

Q1. The term “Fiscal Activism” was in news recently. It refers to which of the following?

- A. Radical steps taken by the Government like demonetization to curb black money.
- B. Promotion of cash less or less cash economy without adequate legal and cyber security framework.
- C. Giving a greater role to counter-cyclical policies and attaching less weight to curbing debt.
- D. Adopting dear money policy despite sluggish economic growth.

Answer: C

Exp: According to the Economic Survey 2016-17, the country’s economic experience shows that Fiscal activism embraced by advanced economies giving a greater role to counter-cyclical policies and attaching less weight to curbing debt – is not relevant for India. It said that the country’s fiscal experience has underscored the fundamental validity of the fiscal policy principles enshrined in the 13-year-old FRBM Act.

Q2. The term Sowa Rigpa was in the news recently. Consider the following statements in this regard:

- 1. It is one of the oldest, living, and well-documented medical traditions of the world.
- 2. It is practised in Tibet, Mongolia, Bhutan, and some parts of China.
- 3. It is a recent addition to the existing family of AYUSH systems in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Exp: “Sowa Rigpa” commonly known as the Amchi system of medicine is one of the oldest, living, and well-documented medical traditions of the world. It is practised in Tibet, Mongolia, Bhutan and some parts of China, Nepal and Himalayan regions of India. The majority of theory and practice of Sowa Rigpa is similar to Ayurveda. It is a recent addition to the existing family of AYUSH systems in India.

Q3. Consider the following statements about Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971:

- 1. Under the Act, a woman can legally opt for abortion within 20 weeks of pregnancy without permission from the Court.
- 2. The Act provides for 12 weeks of maternity leave for working women.
- 3. All types of surrogacy are legal in India under the above Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Exp: The maternity leave for working women has been provided under The Maternity Benefit Act. Only altruistic surrogacy has been legalised in India under the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016.

Q4. Later Vedic period is different from early Vedic period in which of the following ways?

- 1. Use of Iron
- 2. Agriculture as chief means of livelihood
- 3. Painted grey ware pottery
- 4. Use of copper

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: C

Exp: The Vedic period (C.1500-C.500 BCE) was the period of Indian history during which the Vedas, the oldest scriptures of Hinduism were composed. During early Vedic period, the Indo-Aryan culture was a tribal, pastoral society. Iron was also unknown in early Vedic period. The later Vedic period (roughly from C. 1200 BCE – C. 500 BCE) was characterised by settled agriculture, use of iron and painted grey ware pottery. Copper has been in use in India since the Indus Valley civilisation. Iron was known as Shyama or Krishna Ayas in later Vedic period.

Q5. The term 'river regime' refers to which of the following?

- A. The course of a river from her source to mouth.
- B. It is an area drained by a river and its tributaries.
- C. It is the catchment area from which a river collects the water.
- D. It is the pattern of flow of water in a river channel over a year.

Answer: D

Exp: An area drained by a river and its tributaries is called a drainage basin. A river drains the water collected from a specific area, which is called its 'catchment area'.

Q6. Which of the following steps can reduce fiscal deficit?

- 1. Implementation of the Goods and Services Tax.
- 2. Implementation of the recommendations of 7th Pay Commission.
- 3. Rationalisation of fertiliser subsidies.
- 4. Increasing crude oil prices.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: B

Exp: Fiscal deficit is the difference between the government's total expenditure and its total receipts excluding borrowings. Implementation of the recommendations of 7th Pay Commission will increase government's expenditure. At the same time, increasing crude oil prices also gives rise to higher public expenditure, as India is dependent upon imported crude oil.

Q7. Consider the following statements about Gravitational waves:

- 1. Isaac Newton predicted gravitational waves based on his law of universal gravitation.
- 2. First observation of gravitational waves was made in 2016 by Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO).

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: Gravitational waves were predicted by Albert Einstein on the basis of his theory of general relativity. Gravitational waves cannot exist in the Newton's law of universal gravitation, since it is predicted on the assumption that physical interactions are propagated at infinite speed.

Q8. Consider the following statements about the institution of Lokpal in India:

- 1. The jurisdiction of Lokpal includes the President, the Prime Minister as well as the Judges of Supreme Court and the High Courts.
- 2. The Lokpal cannot *suo motu* proceed against any public servant.

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 jurisdiction of Lokpal includes the Prime Minister, Ministers, Members of the Parliament and Groups A, B, C and D officers and officials of the Central Government. One of the drawback of the institution of Lokpal in India is that it cannot *suo motu* proceed against public servant.

Q9. In the context of medieval literature in India, what is the subject matter of Mitakshara written by Vijnanesvara?

- A. A treatise on the system of ancient medicine
- B. A treatise on south Indian music.
- C. A commentary on the law book of Yajnavalkya.
- D. A commentary on contemporary literature.

Answer: C

Exp: Many medieval jurists wrote lengthy commentaries on the Smriti literature. Of these, the most important was Vijnanesvara, who wrote at the court of the great Chalukya emperor, Vikramaditya-VI. His Mitakshara, a commentary on the law book of Yajnavalkya, played a very important part in forming the civil law of modern India.

Q10. Consider the following statements about Oceanic Pollution:

1. Dead Sea zones in the oceans are areas of excessive salinity where aquatic life cannot sustain.
2. Oceanic acidification is caused by increased levels of carbon dioxide in the oceans.
3. Eutrophication of oceans results in an increase in the primary productivity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Exp: Dead zones are hypoxic (low oxygen) areas in the world's ocean. These occur near inhabited coastlines where aquatic life is most concentrated. The vast middle portions of the oceans, which naturally have little life, are not considered "Dead Zones." Ocean acidification is the ongoing decrease in the pH of the oceans, caused by the uptake of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere. Eutrophication, is the enrichment of a water body with nutrients, usually with an excess amount of nutrients. This process induces growth of plants and algae (i.e. increases primary productivity) and due to the biomass load, may result in oxygen depletion of the water body.

Q11. The price at which the Central Government provides foodgrains to States and Union Territories for distribution through public distribution system (PDS) shops is called which of the following?

- A. Fair and remunerative price
- B. Central issue price
- C. Market price adjusted to economic costs
- D. Minimum support price

Answer: B

Exp: Fair and remunerative price (FRP) is the existing arrangement for the price to be paid to sugarcane farmers by sugar mills and it is announced each year by the Centre, under the sugarcane control order and on the advice of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). Minimum support price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices. The MSPs are

announced by the Government at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of recommendations of the CACP.

Q12. Consider the following statements about climatic conditions of India:

1. Jet streams blowing over Indian subcontinent during winter season are nothing but westerly winds.
2. Western cyclonic disturbances are brought into India by the Jet Streams from Mediterranean Sea.

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: Higher up in the lower troposphere, about three km above the surface of the earth, a different pattern of air circulation is observed. The variations in the atmospheric pressure closer to the surface of the earth have no role to play in the making of upper air circulation. All of Western and Central Asia remains under the influence of westerly winds along the altitude of 9-13 km from west to east. These winds blow across the Asian continent at latitudes north of the Himalayas roughly parallel to the Tibetan highlands are known as jet streams. Tibetan highlands act as a barrier in the path of these jet streams. As a result, jet streams are bifurcated. One of its branches blows to the north of the Tibetan highlands, while the southern branch blows in an eastward direction, south of the Himalayas. It has its mean position at 25°N in February at 200-300 mb level. It is believed that this southern branch of the jet stream exercises an important influence on the winter weather in India.

Q13. During hot summer days, we observe the air above land to be shimmering. What can be the reason behind it?

- A. Reflection of Sun's rays from the Earth's surface.
- B. Refraction of sunlight due to air molecules.
- C. Reflection of Sun's rays by vapour coming out of soil.
- D. Scattering of sunlight by vapour coming out of soil.

Answer: C

Exp: On a hot summer day, water in the soil evaporates. The water vapour coming out of the soil reflects the sunlight irregularly due to which the air above the soil seems to shimmer.

Q14. The Prime Minister recently launched Urja Ganga Project in Varanasi. The project is about

- A. Inland waterways development
- B. Rejuvenation and cleaning of river Ganga.
- C. Renewable energy.
- D. Gas pipeline project beneficial for Varanasi and Eastern India.

Answer: D

Exp: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Urja Ganga gas pipeline project in his constituency Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. A pipeline of length 2540-km is planned to be laid across the states from Uttar Pradesh to Odisha.

Q15. Reserve Money includes which of the following?

1. Currency in circulation
2. Bank deposits with the RBI
3. Deposits in commercial banks.
4. 'Other' deposits with the RBI.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

Answer: B

Exp: Reserve Money is also called as Central Bank Money, Monetary base, Base money, high-powered money and sometimes narrow money. It is the base level for money supply or the high-powered component of money supply.

Q16. Consider the following statements about bicameral legislature at State level:

1. Article 169 of the Constitution provides for creation or abolition of Legislative Council through a Parliamentary law.

2. A law enacted by the Parliament for the purpose of creation or abolition of Legislative Council would not be considered as a Constitutional Amendment under the Article 368.

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: None

Q17. Consider the following statements about Harappan seals:

1. Every seal is engraved in a pictographic script.

2. Some seals have also been found in gold.

3. The purpose of producing seals was mainly commercial.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Exp: Archaeologists have discovered thousands of seals, usually made of steatite, and occasionally of agate (a variety of silica, chiefly characterised by its fineness of grain and brightness of colour), chert (a hard, dark, opaque rock composed of silica), copper, faience (glazed ceramic ware) and terracotta, with beautiful figures of animals, as unicorn bull, rhinoceros, tiger, elephant, bison, buffalo, etc. The realistic rendering of these animals in various moods is remarkable. The purpose of producing seals was mainly commercial. It appears that the seals were also used as amulets, perhaps as modern-day identity cards. The Harappan seal was a square plaque 2x2 square, usually made from the soft river stone, steatite. Every seal is engraved in a pictographic script, which is yet to be deciphered. Some seals have also been found in gold and ivory.

Q18. Consider the following statements:

1. The Narmada river does not form a delta.

2. The Chenab river originates in India and is the largest tributary of the Indus.

3. The Luni is the largest river system of Rajasthan and it has inland drainage system.

Which of the statements given above about drainage system of India is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: D

Exp: There was upheaval of the Himalayas when the northern flank of the peninsular block was subjected to subsidence. This resulted in trough faulting. The Narmada and The Tapi flow in trough faults and fill the original cracks with their detritus materials. Hence, there is a lack of alluvial and deltaic deposits in these rivers. The Chenab is the largest tributary of the

Indus. It is formed by two streams, the Chandra and the Bhaga, which join at Tandi near Keylong in Himachal Pradesh. Hence, it is also known as Chandrabhaga.

Luni is the largest river system of Rajasthan, west of Aravali. It originates near Pushkar in two branches, i.e. the Saraswati and the Sabarmati, which join with each other at Govindgarh. From here, the river comes out of Aravali and is known as Luni. It flows towards the west till Telwara and then takes a southwest direction to join the Rann of Kuchchh. The entire river system is ephemeral.

Q19. The increasing concentration of a substance, such as toxic chemicals in the tissues of organisms at successively higher levels in a food chain is known as which of the following?

- A. Bio-remediation.
- B. Bio accumulation
- C. Bioamplification
- D. Biofortification

Answer: C

Exp: (1) Bioremediation is a waste management technique that involves the use of organisms to remove or neutralise pollutants from a contaminated site.

(2) Bioaccumulation refers to the accumulation of substances, such as pesticides, or other chemicals in an organism. Bioaccumulation occurs when an organism absorbs a toxic substance at a rate faster than that at which the substance is lost by catabolism and excretion.

(3) Bioamplification or biomagnification is the increasing concentration of a substance, such as toxic chemical in the tissues of organisms at successively higher levels in a food chain.

(4) Biofortification is the process by which the nutritional quality of food crops is improved through agronomic practices, conventional plant breeding or modern biotechnology.

Q20. When does the Government of India announce the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for important agricultural crops?

- A. Just after the sowing of crops.
- B. After the start of the harvesting of crops.
- C. Before the start of the sowing season of crops.
- D. They are announced in the Budget.

Answer: C

Exp: The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) are announced by the Government before the start of the sowing of crop to enable farmers to make informed decisions.

Q21. Consider the following statements regarding Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards:

1. It is the highest sports honour in India for individual sportspersons.
2. There were four recipients of this Award in 2016, all of whom were women.
3. P. V. Sindhu became the youngest recipient of the Award.

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: A

Exp: The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is the highest sporting honour of India. It is awarded annually by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The most recent recipients of the Award are badminton player P.V. Sindhu, gymnast Deepa Karmakar, sports shooter Jitu Rai and wrestler Sakshi Mallik. In 2001, sports shooter Abhinav Bindra, then aged 18, became the youngest recipient of the Award.

Q22. Under the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The provisions of Part-IX of the Constitution are not applicable to the Fifth Schedule areas.
2. Every village shall have a Gram Sabha consisting of persons whose names are included in the electoral rolls for the panchayats at the village level.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: B

Exp: The PESA Act of 1996 is enacted to make provisions of Part-IX of the Constitution applicable to the Fifth Schedule areas.

Q23. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below:

	List-I (Harappan Settlement)		List-II (River)
A.	Lothal	1.	Indus
B.	Kalibangan	2.	Sutlej
C.	Ropar	3.	Ravi
D.	Harappa	4.	Ghaggar
E.	Mohenjodaro	5.	Bhogavo

- A. a:5 b:4 c:2 d:3 e:1
- B. a:2 b:5 c:1 d:4 e:3
- C. a:4 b:5 c:2 d:1 e:3
- D. a:5 b:4 c:3 d:1 e:2

Answer: A

Exp: None

Q24. Which of the following statements about Prime Minister Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKY) is/are correct?

1. It is a programme launched to reduce supply-side bottlenecks for the mining sector of the country.
2. The District Mineral Foundations (DMF) implements the programme.
3. The activities taken under "Polluter Pays Principle" cannot be included under PMKKY.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: C

Exp: The Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKY) is a new programme meant to provide for the welfare of areas and people affected by mining related operations, using the funds generated by District Mineral Foundations (DMFs). The objective of PMKKY scheme will be (a) to implement various developmental and welfare projects/programs in mining affected areas that complement the existing ongoing schemes/projects of State and Central Government; (b) to minimize/mitigate the adverse impacts, during and after mining, on the environment, health and socio-economics of people in mining districts; and (c) to ensure long-term sustainable livelihoods for the affected people in mining areas. Care has been taken to include all aspects of living, to ensure substantial improvement in the quality of life. High priority areas like drinking water supply, health care, sanitation, education, skill development, women and child care, welfare of aged and disabled people, skill development and environment conservation will get at least 60 % share of the

funds. For creating a supportive and conducive living environment, balance funds will be spent on making roads, bridges, railways, waterways projects, irrigation, and alternative energy sources. This way, government is facilitating mainstreaming of the people from lower strata of society, tribals and forest-dwellers who have no wherewithal and are affected the most from mining activities.

Q25. Consider the following statements about FDI in higher education in India:

1. Currently, the Government allows 100% foreign investment in this sector through the automatic route.
2. The granting of degrees by foreign institutions is not permitted.

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 University Grants Commission Act states that only Universities established by an Act of Parliament or State Legislature, and those declared deemed universities by the government can award degrees.

Q26. Which of the following statements is NOT correct about aerobic respiration?

- A. Carbon dioxide is always produced.
- B. It takes place outside mitochondria.
- C. End products of aerobic respiration are always organic.
- D. In aerobic respiration energy is produced.

Answer: B

Exp: Aerobic respiration takes place within mitochondria.

Q27. Consider the following statements regarding HIMANSH (High Altitude Research Station):

1. It is located in Jammu and Kashmir.
2. It is established under the Ministry of Earth Science.
3. It aims to quantify the glacier melting and study its relationship with climate change.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: A

Exp: HIMANSH is located in Spiti Valley in Himachal Pradesh (Source: The Hindu, Oct, 2016).

Q28. Consider the following statements about the Chera dynasty of Kerala:

1. The earliest traveller's accounts attesting the existence of the Cheras is by the Greek ambassador Megasthenes.
2. The Chera dynasty is credited with setting up the Mahodayapuram Observatory, the first astronomical observatory in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Exp: The Cheras were the principal ruling dynasty of the present say state of Kerala. The origins of the dynasty are unclear. The earliest traveller accounts attesting the existence of the Cheras are by the Greek ambassador Megasthenes.

Mahodayapuram was the capital of the later Chera kings. The city was famous throughout south India in the 9th and 10th century as a great centre of learning and science. A well-equipped observatory functioned under the charge of Sankaranarayana, the Chera court astronomer.

Q29. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

	List-I (Species)		List-II (Habitat)
1.	The Narcondam Hornbill	:	High Himalayas
2.	The Bharal	:	The Andaman and Nicobar Islands
3.	The Bengal Florican	:	Nepal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: B

Exp: The Narcondam hornbill is a species of hornbill. It is endemic to the Indian island of Narcondam in the Andaman. Narcondam hornbill has a conservation status of endangered. The Bharal, also known as Himalayan blue sheep or naur is found in the high Himalayas of India, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet, and Pakistan. The Bharal is categorised as least concern by the IUCN. The Bengal Florican also called as the Bengal bustard, is a bustard species native to the Indian subcontinent, Cambodia and Vietnam. It is listed as critically endangered by the IUCN.

Q30. Consider the following statements about Teaser loans:

1. These are high interest loans advanced towards small infrastructure projects.
2. Teaser loans are considered to be an aspect of sub-prime lending and may create default like situation.

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: Teaser loan is an adjustable rate mortgage loan in which the borrowers pay a very low initial interest rate, which increases after a few years. Teaser loans try to entice borrowers by offering an artificially low rate and small down payments, claiming that borrowers should be able to refinance before the increases occur.

Q31. Consider the following statements about the Komagata Maru incident:

1. The steamship Komagata Maru sailed from Kolkata to Vancouver with Indian immigrants but was denied entry by Canada.
2. This incident helped Ghadar Movement to rally support from the Indian diaspora.
3. Recently, the Canadian Prime Minister gave a formal full apology for the almost 100-year old incident in the Canadian House of Commons.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

D. None of the above

Answer: B

Exp: The Komagata Maru incident involved Japanese steamship Komagata Maru on which a group of citizens of the British Raj attempted to immigrate into Canada in 1914 but were denied entry.

Komagata Maru had sailed from Hong Kong to Vancouver.

Q32. Consider the following ecosystems:

1. Taiga
2. Tropical evergreen
3. Tropical deciduous
4. Tundra

What is the correct sequence in decreasing order of the albedo values of these ecosystems?

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

Answer: C

Exp: Albedo is a measure of how much light that hits a surface is reflected without being absorbed. The amount of energy that is reflected by a surface is determined by the reflectivity of that surface, called the albedo. A high albedo means the surface reflects the majority of the radiation that hits it and absorbs the rest. A low albedo means a surface reflects a small amount of the incoming radiation and absorbs the rest. For instance, fresh snow reflects up to 95% of the incoming radiation.

Q33. Chabahar port was in news recently. Consider the following statements in this context:

1. It is Iran's only oceanic port.
2. It is located on the Persian Gulf.

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: The port is located on Gulf of Oman. It is only Iranian port with direct access to the ocean.

Q34. Who among the following has the authority to transfer a judge of the High Court?

- A. The Chief Justice of the High Court concerned
- B. The Governor of State concerned
- C. The Chief Justice of India
- D. The President of India

Answer: D

Exp: The Judges of a State High Court are appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the government of the State. They can also be transferred and removed by the President.

Q35. Consider the following statements about Tax buoyancy:

1. Tax buoyancy is an indicator to measure efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditure in proportion to growth in National Income.
2. A tax is said to be buoyant if the tax revenues increase more than proportionately in response to a rise in national income.

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: Tax buoyancy is an indicator to measure efficiency and responsiveness of revenue mobilisation in response to growth in the GDP or the National Income.

Q36. Consider the following statements about 'Responsive Cooperation' during the Indian Freedom Struggle:

1. Bal Gangadhar Tilak in relation to the proposed Montague-Chelmsford Reforms adopted this concept.
2. The Swarajist Party established in 1923 was based on this concept.
3. Mahatma Gandhi was one of the chief supporters of responsive cooperation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Exp: Joseph Baptista originally coined the term Responsive Cooperation and Lokamanya Tilak as a 'divine revelation – whereby he thought that the people of India would cooperate with British reforms if the British were willing to cooperate with Indians in return, adopted the concept.

Mahatma Gandhi did not favour responsive cooperation instead; he proposed non-cooperation with the Government.

Q37. The shrinking of the Aral Sea was in news recently. The Aral Sea is located between which of the following countries?

- A. Turkey and Armenia
- B. Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
- C. Kazakhstan and Russia
- D. Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan

Answer: D

Exp: The Aral Sea was an endorheic (*a closed drainage basin that retains water and allows no outflow to other external bodies of water, such as rivers or oceans, but converges instead into lakes or swamps*) lake lying between Kazakhstan in the north and Uzbekistan in the south. Formerly one of the four largest lakes in the world with an area of 68,000 km², the Aral Sea has been steadily shrinking since the 1960s after the rivers that fed it were diverted by Soviet irrigation projects. By 2007, it had declined to 10% of its original size, splitting into four lakes – the North Aral Sea, the eastern and western basins of the once far larger South Aral Sea, and one smaller lake between the North and South Aral Seas. By 2009, the southeastern lake had disappeared and the southwestern lake had retreated to a thin strip at the western edge of the former southern sea; in subsequent years, occasional water flows have led to the southeastern lake sometimes being replenished to a small degree. Satellite images taken by NASA in August 2014 revealed that for the first time in modern history the eastern basin of the Aral Sea had completely dried up. The eastern basin is now called the Aralkum Desert.

Q38. Consider the following statements about emission standards in India:

1. The Bharat norms set specifications/ limits for the release of air pollutants from vehicles only.
2. India decided to skip implementation of BS-IV norms and will implement BS-VI norms from 2022.
3. Implementation of new norms require changes in the engines as well as in the fuel.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only

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

Answer: C

Exp: Bharat stage emission standards and emission standards are instituted by the Government of India to regulate the output of air pollutants from internal combustion engines and spark-ignition engines equipment including motor vehicles. In 13 major cities, Bharat Stage IV emission norms have been in place since April 2010, and it is enforced for whole country from April 2017. In 2016 the Indian Government announced that the country would skip the BS-V norms altogether and adopt BS-VI norms from 2020. The implementation of new norms requires changes in the engines as well as in the fuel.

Q39. Widespread resistance of malaria parasite to drugs like chloroquine has prompted attempts to develop a malaria vaccine to combat malaria. Why is it difficult to develop an effective malaria vaccine?

- A. Malaria is caused by several species of plasmodium.
- B. Human beings cannot develop immunity to malaria when naturally infected.
- C. Vaccines can be developed only against bacteria.
- D. Human beings are only an intermediate host and not the definitive host.

Answer: A

Exp: Malaria is caused by several species of plasmodium. Therefore, it is difficult to control Malaria through vaccine.

Q40. Consider the following statements regarding payments bank:

- 1. A payments bank can accept a restricted deposit of up to Rs. 1 lakh per customer.
- 2. A payments bank cannot provide loans to its customers.
- 3. Mobile telephone companies, super market chains, public sector entities are eligible to apply for setting up payments bank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Exp: Payments banks is a new model of banks conceptualised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). These banks can accept a restricted deposit, which is currently limited to ₹1 lakh per customer and may be increased further. These banks cannot issue loans and credit cards. Both current account and savings accounts can be operated by such banks. Payments banks can issue services like ATM cards, debit cards, net banking, and mobile banking. Airtel has launched India's first live payments bank. Paytm is the second such service to be launched in the country. India Post Payments Bank is the third entity to receive payments bank permit after Bharti Airtel and Paytm. Aditya Birla group earned payments bank permit on 3 March 2017. The minimum capital requirement is ₹100 crore.

Q41. Consider the following statements about Indus Water Treaty:

- 1. It was brokered by the United Nations.
- 2. China has been given the status of observer state under the treaty.
- 3. The treaty deals with Indus as well as Beas, Ravi, Sutlej, Chenab and Jhelum.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Exp: The treaty was brokered by the World Bank. There is no observer state under the treaty and China was kept outside the treaty despite the origin of Indus river being in Tibet, China.

Q42. Consider the following statements about the Constituent Assembly:

1. The Cabinet Mission put forth a scheme for a Constituent Assembly.
2. The members of the Constituent Assembly were both partly elected and partly nominated.
3. Mahatma Gandhi was not a member of the Constituent Assembly while Mohammad Ali Jinnah was a member of the Constituent Assembly.

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: B

Exp: Mahatma Gandhi as well as Mohammad Ali Jinnah were not the members of the Constituent Assembly.

Q43. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

	Newspaper	:	Founder
1.	New India	:	Mrs. Annie Besant
2.	Bengal Gazette	:	James Augustus Hicky
3.	Deenbandhu	:	Mahatma Phule

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: C

Exp: Mrs. Annie Besant started new India during the Home Rule Movement to explain the existing system of government and to highlight the importance of home rule. The Bengal Gazette was an English newspaper published from Kolkata by James Augustus Hicky. It was the first major newspaper in India, started in 1780.

There were two major newspapers with the same name, "Deenbandhu." One was in Marathi language started by Mahatma Phule and another was in Malayalam language. It was started in 1941 as a weekly with V.R. Krishnan Ezhuthanchan as Editor-in-Chief.

Q44. What is the correct sequence of the following hills in India from south to north?

1. Anaimalai hills
2. Cardamom hills
3. Nilgiri hills
4. Javadi hills

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: B

Exp:



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Q45. In which of the following States of India crop colonies are being established to attain self-sufficiency in food and vegetable production in drought prone areas?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Telangana
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Madhya Pradesh

Answer: B

Exp: The Telangana government is set to launch the ambitious crop colonies project. There are plans to create 54 crop colony clusters in the State including vegetable crop colonies. A crop colony is meant to grow a particular crop in a given village or a cluster of villages. The idea is to ensure that adequate quantities of various crops including vegetables are grown in the State to meet the demand for food grains and pulses among other commodities.

Q46. Which of the following statements about National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) is/are correct?

1. NIDM has been established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and comes under administrative control of the Prime Minister's Office.
2. The NIDM has been mandated by the Govt. of India to be a deemed University and an Institute of excellence of higher learning and capacity building.
3. It also serves as International SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: C

Exp: It comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Q47. Consider the following statements about the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR):

1. It is a network of internationally designated protected areas, recognised by UNESCO.
2. Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve was added to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 2016.
3. There are only ten biosphere reserves from India that are included in WNBR.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Exp: The UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) covers internationally designated protected areas, each known as biosphere reserves that are meant to demonstrate a balanced relationship between people and nature. Ten of the eighteen

biosphere reserves in India are a part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, based on the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme list. The Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve (ABR) was included at the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere programme of UNESCO that concluded in Peru in March 2016. ABR covers the Shendurney and Peppara wildlife sanctuaries and parts of the Neyyar sanctuary in Kerala and the Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve of Tamil Nadu.

Q48. Which of the following can be used as bio-pesticides?

1. Bacteria
2. Fungi
3. Virus
4. Protozoa

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: D

Exp: Bio-pesticides are certain types of pesticides derived from such natural sources like animals, bacteria, plants, and certain minerals. The most commonly used bio pesticides are living organisms, which are pathogenic for the pest of interest. These include bio fungicides (Trichoderma), bio herbicides (Phytophthora) and bio insecticides (Bacillus thuringiensis). There are few plant products also which can now be used as a major bio pesticide source. Plant-incorporated protectants include substances that are produced naturally on genetic modification of plants. Such examples are incorporation of Bt gene, protease inhibitor, lectines, chitinase etc into the plant genome so that the transgenic plant synthesizes its own substance that destroys the targeted pest.

Q49. Consider the following statements:

1. Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) are the Fundamental Principles of governance and put moral obligation on the government to use these while making laws.
2. Though DPSP are not judicially enforceable, several laws have been enacted to implement these principles.

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: None

Q50. Consider the following statements about "Price Deficiency Payments":

1. These are the payments paid by the Government to petroleum marketing companies if domestic prices fall below international prices of petroleum products.
2. These are the payments paid by the Government to farmers if Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) prices fall below the Minimum Support Price (MSP).
3. Such payments may breach India's obligation to the WTO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Exp: Under Price Deficiency Payment System if the price of an Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) market falls below the MSP then the farmer would be entitled to a

maximum of, say 50% of difference between the MSP and the market price. This subsidy could be paid via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Such a system would keep the quantum of the subsidy bill in check and also be consistent with India's obligation to the WTO.

Q51. Which of the following is/are the circumstance/s favouring growth of left ideologies in India in early 20th century?

1. Crippling financial burdens, rising prices of necessities of life due to the First World War
2. Glory of the new regime in the then USSR.
3. Gandhiji's slogan of "Swaraj" and "Swadeshi" and his attempt to carry their message to every Indian.
4. Unemployment among educated Indian youth.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: D

Exp: Gandhiji's slogan of Swaraj and Swadeshi and his attempt to carry the message to every nook and corner of India gave a new orientation to the political movement. Even the workers and peasants were drawn into the mainstream of national life. These new developments provided a fertile ground for inauguration of an organised and ideologically inspired socialist movement.

Q52. Which of the following is/are extinct volcanoes?

1. Mt. Vesuvius in Italy
2. Mt. Etna in Sicily
3. Narcondam Island in India
4. Barren Island in India
5. Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 and 4 only
- C. 3 and 5 only
- D. None of these

Answer: C

Exp: An extinct volcano is one, which is no longer active and has not erupted in historical times. Barren Island is an island located in the Andaman Sea. It is the only confirmed active volcano in South Asia, and the only active volcano along a chain of volcanoes from Sumatra to Myanmar. Narcondam is a small volcanic island located in the Andaman Sea. The Geological Survey of India classifies it as a dormant volcano.

Q53. Consider the following statements related to Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana:

1. It is a small deposit savings scheme for a girl child below the age of 10 years.
2. Under the scheme, the minimum amount to be deposited per year is Rs. 1000 with equal contribution from government for first five years.
3. Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) can also participate in this scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Exp: The Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana is a small deposit savings scheme for a girl child below age of 10 years. Under the scheme, a Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana account can be opened in any of the commercial banks or post office. This account can be opened even at the time of

birth of a girl child. The maximum age for opening an account under this scheme is 10 years. Under the scheme, the minimum amount to be deposited per year is Rs.1000 and maximum amount is Rs.1.5 lakh per year. There will be no contribution from the Government. The NRIs cannot participate in this Scheme.

Q54. Which of the following statements about All India Judicial Services (AIJS) is/are correct?

1. The authorisation of Rajya Sabha is must for the creation of All India Judicial Services.
2. The Indian Constitution (after 42nd Amendment Act in 1976) provides for creation of the All India Judicial Services.

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: Under Article 312, Rajya Sabha has special power by which it can authorise the Parliament to create new All India Services common to both the Centre and States.

Q55. Consider the following statements regarding Monetary Policy:

1. The RBI announces the monetary policy statement once in two months.
 2. Monetary policy is a very effective tool to control inflation as it can directly control both supply and demand side constraints.
 3. Under the RBI Act, the Governor will have to explain failure if inflation targets are not met.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Exp: Monetary policy is the process by which monetary authority of a country, generally central bank controls the supply of money in the economy by its control over interest rates in order to maintain price stability and achieve high economic growth. In India, the central monetary authority is the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It is so designed as to maintain the price stability in the economy. Under the present Monetary Policy Framework Agreement signed on 20 February 2015, the RBI will be responsible for containing inflation targets at 4% (with a standard deviation of 2%) in the medium term. This agreement is given statutory backing by amending RBI Act. Under Section 45ZA(1) of the RBI Act, 1934, the Central Government determines the inflation target in terms of the Consumer Price Index, once in every five years in consultation with the RBI. Though the central bank already had a monetary framework and was implementing the monetary policy, the newly designed statutory framework would mean that the RBI would have to give an explanation in the form of a report to the Central Government, if it failed to reach the specified inflation targets. In the report it shall give reasons for failure, remedial actions as well as estimated time within which the inflation target shall be achieved.

Q56. Which of the following incident was regarded as “Himalayan Blunder” by Mahatma Gandhi?

- A. Withdrawal of Non-Cooperation Movement after Chauri Chaura mob violence
- B. Launch of Non-Cooperation Movement without adequate discipline and restraint on the part of the people
- C. Jallianwala Bagh massacre
- D. Satyagraha and hartal against the Rowlatt Act.

Answer: D

Exp: Mahatma Gandhi declared the satyagraha and hartal against the Rowlatt Act – as a “Himalayan Blunder”. He was shocked by Jallianwala Bagh massacre and suspended the satyagraha.

Q57. Which of the following is/are the characteristic of a stable ecosystem?

1. Dynamic equilibrium
2. Maturity
3. High inertia
4. Low species diversity

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: C

Exp: None

Q58. Which of the following radioactive elements is/are found in human body?

1. Potassium – 40
2. Carbon – 14
3. Uranium
4. Thorium

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: D

Exp: Radioactive elements like Potassium-40, Carbon-14, Uranium, Thorium, etc. are naturally found in human body. Also, banana and some vegetables are source of Potassium-40 and Carbon-14 respectively.

Q59. Consider the following statements about Multilateral Export Control Regimes:

1. There are currently four export control regimes.
2. Except for the Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG), India is a member of the other regimes.
3. The Wassenaar Agreement controls chemical and biological technology that could be weaponised.

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: A

Exp: There are currently four multi-lateral export control regimes viz.

1. The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)
2. The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)
3. The Wassenaar Agreement
4. The Australia Group

India is a member of only MTCR. The Wassenaar Agreement controls the export of conventional arms and dual use of goods and technology. The Australia Group controls export of chemical and biological technology that could be weaponised.

Q60. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

	Sector	Regulator
1.	Capital Market	Reserve Bank of India
2.	Commodity Market	Forward Market Commission (FMC)
3.	Government Securities Market	Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: D

Exp: (1) Capital Market in India is regulated by SEBI. (2) Commodity Market after merger of FMC with SEBI is regulated by SEBI. (3) Government securities market is regulated by RBI.

Q61. China is constructing its first overseas military base in

- A. Pakistan
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Djibouti
- D. Myanmar

Answer: C

Exp: None

Q62. Consider the following statements in the context of imposition of President's Rule in States:

1. In a State, President's rule can be imposed only when Governor of the State recommends it.
2. In S.R. Bommai case, the Supreme Court ruled that once President's rule is imposed in a State, the State Assembly stands dissolved automatically.
3. Massive defeat of a State ruling party in general elections to Lok Sabha is one situation when the Governor can construe that State Legislature has lost public support and can recommend President's rule.

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: D

Exp: The President's rule can be imposed on the basis of Governor's recommendations or otherwise i.e. without Governor's recommendations. In S.R. Bommai case, the Supreme Court ruled that even if President's rule is imposed in a State, the State assembly does not stand dissolved automatically. The third statement is not a ground for imposition of President's Rule. It is one of the situations, which do not amount to failure of constitutional machinery in a State, and thus President's rule cannot be imposed on this ground.

Q63. What were the major components of the concept of "Total Revolution" of Jai Prakash Narayan?

1. A movement against the leadership of Indira Gandhi.
2. A movement against political parties as Jai Prakash Narayan believed in party less government.
3. A non-violent struggle against the police and army excesses.
4. A struggle against the corrupt administrative/governance system.

Which of the above statements is/ are correct?

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

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

Answer: C

Exp: In March 1974, students came together in Bihar to protest against rising prices, food scarcity, unemployment, and corruption. After a point, they invited Jayaprakash Narayan (JP), who had given up active politics and was involved in social work, to lead the student movement. He accepted it on the condition that the movement will remain non-violent and will not limit itself to Bihar. Thus, the students' movement assumed a political character and had national appeal. People from all walks of life now entered the movement. Jayaprakash Narayan demanded the dismissal of the Congress government and gave a call for total revolution in the social, economic, and political spheres in order to establish what he considered to be true democracy. A series of bandhs, gehraos, and strikes were organised in protest against the Bihar government. The government, however, refused to resign.

Q64. Consider the following statements about the impact of El Nino and La Nina:

1. Fewer hurricanes and other tropical cyclones in the north Atlantic is result of El Nino
2. La Nina causes milder winters in southern Canada and the northern continental United States.
3. Snowfall in the Mediterranean region is resulted by El Nino.
4. Drought in Indonesia is an impact of El Nino.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: D

Exp: El Nino causes milder winters in southern Canada and the northern continental United States. Snowfall in the Mediterranean region is an impact of La Nina.

Q65. Consider the following statements about the value added method for national income calculation:

1. Gross Value Added (GVA) at factor cost does not include any taxes.
2. GVA at basic prices includes production taxes and excludes production subsidies available on the commodity.
3. GDP at market prices includes both production and product taxes and excludes both production and product subsidies.

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 these

Answer: C

Exp: $GVA \text{ at basic price} = GVA \text{ of factor cost} + (\text{Production taxes} - \text{production subsidies})$
 $GVA \text{ at market price} = GVA \text{ at basic price} + (\text{Product taxes} - \text{product subsidies})$
 $GDP \text{ at market price} = GDP \text{ at factor cost} + (\text{Indirect taxes} - \text{subsidies})$

Q66. Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA):

1. It is a scheme to provide fixed day antenatal and post natal care to pregnant and lactating women.
2. Providing nutritional support to pregnant women from BPL category is an important component of the Scheme

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 Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan is a new initiative of the Government launched in June 2016. The Scheme has been launched with the objective of boosting the healthcare facilities for the pregnant women, especially the poor. Under the Scheme, the pregnant women will be given free health checkup and required treatment free on 9th day of every month. The scheme is applicable only for the pregnant women. The second statement is about the Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana under the National Food Security Act of 2013.

Q67. With reference to Unstarred questions in the Parliament, consider the following statements:

1. These questions require a written answer hence, no further questions can be asked.
2. These questions are answered only in zero hours.

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: Unstarred questions are answered in written form so no supplementary questions can be asked. These questions are asked during question hour.

Q68. With reference to India's culture and tradition, what is 'Silambam'?

- A. It is an annual Buffalo race held traditionally in Karnataka.
- B. It is a weapon based Indian martial art from Tamil Nadu.
- C. It is a major festival in Arunachal Pradesh and marks the Tibetan new year.
- D. It is a folk dance form of Rajasthan.

Answer: B

Exp: The annual Buffalo race held traditionally in Karnataka is called as Kambala. The Losar is a major festival in Arunachal Pradesh and marks the Tibetan New Year. Kalbelia is one of the most sensuous dance forms of Rajasthan, performed by a tribe of the same name.

Q69. Consider the following statements about the System of Rice Intensification (SRI):

1. It involves deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient in the rice.
2. The SRI first originated in Madagascar.
3. The SRI is only a management approach and does not require new varieties of plants.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Exp: The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) is a methodology aimed at increasing the yield of rice produced in farming. It is a low water, labour-intensive, method that uses younger seedlings singly spaced, and typically, hand weeded with special tools. The French Jesuit Father Henri de Laulanié in Madagascar developed it in 1983. Biofortification involves the deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient in food crops.

Q70. Tipaimukh dam, which was in news, recently, is being constructed on which river and in which State?

- A. The Brahmaputra river in Arunachal Pradesh
- B. The Barak river in Manipur.
- C. The Barak river in Tripura.

D. The Tawang river in Arunachal Pradesh.

Answer: B

Exp: The Tipaimukh Dam is a proposed embankment dam on the river Barak in Manipur. The construction of dam has been subject to repeated delays as the project developed, as there has been controversy between India and Bangladesh – over water rights, in addition to questions of environmental effects of the huge project.

Q71. Which of the following factors are used to determine Macro-Economic Vulnerability Index (MVI)?

1. Current Account Deficit
2. Fiscal Deficit
3. Primary Deficit
4. Inflation Rate
5. Revenue Deficit
6. Tax to GDP Ratio

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: A

Exp: The Macro-Economic Vulnerability index was introduced in Economic Survey 2014-15. It adds a country's fiscal deficit, current account deficit, and inflation.

Q72. Which of the following is a purpose of 'Aarambh', an initiative of the Government?

- A. Providing technical and financial assistance to start-up entrepreneurs in the field of renewable sources of energy.
- B. An intensified programme of the Union Health Ministry that aims to enhance optimal breastfeeding practices in the country.
- C. Providing safe drinking water to all through a water grid project.
- D. Building a network of organisations and individuals working on child protection in the country to curb sexual abuse of children.

Answer: D

Exp: Aarambh is India's first-ever hotline to curb sexual abuse of children through the internet and to remove child porn content online. Aarambh Initiative, a network of organisations and individuals working on child protection in the country, has collaborated with the U.K. – based Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), which is an industry watchdog and is the most successful hotline in the world at removing child pornography.

Q73. The term 'Parliamentary Secretaries' was in news recently. Consider the following statements in this context:

1. They are members of the last category of the Council of Ministers.
2. At Central level, no parliamentary secretaries have been appointed until date though in some states they have been appointed.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: B

Exp: Parliamentary Secretaries are the members of the last category of the Council of Ministers. They have no department under their control. They are attached to the senior ministers and assist them in the discharge of their parliamentary duties. However, since 1967, no parliamentary secretaries have been appointed except during the first phase of Rajiv Gandhi Government.

Q74. Which of the following statements regarding Constituent Assembly is/are true?

1. It was not based on adult franchise.
2. Members of Constituent Assembly were elected by direct election.
3. It was constituted in 1946 under the Scheme formulated by Cripps Mission.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A

Exp: The provincial assemblies elected the members of the Constituent Assembly by a single transferable vote system of proportional representation. It was constituted in 1946 under the Scheme formulated by Cabinet Mission.

Q75. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

	Literary Work	Written by
1.	Mrichchhakatika	Vishakhadatta
2.	Swapnavasavadatta	Bhasa
3.	Ritusamhara	Kalidas
4.	Sisupalvadh	Magh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: B

Exp: None

Q76. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:

	List-I (Shifting Cultivation)	List-II (State)
1.	Bewar	Kerala
2.	Jhum	Assam
3.	Podu	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Punam Krishi	Madhya Pradesh

- A. a:4 b:3 c:2 d:1
- B. a:4 b:2 c:3 d:1
- C. a:3 b:2 c:1 d:4
- D. a:4 b:2 c:1 d:3

Answer: B

Exp: Shifting Cultivation refers to the form of cultivation where a large area is cultivated for few years and then abandoned for some time until the fertility of the land is restored naturally.

Q77. Which of the following is/are the methods of weed control in agriculture?

1. Tillage
2. Mulching
3. Integrated Pest Management
4. Dredging

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only

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

Answer: C

Exp: Tillage, Mulching, and Dredging are the methods of weed control in Agriculture. In Integrated Pest Management, all the suitable techniques and methods of pest control are followed in a compatible manner as possible and maintain the pest population below the levels of causing economic injury.

Q78. Consider the following statements about the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016:

1. Under the Code, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) will be the forum where Companies' and Limited Liability Partnerships' insolvency cases will be heard.
2. There is no provision to deal with cross border insolvency.

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: Under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, the NCLT will be the forum where Companies' and Limited Liability Partnerships' insolvency cases will be heard and Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) will be the forum where individual insolvencies will be heard. There is an enabling provision to deal with cross border insolvency.

Q79. Consider the following statements about International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):

1. The origin of IAEA can be traced back to Dwight D. Eisenhower's "Atom for Peace" address.
2. The IAEA has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
3. Signature and ratification of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) are pre-conditions for membership in the IAEA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Exp: In 1953, the President of the United States Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed the creation of an international body to both regulate and promote the peaceful use of atomic power in his 'Atoms for Peace' address to the UNGA. The IAEA has its headquarters in Vienna. Signature and ratification of NPT are not pre-conditions for membership in the IAEA. India is member of IAEA since 1957.

Q80. Consider the following statements in the context of Annual Financial Statement under Article 112:

1. Expenditure charged upon Consolidated Fund can be incurred without passage of Appropriation Act passed by Parliament.
2. Committee on Estimates can suggest alternative policies other than policies laid down in Annual Financial Statement.

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 Constitution states that no money shall be withdrawn from the consolidated Fund of India except under appropriation made by law. The Estimates Committee is described as a 'continuous economy committee'. One of the functions of Committee is to suggest alternative policies in order to bring about efficiency and economy in administration.

Q81. Which of the following statements regarding the Vijaynagara Style of architecture is/are correct?

1. Vijaynagara style of architecture incorporates features from not only the Dravidian architecture style of the Cholas and Pandyas, but from the Indo-Islamic style as well.
2. The characteristic feature of the Vijaynagara temple architecture is the development of the temple complex.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Exp: Vijayanagara architecture can be broadly classified into religious, courtly, and civic architecture, as can the associated sculptures and paintings. The Vijayanagara style is a combination of Chalukya, Hoysala, Pandya, and Chola styles, which evolved earlier in the centuries when these empires ruled, and is characterised by a return to the simplistic and serene art of the past. The courtly architecture generally shows secular styles with Islamic influences. Examples are the Lotus Mahal palace, Elephant stables, and watch tower. Courtly buildings and domed structures were built with mortar mixed with stone rubble.

Q82. Which of the following statements about Jarawa tribe is/are correct?

1. The Jarawa tribe belongs to Negrito racial group.
2. The Jarawa tribe lacks abstract idea of time.
3. The Jarawa speaks one of the language from the Ongan family.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: C

Exp: The Jarawas are an indigenous people of the Andaman Islands in India. They live in parts of South Andaman and Middle Andaman Islands, and their present number is estimated between 250–400 individuals. The Jarawas are the only remaining Negrito remnants of the Andaman Islands out of the four original Negrito tribes.

Q83. Which of the following pairs is/are incorrectly matched?

	Convention/ Protocol		Deals with/ Objective
1.	Stockholm Convention	:	Persistent Organic pollutants
2.	Cartagena Protocol	:	Genetically modified organisms
3.	Vienna Convention	:	Protection of ozone layer

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: D

Exp: Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is an international environmental treaty, signed in 2001 and effective from May 2004, that aims to eliminate or

restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement on biosafety as a supplement to the Convention on Biological Diversity effective since 2003. The Biosafety Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by genetically modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer is Multilateral Environmental Agreement. It was agreed upon at the Vienna Conference of 1985 and entered into force in 1988. In terms of universality, it is one of the most successful treaties of all time, having been ratified by 197 states (all United Nations members as well as the Holy See, Niue and the Cook Islands) as well as the European Union. It acts as a framework for the international efforts to protect the ozone layer. However, it does not include legally binding reduction goals for the use of CFCs, the main chemical agents causing ozone depletion. These are laid out in the accompanying Montreal Protocol.

Q84. Which of the following is a more accurate description of Hyperloop Transportation System?

- A. It is a kind of telecommunication system based on optical fibre networks.
- B. It is a new transportation system where pod like vehicle is propelled through near-vacuum tube.
- C. It is a high-speed train line operated under water.
- D. It is a new technique developed by NASA to transport passengers and freight in inter-planetary missions.

Answer: B

Exp: Hyper loop concept is a brainchild of Tesla Founder Elon Musk. Indian government has referred the proposal to set up a hyperloop transportation system in the country to NITI Aayog.

Q85. The term "Special Safeguards Mechanism" (SSM) was in news recently. What does it mean?

- A. The provision for developing countries under which they can raise tariffs temporarily to protect against import surges or fall in international prices.
- B. The provision for developed countries, which provides protection to their exports to developing countries from discriminatory domestic laws.
- C. The new security and intelligence arrangements cleared by Cabinet in wake of recent border infiltrations.
- D. The provision under which developing countries can procure food grains for public stockholding to protect farmers and food security of a country.

Answer: A

Exp: WTO's Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) is a protection measure allowed for developing countries to take contingency restrictions against agricultural imports that are causing injuries to domestic farmers. The contingency measure is imposition of tariff if the import surge causes welfare loss to the domestic poor farmers. The design and use of the SSM is an area of conflict under the WTO. At the Doha Ministerial Conference, the developing countries were given a concession to adopt a Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) besides the existing safeguards (like the Special Agricultural Safeguard or the SSG). This SSM constituted an important part of the promises offered to the developing world at Doha (known as Doha Development Agenda) and the Doha MC became known as a development round.

Q86. Which of the following statements regarding Model Code of Conduct for political parties during election is/are correct?

- 1. It comes into force as soon as election notification issued by President or Governor.
- 2. Currently Model Code of Conduct does not enjoy any legal sanction.
- 3. Once it is in operation, governments are not to transfer civil servants without consultation of the Election Commission of India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: C

Exp: Model Code of Conduct comes into force as soon as election schedule is announced by Election Commission, which is atleast three weeks in advance of election notification issued, by President or Governor.

Q87. The famous sculpture of Gajasur Shiva can be found at

- A. Ellora
- B. Khajuraho
- C. Tanjore
- D. Halebid

Answer: A

Exp: None

Q88. Consider the following statements about the Pacific Ring of Fire:

- 1. The ring of fire is a direct result of plate tectonics.
- 2. The Himalayas lies outside of the pacific ring of fire.
- 3. Most of the active volcanoes on the Ring of fire are found on its western edge.

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: The Ring of Fire is a major area in the basin of the Pacific Ocean where a large number of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur. In a 40,000 km horseshoe shape, it is associated with a nearly continuous series of oceanic trenches, volcanic arcs, and volcanic belts and/or plate movements. It has 452 volcanoes (more than 75% of the world's active and dormant volcanoes) The Ring of Fire is sometimes called the circum-Pacific belt. About 90% of the world's earthquakes and 81% of the world's largest earthquakes occur along the Ring of Fire. The next most seismically active region (5–6% of earthquakes and 17% of the world's largest earthquakes) is the Alpidic belt, which extends from Java to the northern Atlantic Ocean via the Himalayas and southern Europe. All but three of the world's 25 largest volcanic eruptions of the last 11,700 years occurred at volcanoes in the Ring of Fire. The Ring of Fire is a direct result of plate tectonics: the movement and collisions of lithospheric plates.

Q89. Which of the following sectors have been opened up for 100% FDI in India?

- 1. Civil Aviation sector
- 2. Pharmaceuticals
- 3. Defence sector
- 4. Insurance sector

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: B

Exp: For insurance sector, the FDI limit is 49%.

Q90. CRISPR-Cas9 tool, which was in news recently, is related to which of the following areas?

- A. Genome editing
- B. Virtual reality
- C. Nano-technology
- D. Artificial Intelligence

Answer: A

Exp: CRISPR-Cas9 is a technology that enables geneticists and medical researchers to edit parts of genome. It is a genome editing tool.

Q91. Consider the following statements about the Speaker of Lok Sabha:

1. The procedure for removal of Speaker is the same as a Judge of the Supreme Court.
2. Under the Constitution, the Speaker does not have right to vote in first instance.
3. The Speaker has the power to prorogue the House.

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. None of these

Answer: D

Exp: The procedure to remove the Speaker is different from that of a judge of the Supreme Court. Under the Constitution of India, the Speaker does have the right to vote in first instance during his removal. The Speaker has power to adjourn a sitting of the House, while the power to prorogue a session vests with the President.

Q92. Which of the following pair is NOT correctly matched?

Famous Temple	Dynasty

- A. Shiv Temple of Tanjore: chola
- B. Shore Temple of Mahabalipuram: Chalukya
- C. Kailash Temple at Ellora: Rashtrakuta
- D. Meenakshi Temple at Madurai: Nayak

Answer: B

Exp: Pallava King Narsimhavarman-II built Shore temple at Mahabalipuram.

Q93. Consider the following statements about Mitochondria:

1. The Mitochondria are also called as the powerhouse of the cell.
2. Only maternal mitochondria are passed on to the progeny but not paternal.

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 mitochondria are the double membrane-bound organelle found in almost all eukaryotic organisms. It is one of the most important organelles of the cell and performs various biological processes such as Adenosine Triphosphate (ATP) Synthesis, ion homeostasis calcium storage and regulation of cell death pathways. They are also known to possess their own genome. Mitochondria generate most of the cell's supply of ATP, used as a source of chemical energy. Therefore, it is also called as the powerhouse of the cell. A prokaryote is a unicellular organism that lacks a membrane-bound nucleus (Karyon), mitochondria, or any other membrane bound organelle. Only maternal mitochondria are passed on to the progeny as researchers have found that the transmission of paternal mitochondria or father's mitochondria is an evolutionary disadvantage.

Q94. Which of the following is/are advantages of currency convertibility?

1. It encourages exports.
2. It encourages export substitution.
3. It helps the integration of national economy with the world economy.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: D

Exp: Currency convertibility regime helps integration of a country's economy with the world economy. It provides choices in trade, so helps in import substitution and encourages exports.

Q95. Who among the following Indians was conferred with the Amir Amanullah Khan Award, the highest civilian honour of Afghanistan in 2016?

- A. M. J. Akbar
- B. Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- C. Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari
- D. Sushma Swaraj

Answer: B

Exp: Amir Amanullah Khan Award is the highest civilian honour bestowed by Afgan Government to Afghan national as well as foreigners in appreciation of their services to Afghanistan. It was instituted in 2006. In 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Award following the inauguration of the Afghan-India Friendship Dam.

Q96. Consider the following statements regarding Model Agricultural Land Leasing Act, 2016:

1. Under the Act, the land owner will give possession of the leased-out land to the cultivator on the first day of the lease.
2. The land owner can put the leased out land for sale, mortgage, etc. during lease period.
3. Under the Act, the land owner will be responsible to pay all taxes and cess on the land.

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: Under Model Land Leasing Act, 2016, following are the rights and responsibilities of land owner:

- (1) The land owner will give possession of the leased-out land to the cultivator on the first day of the lease;
- (2) He will be entitled to automatic possession of the land on the expiry of the agreed lease period.
- (3) He can put the leased out land for use such as sale, gift, mortgage, etc. during lease period. However, this should not affect the cultivator's right to cultivate the land until the end of the lease period.
- (4) He will also be responsible to pay all taxes and cess on the land.

Q97. Consider the following statements in the context of measurement of poverty and inequality:

1. The Phillip curve is a graphical measure of inequality.
2. The value of Gini Coefficient ranges between zero and one, and the higher the value higher is the inequality.

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 Lorenz curve is a graphical measure of inequality. The Phillip curve shows the inter-relation between inflation and unemployment.

Q98. The target 90-90-90 was in news recently. It is related to which of the following?

- A. The development of target product profiles for TB treatment regimens.
- B. The global monitoring and treatment framework on Non-communicable Diseases.
- C. The global nutrition targets to improve maternal, infant, and young child nutrition.
- D. An ambitious treatment target to help end the AIDS epidemic.

Answer: D

Exp: In 2014, UNAIDS set out new targets for reducing HIV by 2020. Under this,
 -90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status.
 -90% of all people living with HIV will receive anti-retroviral therapy.
 -90% of all people receiving anti-retroviral therapy will have viral suppression.

Q99. Consider the following statements about Ecological pyramids:

1. The pyramid of numbers is always upright.
2. In the pyramid of biomass, it is possible that consumer biomass exceeds the producer biomass.
3. Marine environments have inverted biomass pyramids.

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: An ecological pyramid is a graphical representation designed to show the biomass or bio productivity at each trophic level in a given ecosystem. *Biomass pyramids* show how much biomass (the amount of living or organic matter present in an organism) is present in the organisms at each trophic level, while *productivity pyramids* show the production or turnover in biomass. The pyramid of biomass in sea is inverted because biomass of fishes exceeds that of phytoplankton. There is also *pyramid of numbers*, which represent the number of organisms in each trophic level. They may be upright (e.g. Grassland ecosystem), inverted (parasitic ecosystem) or dumbbell shaped (forest ecosystem).

Energy pyramids begin with producers on the bottom (such as plants) and proceed through the various trophic levels (such as herbivores that eat plants, then carnivores that eat herbivores, then carnivores that eat those carnivores, and so on). The highest level is the top of the food chain.

Q100. Which of the following statements about heating of Earth by insolation is incorrect?

- A. Earth surface emits long wave radiation.
- B. The greenhouse gases cannot absorb short wave solar radiation.
- C. Over polar areas, temperature inversion is normal during non-summer months.
- D. Maximum insolation is received over the subtropical deserts.

Answer: B

Exp: The insolation received by the Earth is in short wave's forms and heats up its surface. The earth after being heated itself becomes a radiating body and it radiates energy to the atmosphere in long wave form. The greenhouse gases in atmosphere can absorb both short

wave as well as long wave radiation. Temperature inversion is a situation when temperature increases with increase in elevation.



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