

Answer & Explanation for G.S. Test-6 held on 18th February 2018

Q1. The term “biofortification” is seen in news sometimes. Which among the following option explains the meaning of this term?

- A. Use of microbes to clean up contaminated soil and groundwater.
- B. Increasing the resistance of food crops against pest through genetically modified organisms.
- C. Increasing the resistance of human body to various communicable diseases with the help of biotechnology.
- D. Improving the nutritional quality of food crops through various methods.

Answer: D

Exp: • Biofortification is the process by which the nutritional quality of food crops is improved through agronomic practices, conventional plant breeding, or modern biotechnology. Biofortification of food crops is necessary to address the challenge of ‘hidden hunger’. The ‘hidden hunger’, is a term used to describe dietary micronutrient deficiencies.

- Use of microbes to clean up contaminated soil and groundwater is called Bioremediation.
- Genetically modified crops are formed by increasing the resistance of food crops against pest through genetically modified organisms.

Q2. Which of the statements given below is/are correct regarding Bharat-22?

- 1. It is an Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) which has a diversified portfolio of companies from six sectors.
- 2. The new ETF helped government sell equity stakes in State run firms.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Exp: Both the statements are correct.

- Bharat 22 is an ETF that tracks the performance of 22 stocks, which the government plans to disinvest.
- The ETF unit represents a slice of the fund, issued units are listed on exchanges for anyone to buy or sell at the quoted price.
- The Bharat-22 ETF spans six sectors, such as basic materials, energy, finance, FMCG, industrials and utilities.

- Besides public-sector banks, miners, construction companies, and energy majors, the ETF also includes some of the government's holdings in SUUTI (Specified Undertaking of Unit Trust of India).
- The Bharat 22 ETF is managed by ICICI Prudential AMC while Asia Index will be the index provider.
- The index will be rebalanced annually.
- It has already been issued and government raised Rs 14,500 crore through the Bharat-22, which received Rs 32,000 crore bids

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding 'Ahmadiya Movement' in the 19th century:

1. It was founded by Mirza Ghulam Ahmad.
2. It was formed to defend Islam from attack by Christian missionaries.
3. Ghulam Ahmad proclaimed himself as an incarnation of Lord Krishna.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Exp: • Ahmadiya is an Islamic religious movement founded in Punjab, British India, near the end of the 19th century. It originated with the life and teachings of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835–1908), who claimed to have appeared in fulfilment of the prophecies concerning the world's reformer during the end times, who was to bring about, by peaceful means, the final triumph of Islam and herald the eschaton as predicted in Islamic scriptures as well as the traditions of various world religions.

- Ghulam Ahmad proclaimed himself as an incarnation of Lord Krishna.
- It was formed to defend Islam from attacks by Christian missionaries.

Q4. Which of the following statements regarding Global Hunger Index 2017 is/are correct?

1. It is developed by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
2. India's rank improved from the last year but it still trails countries like North Korea and Bangladesh.
3. It is calculated as a weighted average of child stunting, child wasting and child mortality.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only

C. 1 and 2 only

D. 2 and 3 only

Answer: A

Exp: • Global Hunger Index is a multidimensional statistical tool used to describe the state of countries' hunger situation. It is developed each year by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). So, first option is correct.

• India was on 97th rank last year, this year India is on 100th rank. So, India's rank did not improve. But it still trails behind countries like North Korea(93rd) and Bangladesh(88th). So, second option is incorrect.

• As of 2015-16, more than a fifth [21%] of children in India suffer from wasting [low weight for height] — up from 20% in 2005-2006,

• It is calculated as a weighted average of four standardized indicators i.e. the percentage of population that is undernourished (1/3rd), percentage of children under five years who suffer from wasting (low weight in relation to a child's height, reflects acute undernutrition) (1/6th), percentage of children under five who suffer from stunting (deficiency in height in relation to age, reflects chronic undernutrition) (1/6th) and child mortality (1/3rd). So, third option is also incorrect.

Q5. With reference to V.D. Savarkar, consider the following statements:

1. He published The Indian War of Independence about the Indian rebellion of 1857 that was banned by the British authorities.

2. His arrest in France was a famous case which had gone all the way to the Permanent Court of Arbitration (Hague).

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

Exp: • Savarkar published The Indian War of Independence about the Indian rebellion of 1857 that was banned by British authorities. He was arrested in 1910 for his connections with the revolutionary group India House. Following a failed attempt to escape while being transported from Marseilles, Savarkar was sentenced to two life terms of imprisonment totaling fifty years and was moved to the Cellular Jail in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Later he was moved to Ratnagiri jail in 1921 and released in 1924.

• The case of Kulbhushan Jadhav – a former Indian Navy officer now on death row in Pakistan on espionage charges – in the International Court of Justice has pitted India against Pakistan, but more than a century ago it was another Maharashtrian who caused two colonial powers, Britain and France, to approach the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which

shares space with the International Court of Justice in the landmark Peace Palace at The Hague.

Q6. Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) is related to which of the following?

- A. A pension scheme exclusively for senior citizens.
- B. A health insurance scheme for senior citizens.
- C. A scheme to recognize the contributions of senior citizens and pay gratitude towards them.
- D. A scheme to provide old age shelters.

Answer: A

Exp: Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) is senior citizens pension scheme for senior citizens aged 60 or above.

The Scheme can be purchased offline as well as online through Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India which has been given the sole privilege to operate this Scheme.

Benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY):

- Scheme provides an assured return of 8% p.a. payable monthly (equivalent to 8.30% p.a. effective) for 10 years.
- Pension is payable at the end of each period, during the policy term of 10 years, as per the frequency of monthly/ quarterly/ half-yearly/ yearly as chosen by the pensioner at the time of purchase.
- The scheme is exempted from Service Tax/ GST.
- On survival of the pensioner to the end of the policy term of 10 years, Purchase price along with final pension installment shall be payable.
- Loan upto 75% of Purchase Price shall be allowed after 3 policy years (to meet the liquidity needs). Loan interest shall be recovered from the pension installments and loan to be recovered from claim proceeds.
- The scheme also allows for premature exit for the treatment of any critical/ terminal illness of self or spouse. On such premature exit, 98% of the Purchase Price shall be refunded.
- On death of the pensioner during the policy term of 10 years, the Purchase Price shall be paid to the beneficiary.

Q7. India follows the spirit of secularism and in this regard, religious instruction is permitted in which of the following types of educational institutions?

1. Institutions wholly maintained by State.
2. Institutions administered by the State but established under any endowment or trust.
3. Institutions recognized by the State.
4. Institutions receiving aid from the State.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 4 only

Answer: B

Exp: Under Article 28, no religious instruction shall be provided in any educational institution wholly maintained out of State funds. However, this provision shall not apply to an educational institution administered by the State but established under any endowment or trust, requiring imparting of religious instruction in such institution. Further, no person attending any educational institution recognised by the State or receiving aid out of State funds shall be required to attend any religious instruction or worship in that institution without his consent. In case of a minor, the consent of his guardian is needed. In A. religious instruction is completely prohibited while in B., religious instruction is permitted. In C. and D., religious instruction is permitted on a voluntary basis.

Q8. Recently, which of the following State has decided to establish India's first Blackbuck conservation reserve:

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Telangana

Answer: C

Exp: In October 2017 the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet decided to make India's first conservation reserve for Blackbuck in Allahabad's Meja. It is believed that apart from conserving the majestic animal the decision taken will also help in wooing tourists here.

Q9. Consider the following statements regarding the International Criminal Court (ICC):

1. The Rome Statute serves as its foundational and governing document.
2. At ICC there is a convention that there is a judge from each of the permanent members of UNSC irrespective of their membership.
3. Like International Court of Justice (ICJ), the judges of ICC are elected for nine-year term.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Exp: • International Criminal Court is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. The Rome Statute serves as its foundational and governing document. So, first option is correct.

- The second statement is incorrect as the judges at ICC are elected from the member countries alone. Presently only two members of UNSC are members of ICC (Britain and France).

- The eighteen judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC) are elected for nine-year terms (Same term as that of International Court of Justice) by the member-countries of the court. So, third option is also correct.

- In October 2017 Burundi withdrew from the ICC. It became the first ever country to do so accusing ICC of deliberately targeting Africans.

- India has neither signed nor ratified the Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court (ICC). The reason is that Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court (ICC) defines war crimes including the 'armed conflict not of an international character'. The inclusion of 'armed conflict not of an international character' in defining 'war crimes' in Article 8 of the Statute for an ICC has met with resistance from the Indian establishment. Yet, with India as a party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, this is not a provision that is being brought in for the first time. The situation of conflict that persists in Kashmir, the North-East, and, for a while, in Punjab explains the reasons for the Indian state's anxiety that this manner of violence could be referred to the ICC. The Indian state has been protesting the cross-border terrorism that infiltrates into India, especially Kashmir, from Pakistan. In the politicizing of the issue of Kashmir, Pakistan often adverts to the human rights violations that are projected as having become a part of the lives of people in the Kashmir valley. The ICC, it is expected, will be used for embarrassing India by attempts to make a case out of the violence in Kashmir. The exclusion of international terrorism from the crimes covered by the ICC appears to lend weight to the possibilities of misuse of these provisions of the Statute.

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding cultivation of tea:

1. In India, tea cultivation started in Darjeeling.
2. Tea leaves are rich in caffeine and tannin.
3. Robusta is a variety of tea grown in India.
4. Assam contributes more than half of total tea produced in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only

D. All of the above

Answer: C

Exp: • Tea is a plantation crop used as beverage. It is grown over undulating topography of hilly areas and well drained soils in humid and sub-humid tropics and sub-tropics. In India, tea plantation started in 1840s in Brahmaputra valley of Assam which still is a major tea growing area in the country. Later on, its plantation was introduced in the sub-Himalayan region of West Bengal (Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Bihar districts). Tea is also cultivated on the lower slopes of Nilgiri and Cardamom hills in Western Ghats.

- Tea leaves have rich content of caffeine and tannin.
- Robusta is a variety of Coffee.
- Assam accounts for about 53.2 per cent of the total cropped area and contributes more than half of total production of tea in the country. West Bengal and Tamil Nadu are the other leading producers of tea.

Q11. Consider the following statements regarding the Economic Survey of India:

1. It is prepared under the guidance of Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.
2. It is released immediately after the Budget.

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

Exp: • The Department of Economic Affairs, Finance Ministry of India presents the Economic Survey in the parliament every year, just before the Union Budget.

- It is prepared under the guidance of the office of Chief Economic Adviser, Finance Ministry. It is the Ministry's view on the annual economic development of the country.
- The Economic Survey reviews the developments in the Indian Economy over the previous 12 months, summarizes the performance on major development programs, and highlights the policy initiatives of the government and the prospects of the Economy in the short to medium term. This document is presented to both the Houses of Parliament during the Budget Session.

Q12. Arrange the following events chronologically:

1. Cabinet Mission
2. Desai Liaqat Pact
3. Quit India Movement

4. Wavell Plan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 2, 3, 4
- B. 2, 3, 1, 4
- C. 4, 2, 3, 1
- D. 3, 2, 4, 1

Answer: D

Exp: Quit India Movement (August 1942), Desai Liaqat Pact (January 1945), Wavell Plan (May 1945), Cabinet Mission (February 1946)

Q13. Consider the following statements regarding Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act-2016:

1. The Act makes it mandatory for both residential and commercial real estate projects to register with the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA)
2. Under the Act, if the buyer delays the required payment as per the agreement with the promoter, he is liable to pay interest for delayed period.
3. Under the Act, Real Estate Regulatory Authorities of each state will act as appellate tribunal to address the grievances of the stakeholders.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Exp: • As a result of a notification by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA), The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 came into effect from 1st May 2017. It is now mandatory for all the States and Union Territories to establish state level regulatory authorities called Real Estate regulatory authorities (RERAs) within a year of the Act coming into force. It ensures registration of residential projects and the availability of relevant details on the RERA website & also ensuring that all the stakeholders such as buyers, sellers, and agents comply with obligations under the Act. It also advises government on matters pertaining to the development of real estate.

- The buyer has to make the required payments as per the agreement signed with the promoter. If there is a delay in payment, then the buyer will be liable to pay interest for the delayed period. Therefore second statement is correct.
- The third statement is incorrect as RERAs will not act as tribunals. Under the Act to hear appeals against the decisions of RERAs, each State/UT has to establish one or more Real

Estate Appellate Tribunals & it must adjudicate cases within 60 days and regulatory authorities must dispose of complaints within 60 days.

For further information please refer:

http://www.vajiramandravi.com/pdf_upload/current_affairs_may_2017_new.pdf

Q14. Which of the following feature(s) of the Indian Constitution is/are borrowed from the US Constitution?

1. Fundamental Duties
2. Judicial Review
3. Impeachment of the President

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Exp: From the US following features are borrowed:

- Written Constitution
- Impeachment of the President
- Functions of the President and the Vice-President
- Fundamental Rights
- Supreme Court
- Provision of States
- Independence of Judiciary and judicial review
- Preamble of the constitution
- Removal of Supreme Court and High Court Judges

While fundamental duties are borrowed from USSR (Now Russia) constitution.

Q15. Consider the following statements with reference to Goods and Services Tax (GST):

1. In 2004, the Vijay Kelkar Committee recommended GST to replace indirect tax structure.
2. The tax under GST regime is imposed at the point of consumption.
3. It is not applicable on imports of goods and services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only

- B. 1 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Exp: Goods and Services Tax (GST) refers to the single unified tax created by amalgamating a large number of Central and State taxes presently applicable in India. In 2004, Vijay Kelkar Committee recommended GST to replace indirect tax structure.

The salient features of GST are as under:

- GST comes under the broad spectrum of what is known as Value Added Tax which provides for input credits and taxes only on the value addition that happened in the process of production/ provision of service.
- GST would be applicable on supply of goods or services as against the present concept of tax on the manufacture or on sale of goods or on provision of services.
- GST would be a destination based tax as against the present concept of origin based tax. i.e., tax is imposed at the point of consumption.
- It would be a dual GST with the Centre and the States simultaneously levying it on a common base.
- The Centre would levy and collect the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) on all inter-State supply of goods and services. There will be seamless flow of input tax credit from one State to another. Proceeds of IGST will be apportioned among the States.
- Import of goods or services would be treated as inter-State supplies and therefore, would be subject to IGST in addition to the applicable customs duties. In other words, all imported goods will be charged integrated tax (IGST) which is equivalent to Central GST + State GST. This will bring equality with taxation on local products.

Q16. Consider the following statements about the National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change (NAFCC):

1. The objective of the fund is to assist State and Union Territories that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in meeting the cost of adaptation.
2. This fund is financed through the clean energy cess
3. The World Bank also contributes to this fund an amount equal to the contribution of the Government of India.
4. NABARD is the national implementing entity of adaptation projects under NAFCC.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only

D. 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer: B

Exp: I. The Government has established the National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change (NAFCC) with the objective to assist State and Union Territories that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in meeting the cost of adaptation. Recently, the Union Environment Ministry approved a Rs 100-crore project which will receive funding from the NAFCC to tackle crop burning in northern states, a phenomenon that purportedly escalates pollution in the national capital region during winter months

II. Statement 2 refers to the National Clean Energy and Environment Fund.

III. As of now, there is no provision for any external assistance to be credited to NAFCC. It relies solely on the budgetary support of the central government

IV. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been appointed as National Implementing Entity responsible for implementation of adaptation projects under the NAFCC.

Q17. Which of the following was/were related to education during colonial rule?

1. Woods Despatch
2. Hunter Commission
3. Sadler Commission
4. Wardha Scheme

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Exp: 1. Sir Charles Wood, the President of the Board of Control of the English East India Company, had an important effect on spreading English learning and female education in India. When in 1854 he sent a despatch to Lord Dalhousie, the then Governor-General of India, Wood suggested that primary schools must adopt vernacular languages, high schools must adopt Anglo vernacular language and at college level English medium for education. This is known as Wood's despatch.

2. Hunter Education Commission was a landmark commission appointed by Viceroy Lord Ripon with objectives to look into the complaints of the non-implementation of the Wood's Despatch of 1854.

3. In 1917 the government appointed the Sadler Commission to inquire into the "conditions and prospects of the University of Calcutta," an inquiry that was in reality nationwide in scope.

4. On July 31, 1937, Gandhiji had published an article in the Harijan. Based upon this article, an all India National Education Conference was held on October 22 and 23, 1937. The conference is called Wardha Educational Conference and the President of this conference was Gandhiji himself.

Q18. Consider the following statements regarding Geographical Indicators:

1. A registered GI shall be valid for 10 years which can be renewed on payment of a renewal fee.
2. In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.
3. Chakhesang Shawls are accorded a GI tag.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Exp: • A registered GI remains valid for 10 years and can be renewed on payment of a renewal fee. The association of persons or producers or any organisation or authority which represents the interest of the producers of the concerned goods pay the fee. So first option is correct.

- A geographical indicator (GI) is a name or sign used on certain products which corresponds to a specific geographical location or origin. So, second option is correct.
- Chakhesang Shawls of Nagaland have been accorded GI tag recently under the handicraft category. So, third option is correct.
- It is used for agricultural, natural and manufactured goods having special quality and established reputation.
- These goods and products having tag are recognised for their origin, quality and reputation and gives it the required edge in the global market. It also ensures that none can use their name, giving them exclusivity. GI is covered as an element of intellectual property rights (IPRs) under Paris Convention for Protection of Industrial Property. At the international level, GI is governed by WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- In India, GI tag is governed by Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection Act), 1999. This Act is administered by Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, who is also the Registrar of Geographical Indications.

Q19. Which of the following banking institutions are involved in providing direct credit to rural population?

1. Commercial bank
2. Regional rural bank
3. Land development bank
4. NABARD

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 3 and 4 only.

Answer: C

Exp: Except NABARD all institutional structures of rural banking are involved in direct credit to rural population. Hence option C. is correct.

Whereas NABARD does not get involved in direct credit system. It mainly provides loans to RRB, cooperatives and State government in the area of Rural Development and Agricultural Development.

Among all, Commercial banks are the biggest lender to the rural population.

Q20. Consider the following statements regarding difference between terrestrial and jovian planets:

1. It was too cold for gases to condense to solid particles in terrestrial planets.
2. The solar wind blew off lots of gas and dust from the terrestrial planets. The solar winds were not all that intense to cause similar removal of gases from the jovian planets.
3. The terrestrial planets are smaller and their lower gravity could not hold the escaping gases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Exp: The difference between terrestrial and jovian planets can be attributed to the following conditions: (i) The terrestrial planets were formed in the close vicinity of the parent star where it was too warm for gases to condense to solid particles. Jovian planets were formed at quite a distant location. (ii) The solar wind was most intense nearer the sun; so, it blew off lots of gas and dust from the terrestrial planets. The solar winds were not all that intense to

cause similar removal of gases from the Jovian planets. (iii) The terrestrial planets are smaller and their lower gravity could not hold the escaping gases.

Q21. Consider the following statements:

1. Violation of the fundamental duties can be punished but the Constitution has no provision of penalty for its violation.
2. The fundamental duties are non-statutory duties and are not enforceable by law.
3. The Parliament can prescribe penalty for the violation of specific duties.

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

Answer: C

Exp: Statement 1 is correct: The Constitution does not provide for their direct enforcement by the courts. However, the Parliament is free to enforce them by suitable legislation. Constitution has no provision of penalty for its violation.

Statement 2 incorrect: The fundamental duties are non-statutory duties but the parliament is free to enforce them by suitable legislation. Hence, they are enforceable by law.

Statement 3 is correct: Parliament by law can prescribe nay penalty for violation of fundamental duties.

Q22. Consider the following pairs:

List-I (Newspaper)

List-II (Founder)

1. The Hindu

G.S. Aiyar

2. Mirat-ul-Akhbar

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

3. National Herald

Jawaharlal Nehru

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Exp: • The Hindu is an Indian daily newspaper. Headquartered at Chennai, The Hindu was published weekly when it was launched in 1878, and started publishing daily in 1889. GS Aiyar, Viraraghavachari and Subba Rao Pandit were among founder.

- Mirat-ul-Akhbar (meaning Mirror of News in English) was a Persian language journal founded and edited by Raja Rammohan Roy. The newspaper was first published on 12 April 1822. It was published on weekly basis on Fridays. The newspaper folded on 4 April 1823.
- National Herald is an Indian newspaper published by The Associated Journals Ltd. It was founded by freedom fighter and India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in 1938 as a tool to win independence.

Q23. India's first ever 'Air Dispensary' based in helicopter to serve the people in remote areas has been initiated by the:

- A. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- B. Ministry of Civil Aviation
- C. Ministry of Development of North Eastern Regions
- D. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Answer: C

Exp: Air Dispensary service is an initiative by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Regions. In this a helicopter based dispensary/OPD service in such far and flung areas, where no doctor or medical facility is available and the patients, in need, do not have any access to medical care. Currently the service is introduced in North East Region of India, later it will be emulated in other hill states having difficult topography later.

Q24. Operation 'Save Kurma' which was recently in the news, was an exercise to:

- A. Combat the degrading urban water bodies.
- B. Conserve the critically endangered Pygmy Hog in India.
- C. Combat the illegal trade of turtles and their body parts.
- D. Save the wildlife from cyclones.

Answer: C

Exp: • Wildlife Crime Control Bureau had convened a species-specific operation on turtles, code named OPERATION SAVE KURMA". A total of 15,739 live turtles were recovered from 45 suspects, having inter-state linkages. The operation brought about awareness among the enforcement agencies to focus on the existing trade routes and major trade hubs in the country, which will be specifically focused in future. WCCB was recently awarded a certificate of commendation by CITES for this operation.

- National Lake Conservation Plan is for combating the degrading urban water bodies.
- Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme (PHCP) is for conserving the critically endangered Pygmy Hog in India

Q25. Which of the following statements are correct with regard to Anti-dumping duty?

1. It is a protectionist and a counter-import measure used by a country under the multilateral World Trade Organisation (WTO) regime to protect its domestic producers and market from below-cost/cheap exports.
2. It is imposed by the Union Ministry of Commerce.

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

Exp: None of the statements are correct.

It is protectionist and counter import measure used by a country under the multilateral World Trade Organisation (WTO) regime to protect its domestic producers and market from below-cost/cheap imports. It varies from product to product and from country to country. In India, it is recommended by the Union Ministry of Commerce (i.e. by DGAD), while the Union Finance Ministry imposes it.

Q26. Consider the following statements regarding the Revolt of 1857:

1. Change of religion did not debar a son from inheriting property of heathen father.
2. Abolition of sati.
3. Widow Remarriage.
4. Age of Consent Act prohibiting child marriage.

Which of the above was/were the cause(s) of the Revolt of 1857?

- A. 1 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 4 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 only

Answer: D

Exp: • Religious Disabilities Act, 1856, which modified Hindu customs, for instance declaring that a change of religion did not debar a son from inheriting the property of his heathen father caused fear among Indian. A regulation for declaring the practice of sati, or of burning or burying alive the widows of Hindus, illegal, and punishable by the criminal courts, passed by the governor-general William Bentinck in council on 4 December 1829.

- The Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act, 1856 enacted on 26 July 1856, legalised the remarriage of Hindu widows in all jurisdictions of India under East India Company rule.
- All the three regulations/ acts were seen by many Indians as an interference of British in Indian religion, custom, tradition and attempt of Christian missionaries to convert Indians in Christianity. Hence above were socio religious causes of revolt of 1857.
- Age of consent Act prohibiting child marriage was enacted in 1891, nearly 34 years after 1857 revolt.

Q27. Recently the Prime Minister launched a new Scheme Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana. Consider the following statements regarding the Scheme:

1. Its objective is to electrify all the un-electrified villages of India.
2. In this Scheme, each poor household which is unelectrified will be provided free electricity connection.
3. One component of the Scheme is to provide solar power packs and battery backs for remote and inaccessible areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: B

Exp: • The objective of the Saubhagya Scheme is to provide energy access to all by last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all remaining un-electrified households in rural as well as urban areas to achieve universal household electrification in the country. So even in electrified villages, its aim is to provide electricity connection to un-electrified households.

- Poor households would be provided electricity connections free of cost. Other households would also be provided electricity connections under the scheme on payment of Rs.500 only which shall be recovered by the DISCOMs/Power Departments in ten (10) instalments along with electricity bill.
- Under the scheme for households located in remote and inaccessible areas, solar power packs of 200 to 300 Watt and battery back with 5 LED light, 1 DC Fan, 1 DC power plug along with repair and maintenance for 5 years would be provided.

Q28. Which of the following feature of the Indian Constitution resembles the 'Instrument of Instructions' enumerated in the Government of India Act of 1935?

- A. Directive Principles of State Policy only
- B. Fundamental Rights only

- C. Fundamental Duties only
- D. Both Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy

Answer: A

Exp: Directive Principles are the constitutional instructions or recommendations to the State in legislative, executive and administrative matters. The Directive Principles resemble the 'Instrument of Instructions' enumerated in the Government of India Act of 1935. In the words of Dr B R Ambedkar, "the Directive Principles are like the Instrument of Instructions, which were issued to the Governor-General and to the Governors of the colonies of India by the British Government under the Government of India Act of 1935. What is called Directive Principles is merely another name for the Instrument of Instructions. The only difference is that they are instructions to the legislature and the executive."

Q29. Which of the following is NOT a component of balance of payments account?

- A. The Current account
- B. The Capital account
- C. Errors and omissions
- D. Open market operations

Answer: D

Exp: • As Open market operations refers to the buying and selling of government securities in the open market in order to expand or contract the amount of money in the banking system. Hence, it is not a component of BoP.

- The balance of payments (BoP) records the transactions in goods, services and assets between residents of a country with the rest of the world.
- Errors and Omissions constitute the third element in the BoP (apart from the current and capital accounts) which is the balancing item reflecting our inability to record all international transactions accurately.

Q30. The process of lithification is associated with which of the following type of rocks?

- A. Sedimentary
- B. Igneous
- C. Metamorphic
- D. Granite

Answer: A

Exp: Rocks (igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic) of the earth's surface are exposed to denudational agents, and are broken up into various sizes of fragments. Such fragments are transported by different exogenous agencies and deposited. These deposits through compaction turn into rocks. This process is called lithification. In many sedimentary rocks, the layers of deposits retain their characteristics even after lithification.

Q31. Consider the following statements regarding Widow Remarriage Movement/ Reform:

1. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar had cited Vedic text to prove religious sanctity of Widow Remarriage.
2. Professor D K Karve was a social reformer who himself married a hindu widow and served as secretary of "Widow Remarriage Association".
3. "Widow Remarriage Association" was founded by Vishnu Shastri Pandit.

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

Answer: D

Exp: • Ishwarchandra Vidysagar's two volumes of book on Hindu Widow Marriage laid religious, cultural and legal backdrop in 1855 which preceded the passing of the Hindu Widow Remarriage Act 1856. Vidyasagar in painstakingly quoting ancient scriptures, examining not just the language but also the various interpretations and connecting the texts to his argument was brilliant. He had had cited Vedic text to prove religious sanctity of Widow Remarriage.

- "Widow Remarriage Association" was founded by Vishnu Shastri Pandit in 1850s.
- Professor DK Karve himself married a widow in 1893. He dedicated his life for upliftment of Hindu widow and became secretary of Widow Remarriage Association. He also opened widow home in Poona for upper cast widow and provided them vocational training.

Q32. Which of the following inter-governmental organisations have collaborated to work as the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime (ICWC):

1. CITES
2. INTERPOL
3. UNODC
4. The World Bank
5. The World Customs Organisation

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: D

Exp: All the mentioned organisations signed a Letter of Understanding to work together as ICCWC on 23 November 2010 in St. Petersburg, Russia. United under the banner of ICCWC, these organisations form a unique pool of technical and programming expertise, presenting the opportunity for a novel approach to the multi-faceted challenge of wildlife crime.

Q33. Consider the following statements about Food Processing Sector in India:

1. To provide impetus to investment in food processing and retail sector, the government has allowed 100% FDI in trading including through e-commerce, in respect of food products manufactured and / or produced in India.
2. Recently the Government of India launched a central sector scheme - Sankalp Se Siddhi to give a renewed thrust to the food processing sector 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

Answer: A

Exp: • Food Processing Sector has emerged as an important segment of the Indian economy in terms of its contribution to GDP, employment and investment. During 2015-16, the sector constituted as much as 9.1 and 8.6 per cent of GVA in Manufacturing and Agriculture sector respectively.

- Various measures have been taken by the government to give a boost to the food processing sector. With these measures food processing sector has grown at 7 per cent.
- In order to arrest post-harvest losses of horticulture & non-horticulture produce, the Ministry has accorded approval to 42 Mega Food Parks and 236 Integrated Cold Chains for creation of modern infrastructure for the food processing along the value chain from the farm to the market. Out of 42 Mega Food Parks, 8 are operational.

Government has taken various other measures to boost food processing sector as follows:

A. To provide impetus to investment in food processing and retail sector, govt. has allowed 100% FDI in trading including through e-commerce, in respect of food products manufactured and / or produced in India. This will benefit farmers immensely and will create back – end infrastructure and significant employment opportunities. B. The govt. has also set up a Special Fund of Rs. 2000 crore in NABARD to make available affordable credit at concessional rate of interest to designated food parks and agro processing units in the designated food parks. C. Food and agro–based processing units and cold chain infrastructure have been brought under the ambit of Priority Sector Lending (PSL) to provide additional credit for food processing activities and infrastructure thereby, boosting food processing, reducing wastage, create employment and increasing farmers' income. Recently

Government of India launched a central sector scheme- SAMPADA to give a renewed thrust to the food processing sector in the country.

- SAMPADA scheme is an umbrella scheme which incorporates all the ongoing schemes aimed at reducing food wastage and doubling farmer's income by 2022. It has been renamed to Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY). The objective of PMKSY is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease agricultural waste. It was launched by Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

Q34. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?

1. It is a multilateral development bank backed by China, seen as a rival to the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB).
2. It has authorised capital of US \$100 billion and is headquartered in Beijing.
3. India is the third largest shareholder of the bank after China and Russia.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Exp: • AIIB is a multilateral development bank backed by China, seen as a rival to the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB). It was established to fund various infrastructure projects including energy, transportation, urban construction and logistics as well as education and healthcare in Asia-Pacific region.

- The AIIB was officially established with 57 founding members and started to function in January 2016. But as of May 2017, the bank has 52 members. It has an authorised capital of US \$100 billion. It's headquarter is in Beijing.
- China is the largest shareholder with 26.06% voting shares. India is the second largest
- Shareholder with 7.5% voting shares followed by Russia (5.93%) and Germany (4.5%).
- India is one of the founding members of AIIB. So, logically India would be the second largest shareholder and not Russia. Hence Statement 3 is incorrect.

Q35. Article 35 empowers the Parliament but not the State Legislatures to make laws to give effect to certain specified Fundamental Rights. Thus, the Parliament's exclusive power to make laws for prescribing punishment include which of the following:

1. Untouchability
2. Prohibition of Employment of Children in Factories, etc.

3. Prohibition of Traffic in Human Beings and Forced Labour.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Exp: Article 35 lays down that the power to make laws, to give effect to certain specified fundamental rights shall vest only in the Parliament and not in the state legislatures. So in this direction the exclusive powers of the Parliament to make laws for prescribing punishment for those acts that are declared to be offences under the fundamental rights include Untouchability (Article 17) and Traffic in human beings and forced labour (Article 23) only.

Article 24 only prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in any factory, mine or other hazardous activities like construction work or railway. It does not provide for punishment for contravention of the article.

Q36. Consider the following statements regarding the Arya Samaj:

- 1. They were against the disintegration of Hindus into sub-castes.
- 2. The Arya Samaj was in favour of the chaturvarna system.
- 3. They favoured the right of lowest castes to study scriptures.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Exp: Arya Samaj is an Indian Hindu reform movement that promotes values and practices based on the belief in the infallible authority of the Vedas. The Samaj was founded by the sannyasi (ascetic) Dayananda Saraswati on 7 April 1875. Members of the Arya Samaj believe in one God and reject the worship of idols. They were in favour of chaturvarna system but against sub-caste system. They also favoured the right of lowest cast to study scriptures.

Q37. Recently NHAI launched two mobile applications to facilitate the availability of FASTags for Electronic Toll Collection project. Consider the following statements:

1. FASTag is a RFID device that enables cashless transaction at toll plazas without stopping the vehicle at toll plaza.
2. Active tags may operate at hundreds of meters from the RFID reader.
3. RFID uses electromagnetic fields to automatically identify and track tags attached to the object.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Exp: • FASTag is a radio frequency identification device that enables cashless transaction at toll plazas without stopping the vehicle at the toll plazas. It employs RFID technology for making toll payments directly from the pre-paid account linked to it. So, first option is correct.

• RFID tags can be passive, active or battery-assisted passive. Passive tags collect energy from a nearby RFID reader's interrogating radio waves. Active tags have a local power source such as a battery and may operate at hundreds of meters from the RFID reader. So, second option is also correct.

• Radio-frequency identification (RFID) uses electromagnetic fields to automatically identify and track tags attached to objects. The tags contain electronically stored information. So, third option is also correct.

Q38. With reference to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), consider the following statements:

1. It is compiled and published weekly by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
2. The CSO had revised the base year of the IIP from 2004-05 to 2011-12.

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

Exp: • The IIP is a composite indicator that measures the short-term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products during a given period with respect to chosen base period. It is compiled and published monthly by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

• The CSO had revised the base year of the IIP from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in May 2017 to capture structural changes in the economy and improves the quality and representativeness of the indices. It covers 407 item groups. Sector wise, the items included falls into 3 categories viz. manufacturing (405 items), Mining (1 item) & Electricity 1..

Q39. The Flamingo festival in India is famous for celebrating the arrival of migratory birds, especially Flamingos. This festival is celebrated around which of the following lakes:

- A. Lake Chilika
- B. Lake Pulicat
- C. Lake Loktak
- D. Lake Saputara

Answer: B

Exp: Flamingo Festival is a three-day revelry to welcome and celebrate the arrival of migratory birds, especially Flamingos. The annual Flamingo Festival is celebrated at the bird sanctuary at Nelapattu. Activities would be planned for witnessing the arrival of migratory birds to Pulicat lake. Various migratory birds including Flamingo come to this part of Andhra Pradesh and this festival intends to welcome tourists from all over the world to experience this.

Q40. Which of the following current is NOT a warm ocean current?

- A. Gulf Stream
- B. Brazil Current
- C. Equatorial Counter Current
- D. Canary Current

Answer: D

Exp: Gulf Stream, Brazil Current and Equatorial Counter Current are warm ocean currents whereas Canaries current is a cold ocean current.

Q41. Consider the following pairs:

List-I (Nationalist Leader)	List-II (Organisation)
1. <u>Dadabhai Nauroji</u>	: The East India Association
2. <u>Naoroji Furdunji</u>	: The Bombay Association
3. <u>Anand Mohan Bose</u>	: The Bombay Presidency Association

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

Exp: • The East India Association was founded by Dadabhai Nauroji in 1866, in collaboration with Indians and retired British officials in London. It superseded the London Indian Society and was a platform for discussing matters and ideas about India, and to provide representation for Indians to the Government.

- Naoroji Furdunji, a Parsi reformer founded the Bombay Association on 26th of Aug 1852. The first political organization of the Bombay Presidency was the Bombay Association which was started on 26 August 1852, to vent public grievances to the British.
- The Bombay Presidency Association was started by Badruddin Tyabji, Pherozeshah Mehta and K. T. Telang in 1885.
- Indian National Association was the first declared Nationalist Organization founded in British India by Surendranath Banerjee and Anand Mohan Bose in 1876. It merged in INC in 1885.

Q42. Consider the following fields:

1. Literature
2. Science
3. Sports
4. Art
5. Social Service
6. Cooperatives

The members nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the President are persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of which of the above matters?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- C. 1, 2, 4,5 and 6 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

Answer: B

Exp: Under Article 80 of the Constitution, the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) is composed of not more than 250 members, of whom 12 are nominated by the President of India from amongst persons who have special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as literature, science, art and social service.

In legislative council of state one sixth (1/6th) members are nominated by the Governor. Those nominated by the Governor should have special knowledge or practical experience in Literature, science, art, co-operative movement and social service.

Q43. Recently ICAN won the Nobel Peace Prize 2017. In this context which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. ICAN is an international confederation of charitable organizations focused on alleviation of global poverty.
2. It is for the first time in the history of Noble prize that an NGO is awarded with Noble Peace Prize in 2017.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Exp: • The Nobel Peace Prize is one of the five Nobel Prizes created by the Swedish industrialist, inventor, and armaments manufacturer Alfred Nobel, along with the prizes in Chemistry, Physics, Physiology or Medicine, and Literature. Since March 1901, it has been awarded annually (with some exceptions) to those who have "done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses". As per Alfred Nobel's will, the recipient is selected by the Norwegian Nobel Committee, a five-member committee appointed by the Parliament of Norway.

- The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a global civil society coalition working to promote adherence to and full implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The campaign helped bring about this treaty. ICAN was launched in 2007 and counts 468 partner organizations in 101 countries as of 2017.
- The second statement is incorrect as several NGOs have been awarded Noble peace prize in the past. Ex: Médecins Sans Frontières (1999), International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) (1997), Amnesty International (1977)

Q44. Consider the following statements regarding Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA):

1. It is a statutory body established under The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) Act.
2. It is an export promotion organization under the joint control of Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Food Processing Industry.

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

Exp: It is an export promotion organization under Ministry of Commerce & Industries. It is mandated with the responsibility of promotion and development of the export of its scheduled products.

It was established under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985

Q45. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian National Congress (INC):

1. First session of INC was held in Bombay and presided by A. O. Hume.
2. Mahatma Gandhi had never presided over INC.
3. INC held session every year since 1885 till independence.
4. Mahatma Gandhi wanted the disbandment of the Indian National Congress immediately after independence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 4 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: C

Exp: • First session of INC was held in Bombay and presided by W.C. Bannerji.

- M K Gandhi presided over Belgaum Session in 1924.
- INC was unable to hold session for 1930, 1935 and 1941-1945 (due to World War-II).
- In a note dated January 27, 1948, three days before he was assassinated, Gandhi wrote that the Congress has “outlived its use” in its present form, should be disbanded and “flower into a Lok Sevak Sangh”. This appeared as an article in Harijan on February 2, 1948, titled ‘His Last Will and Testament’, a phrase added by his associates.

Q46. e-VIN project (electronic vaccine intelligence network project) is seen in news sometimes. Consider the following statements in this context:

1. The project is a joint initiative of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and World Health Organization (WHO).

2. e-VIN aims to support the Government of India's Universal Immunization Programme by providing real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows.

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

Exp: • e-VIN (electronic vaccine intelligence network) project is an indigenously developed technology system in India that digitizes vaccine stocks and monitors the temperature of the cold chain through a smartphone application.

- e-VIN aims to strengthen the evidence base for improved policy-making in vaccine delivery, procurement and planning for new antigens in India.
- e-VIN provides an integrated solution to address widespread inequities in vaccine coverage by supporting state governments in overcoming constraints of infrastructure, monitoring and management information systems and human resources, often resulting in overstocking and stock outs of vaccines in storage centres.
- eVIN empowers the cold chain handlers by building technical capacities and providing a robust decision-making tool for cold chain managers through a complete overview of vaccine replenishment times, supply and consumption patterns.
- The technological innovation is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Q47. With respect to the Indian economy, what does 'GDP' of the country mean?

- A. GDP at market price
- B. GDP at factor cost
- C. GVA at basic price
- D. Nominal GDP

Answer: A

Exp: $\text{GDP at factor cost (FC)} = \text{GDP at market prices} - \text{indirect taxes} + \text{subsidies}$.

- In the revised series with base year 2011-2012, as is the practice internationally, industry-wise estimates are presented as Gross Value Added (GVA) at basic prices, while 'GDP at market prices' will be referred to as 'GDP'.
- Earlier 'GDP at factor cost' was known as 'GDP' in India. It is nothing but sum of the factor costs incurred during the process of turning out economy's output for the concerned year. Thus, it is a compilation of wages, interests, salaries, profits etc.

- This concept - GDP at factor cost - used to be expressed both in constant prices (with 2004-05 prices as the base year prices) and current prices. For most purposes, including academic works, GDP at factor cost in constant prices was used as 'GDP'.
- Further by adding net indirect taxes (ie., product taxes - product subsidies), GDP at market prices were also reported in the National Account Statistics.

Q48. The successful implementation of the FAME India Scheme will help in:

- A. Doubling tourist footfall in India within the next five years
- B. Creating a sustainable market ecosystem for electric and hybrid vehicles in India.
- C. Improving the medal tally of India in the upcoming Olympics.
- D. Accessibility of seed-capital for the Startups in India.

Answer: B

Exp: • The FAME-India (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (hybrid &) Electric vehicles in India) scheme is proposed to be implemented over a period of 6 years, till 2020, wherein it is intended to support the hybrid/electric vehicles market development and its manufacturing eco-system to achieve self-sustenance at the end of the stipulated period.

- Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises is its nodal ministry

Q49. The Government of India has decided to do away with Plan and Non-Plan expenditure classification in the budget. What would be the benefits of this step?

1. It will reduce the bias in favour of Non-Plan Expenditure.
2. Neglect towards maintenance expenditure of capital asset will be addressed.
3. It will bring an ease in resource allocation and its monitoring.

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. 3 only

Answer: B

Exp: The bias in favour of Plan expenditure by Centre as well as the state governments has led to a neglect of essential expenditures on maintenance of assets and other establishment related expenditures for providing essential social services.

Q50. 'Molassis basin' is made up of soft unconsolidated deposits. Which of the Indian state is known as 'Molassis Basin'?

- A. Kerala

- B. Gujarat
- C. Mizoram
- D. Assam

Answer: C

Exp: Mizoram is also known as the 'Molassis basin' which is made up of soft unconsolidated deposits. Mizoram is known as land of rolling mountains, i.e it has huge number of mountains. Formations of most mountains are accompanied by formation of Foreland basin or in simple terms valley type depression which runs parallel to mountains. These depressions get accumulated with unconsolidated deposits known as molasses basin.

Q51. Which one of the following is NOT a work of the famous dramatist Vishakhadatta?

- A. Malavikagnimitra
- B. Mudrarakshasa
- C. Devi-chandraguptam
- D. Abhisarika-Vanchhitaka

Answer: A

Exp: • Option A. is correct: Malavikagnimitra is a gripping story of love and romance, Malavikagnimitram (also known as Malavika Agnimitram) is a beautiful play by Kalidasa.

• Option B. and C. are incorrect: Mudrarakshasa and Devi-Chandraguptam are two famous plays attributed to Vishakhadatta.

• Option D. is incorrect: The Abhisarikavanchhitaka, another play of Vishakhadatta is based on the love-stories of Udayan, is known only from citations in other texts.

Q52. Choose the correct statements regarding INS Kalvari inducted into Indian Navy:

1. It is a diesel-electric attack submarine based on the Scorpene class submarine.
2. It is manufactured by French naval defence and energy company DCNS.
3. It can do anti-surface warfare also.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Exp: • INS Kalvari (S50) is the first of the six Kalvari-class submarines currently in service with the Indian Navy. It is a diesel-electric attack submarine based on the Scorpene class submarine.

- Second option is incorrect as it is designed by French naval defence and energy company DCNS and manufactured by Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai.
- It is capable of offensive operations across the entire spectrum of naval warfare including anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, and mine laying and area surveillance.

Q53. Which of the following statements correctly describes the term 'Reverse charge mechanism'?

- A. It is a method of recharging the ground water using the rainwater through harvesting techniques.
- B. In this method, the receiver of goods becomes liable to pay the tax instead of the supplier.
- C. It is a method of generating the immunity reaction by the body to a virus by introducing the live attenuated virus instead of inactivated one.
- D. It is a method of providing subsidy to the banks by the government to not charge the Jan Dhan Accounts for not maintaining the minimum balance.

Answer: B

Exp: In its bid to check evasion, especially by traders and small businesses under goods and services tax (GST), the government is likely to introduce the reverse charge mechanism, wherein, recipient of goods or services are required to pay GST instead of suppliers. This will ensure more transactions to increase coverage of GST to the unorganised sector, thus boosting tax collection.

Q54. Which one of the following personalities is NOT associated with the repair of Sudarshana lake during the Gupta period?

- A. Skandagupta
- B. Parnadatta
- C. Chakrapalita
- D. Nandana

Answer: D

Exp: Option A. is incorrect: Sudharshana Lake was repaired for the second time in the reign of Skandagupta.

Option B. and C. is incorrect: In the repair of Sudarshan Lake by Skandagupta he was assisted by his governor Pranadatta and his (Pranadatta's) son Chakrapalita.

Option D. is correct: Nandana is nowhere associated with repair of Sudarshan Lake.

Q55. Choose the correct statements regarding SANKALP and STRIVE schemes:

1. Both are centrally sponsored schemes to boost Skill India Mission.

2. Both are outcome based schemes aimed at institutional reforms and improving quality and market relevance of skill development training programs in long and short term.

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

Exp: • Both Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) and Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) are World Bank supported schemes to boost Skill India Mission. SANKALP is Rs 4455 crore centrally sponsored scheme including Rs 3300 crore loan support from World Bank whereas STRIVE is Rs 2200 crore central sector scheme with half funding will be World bank loan assistance. So first option is not correct.

- Both are outcome focused projects marking a shift in government's implementation strategy in vocational education and training from inputs to results.
- SANKALP, a centrally sponsored scheme addresses this need by setting up national bodies for accreditation and certification. The bodies shall regulate assessment and certification in both long and short term vocational education and training.
- STRIVE, a central sector scheme aims to modernize 500+ ITIs through outcomes and reform linked funding. So second option is correct.

Q56. Who among the following has the power to request a retired Supreme Court Judge to act as a Judge of the Supreme Court for a temporary period?

- A. The President of India with the previous consent of the Chief Justice of India.
- B. The Chief Justice of India with the previous consent of the President.
- C. It is the power of the collegium to suggest a name to the President.
- D. There is no such provision in the Constitution of India.

Answer: B

Exp: As per provisions of the Article 128, Chief Justice of India, with the previous consent of the President, request a retired Judge of the Supreme Court High Court, who is duly qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court, to sit and act as a Judge of the Supreme Court. The salary & allowance of such judge are decided by the president.

Q57. Consider the following statements about UNESCO:

- 1. States that are not members of UN cannot be admitted to UNESCO.
- 2. Membership of the United Nations carries with it the right to membership of UNESCO.

3. Israel and US are among major countries not having the membership of UNESCO.

Which of the statements given above are incorrect?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Exp: • States that are not members of United Nations may be admitted to UNESCO, upon recommendation of the Executive Board, by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Conference.

- Membership of the United Nations carries with it the right to membership of UNESCO.
- Israel and US have announced their withdrawal from the membership of UNESCO, however, it will officially take effect on 31 December 2018.

Q58. The “Global Gender Gap” Report is published by

- A. The World Bank
- B. The International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- C. The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- D. The World Economic Forum (WEF)

Answer: D

Exp: The Global Gender Gap Report was first published in 2006 by the World Economic Forum. The 2016 report covers 144 major and emerging economies. The Global Gender Gap Index is an index designed to measure gender equality. The report’s Gender Gap Index ranks countries according to calculated gender gap between women and men in four key areas: health, education, economy and politics. In 2017 report India fell 21 places on the World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap index to 108 – far below the global average and much behind its neighbours China and Bangladesh. India lost out mainly because of lower participation of women in the economy and low wages. In 2016, India’s rank was 87.

Global Economic Prospects’ Report- World Bank

World Economic Outlook Report- IMF

Q59. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the “Start-up India Virtual hub”?

1. It is an online platform which acts as single window mechanism for approval process of the Start-ups companies to provide ease of doing business.
2. It has been started by the Ministry of Finance.

3. It also includes a mechanism for providing incentives, tax breaks and funding mechanisms.

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. None of the above

Answer: D

Exp: Start-up India Virtual Hub, an online platform for all stakeholders of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in India to discover, connect and engage with each other.

Start-up India Virtual Hub is an effort to create a marketplace where all the stakeholders can interact, exchange knowledge, and enable each other to grow. It will streamline the lifecycle of existing and potential start-ups, helping them access the right resources at the right time.

The portal will host startups, investors, funds, mentors, academia, incubators, accelerators, corporates, Government bodies and more. The Hub attempts to solve the problem of information asymmetry and lack of access to knowledge, tools, & experts, especially in the nascent ecosystems across Tier II and III towns.

Q60. Recently, 'Mekong Cooperation Mechanism' was initiated. Mekong river flows through which of the following countries?

- 1. China
- 2. Myanmar
- 3. Laos
- 4. Cambodia
- 5. Vietnam
- 6. Thailand

Select the correct answer from codes given below.

- A. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- B. 1, 2, 5 and 6 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

Answer: D

Exp: The Mekong is a trans-boundary river in Southeast Asia. It is the world's 12th-longest river and the 7th-longest in Asia. Its estimated length is 4,350 km (2,703 mi) and it drains an area of 795,000 km² (307,000 sq mi), discharging 475 km³ (114 cu mi) of water annually. From the Tibetan Plateau the river runs through China's Yunnan Province, Myanmar, Laos,

Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. So it flows through all the above mentioned countries. So fourth option is correct.

Q61. Which of the following Sangam works is based on Ethics and morality?

- A. Tolkappiyam
- B. Silappadikaram
- C. Manimekalai
- D. Kural

Answer: D

Exp: Option A. is incorrect: Tolkappiyam is a grammatical work in tamil by Tholkappiyar.

Option B. is incorrect: Silappadikaram is the story of Kovalan and Kannagi and of how Kannagi avenges the wrong done to her husband. Silappadikaram, written by Ilango Adigal, is a non-religious work of 1st century.

Option C. is incorrect: Manimekalai, authored by Sithalai Sattanar, is a Buddhist religious work.

Option D. is correct: Tirukurral or simply Kural, is a classic text of sangam era based on ethics and morality, authored by Thiruvalluvar.

Q62. Recently India was admitted to Wassenaar Arrangement. What is Wassenaar Arrangement?

- A. It is an arrangement to ensure that exports do not contribute to the development of chemical or biological weapons.
- B. It is a group of nations that frames and implements agreed rules for exporting nuclear equipment, with a view to control the spread of nuclear weapons.
- C. It is an arrangement to slow the speed of spread of missiles and other unmanned delivery technology that could be used for chemical, biological and nuclear attacks.
- D. It is an arrangement which aims to promote transparency and greater responsibility in transfer of conventional arms and dual use goods and technology.

Answer: D

Exp: The Australia Group is an informal forum of countries that seek to ensure that exports do not contribute to the development of chemical or biological weapons.

Nuclear Supplier Group is a group of nations that frames and implements agreed rules for exporting nuclear equipment, with a view to control the spread of nuclear weapons.

Missile Technology Control Regime(MTCR) group aims to slow the speed of spread of missiles and other unmanned delivery technology that could be used for chemical, biological and nuclear attacks.

Wassenaar Arrangement is an arrangement which aims to promote transparency and greater responsibility in transfer of conventional arms and dual use goods and technology. It was founded in 1996.

Q63. The scope of Article 21 got wider interpretation by moving forward from 'procedure established by law' towards the American expression 'due process of law' - by which famous Supreme Court case?

- A. Kesavananda Bharti case, 1973
- B. Menaka Case, 1978
- C. Minerva Mills case, 1980
- D. Golaknath Case 1973

Answer: B

Exp: The Kesavananda Bharti Case 1973

The Supreme Court outlined the Basic Structure doctrine of the Constitution.

Minerva Mills v Union of India - 1980

In this landmark judgment, the Supreme Court of India in 1980 strengthened the doctrine of the basic structure which was propounded earlier in the Kesavananda Bharti Case. Two changes which were made earlier by the 42nd Amendment Act were declared as null and void by the Supreme Court in this particular case.

Golaknath v State of Punjab - 1967

In the highly famous case of Golaknath Vs State of Punjab in 1967 the Supreme Court ruled that Parliament could not curtail any of the Fundamental Rights of individuals mentioned in the Constitution.

Q64. Which of the following are functions of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)?

- 1. Creating awareness and disseminate information on energy efficiency and conservation.
- 2. Promoting use of energy efficient processes, equipment, devices and systems.
- 3. Giving financial assistance to institutions for promoting efficient use of energy and its conservation.
- 4. Implementing international co-operation programmes relating to efficient use of energy and its conservation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: D

Exp: The Government of India set up Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE). on 1st March 2002 under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. The mission of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency is to assist in developing policies and strategies with a thrust on self-regulation and market principles, within the overall framework of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 with the primary objective of reducing energy intensity of the Indian economy.

The major functions of BEE are to:

- Create awareness and disseminate information on energy efficiency and conservation
- Arrange and organise training of personnel and specialists in the techniques for efficient use of energy and its conservation
- Strengthen consultancy services in the field of energy conservation
- Promote research and development
- Develop testing and certification procedures and promote testing facilities
- Formulate and facilitate implementation of pilot projects and demonstration projects
- Promote use of energy efficient processes, equipment, devices and systems
- Take steps to encourage preferential treatment for use of energy efficient equipment or appliances
- Promote innovative financing of energy efficiency projects
- Give financial assistance to institutions for promoting efficient use of energy and its conservation
- Prepare educational curriculum on efficient use of energy and its conservation
- Implement international co-operation programmes relating to efficient use of energy and its conservation

Q65. Which of the following correctly describes the term “headline inflation”?

- A. It is a situation when the inflation is high due to increase in wages and cost of input.
- B. It includes items which have volatile price movements as well.
- C. It excludes items which have volatile movements such as food and energy prices for calculation.
- D. It is a situation when the inflation occurs due to currency pumping into the market by the central bank.

Answer: B

Exp: • Headline inflation is a measure of the total inflation within an economy, including commodities such as food and energy prices (e.g., oil and gas), which tend to be much more volatile and prone to inflationary spikes.

- Option A. is for cost-push inflation.

- Option C. is for Core inflation.
- Option D. is for demand-pull inflation.

Q66. Megasthenes provided the division of Indian society into seven classes. On what consideration these divisions appear to have been based?

- A. Religious
- B. Social
- C. Political
- D. Economic

Answer: D

Exp: Megasthenes' 7 classes includes: Sophists, Farmers, Herdsmen, Shopkeepers, Soldiers, Supervisors and Officers (Generals, treasurers etc). Therefore, as it is based on economic occupations, it was an economic division of society and not Social, political or religious division.

Q67. The Supreme Court has banned the use of pet coke and dirty furnace oil in Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in a bid to reduce air pollution in Delhi and NCR. Which of the following statements in this context is/are correct?

1. Pet coke has higher heat content than coal.
2. Pet coke has more Sulphur content than coal.
3. It results in higher CO₂ emission in comparison to coal.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Exp: • Petroleum coke or pet coke is one of the many consumer products produced during oil refining. During oil refining, the crude oil is first processed into various products such as gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, lubricating oils and waxes. After all these products have been created, a residual crude is further undergoing additional processing called "coking" to produce various fuels including pet coke. It is used as a substitute for coal and has a higher heat content than coal. So first option is correct.

- It has higher sulphur content than coal. So second option is also correct.
- Petcoke is over 90 percent carbon and emits 5 to 10% more CO₂ than coal on a per-unit-of-energy basis when it is burned. As petcoke has a higher energy content, petcoke emits between 30 and 80 percent more CO₂ than coal on a per-unit-of-weight basis.

Q68. Consider the following statements:

1. The Phillips curve shows the relationship between unemployment and inflation in an economy.
2. The Laffer curve shows the relationship between tax rates and the amount of tax revenue collected by governments.
3. The Engel curve describes how household expenditure on a particular good or service varies with household income.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Exp: All the above statements are correct.

- The Phillips Curve shows the relationship between unemployment and inflation in an economy.
- The Laffer Curve shows the relationship between tax rates and the amount of tax revenue collected by governments.
- The Engel Curve describes how household expenditure on a particular good or service varies with household income.

Q69. The daily and annual range of temperature is maximum in the

- A. Savanna Grassland
- B. Temperate Grassland
- C. Hot desert
- D. Equatorial region

Answer: C

Exp: The diurnal range of temperature in the deserts is great. Intense insolation by day in a region of dry air and no clouds causes the temperature to rise with the Sun. But as soon as the Sun sets the land loses heat very quickly through radiation.

Q70. Inter-State water disputes are in news sometimes. Consider the following statements about Inter-State Water Disputes Act (1956):

1. The Act provides for establishment of river boards for the regulation and development of Inter-State rivers and river valleys.

2. The Act empowers the Central Government to set up an ad hoc tribunal for the adjudication of water dispute between two or more states.

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

Exp: River Boards are established under The River Boards Act, 1956.

Q71. Which of the following correctly describes the Land of the seven rivers (Sapta Sindhu) where the initial Aryan settlements were located?

- A. The Indus valley region
- B. The Punjab and Delhi region
- C. The region from the Eastern Afghanistan to the upper valley of Ganges
- D. The land of the Indus and its principal tributaries

Answer: D

Exp: Sapta Sindhu is a term found in Hindu scriptures and is the common name given to seven rivers which flowed through North West of India. The seven rivers are Saraswati, Sindhu (Indus), Vitasta (Jhelum), Asikini (Chenab), Iravati or Parusni (Ravi), Vipasa (Beas) and Shatadru or Sutudri (Sutlej).

Option A. is incorrect: Indus valley region would not cover other rivers.

Option B. is incorrect: None of the rivers above them lies in Delhi region.

Option C. is incorrect: None of the river touches Afghanistan and also they are not linked to upper valley of Ganges.

Option D. is correct: All other rivers are tributaries of Indus river.

Q72. What is/are the importance of the World Bank led Global Wildlife Program?

- 1. It has a particular focus on Asian and African region in combating illegal trafficking in wildlife.
- 2. It aims to promote community based natural resource management and providing livelihood opportunities through tourism.
- 3. It serves as a platform to assess the current state of international funding to tackle illicit trafficking in wildlife.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only

- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Exp: The GWP is a World-Bank led global partnership that promotes wildlife conservation and sustainable development by combating illicit trafficking in wildlife. This seven-year, \$131 million grant program is expected to leverage an additional \$704 million in additional co-financing from a wide range of partners to promote investments across Africa and Asia. Among its priorities are promoting community based natural resource management & providing livelihood opportunities through tourism and serving as a platform to assess the current state of international funding to tackle illicit trafficking in wildlife. The GWP Conference was held in New Delhi in October 2017.

Q73. The Sykes-Picot Agreement is seen in news sometimes. This agreement is related to which of the following?

- A. Britain's declaration of its support for establishment of national home for Jewish people in Palestine.
- B. Agreement among European powers for the occupation, division and colonization of Africa.
- C. Control of West Asia by European powers through establishing of spheres of influence after the fall of Ottoman empire.
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Exp: • The Sykes–Picot Agreement officially known as the Asia Minor Agreement was a secret 1916 agreement between the United Kingdom and France, to which the Russian Empire assented. The agreement defined their mutually agreed spheres of influence and control in Southwestern Asia. The agreement was based on the premise that the Triple Entente would succeed in defeating the Ottoman Empire during World War I. The agreement is often in news since the rise of ISIS whose goal is to erase the arbitrary lines of the 1916 Sykes-Picot agreement, which were the basis for establishing independent Arab states.

- The statement in option A. is about Balfour Declaration. The Balfour Declaration was a public statement issued by the British government during World War I announcing support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine, then an Ottoman region with a minority Jewish population.
- Statement B. refers to agreement in Berlin Conference/ Congo Conference / West Africa Conference in 1884.

Q74. In a market, perfect competition is characterized by which of the following features?

1. When there are very large number of buyers and sellers.

2. All the sellers sell homogenous products.
3. There are no barriers to enter or exit the market.

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

Answer: D

Exp: Perfect competition is a market structure in which the following five criteria are met:

- All firms sell an identical product;
- All firms are price takers - they cannot control the market price of their product;
- All firms have a relatively small market share;
- Buyers have complete information about the product being sold and the prices charged by each firm; and
- The industry is characterized by freedom of entry and exit.

Perfect competition is sometimes referred to as "pure competition".

Q75. Which of the following statements about Nayanars (Worshippers of Vishnu) and Alvars (Worshippers of Shiva) of South India is NOT correct?

- A. They were in support of the austerities promoted by Jainism and Buddhism.
- B. For them religion was based on love between God and the worshipper.
- C. The language they used could be understood by everyone.
- D. They opposed the inequalities of caste.

Answer: A

Exp: Statement 1 is not correct: They did not believe in austerities. They were against the high levels of austerity promoted by Jainism and Buddhism as it was difficult to follow.

Statement 2 is correct: They looked upon religion not as a matter of cold, formal worship but as a living bond based on love between the god and the worshipper.

Statement 3 is correct: They used the language which was common to people. Their hymns were sung in Tamil language, the common language of people, so they were easily understood.

Statement 4 is correct: Alvars and Nayanars initiated a movement of protest against the caste system and the dominance of Brahmanas or at least attempted to reform the system.

Q76. Consider the following items.

1. Yakshagana.
2. Koodiyattam.
3. Kumbh Mela.
4. Ankiya Naat.

Which of the above is/are included in the UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list?

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: C

Exp: The UNESCO's coveted list is made up of those intangible heritage elements that help demonstrate diversity of cultural heritage and raise awareness about its importance. The list was established in 2008 when Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage came into effect. It includes important intangible cultural heritages worldwide. It has two parts viz. Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of urgent Safeguarding.

Kumbh Mela is the latest addition from India to the list.

1. Koodiyattam, Sanskrit Theatre, Kerala
2. Mudiyyett: a ritual theatre of Kerala
3. The Tradition of Vedic Chanting
4. Ramlila – the Traditional Performance of the Ramayana
5. Ramman: religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas
6. Kalbelia: folk songs and dances of Rajasthan
7. Chhau dance: a tradition from eastern India
8. Nauroz : Parsi new year.
9. Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir, India
10. Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur
11. Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab
12. Yoga
13. Kumbh Mela

• Yakshagana is a traditional theatre form that combines dance, music, dialogue, costume, make-up, and stage techniques with a unique style and form. This theatre style is mainly found in Tulunadu and some parts of Malenadu regions of Karnataka and Kerala.

Yakshagana is traditionally presented from dusk to dawn. Its stories are drawn from Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata and other epics from both Hindu and Jain traditions.

• Ankia Naat are a class of one act plays performed in Assam. The invention of the Ankia Naat is usually attributed to the medieval saint and social reformer Srimanta Sankardeva. These plays were written in an artificial Assamese-Maithili mixed language called Brajavali and are primarily centered on Krishna. A particular presentation of an Ankia Naat is called a Bhaona. The plays are usually combine live instruments and singers, dance and elaborate costumes in production.

Q77. Which of the following provisions was/were made mandatory after the enactment of 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act?

1. To establish State Finance Commission.
2. To have free and fair elections at panchayat, block and district level.
3. Fixed tenure for panchayats at all levels.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Exp: Fixing tenure of five years for panchayats at all levels and holding fresh elections within six months in the event of supersession of any panchayat is one of the compulsory provisions under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act.

Q78. The Reserve Bank of India has introduced a new scheme called “Marginal Standing Facility” (MSF) in its Monetary Policy. Which of the following are the features of MSF?

1. The rate of interest on MSF is usually more than the Repo rate
2. The banks can borrow up to 5 percent of their total savings account deposits.
3. The MSF window was created for commercial banks to borrow from the RBI in certain emergency conditions when inter-bank liquidity dries up completely and there is volatility in the overnight interest rates.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 3 only

Answer: B

Exp: • Marginal standing facility (MSF) is a window for banks to borrow from the Reserve Bank of India in an emergency situation when inter-bank liquidity dries up completely.

- Banks borrow from the central bank by pledging government securities at a rate higher than the repo rate under liquidity adjustment facility or LAF in short.
- The MSF rate is pegged 100 basis points or a percentage point above the repo rate.
- Under MSF, banks can borrow funds up to one percentage of their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL).

Q79. The Aichi Targets refer to:

- A. Targets aiming at eradicating hunger and malnutrition
- B. Targets aiming at efficient disaster management
- C. Targets aiming to eliminate gender disparity
- D. Targets aiming to protect the biodiversity

Answer: D

Exp: The Aichi Targets were adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity at its Nagoya Conference. There are 20 targets divided into 5 strategic goals collectively known as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Q80. What are the conducive conditions for the formation of Tropical Cyclones?

1. Differential heating of land and water
2. High Humidity
3. Sea surface temperature (SST) being less than 27 degree Celsius
4. A low-pressure condition/ITCZ formed 5-8 degree away from equator

Select the correct answer using code given below:

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: C

Exp: • Tropical Cyclones are a system of low pressure occurring in tropical latitudes characterized by very strong winds. A tropical cyclone is like a huge heat engine which takes its energy in the form of latent heat and sensible heat from water to air.

- The favourable conditions for formation of a tropical cyclone are a low pressure condition formed 5-8 degree away from equator as it needs some coriolis force for curvature of winds and coriolis force is weakest at equator.

- It needs high humidity and differential heating of land and water and Sea Surface Temperature should be more than 27 degree Celsius. So third option is incorrect.

Q81. Which of the following made their appearance during medieval India?

1. Persian wheel in Irrigation
2. The spinning wheel in weaving
3. Potatoes and Chillies
4. Tea and coffee

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: D

Exp: All of the above appeared during medieval times. The study of the thousand years between 700 and 1750 is a huge challenge to historians largely because of the scale and variety of developments that occurred over the period. At different moments in this period new technologies made their appearance – like the Persian wheel in irrigation, the spinning wheel in weaving, and firearms in combat. New foods and beverages arrived in the subcontinent – potatoes, corn, chillies, tea and coffee. All these innovations – new technologies and crops – came along with people, who brought other ideas with them as well. As a result, this was a period of economic, political, social and cultural changes.

Q82. Agenda for Action 2020 is for strengthening the partnership between India and:

- A. ASEAN
- B. EU
- C. East African Community (EAC)
- D. East Asia Summit (EAS)

Answer: B

Exp: India-EU Agenda for Action 2020 was the outcome of 13th India – EU annual summit to concrete the road map for India-EU strategic partnership for the next five years.

The 14th annual Summit between India and the European Union (EU) was held in New Delhi on 6 October 2017. The leaders expressed satisfaction at the progress made towards implementing the India-EU Agenda for Action 2020 – the roadmap for bilateral cooperation endorsed during the 13th India-EU Summit.

Q83. Which of the following is a central procurement agency for the procurement of pulses and oilseeds in India?

- A. Food Corporation of India
- B. Central Warehouse Corporation.
- C. Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium
- D. National Commodity Board

Answer: C

Exp: Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium, (SFAC) was nominated as a Central Procurement Agency for pulses and oilseeds in November, 2012 following the approval of a proposal placed before the Union Cabinet by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.

Q84. The inscriptions of the Cholas who ruled in Tamil Nadu refer to many terms for different kinds of taxes. In this context consider the following statements:

1. The most frequently mentioned tax is kadamai, which was taken in the form of forced labour.
2. Vetti was used for land revenue.

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

Exp: The inscriptions of the Cholas who ruled in Tamil Nadu refer to more than 400 terms for different kinds of taxes.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The most frequently mentioned tax is vetti, taken not in cash but in the form of forced labour.

Statement 2 is incorrect: kadamai, and not vetti was the term used for land revenue.

Q85. Which of the Constitutional provision(s) ensure impartiality and independence of the Speaker?

1. A Constitutional Amendment is required to fix the salary and allowances of the Speaker.
2. Except on a substantive motion the work and conduct of the Speaker cannot be discussed and criticized in the Lok Sabha.
3. The Speaker cannot be removed from office except by a resolution passed by the effective majority in the Lok Sabha.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Exp: Since, a Speaker is also a member of the Parliament, he or she comes under the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Parliament Act of 1954, which was amended in December 2010.

Q86. Which of the following statements related to the applications of Nano-technology in agriculture is/are correct?

- 1. Nano capsules for pesticide delivery prevent groundwater contamination.
- 2. Nano particles can be used as gelatin and viscosifying agents.
- 3. Nano sensors are used for monitoring soil conditions and plant growth.

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Exp: All of the statements given above are correct.

- Nano sensors are being implanted on the fields which will give updated reports of soil conditions and plant growth to aid in better productivity whereas
- Nano capsules can be released into fields to directly reach the crop for pesticide and fertilisers delivery which can reduce the toxicity induced by excess pesticide along with keeping the crop healthy.
- In food processing industry for gelation and viscosifying the nano particles are also used.

Q87. Consider the following statements regarding the term “Ever Green Revolution”

- 1. It was coined by Dr. M.S Swaminathan.
- 2. It calls for increase in productivity by practicing sustainable farming by integrating ecology with technology.
- 3. It calls for extension of Green Revolution practices to all the parts of India and for all crops, not just rice and wheat.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Exp: • Dr. M.S Swaminathan coined the term “Evergreen Revolution” to highlight the pathway of increasing production and productivity in a manner such that short and long term goals of food production are not mutually antagonistic.

- He wants to produce more from less, less land, less pesticide, less water and it must be an evergreen revolution to get sustainable agriculture.
- He started working on three main areas in support of this revolution, better disease crops, better soil health and fertility without having to resort to chemical fertilizers and the use of biological controls to reduce damage caused by pests.

Q88. The method of waste disposal consisting of controlled high temperature oxidation of organic compounds that releases thermal energy is known as:

- A. Composting
- B. Incineration
- C. Land filling
- D. Pyrolysis

Answer: B

Exp: • Incineration is a waste treatment process that involves the combustion of organic substances contained in waste materials. Incineration of waste materials converts the waste into ash, flue gas and heat.

- Composting is a process by which organic wastes are broken down by microorganisms, generally bacteria and fungi, into simpler forms.
- A landfill site is a site for the disposal of waste materials by burial and the oldest form of waste treatment
- Pyrolysis is a thermo chemical decomposition of organic material at elevated temperatures in the absence of oxygen

Hence the answer is option B.

Q89. Lately, induction stoves have penetrated the consumer market. Consider the following statements regarding the mechanism associated with induction stoves:

1. Copper vessel is not used on such a stove as it is a good conductor & hence no resistance is produced.

2. Heating is more evenly distributed compared with any other available method.
3. Cooking occurs due to heat energy produced by the resistance provided by vessel to the eddy currents generated in the vessel.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 3 only

Answer: D

Exp: • In an induction stove cooking occurs due to heat energy produced by the resistance provided by vessel to the eddy currents generated in the vessel. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

- Most uniform heating is provided by Microwave Oven. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.
- Copper vessel is not used because it is not ferromagnetic & hence no eddy current is produced due to induction. It being a good conductor has no role to play. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Q90. Recently China opened its first ever overseas military base in Djibouti. Djibouti and Yemen are separated by:

- A. Bab-al-Mandeb Strait
- B. Bosphorus Strait
- C. Dardanelles Strait
- D. Hormuz Strait

Answer: A

Exp: • Strait of Bab-al-Mandeb is situated between Yemen on Arabian peninsula, and Djibouti on African peninsula. It connects Red sea to Gulf of Aden. So first option is correct.

- Bosphorus Strait is situated between Black sea and Marmara sea near Turkey. It separates Asian Turkey from European Turkey. So second option is incorrect.
- Dardanelles Strait is situated between Aegean sea and Marmara sea near Turkey. So third option is incorrect.
- Hormuz Strait is situated between Gulf of Persia and Gulf of Oman. So fourth option is also incorrect.

Q91. Consider the following statements:

1. A Minister of the Union of India, who is not a member of any of the Houses of Parliament, shall get elected as a member of any of the Houses within six months to continue as a Minister.
2. There is no ground provided in the Constitution of India for removal of a Minister from the Ministry.
3. A Minister of State is individually responsible to the concerned Cabinet Minister of the Ministry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Exp: • Statement 1. is incorrect because being 'elected' is not necessary. Even nominated membership is allowed.

• Statement 3. is also incorrect as all Ministers are individually responsible to the President of India under Article 752..

Q92. Global methane initiative has been seen in news many times. Consider the following statements regarding the initiative:

1. It is a UNDP sponsored initiative that aims to provide cost effective methods which aims at near-term methane abatement.
2. It is a multilateral initiative which aims to reduce informational, institutional and other market barriers to project development.
3. It aims at reducing methane gas production from coal mining process only by developing alternative energy resources.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 3 only
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Exp: • Global Methane Initiative (GMI) is a voluntary, international partnership that brings together national governments, private sector entities, development banks, NGOs and other interested stakeholders in a collaborative effort to reduce methane gas emissions and advance methane recovery and use as a clean energy source.

- National governments are encouraged to join GMI as Partner Countries, while other non-State organizations may join GMI's extensive Project Network.
- As a public-private initiative, GMI creates an international platform to build capacity, development methane abatement strategies, engage in technology transfer, and remove political and economic barriers to project development for emissions reduction.
- The initiative currently focuses on five sectors, which are known sources of anthropogenic methane emissions: agriculture, coal mining, municipal solid waste, municipal wastewater, and oil and gas systems.

Q93. Consider the following statements regarding the Soil Health Card (SHC):

1. Soil Health card is issued to farmers every year.
2. It is also accompanied by an advice on how much and which type of fertilizers are to be used.
3. Soil Testing Programmes are also being implemented through National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 2 only

Answer: C

Exp: Soil Health card (SHC) is a printed report card issued to farmers in once in three years indicating the status of his soil in terms of 12 parameters. It is also accompanied by an advice on the various fertilizers and other soil amendments he is supposed to make.

SHC is field-specific detailed report of soil fertility status and other important soil parameters that affect crop productivity. Details in a Soil Health Card includes

- Information regarding Soil Fertility
- Dosage of fertilizer application in crops.
- Information on soil amendments of saline or alkaline soil; and
- Recommendation on integrated nutrient management.

Q94. Recently Google paid a doodle tribute to Rukhmabai Raut on her 153rd birthday. Which of the following statement related to Rukhmabai Raut is incorrect?

- A. She was the first practicing female doctor in British India.
- B. She was against the practice of child marriage.

C. She authored many articles in The Times of India penned under the pseudonym 'A Hindu Lady'.

D. She was the major reason behind the enactment of Age of Consent Act in 1891.

Answer: A

Exp: • Rukhmabai Raut was one of the first practicing female doctor in British India but, Kadambini Ganguly was the first practicing female doctor in British India. So, first option is incorrect.

• She was against the practice of child marriage but she was married at the age of 11 to Dadaji Bhikaji without her consent. So second option is correct.

• She authored many articles in The Times of India penned under the pseudonym 'A Hindu Lady'. It was revealed later that the author was Rukhmabai Raut. So, third option is correct.

• In a petition to the Bombay High Court in March 1884, her husband pleaded to restore conjugal rights of the husband over his wife, and the court in its judgement directed Rukhmabai to comply or to go to prison. Rukhmabai refused and told the British India Court that she would suffer imprisonment rather than entering into conjugal relationship with her husband. Ultimately, the publicity and debate generated by this case helped influence the enactment of the "Age of Consent Act" in 1891, which changed the age of consent from 10 to 12 years across British India. So, fourth option is also correct

Q95. Presently, majority of the Power plants are undergoing a process known as "scrubbing". This phenomenon is expected to improve conditions associated with which of the following?

A. Acid rain

B. Deforestation

C. Ozone depletion

D. Increasing the power generation capacity.

Answer: A

Exp: Scrubber systems (aka Chemical Scrubbers, Gas Scrubbers) are a diverse group of air pollution control devices that can be used to remove some particulates and/or gases from industrial exhaust streams. Hence it will help to reduce the acid rain in the vicinity due to control in the emissions.

Q96. Consider the following statements:

1. A wildlife sanctuary is an area which is strictly reserved for the betterment of the wildlife and where human activities like forestry, grazing or cultivation are not permitted.

2. A national park is a natural area which is used for keeping the particular species of animals and where human activities like harvesting and private ownership rights are permitted.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: C

Exp: Both the statements given are incorrect as the definition of wildlife sanctuary and national park is given vice-versa.

- The main difference between the two is that in a wildlife sanctuary, human activities may be allowed, whereas in a National park, no human activities are allowed. For example, the people may possess rights for timber extraction in a wildlife sanctuary, but this right is not provided under the premises of a national park.
- National parks have a proper boundary, whereas the wildlife sanctuaries usually do not have properly marked boundaries.

The examples of national park are: Jim Corbett (It is the first National Park of India.), Sunderbans (West Bengal), Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh) etc. The examples of wildlife sanctuary are: Ranipur (Uttar Pradesh), Chilka Lake (Orissa), Coringa (Andhra Pradesh) etc. Hence the answer is option c.

Q97. Consider the following statements regarding “WPI Food Index”:

1. WPI food index measures the changes in prices of food items at the level of producers.
2. WPI food index is calculated with base year of 2011-12.
3. It is compiled and published by Office of Economic Advisor.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Exp: • WPI food index is a new Food Price Index launched on 12 May 2017 as part of revised WPI series with base year 2011-12. WPI food index measures the changes in prices of food items at the level of producers.

- The WPI Food index is compiled by taking the aggregate of WPI for “Food Products” under “Manufacture Products” and “Food Articles” under “Primary Article” using weighted arithmetic mean.
- In India, Office of Economic Advisor (OEA), Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry calculates the WPI.

Q98. Which of the following does NOT come under the functions of NITI Aayog?

- A. To address common man's grievances through an interactive two-way platform.
- B. To develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of government.
- C. To ensure, on areas that are referred to it, that the interests of national security are incorporated in economic strategy and policy.
- D. To maintain state-of-the-art Resource Centre that provides input for sustainable and equitable development.

Answer: A

Exp: Statement given in option A. is about PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation). It is a multi-purpose and multi-modal platform. PRAGATI is a unique integrating and interactive platform. The platform is aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.

Q99. Recently Geological Survey of India launched an initiative called as 'Garuda Vasudha'. Which of the following statements is correct about it?

- A. It is a satellite based programme to provide information about mining activities.
- B. It is an Advanced Light Helicopter to provide help to GSI.
- C. It is an online repository of all the important geological sites.
- D. It is a radar based equipment to help in finding the uranium resources.

Answer: B

Exp: "Garuda Vasudha" is an Advanced Light Helicopter launched by Geological Survey of India from the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), it is equipped with Heliborne Geophysical Survey System (HGSS) comprised of four aero geophysical sensors. It is used for extensive surveys by the GSI for locating hidden mineral wealth.

Q100. Consider the following statements:

1. The duration of the monsoon decreases from southern India to northern India.
2. The amount of annual rainfall in the northern plains of India decreases from east to west.

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

Exp: The amount of rainfall decreases from east to west owing to the progressive decrease in humidity of the winds. Southern part of India, being near to sea, gets rainfall early and for a longer duration than in northern part.

