugee Crisis:

- (1) India is a signatory to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention on the Status of Refugees and the ensuing 1967 Protocol.
- (2) India's official stand is that it considers the Rohingya's as refugees.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The Rohingya refugee crisis refers to the mass migration of thousands of Rohingya people from Myanmar (also known as Burma) and Bangladesh since 2015, collectively dubbed "boat people" by international media.
- The Rohingya people are a Muslim minority group residing in the Rakhine state, formerly known as Arakan. The Rohingya people are considered "stateless entities", as the Myanmar government has been refusing to recognise them as one of the ethnic groups of the country. For this reason, the Rohingya people lack legal protection from the Government of Myanmar, are regarded as mere refugees from Bangladesh, and face strong hostility in the country.
- India is home to around 40,000 Rohingya Muslims, inspite of not having a concrete refugee policy [India being a non-signatory to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention on the Status of Refugees and ensuing 1967 protocol]. This is mainly due to porous borders we share with Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- India's official stand is they do not consider Rohingya's as refugees, they are reportedly considering them as illegal settlers and are planning to deport them.

55. Consider the following diseases:

- (1) Pertussis
- (2) Japanese Encephalitis
- (3) Measles

Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) consists of vaccination for which of the diseases given above?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Universal Immunization Programme:

Universal Immunization Programme is a vaccination program launched by the Government of India in 1985. It became a part of Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme in 1992 and is currently one of the key areas under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) since 2005. The program now consists of vaccination for 12 diseases- tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, Hepatitis B, Diarrhoea, Japanese Encephalitis, rubella, Pneumonia (Haemophilus Influenza Type B) and Pneumococcal diseases (Pneumococcal Pneumonia and Meningitis). Hepatitis B and Pneumococcal diseases was added to the UIP in 2007 and 2017 respectively. The other additions in UIP through the way are inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), rotavirus vaccine (RVV), Measles-Rubella vaccine (MR).

56. Consider the following statements regarding a Public Service Commission:

- (1) The President may exclude consultation with the UPSC even with respect to the All India Services but cannot make Rules regulating the conditions of service of these services.
- (2) On ceasing to hold office a member of the State Public Service Commission may be appointed as the member of another SPSC.

- (3) The UPSC should be consulted as respects the manner in which provisions for reservation, in the matter of appointments, may be made in favour of any backward class of citizens under Article 16(4).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: Art. 320 (3) proviso allows for the exclusion of consultation, but art. 312 mandates that their conditions of service may be regulated by Parliamentary law. President u/Art. 309 cannot regulate them by order.

Art. 319 (d) does not permit member of SPSC to be appointed as member of another SPSC.

Art. 320 (4) does not allow consultation regarding Art. 16(4).

57. Consider the following statements:

- (1) Railways were introduced in India during the viceroyalty of Lord Canning.
- (2) Third Round table conference was held during the Governor Generalship of Lord Willingdon.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The introduction of Railways (first train Bombay to Thane), Telegraph and Postal systems (first telegraph line – Calcutta – Agra) in India in 1853 happened during the rule of Lord Dalhousie.
- 2nd round table conference (1931) & 3rd Round table conference (1932) was held during the rule of Lord Willingdon (1931-36).

58. Consider the following statements:

- (1) The actual amount of water vapour present in a unit air which is expressed in g/m³ (grams per meter cube) is absolute humidity.
- (2) Relative humidity is the ratio between actual amount of water vapour and the total amount that air can hold, expressed as a percentage.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Warm air can hold more moisture or vapour than cold air. When the relative humidity reaches 100%, air is completely saturated and air temperature is said to be at dew point.

- 59.** In the context of SkyRev360, consider the following statements:
- (1) It has been developed by Airports Authority of India in collaboration with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) under the Government of India's "Make In India" initiative.
 - (2) It is an effort to unify the nation's civil and military air traffic management systems.
- 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

Ans: (a)

Explanation: The SkyRev360 is a fully automated and comprehensive data gathering, invoicing and collection service system. It will result in eliminating errors and delays for better revenue management. India and Laos have signed civil aviation cooperation agreement for providing SkyRev360.

- 60.** Any person who is a member of an All India Service may not be dismissed without giving him a reasonable opportunity of being heard. This means that:
- (1) Members of All India Services are not subject to the doctrine of pleasure of tenure.
 - (2) The above rule is an absolute rule without any exception.
 - (3) A member of an All India Service enjoys security of tenure under the Constitution.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) None of the above

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Article 310 makes him subject to the pleasure doctrine. Exceptions are under Article 311(2)(a)(b)(c).

- 61.** Consider the following Rivers and the Dams built on the rivers:

	River		Dams
1.	Mahanadi	:	Dudhawa Dam
2.	Narmada	:	Ukai Dam
3.	Ravi	:	Pong Dam

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Mahanadi	Dudhawa Dam
Tapti	Ukai Dam

Beas	Pong Dam
------	----------

62. Consider the following statements:

- (1) Under Sagarmala Initiative, there is focus on redevelopment of existing ports and creation of new ports.
- (2) Under the Udaan Scheme, Government of India intends to provide regional aviation connectivity to unserved and underserved airports by creating new airstrips in unconnected areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Under Udaan, there is no provision of creation of new airstrips/airports.

63. The Mughal prince Dara Shikoh was a follower of which of the following Sufi silsila?

- (a) Chishti
- (b) Qadiri
- (c) Suhrawardi
- (d) Nakshbandi

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Dara was follower of Qadiri silsila and very close to Sufi saints. He had translated Upanishads into Persian under the title Surr-i-Akbar.

64. Consider the following statements regarding Paris Agreement (COP-21):

- (1) Unlike the Kyoto Protocol, it provides a framework for all countries to take action against climate change.
- (2) It is similar to Kyoto Protocol in taking a top down approach and provides each country an emission reduction target.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

How is it different from Kyoto Protocol:

- Unlike the Kyoto Protocol, it provides a framework for all countries to take action against climate change. Placing emphasis on concepts like climate justice and sustainable lifestyles, the Paris Agreement for the first time brings together all nations for a common cause under the UNFCCC.
- The Agreement's has taken bottom-up approach, allowing each nation to submit its own national plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, rather than trying to repeat a top-down approach advocated by the Kyoto Protocol, giving each country an emission reduction target.

65. Operation Insaniyat of the Government of India was in response to the humanitarian crisis faced on account of:
- Earthquake in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (POK)
 - Large influx of refugees into Bangladesh
 - Political displacement of people in Sri Lanka
 - Displacement of people in Mauritius due to rise in sea level

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Operation Insaniyat - In response to the humanitarian crisis being faced on account of the large influx of refugees into Bangladesh, Government of India extended assistance to Bangladesh. The relief material consists of items required urgently by the affected people, namely rice, pulses, sugar, salt, cooking oil, tea, ready to eat noodles, biscuits, mosquito nets etc.

66. Match **List-I** with **List-II** and select the correct answer using the code given below:

	List - I Name of Line		List - II Joins places with equal
A.	Isobars	1.	Salinity
B.	Isoneph	2.	Pressure
C.	Isohels	3.	Cloudiness
D.	Isohalines	4.	Sunshine

Codes

	A	B	C	D
(a)	1	2	3	4
(b)	2	3	4	1
(c)	3	2	1	4
(d)	2	1	3	4

Answer: (b)

67. Consider the following statements regarding the Western and Eastern Ghats:
- The height of Western Ghats increases from South to North.
 - The windward side of the Eastern Ghats receive heavy rainfall from perpendicular winds from Bay of Bengal.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The height of the Western Ghats increases from North to South. Nilgiris Hills, Annamalai Hills, and Cardamom Hills are major hills.
- The Western Ghats block rain-bearing winds which cause rainfall on the western slopes. Whereas South-west monsoon moves parallel to the Eastern Ghats, which cause less rainfall because in the Eastern Ghats unable to block moisture-laden winds.

68. Which of the following statements are correct regarding the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)?

- (1) DAC has simplified guidelines to be followed to develop and manufacture defence equipment by indigenous firms
- (2) DAC aims to give a boost to Make in India
- (3) DAC comes under the Ministry of Defence
- (4) It has now allowed even start ups to develop equipment for Indian Armed Forces

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

1. DAC has simplified Make II procedure, which prescribes guidelines to be followed to develop and manufacture defence equipment by indigenous firms.
2. DAC aims to give a boost to Indian manufacturing
3. DAC is headed by Defence Minister
4. Under the relaxed rules DAC now allows even startups to manufacture equipment for Indian Armed Forces, provided they meet the minimum qualification criteria, which has now been relaxed.

69. The 1917 and 1925 sessions of the Congress were similar as

- (a) Both had Englishmen as presidents.
- (b) Different Pacts with Muslim League were signed during both the sessions.
- (c) Both had women presidents.
- (d) Both were held at Kanpur

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **1917 Calcutta** Annie Besant became 1st women President.
- **1925 Kanpur** Sarojini Naidu became 1st Indian women President.

70. After the Spanish region of Catalonia, two regions of which European country have voted in respective referendums for autonomy?

- (a) Italy
- (b) Denmark
- (c) Scotland
- (d) Belgium

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Two wealthy regions of northern Italy, Lombardy and Veneto, voted in referendums for autonomy. Both these regions are run by the once openly secessionist Lega Nord party, to explore mandate to negotiate better financial deals from Rome.
- Unlike the Spanish region of Catalonia, which held an independence referendum on Oct. 1 despite it being ruled unconstitutional, the Italian referendums are within the law.
- Like Catalonia, Lombardy and Veneto complain they pay far more in taxes than they receive.
- Under Italy's Constitution, regions can enter into negotiations at any time with Rome to take on more functions from the centre.

71. **Assertion (A):** The Central Government has undertaken to set up twelve special courts to try pending criminal cases against the legislators exclusively within a year.
Reason (R): Article 247 enables the Parliament to provide for the establishment of certain additional courts for better administration of laws made by the Parliament.
- (a) Both A and R are correct and R is the correct explanation of A.
 - (b) Both A and R are correct but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 - (c) A is correct but R is incorrect.
 - (d) A is incorrect but R is correct.

Answer: (b)

Explanation: These Courts are to be constituted under the directions of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court's order is the reason behind their establishment.

72. Consider the following statements:
- (1) Tata Motors became the first Indian firm to announce an internal Carbon Price.
 - (2) India has introduced Carbon tax on coal to reduce the amount of CO₂ emitted.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Mahindra & Mahindra became first Indian firm to announce an internal Carbon Price of \$10 per ton of carbon emitted.
- A carbon price is a cost applied to carbon pollution to encourage polluters to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas they emit into the atmosphere. There are two main types of carbon pricing:
 - emissions trading systems (ETS)
 - carbon taxes

Indian Position

- In 2010 India introduced a nationwide carbon tax of 50 rupees per metric tonne of coal both produced and imported into India. In 2014, govt. has increased the Price to 100 rupees per metric tonne. It was further increased from 100 Rs per tonne to 200 Rs per tonne in Nov 2016. After Budget 2018 it is now Rs. 400/tonne.

73. Which of the following below is NOT one of the cities identified by Ministry of Urban Development under HRIDAY Scheme?
- (a) Kancheepuram

- (b) Warangal
- (c) Puri
- (d) Amritsar

Answer: (a)

74. Consider the following statements with respect to Atal Pension Yojana:

- (1) Eligibility is 18 to 60 years.
- (2) Central Government shall co-contribute 50% of contribution or Rs. 1000 per annum, whichever is lower for 5 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Eligibility is 18 to 40 years.

75. Consider the following Geographical Indicators and their states:

	Geographical Indicators (GI)	Region/ State
1.	Banganapalle mangoes	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Tulaipanji rice	Telangana
3.	Gobindobhog rice	Bihar

Which of the above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- A GI is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.
- The famous Banaganapalle mangoes of Andhra Pradesh and Tulaipanji rice of West Bengal are among the seven commodities that have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) this fiscal year by the Indian patent office.
- The other five products which have received the GI tag this year include Pochampallylkat of Telangana; Gobindobhog rice of West Bengal; Durgi stone carvings and Etikoppaka toys of Andhra Pradesh; and Chakshesang shawl of Nagaland.
- Recently ,Rosogolla from West Bengal was given GI tag, putting an end to Odisha's clam for the same.

76. Consider the following statements regarding National Green Tribunal (NGT):

- (1) The rules of the NGT Act mandate the Chairperson to constitute a bench of "two or more members consisting of at least one judicial member and one expert member".
- (2) The NGT is bound by the Civil Procedure Code.

- (3) Only a retired Judge of the Supreme Court or a retired Chief Justice of a High Court can become the Chairperson of NGT.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The Government of India has passed a notification allowing NGT (National Green Tribunal) to form One-member Benches in exceptional circumstances. At present, NGT regional benches in Chennai and Kolkata are both functioning with one judicial member each and the expert members have retired.
- It follows the principles of Natural justice and is not bound by Civil Procedure Code.
- The Supreme Court directed the chairperson of National Green Tribunal not to constitute single member benches to hear cases as had been authorised by the central government through a notification in December last year.
- The rules of the NGT Act mandate the chairperson to constitute a bench of “two or more members consisting of at least one judicial member and one expert member”.
- According to the NGT Act, 2010, the tribunal should have “not less than ten” and up to 20 “fulltime” judicial members and between 10 and 20 expert members.
- Through the Financial Act, 2017, amendments to the NGT Act, 2017 have been made. Accordingly, “anyone with at least 25 years experience in law” can be chosen to head the NGT, in addition to retired judges.

77. The object of the J.H. Whitley Committee of 1929 was
- (a) To study the problems of agriculture in general.
(b) To plan for the expenditure on irrigation.
(c) To study the condition of labour in industries and gardens.
(d) To advise on cooperative finances.

Answer: (c)

78. In the context of SpaceX Falcon Heavy, consider the following statements:
- (1) It is the world’s most powerful rocket recently launched from the Kennedy Space Centre, Florida USA towards an orbit near Mercury.
(2) The mission is a test flight pioneered by rocket firm SpaceX of Tesla CEO Elon Musk.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: SpaceX Falcon Heavy carried cherry red Tesla car to an orbit near Mars. It is the world’s most powerful rocket launched from Kennedy Space Centre, Florida, USA towards an orbit near Mars.

It has the ability to lift 64 tonnes into low earth orbit.

- 79.** Recently, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) announced introduction of a two-tier security system in the wake of alleged data breaches of Aadhaar. In this regard, consider the following statements:
- (1) Virtual IDs to be used in place of Aadhaar numbers.
 - (2) Person specific UID 'token' for e-KYC 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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Proposed two tier security system

- **Virtual IDs**
 - It is a 16 digit temporary number (like an OTP) which can only generated by Aadhaar holders in place of Aadhaar numbers to validate their identity.
 - It can be generated through UIDAI's portal, enrolment centres, Aadhaar's mobile app, etc.
 - There will be only one active and valid VID for an Aadhaar number at any given time.
- **Limited KYC:** It involves giving an agency-specific UID 'token' for e-KYC authentication. It eliminates the need of many agencies storing Aadhaar numbers while still enabling their own paperless KYC.

- 80.** Consider the following statements about Equatorial vegetation:
- (1) Equatorial Forests show three layered arrangement.
 - (2) Multiple species make up the forest area.
 - (3) Seeding, Fruiting and Flowering is a continuous process that does not depend on season.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

- 81.** Consider the following statements regarding Stree Swabhimani Initiative:
- (1) Under this initiative, the Central Government will provide sanitary napkins to improve awareness on menstrual health and hygiene.
 - (2) The initiative is being taken by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY).
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Stree Swabhiman Initiative for women Health and Hygiene

- The initiative by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY) will provide access to sanitary napkins to the girls and women in rural areas. Accordingly, this move of central govt. will improve awareness on menstrual health and hygiene.
- The initiative will be implemented by the central government in coordination of the CSC (Common Service Centers). The entire project will also be implemented within the country at the ground root level.
- Moreover, setting up and maintenance of semi-automatic and manual process production unit is easy and hassle free. In addition to this, each production unit will generate employment for 8-10 women.
- The product (sanitary napkin) will be sold under the “Swabhimaan” brand name and the Organization with the help of VLEs will obtain the trade license for marketing the sanitary napkins at a subsidized rate.

82. Consider the following events:

- (1) Poona Pact
- (2) August Offer
- (3) 3rd Round Table Conference

Which of the options below give the correct chronological arrangement of the above mentioned events?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Poona Pact – September 1932
- 3rd Round Table Conference – November 1932
- August Offer – August 1940

83. Consider the following Passes and the States in which they are situated:

	Pass		State
1.	Bara-Lacha	:	Jammu & Kashmir
2.	Mana	:	Sikkim
3.	Jelep	:	Sikkim

Which of the above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

	Pass		State
1.	Bara-Lacha	:	Himachal Pradesh
2.	Mana	:	Uttarakhand

3.	Jelep	:	Sikkim
----	-------	---	--------

- 84.** Consider the following statements regarding Letter of Undertaking (LoU):
- (1) It is used by a bank's customer to avail long-term credit in a foreign country.
 - (2) Using this LoU the money is directly transferred to a customer's account.
- Which of the statement given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- LoUs are used by a bank's customer to avail short-term credit in a foreign country. These transactions are not retail in nature and are mostly used by businesses for import of goods.
- If the lending bank is convinced, it will issue an LoU, which when given to an overseas branch of another Indian bank would result in release of the amount in foreign currency. This amount does not come in to customer's account directly; it goes to a specific bank account of the customer's banker back home. It is called Nostro account. The customer can then decide in whose favour the payment needs to be done.

- 85.** Consider the following Literary works and their authors:

	Literary work		Author
1.	Ashtadhyayi	:	Panini
2.	Mricchakatika	:	Shudraka
3.	Ratnavali	:	Sri Harsha
4.	Rajtarangini	:	Kalhan

Which of the above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: The great grammarian Panini, analysed Sanskrit and its word formation in his unrivalled descriptive grammar Ashtadhyayi. Kalhan's Rajatarangini gives a detailed account of the kings of Kashmir. Other great literacy works include 'Abhijanam Shakuntalam' and 'Meghdoot' by Kalidasa, 'Mricchakatika' by Shudraka, 'Swapna Vasavadattam' by Bhasa, and 'Ratnavali' by Sri Harsha. Some other famous works are Chanakya's 'Arthashastra' and Vatsyayana's "Kamasutra".

- 86.** Consider the following statements regarding the Houses of Parliament of India:
- (1) A declaration of National Emergency can be approved by a Joint Sitting of the Houses of Parliament in case there emerges a deadlock between the Houses.
 - (2) Salisbury Convention is implicit in the Constitution of India.
 - (3) A Constitutional Amendment Bill requires an effective majority for passage in each House of the Parliament.

- (4) The Constitution of India provides for the nomination of some members to the Rajya Sabha on a permanent basis, but to the Lok Sabha for a temporary period.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: An approval to the continuance of a National Emergency needs to be passed by both the Houses sitting separately by a special majority in each House.

Salisbury Convention is neither explicit in the Constitution nor implicit in the practices thereunder. It is a constitutional convention in the UK under which the House of Lords will not oppose the second or third reading of any government legislation promised in its election manifesto.

Constitution permanently provides nomination of members to Council of States whereas the nomination of Indian members to House of People ceases to operate after 2020, unless renewed through a Constitution Amendment Act.

87. Which of the following volcanoes is the classic example of a Shield Volcano?

- (a) Mauna Loa
(b) Fujiyama
(c) Vesuvius
(d) Etna

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Mauna Loa, on Hawaii, is the classic example of a shield volcano. Although it rises only 4 km above sea level, it is actually the world's tallest structure; measured from its base on the seafloor, Mauna Loa is 10 km high. It grew to this enormous magnitude by the accumulation of thousands of lava flows, each only a few metres thick, over a period of about 1 million years. In fact, the island of Hawaii actually consists of the tops of a series of overlapping active shield volcanoes emerging through the ocean surface.
- The other three choices are the examples of Composite Volcanoes.

88. Consider the following statements regarding Venezuela:

- (1) To circumvent US led financial sanctions, Venezuelan President announced the launch of the "Petro" backed by Oil Reserves only.
(2) The real currency of Venezuela is Peso.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- In order to circumvent US led financial sanctions, Venezuelan President announced the launch of the "Petro" backed by Oil, Gas, Gold and Diamond reserves.

- The Real currency Bolivar is in freefall, and the country is lacking basic needs like Food and Medicine.
89. The RBI has recently recommended that banks should set interest rate based on an external benchmark and not as per internal benchmarks as is the current practice. What is the reason for such a recommendation?
- (a) Internal rates lead to unnecessary market fluctuations
 - (b) Internal rates result in lower interest to depositors
 - (c) Internal rates are insensitive to changes in the repo rate and are manipulated by banks to either inflate the base rate or prevent the base rate from falling in line with the cost of funds
 - (d) External benchmarks would result in more revenue for the banks

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- A. Market fluctuations are not a result of internal benchmarks
- B. and D. More interest to depositors or revenue to banks is assured neither under internal nor external benchmarks, it depends on the rate that is set. The most suitable rate could be under either of the two mechanisms.
- C. The preset base rate by banks is calculated on banks' internal factors such as cost of funds. they are insensitive to changes in the policy interest rate or repo rate. In addition, banks deviate in an ad hoc manner from specified methodologies for calculating the base rate and the MCLR to either inflate the base rate or prevent the base rate from falling in line with the cost of funds.

90. Which of the Vedas can also be termed as "Book of Chants"?
- (a) Rig Veda
 - (b) Yajur Veda
 - (c) Sama Veda
 - (d) Atharva Veda

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Sama means melody or songs. This Veda consists of 16,000 ragas and raginis or musical notes. Out of total 1875 verses only 75 are original and others are from the Rig Veda. The Sama Veda prescribes the tunes for the recitation of the hymns of the Rig Veda. It may be called the book of Chants (Saman). This book is an evidence of the development of Indian music during this period.

91. In which of the following situations a Member of the Parliament may be made subject to disqualification under Article 102?
- (1) A member who holds an office under government with no salary but exemplary allowances.
 - (2) A member who holds a salaried office under government during his term but resigns from the office on coming to know the pendency of proceedings.
 - (3) A member who holds the office of the Chairman of a multinational company during the term of his office.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

Explanation: The factum of subsequent resignation from the held office will not absolve the holder from impending disqualification.

Chairman of a private company is not under prohibition as the Constitution requires that the office shall be under government. Vijay Mallya had been the Chairman of UB Group when he was a Member of Parliament.

92. Consider the following Indices and their Publishers:

	Indices		Publisher
1.	Global Competitiveness Index	:	World Economic Forum
2.	World Happiness Index	:	United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network
3.	Inclusive Development Index	:	World Bank

Which of the above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Indexes and India's Rankings

Index	Published by	India's ranking (2017)
Global Competitiveness index	World Economic Forum	40
Global Innovation index	Cornell University, INSEAD and WIPO	60
Global Peace index	Institute of Economics and Peace	137
Human Development index	United Nation Development Programme (UNDP)	131
World Happiness Index	United Nation Sustainable Development Solutions Network	122
Prosperity Index	Legatum Institute	100
Ease of Doing Business index	World Bank	100
Corruption Perception Index	Transparency International	79
Inclusive development Index	World Economic Forum	60
International Intellectual Property	US Chamber of Commerce's GIPC	43

93. Consider the following:

- (1) A Member of the Parliament can resign from the membership of a House only by sending a letter of resignation to the presiding officer of the House of which he is a member and from the date mentioned in the letter the resignation takes effect.
- (2) A Judge of the Supreme Court can resign from office by sending a letter of resignation to the President and from the date mentioned in the letter, the resignation takes effect, if the President accepts the resignation.
- (3) The Speaker of House of People or the Chairman of Council of States can resign by submitting a letter of resignation to their respective deputy presiding officer.

Which of the statements given above are NOT correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: Resignation of an MP gets completed only if the resignation is accepted by the presiding officer, while Judges of Constitutional Courts do not constitutionally require acceptance of the letter to complete the resignation procedure. Chairman of Council of States is Vice President acting ex-officio and hence the resignation letter is to be addressed to President.

94. Consider the following lakes in Africa:

- (1) Lake Turkana
- (2) Lake Victoria
- (3) Lake Tanganyika
- (4) Lake Malawi

Which of the following codes, represents the correct North to South order of these lakes on the world's map?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: The East African Rift Valley System is perhaps the most spectacular example of an active rift. When continental lithosphere stretches and thins, faulting takes place, and volcanoes erupt. Eventually, the continent splits in two and a new ocean basin is formed.

Note: Lake Victoria is not a rift valley lake.

95. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Border:

- (1) 17 States of India have common land borders with neighbouring countries.
- (2) 4 Indian States have border with Myanmar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: 17 States of India have common land borders with neighbouring countries – Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh,

Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya.

Myanmar has common border with the Indian States of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur.

96. In the context of International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography, consider the following statements:

- (1) The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister has approved the establishment of International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography as a Category-2 Centre (C2C) of UNESCO in Hyderabad.
- (2) The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a training centre towards development of capacity for the countries on the Indian Ocean Rim (IOR), African countries bordering the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, small island countries under the framework of UNESCO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

97. Regarding the federal relations between the Centre and the States it may be said that:

- (1) The Supreme Court may use the power of judicial review for ensuring a smooth relationship between the Centre and the States or between the States themselves.
- (2) Maoist movement and terrorist activities have enhanced the police powers of the States.
- (3) Foreign policy being a central subject in India, the States do not have jurisdiction in determining India's external relations and so cannot influence it.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct, because the Supreme Court through its power of judicial review, can judge the legislative competence of the Centre and States to ensure smooth federal relationships. For this purpose the Supreme court makes use of doctrines of colourable legislation and pith and substance. Maoist violence requires deployment of CRPF in the states thereby diluting the policing power of the states. Also it leads to more grants being given for development to such violence hit states. States are not capable of handling terrorist related violence. Very often forces from the Centre as NSG are called in thereby influencing the policing power of the states. Coalition government as an extra-constitutional factor allows the states to influence India's foreign relation although it is beyond their jurisdiction. We saw that when during the UPA government West Bengal was influencing India's relations with Bangladesh and Tamil Nadu with Sri Lanka. Therefore, statements 2 and 3 are incorrect.

98. Consider the following statements regarding the Vedic schools of philosophies called Shadadarshana:

- (1) The Samkhya philosophy holds that reality is constituted of two principles - one female and the other male.
- (2) Mimamsa thinkers believe that all objects of the universe are composed of five elements – earth, water, air, fire and ether.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The Samkhya philosophy holds that reality is constituted of two principles one female and the other male i.e. Prakriti, Purusha respectively. Prakriti and Purusha are completely independent and absolute.
- Vaisheshika system is considered as the realistic and objective philosophy of universe. The reality according to this philosophy has many bases or categories which are substance, attribute, action, genus, distinct quality and inherence. Vaisheshika thinkers believe that all objects of the universe are composed of five elements.
- Mimamsa philosophy is basically the analysis of interpretation, application and the use of the text of the Samhita and Brahmana portions of the Veda. According to Mimamsa philosophy Vedas are eternal and possess all knowledge, and religion means the fulfilment of duties prescribed by the Vedas.

99. Which of the following landscape features is represented by “East Pacific Rise”?

- (a) Mid Oceanic Ridge
- (b) Block Mountain
- (c) Hot Spot Volcano
- (d) Fold Mountain

Answer: (a)

Explanation: The East Pacific Rise is a mid-oceanic ridge. In the Pacific Ocean, sea-floor spreading occurs at the East Pacific Rise. Geographers named this a “rise” because it is not as rough and jagged as the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

100. Consider the following statements regarding “Special category status” being given to certain States and “asymmetric arrangements” between the States:

- (1) The Constitution and the Finance Commission have nothing to do with asymmetric arrangements among the States being created under special status category.
- (2) The Constitution does not provide for any type of asymmetric arrangements between the States in our federal set up.
- (3) Special category status was accorded by the National Development Council on the recommendations of the erstwhile Planning Commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Art. 370, 371 A-I allow for asymmetric arrangements between the states. The practice of granting special category status was entirely an executive decision taken by the erstwhile NDC on the recommendation of the Planning Commission. Terms of reference of the 14th Finance Commission did not require it to deal with categorisation of states into special or non-special category. The Constitution also does not provide for such categorisation.

