

UPSC 2017

1. With reference to the Parliament of India, consider the following statements:

1. A private member's bill is a bill presented by a Member of Parliament who is not elected but only nominated by the President of India.
2. Recently, a private member's bill has been passed in the Parliament of India for the first time in its history.

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

Solution: • Private member bills are those bills which are introduced by MPs who are not ministers.

• Second statement is incorrect because 14 private member bills have been passed by both Houses and become law in the history of Indian Parliament.

2. With reference to the difference between the culture of Rigvedic Aryans and Indus Valley people, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Rigvedic Aryans used the coat of mail and helmet in warfare whereas the people of Indus Valley Civilization did not leave any evidence of using them.
2. Rigvedic Aryans knew gold, silver and copper whereas Indus Valley people knew only copper and iron.
3. Rigvedic Aryans had domesticated the horse whereas there is no evidence of Indus Valley people having been aware of this animal. 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: A

Solution: • Such factual questions are generally solved by elimination method. Try to eliminate wrong options.

- The Indus valley people did not have knowledge of iron. The iron age started from 1500BC. Hence, statement 2 is false.
- Surkotada, an Indus Valley Civilisation site, contains the horse remains. Hence the statement 3 is false.
- Accordingly, the correct option is A.

3. 'Recognition of Prior Learning Scheme' is sometimes mentioned in the news with reference to

- A. Certifying the skills acquired by construction workers through traditional channels.
- B. Enrolling the persons in Universities for distance learning programmes.
- C. Reserving some skilled jobs to rural and urban poor in some public sector undertakings.
- D. Certifying the skills acquired by trainees under the National Skill Development Programme.

Answer: A

Solution: • RPL is a key element under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

- The 'Recognition of Prior Learning' scheme aims to certify the skills acquired by workers in the unorganised sectors through traditional, non-formal learning channels across construction sites dotting five states — Haryana, Telangana, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Delhi.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/formal-badge-for-non-formal-skill/>

4. From the ecological point of view, which one of the following assumes importance in being a good link between the Eastern Ghats and the Western Ghats?

- A. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
- B. Nallamala Forest
- C. Nagarhole National Park
- D. Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve

Answer: A

Solution: Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve is a protected area between the Western Ghats and the rest of the Eastern Ghats.

5. One of the implications of equality in society is the absence of

- A. Privileges
- B. Restraints
- C. Competition
- D. Ideology

Answer: A

Solution: • Article 18 of the constitution is one of the articles of right to equality.

- Article 18, in a bid to establish equality, abolishes various privileges.

6. Consider the following statements in respect of Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC):

1. TRAFFIC is a bureau under United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. The mission of TRAFFIC is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Solution: • TRAFFIC is a non-governmental organization working globally on the trade of wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity and sustainable development.

- The mission of TRAFFIC is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

7. Which principle among the following was added to the Directive Principles of State Policy by the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution?

- A. Equal pay for equal work for both men and women
- B. Participation of workers in the management of industries
- C. Right to work, education and public assistance

D. Securing living wage and human conditions of work to workers

Answer: B

Solution: ● Article 43A of the Constitution deals with 'Participation of workers in management of industries'.

● Article 43A was added by the 42nd amendment act, 1976.

8. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- A. Rights are claims of the State against the citizens.
- B. Rights are privileges which are incorporated in the Constitution of a State.
- C. Rights are claims of the citizens against the State.
- D. Rights are privileges of a few citizens against the many.

Answer: C

Solution: Rights mean legal entitlement to have or do something. Rights are not privileges. Rights are claims of the citizens against the State.

9. Which of the following gives 'Global Gender Gap Index' ranking to the countries of the world?

- A. World Economic Forum
- B. UN Human Rights Council
- C. UN Women
- D. World Health Organization

Answer: A

Solution: ● The Global Gender Gap Report is published by the World Economic Forum. The Global Gender Gap Index is an index designed to measure gender equality.

● The Global Gender Gap Report ranks countries according to calculated gender gap between women and men in four key areas: health, education, economy and politics.

● India has been placed at 108th rank in Global Gender Gap Report 2017. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-slips-21-slots-occupy-108th-rank-on-wef-gender-gap-index-2017/article19966894.ece>

10. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Smart India Hackathon 2017?

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme for developing every city of our country into Smart Cities in a decade.
2. It is an initiative to identify new digital technology innovations for solving the many problems faced by our country.
3. It is a programme aimed at making all the financial transactions in our country completely digital in a decade.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Answer: B

Solution: Smart India Hackathon 2017 was a 36 hrs non-stop digital product development competition during which teams of thousands of technology students built innovative digital solutions for the problems posted by 29 different central govt. ministries/ departments.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/smart-india-hackathon-2017-10-000-students-to-develop-digital-solutions/story-vvHrb0wqlYJFQ6VkutQhMI.html>

11. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?

1. It decides the RBI's benchmark interest rates.
2. It is a 12-member body including the Governor of RBI and is reconstituted every year.
3. It functions under the chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: A

Solution: • The Monetary Policy Committee is entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy rate (repo rate) required to contain

inflation within the specified target level.

- The Monetary Policy Committee consists of 6 members. Out of the 6 Members of Monetary Policy Committee, three Members are from the RBI and the other three Members of MPC are appointed by the Central Government.
 - The Monetary Policy Committee is headed by RBI Governor.
- <https://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=151264>

12. With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements:

1. It is a song and dance performance.
2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance.
3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Solution: • Manipuri Sankirtana is a form of performing art involving ritual singing, drumming and dancing performed in the temples and domestic spaces in Manipur.

- The performers narrate the many stories of Krishna often moving the spectators to tears.
- “Sankirtana: Ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur” has been inscribed on the Representative List of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- Along with cymbals, drums are also used in the performance.

13. Who among the following was/were associated with the introduction of Ryotwari Settlement in India during the British rule?

1. Lord Cornwallis
2. Alexander Read
3. Thomas Munro

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Solution: • The Ryotwari system was introduced by Sir Thomas Munro and Captain Alexander Reed in 1820. Under the Ryotwari System every registered holder of land was recognised as its proprietor, and used to pay directly to Government.

• Lord Cornwallis had introduced Permanent Settlement system in India in 1793.

14. In the context of solving pollution problems, what is/are the advantage/advantages of bioremediation technique?

1. It is a technique for cleaning up pollution by enhancing the same biodegradation process that occurs in nature.

2. Any contaminant with heavy metals such as cadmium and lead can be readily and completely treated by bioremediation using microorganisms.

3. Genetic engineering can be used to create microorganisms specifically designed for bioremediation. 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: C

Solution: • Bioremediation is a process for treating contaminated water, soil and subsurface material by stimulating growth of microorganisms and degrade the target pollutants.

• The genetic engineering can be used to create organisms for bioremediation for example degradative genes can be inserted in the organism encode proteins required for the degradation of pollutants.

• Bioremediation is a slow process and cannot treat contamination of heavy metals **completely**.

15. The Trade Disputes Act of 1929 provided for-

A. The participation of workers in the management of industries.

B. Arbitrary powers to the management to quell industrial disputes.

C. An intervention by the British Court in the event of a trade dispute.

D. A system of tribunals and a ban on strikes.

Answer: D

Solution: The Trade Disputes Act had banned any strike whose purpose was to coerce the government of the day directly or indirectly.

16. Local self-government can be best explained as an exercise in

- A. Federalism
- B. Democratic decentralisation
- C. Administrative delegation.
- D. Direct democracy

Answer: B

Solution: Democratic decentralization is the meaningful authority devolved to local units of governance that are accessible and accountable to the local citizenry. Panchayats and Municipalities are examples of democratic decentralization.

17. Consider the following statements: With reference to the Constitution of India, the Directive Principles of State Policy constitute limitations upon

1. legislative function.
2. executive function.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

Solution: • Fundamental Rights constitute limitations upon legislative function and executive function.

• Unlike fundamental rights, Directive Principles of State Policy are positive in nature and they ask state to do something for citizens and they don't restrict state from breaching freedom of citizens (as done by fundamental rights).

18. The term 'Digital Single Market Strategy' seen in the news refers to

- A. ASEAN
- B. BRICS
- C. EU
- D. G20

Answer: C

Solution: ● The Digital Single Market is part of the Digital Agenda for Europe 2020 program of the EU. It is defined by a Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe by the European Commission.

● It is estimated that the European Digital Single Market would become one of the most valuable trade markets in the world for online businesses.

19. At one of the places in India, if you stand on the seashore and watch the sea, you will find that the sea water recedes from the shore line a few kilometres and comes back to the shore, twice a day, and you can actually walk on the sea floor when the water recedes. This unique phenomenon is seen at

- A. Bhavnagar
- B. Bheemunipatnam
- C. Chandipur
- D. Nagapattinam

Answer: C

Solution: The Chandipur beach is unique in sense that here the water recedes up to 5 kilometers during the ebb tide. Due to its unique circumstances, the beach supports bio-diversity.

20. With reference to the 'Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988 (PBPT Act)', consider the following statements:

1. A property transaction is not treated as a benami transaction if the owner of the property is not aware of the transaction.
2. Properties held benami are liable for confiscation by the Government.
3. The Act provides for three authorities for investigations but does not provide for any appellate mechanism.

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

Solution: • First statement is incorrect because ignorance of law is no excuse for the violation of law.

- The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 has been amended through the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amended Act, 2016. The amended law empowers the specified authorities to provisionally attach benami properties which can eventually be confiscated.
- The act provides appellate mechanism in the form of Adjudicating Authority and Appellate Tribunal.

21. Due to some reasons, if there is a huge fall in the population of species of butterflies, what could be its likely consequence/consequences?

1. Pollination of some plants could be adversely affected.
2. There could be a drastic increase in the fungal infections of some cultivated plants.
3. It could lead to a fall in the population of some species of wasps, spiders and birds.

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: C

Solution: • Butterflies are important pollinators for some species of plants. In general, they do not carry as much pollen load as bees, but they are capable of moving pollen over greater distances.

- There appears no relation between population of butterfly and fungal infections in cultivated plants.
- Butterflies are food for some species of wasps, spiders and birds. Decline in food would affect the population of some species of wasps, spiders and birds.

22. It is possible to produce algae based biofuels, but what is/are the likely limitation(s) of developing countries in promoting this industry?

1. Production of algae based biofuels is possible in seas only and not on continents.
2. Setting up and engineering the algae based biofuel production requires high level of expertise/technology until the construction is completed.
3. Economically viable production necessitates the setting up of large scale facilities which may raise ecological and social concerns.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: B

Solution: • Commercial and industrial algae cultivation has numerous uses like production of food ingredients such as omega-3 fatty acids, fertilizer, bioplastics and algal fuel. Algae can be farmed in continents too, so the first statement is incorrect.

- Algae biofuel is an alternative to liquid fossil fuels that uses algae as its source of energy-rich oils. Setting up and engineering the algae based biofuel production requires high level of expertise and capital. This can be a serious limitation for developing countries.
- Production of algal fuels may divert farm land and may increase cost of food leading to social tensions.

23. Which of the following are the objectives of 'National Nutrition Mission'?

1. To create awareness relating to malnutrition among pregnant women and lactating mothers.
2. To reduce the incidence of anaemia among young children, adolescent girls and women.
3. To promote the consumption of millets, coarse cereals and unpolished rice.
4. To promote the consumption of poultry eggs. 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. 3 and 4 only

Answer: A

Solution: ● National Nutrition Mission has a target to reduce under- nutrition and low birth weight by 2 per cent each per annum.

- It also aims to bring down anaemia among young children, women and adolescent girls by 3 per cent per year until 2020 as well as strive to reduce the prevalence of stunting from the current level of 38.4 per cent to 25 per cent by 2022.
- There is no mention of promoting the consumption of millets, coarse cereals, unpolished rice or the poultry eggs in the mission.

24. Consider the following statements:

1. The Factories Act, 1881 was passed with a view to fix the wages of industrial workers and to allow the workers to form trade unions.
2. N.M. Lokhande was a pioneer in organizing the labour movement in British India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Solution: ● The Factories Act, 1881 was primarily passed to limit the factory working hours. It aimed to improve the pathetic conditions of the workers in the factory.

- Narayan Meghaji Lokhande (1848-1897) was a pioneer of the labour movement in India. He is remembered for ameliorating the working conditions of textile mill-hands in the 19th century. Lokhande is acclaimed as the Father of the Trade Union Movement in India.

25. In the context of mitigating the impending global warming due to anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide, which of the following can be the potential sites for carbon sequestration?

1. Abandoned and uneconomic coal seams
2. Depleted oil and gas reservoirs
3. Subterranean deep saline formations

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

Answer: D

Solution: ● Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing the carbon and the long-term storage of atmospheric carbon dioxide to mitigate global warming.
● Artificial processes have been devised to artificially capture and sequestration of industrially produced CO₂ using subsurface saline aquifers, reservoirs, ocean water, aging oil fields, coal seams or other carbon sinks.

26. The object of the Butler Committee of 1927 was to

- A. Define the jurisdiction of the Central and Provincial Governments.
- B. Define the powers of the Secretary of State for India.
- C. Impose censorship on national press.
- D. Improve the relationship between the Government of India and the Indian States.

Answer: D

Solution: Butler Committee of 1927 was appointed to clarify the relationship between the paramount power i.e. the British and the Indian Princes.

27. The term 'Domestic Content Requirement' is sometimes seen in the news with reference to

- A. Developing solar power production in our country
- B. Granting licences to foreign T.V. channels in our country
- C. Exporting our food products to other countries
- D. Permitting foreign educational institutions to set up their campuses in our country

Answer: A

Solution: ● The domestic content requirement (DCR) mandates for solar projects in India to utilize domestically manufactured solar modules and cells.

- The issue was in news because the World Trade Organization (WTO) had ruled that domestic content requirements (DCR) in India's solar power development programme conflict with international rules of imports. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/domestic-content-requirement-tenders-are-all-but-disappearing-mercom-india/articleshow/58398282.cms>

28. Consider the following statements:

1. The Nuclear Security Summits are periodically held under the aegis of the United Nations.
2. The International Panel on Fissile Materials is an organ of International Atomic Energy Agency.

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

Solution: • The Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) is a world summit, aimed at preventing nuclear terrorism around the globe. The first summit was held in Washington, D.C. in 2010. The Nuclear Security Summit is not held under the aegis of the United Nations.

- The International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM), established in 2006, is a group of independent nuclear experts. It aims to advance international initiatives to “secure and to sharply reduce all stocks of highly enriched uranium and separated plutonium, the key materials in nuclear weapons, and to limit any further production”.

- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons. IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.

- The International Atomic Energy Agency has no relation with the International Panel on Fissile Materials.

29. Who among the following can join the National Pension System (NPS)?

- A. Resident Indian citizens only
- B. Persons of age from 21 to 55 only

- C. All State Government employees joining the services after the date of notification by the respective State Governments
- D. All Central Government employees including those of Armed Forces joining the services on or after 1st April, 2004

Answer: C

Solution: ● The National Pension System (NPS) was launched on 1st January, 2004 with the objective of providing retirement income to all the citizens.

- NPS is applicable to all new employees of Central Government service (except Armed Forces) and Central Autonomous Bodies joining Government service on or after 1st January 2004.
- Any Indian Citizen, resident or non-resident, between the age of 60- 65 years, can also join NPS and continue up to the age of 70 years in NPS.

30. With reference to river Teesta, consider the following statements:

1. The source of river Teesta is the same as that of Brahmaputra but it flows through Sikkim.
2. River Rangeet originates in Sikkim and it is a tributary of river Teesta.
3. River Teesta flows into Bay of Bengal on the border of India and Bangladesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Solution: ● The Teesta River originates from Pahunri glacier while the Brahmaputra originates in Angsi glacier.

- The Rangeet is a tributary of the Teesta river, which is the largest river in the state of Sikkim.
- The Teesta River flows through the West Bengal and Sikkim through Bangladesh before reaching to the Bay of Bengal. Hence, the river does not flow into Bay of Bengal on the border of India and Bangladesh.

31. Consider the following statements:

1. In tropical regions, Zika virus disease is transmitted by the same mosquito that transmits dengue.

2. Sexual transmission of Zika virus disease is possible.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Solution: • Zika and dengue virus are transmitted by the bite of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes.

• Zika can also be transmitted through sexual contact or blood transfusions.

32. Consider the following statements:

1. The Standard Mark of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is mandatory for automotive tyres and tubes.
2. AGMARK is a quality Certification Mark issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

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

Solution: • The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the national Standards Body of India working under the aegis of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution. It is established by the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986. The Standard Mark of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is mandatory for automotive tyres and tubes.

• AGMARK is a certification mark employed on agricultural products in India. AGMARK standards cover quality guidelines for different commodities such as pulses, cereals, essential oils, vegetable oils, fruits and vegetables and semi-processed products.

33. What is/are the advantage/advantages of implementing the 'National Agriculture Market' scheme?

1. It is a pan-India electronic trading portal for agricultural commodities.

2. It provides the farmers access to nationwide market, with prices commensurate with the quality of their produce.

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

Solution: • National Agriculture Market (NAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.

• NAM creates a unified market through online trading platform, both, at State and National level. It streamlines the procedures across the integrated markets, promotes real time price discovery, based on actual demand and supply, promotes transparency in auction process, and access to a nationwide market for the farmer, with prices commensurate with quality of his produce and online payment and availability of better quality produce and at more reasonable prices to the consumer. https://www.enam.gov.in/NAM/home/about_nam.html

34. With reference to the 'National Intellectual Property Rights Policy', consider the following statements:

1. It reiterates India's commitment to the Doha Development Agenda and the TRIPS Agreement.
2. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is the nodal agency for regulating intellectual property rights in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Solution: • National Intellectual Property Rights Policy was approved by the Indian cabinet in 2016 to ensure compliance to the Doha Development Round and TRIPS Agreement.

• The National IPR Policy is a vision document that aims to create and exploit synergies between all forms of intellectual property (IP), concerned statutes and agencies. It sets in place an institutional

mechanism for implementation, monitoring and review.

- Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is the nodal agency for regulating intellectual property rights in India.

<https://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=145338>

35. According to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which of the following animals cannot be hunted by any person except under some provisions provided by law?

1. Gharial
2. Indian wild ass
3. Wild buffalo

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: D

Solution: • The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 was enacted for protection of plants and animal species.

- It has six schedules which give varying degrees of protection. Schedule I provides absolute protection - offences under these are prescribed the highest penalties. Species listed in Schedule III and Schedule IV are also protected, but the penalties are much lower. Schedule V includes the animals which may be hunted. The specified endemic plants in Schedule VI are prohibited from cultivation and planting.

- Gharial, Indian wild ass and Wild buffalo come under schedule-I of the act and hence these animals cannot be hunted by any person except under some provisions provided by law.

<https://envfor.nic.in/legis/wildlife/wildlife2s1.html>

36. Which of the following statements is/are true of the Fundamental Duties of an Indian citizen?

1. A legislative process has been provided to enforce these duties.
2. They are correlative to legal duties.

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

Solution: • There is no provision in the Constitution for the enforcement of any of the Fundamental Duties.

• Fundamental Duties have no legal recognition for example, to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom, is a fundamental duty. However, if one does not follow the ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom, no legal action can be taken against him/her.

37. Consider the following pairs

1. Radhakanta Deb —First President of the British Indian Association
 2. Gazulu Lakshminarasu Chetty —Founder of the Madras Mahajana Sabha
 3. Surendranath Banerjee —Founder of the Indian Association
- Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: B

Solution ||| Madras Mahajana Sabha was established by M. Veeraraghavachariar, G. SubramaniaIyer and P. Anandacharluin in 1884.

38. Which one of the following objectives is not embodied in the Preamble to the Constitution of India?

- A. Liberty of thought
- B. Economic liberty
- C. Liberty of expression
- D. Liberty of belief

Answer: B

Solution: Economic liberty is not embodied in the Preamble to the Constitution of India. The text of the Preamble is reproduced here:

“WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens: JUSTICE, social, economic and political; LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all. FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation; IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this 26th day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.”

39. With reference to 'Quality Council of India (QCI)', consider the following statements:

1. QCI was set up jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry.
2. Chairman of QCI is appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendations of the industry to the Government.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Solution: • Quality Council of India (QCI) was set up in 1997 jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry represented by the premier industry associations.

- The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is the nodal Ministry for QCI.
- The chairman of QCI is nominated by the PM on the recommendations of the industry to the Government.

<https://www.qcin.org/qci.php>

40. What is the purpose of setting up of Small Finance Banks (SFBs) in India?

1. To supply credit to small business units
2. To supply credit to small and marginal farmers
3. To encourage young entrepreneurs to set up business particularly in rural areas.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

Answer: A

Solution: • Small finance banks can provide basic banking service of acceptance of deposits and lending. The aim of these banks is to provide financial inclusion to sections of the economy not being served by other banks, such as small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries and unorganised sector entities.

• To encourage young entrepreneurs to set up business particularly in rural areas, is not the objective of Small Finance Banks.
https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=32614

41. With reference to 'Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)', consider the following statements

1. The first APMCHUD was held in India in 2006 on the theme 'Emerging Urban Forms — Policy Responses and Governance Structure'.
2. India hosts all the Annual Ministerial Conferences in partnership with ADB, APEC and ASEAN.

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

Solution: • The first conference was held in New Delhi in 2006 with a theme of- A vision for sustainable urbanisation in the Asia-Pacific by 2020.

• Second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development was held in Tehran, Iran.

42. Democracy's superior virtue lies in the fact that it calls into activity

- A. the intelligence and character of ordinary men and women.
- B. the methods for strengthening executive leadership.
- C. a superior individual with dynamism and vision.
- D. a band of dedicated party workers.

Answer: A

Solution: Democracy's superior virtue lies in the fact that it gives equal rights to every adult man and woman without any educational/economic criterion.

43. Which of the following is a most likely consequence of implementing the 'Unified Payments Interface (UPI)'?

- A. Mobile wallets will not be necessary for online payments.
- B. Digital currency will totally replace the physical currency in about two decades.
- C. FDI inflows will drastically increase.
- D. Direct transfer of subsidies to poor people will become very effective.

Answer: A

Solution: ● UPI is a payment system that allows money transfer between any two bank accounts by using a smartphone.

● UPI allows a customer to pay directly from a bank account to different merchants, both online and offline, without the hassle of typing credit card details, IFSC code, or net banking/wallet passwords.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/What-is-Unified-Payment-Interface/article14593189.ece>

44. The terms 'Event Horizon', 'Singularity', 'String Theory' and 'Standard Model' are sometimes seen in the news in the context of

- A. Observation and understanding of the Universe
- B. Study of the solar and the lunar eclipses
- C. Placing satellites in the orbit of the Earth
- D. Origin and evolution of living organisms on the Earth

Answer: A

Solution: ● Singularity and event horizons are concerned with Black Holes.

● 'String Theory' and 'Standard Model' try to observe and understand the universe.

45. With reference to agriculture in India, how can the technique of 'genome sequencing', often seen in the news, be used in the immediate future?

1. Genome sequencing can be used to identify genetic markers for disease resistance and drought tolerance in various crop plants.
2. This technique helps in reducing the time required to develop new varieties of crop plants.
3. It can be used to decipher the host-pathogen relationships in crops. 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: D

Solution: Genome sequencing is the process of determining the complete DNA sequence of an organism's genome at a single time. All the three given statements are applications of Genome sequencing.

46. The main advantage of the parliamentary form of government is that

- A. The executive and legislature work independently.
- B. It provides continuity of policy and is more efficient.
- C. The executive remains responsible to the legislature.
- D. The head of the government cannot be changed without election.

Answer: C

Solution: In parliamentary form of government, the executive is directly responsible to the legislature.

47. In the context of India, which one of the following is the correct relationship between Rights and Duties?

- A. Rights are correlative with Duties.
- B. Rights are personal and hence independent of society and Duties.
- C. Rights, not Duties, are important for the advancement of the personality of the citizen.
- D. Duties, not Rights, are important for the stability of the State.

Answer: A

Solution: Rights and duties are two sides of the same coin. Rights can be enjoyed only when duties are followed for example one can enjoy the right to information only when when govt. officials follow their duties of providing timely information.

48. The mind of the makers of the Constitution of India is reflected in which of the following?

- A. The Preamble
- B. The Fundamental Rights
- C. The Directive Principles of State Policy
- D. The Fundamental Duties

Answer: A

Solution: • Preamble is the key to open the mind of the makers of the Constitution. The hopes and aspirations of the people as well as the ideals before our nation are described in the preamble.

- Preamble may be considered as the heart and soul of Constitution.

49. If you travel by road from Kohima to Kottayam, what is the minimum number of States within India through which you can travel, including the origin and the destination?

- A. 6
- B. 7
- C. 8
- D. 9

Answer: B

Solution: If one travels by road from Kohima to Kottayam, one will have to pass through 7 states:

Nagaland (Kohima) – Assam – WestBengal – Orissa – Andhra Pradesh – Tamilnadu – Kerala(Kottayam)

50. The Parliament of India exercises control over the functions of the Council of Ministers through

1. Adjournment motion
2. Question hour
3. Supplementary questions

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: D

Solution: • Adjournment motion is introduced in the Parliament to draw attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance.

Adjournment motion is an important tool of Parliament of Indian to exercise control over the functions of the Council of Ministers.

• By asking questions, and supplementary questions, Members of Parliament hold the Ministers accountable.

51. Which one of the following was a very important seaport in the Kakatiya kingdom?

- A. Kakinada
- B. Motupalli
- C. Machilipatnam (Masulipatnam)
- D. Nelluru

Answer: B

Solution: • The Kakatiya dynasty was a South Indian dynasty whose capital was Orugallu, now known as Warangal.

• Motupalli was a famous sea port during Kakatiya Period.

52. With reference to 'Global Climate Change Alliance', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an initiative of the European Union.
2. It provides technical and financial support to targeted developing countries to integrate climate change into their development policies and budgets.
3. It is coordinated by World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: A

Solution: ● The GCCA was established by the European Union (EU) in 2007 to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with developing countries.

● By fostering effective dialogue and cooperation on climate change, the Alliance helps to ensure that poor developing countries most vulnerable to climate change increase their capacities to adapt to the effects of climate change, in support of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Where this benefits their poverty reduction objectives, the Alliance also helps such countries to participate in the global climate change mitigation effort.

<https://www.gcca.eu/about-the-gcca/what-is-the-gcca>

53. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:

1. Sautrantika and Sammitiya were the sects of Jainism.
2. Sarvastivadin held that the constituents of phenomena were not wholly momentary, but existed forever in a latent form.

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

Solution: ● The Sautrantika and the Sammitiya were early Buddhist schools.

● The Sautrantika relied upon the sutras and rejected the Abhidharma texts of other early Buddhist schools. Sarvastivadin held that the constituents of phenomena were not wholly momentary, but existed forever in a latent form.

54. Mediterranean Sea is a border of which of the following countries?

1. Jordan
2. Iraq

3. Lebanon

4. Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A. 1, 2 and 3 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer: C

Solution: The countries with coastlines on the Mediterranean Sea are Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Monaco, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.



55. With reference to 'National Investment and Infrastructure Fund', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an organ of NITI Aayog.

2. It has a corpus of 4,00,000 crore at present. 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

Solution: • National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has been set up as a fund of funds and is registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") as a Category II Alternate Investment Fund ("AIF") under the SEBI (Alternative Investments Funds) Regulations, 2012 ("AIF Regulations").

- The aim of the Fund is to pool commitments from sophisticated long term investors such as Multilateral Institutions, Sovereign Wealth Funds, Pension Funds, Insurance Funds, Endowments and other long term funds based outside India.

- Total corpus of the fund is Rs. 40,000 Crore.

56. The Global Infrastructure Facility is a/an

A. ASEAN initiative to upgrade infrastructure in Asia and financed by credit from the Asian Development Bank.

B. World Bank collaboration that facilitates the preparation and structuring of complex infrastructure Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to enable mobilization of private sector and institutional investor capital.

C. Collaboration among the major banks of the world working with the OECD and focused on expanding the set of infrastructure projects that have the potential to mobilize private investment.

D. UNCTAD funded initiative that seeks to finance and facilitate infrastructure development in the world.

Answer: B

Solution: • The Global Infrastructure Facility (GIF) is a global, open platform that facilitates the preparation and structuring of complex infrastructure public private partnerships (PPPs) to enable mobilization of private sector and institutional investor capital.

- The GIF platform coordinates and integrates the efforts of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), private sector investors and financiers, and governments interested in infrastructure investment in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs).

<https://fiftrustee.worldbank.org/Pages/gif.aspx>

57. For election to the Lok Sabha, a nomination paper can be filed by

A. anyone residing in India.

B. a resident of the constituency from which the election is to be contested.

C. any citizen of India whose name appears in the electoral roll of a constituency.

D. any citizen of India.

Answer: C

Solution: Factual question!

58. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, the Himalayas are spread over five States only.
2. Western Ghats are spread over five States only.
3. Pulicat Lake is spread over two States only. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Solution: • Himalayas are spread over almost all the Northern and north-eastern Indian states.

- Western Ghats is a mountain range that runs parallel to the western coast of the Indian peninsula. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the eight "hottest hot-spots" of biological diversity in the world. Western Ghats are spread across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- Pulicat Lake is the second largest brackish water lake or lagoon in India, after Chilika Lake. It straddles the border of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu states.

59. Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) is a standard criterion for

- A. Measuring oxygen levels in blood
- B. Computing oxygen levels in forest ecosystems
- C. Pollution assay in aquatic ecosystems
- D. Assessing oxygen levels in high altitude regions

Answer: C

Solution: Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed by biological organisms to break down organic

material present in a given water sample. BOD measures the amount of organic compounds in water. The higher the BOD value, the greater the amount of organic matter or “food” available for oxygen consuming bacteria.

60. With reference to the role of UN-Habitat in the United Nations programme working towards a better urban future, which of the statements is/are correct?

1. UN-Habitat has been mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities to provide adequate shelter for all.
2. Its partners are either governments or local urban authorities only.
3. UN-Habitat contributes to the overall objective of the United Nations system to reduce poverty and to promote access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below;

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

Answer: B

Solution: • UN-Habitat, an organ of the United Nations’ Organisation (UNO), promotes socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements across the world. UN-Habitat reports to the United Nations General Assembly.

- UN-Habitat seeks to promote integral and comprehensive approach to human settlements, assist the countries and regions in addressing human settlement problems and strengthen cooperation among all countries on human settlement issue.
- The partners of UN-Habitat include the governments as well as private players.

61. With reference to 'National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)', which of the statements given below is/are correct?

1. Under NSQF, a learner can acquire the certification for competency only through formal learning.
2. An outcome expected from the implementation of NSQF is the mobility between vocational and general education.

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

Solution: • The National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) is a competency-based framework that organizes all qualifications according to a series of levels of knowledge, skills and aptitude.

• These levels, graded from one to ten, are defined in terms of learning outcomes which the learner must possess regardless of whether they are obtained through **formal, non-formal or informal learning**. Specific outcomes expected from implementation of NSQF are:

- Mobility between vocational and general education by alignment of degrees with NSQF
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), allowing transition from non-formal to organised job market
- Standardised, consistent, nationally acceptable outcomes of training across the country through a national quality assurance framework
- Global mobility of skilled workforce from India, through international equivalence of NSQF
- Mapping of progression pathways within sectors and cross-sectorally
- Approval of NOS/QPs as national standards for skill training.

<https://www.skilldevelopment.gov.in/nsqf.html>

62. In the context of Indian history, the principle of 'Dyarchy (diarchy)' refers to

- A. Division of the central legislature into two houses.
- B. Introduction of double government i.e., Central and State governments.
- C. Having two sets of rulers; one in London and another in Delhi.
- D. Division of the subjects delegated to the provinces into two categories.

Answer: D

Solution: Dyarchy is system of double government introduced by the Government of India Act (1919) for the provinces of British India. It provided for division of the subjects delegated to the provinces into two categories.

63. Consider the following in respect of 'National Career Service':

1. National Career Service is an initiative of the Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India.

2. National Career Service has been launched in a Mission Mode to improve the employment opportunities to uneducated youth of the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Solution: • National Career Service (NCS) project was launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in 2015.

• It is a Mission Mode Project for establishing quick and efficient career related services.

64. Which of the following statements best describes the term 'Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A)', recently seen in the news?

- A. It is a procedure for considering ecological costs of developmental schemes formulated by the Government.
- B. It is a scheme of RBI for reworking the financial structure of big corporate entities facing genuine difficulties.
- C. It is a disinvestment plan of the Government regarding Central Public Sector Undertakings.
- D. It is an important provision in 'The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code' recently implemented by the Government.

Answer: B

Solution: • The S4A Scheme aims at deep financial restructuring of big debted projects by allowing lender (bank) to acquire equity of the stressed project.

• The scheme makes financial restructuring of large projects at the same time helping the lender's ability to deal with such stressed assets.

65. Consider the following statements:

1. Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants is a unique initiative of G20 group of countries.
2. The CCAC focuses on methane, black carbon and hydrofluorocarbons.

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

Solution: • Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants is a unique initiative of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and group of countries.

- The CCAC focuses on methane, black carbon and hydrofluorocarbons.

66. With reference to 'Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)' sometimes mentioned in the news while forecasting Indian monsoon, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. IOD phenomenon is characterised by a difference in sea surface temperature between tropical Western Indian Ocean and tropical Eastern Pacific Ocean.
2. An IOD phenomenon can influence an El Nino's impact on the monsoon.

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

Solution: • Sustained changes in the difference between sea surface temperatures of the tropical western and eastern Indian Ocean are known as the Indian Ocean Dipole or IOD.

- The IOD affects the strength of monsoons over the Indian subcontinent. The IOD is one aspect of the general cycle of global climate, interacting with similar phenomena like the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) in the Pacific Ocean.

67. If you want to see gharials in their natural habitat, which one of the following is the best place to visit?

- A. Bhitarkanika Mangroves
- B. Chambal River
- C. Pulicat Lake
- D. DeeporBeel

Answer: B

Solution: • In India, gharial is found in the Chambal river. National Chambal Sanctuary is the only place in India where a large wild population of India's special crocodylian Gharial is found.

- The gharial is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

68. Consider the following in respect of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS):

1. Inaugural IONS was held in India in 2015 under the chairmanship of the Indian Navy.
2. IONS is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime co- operation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region. Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Solution: • The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium are a series of biennial meetings among the littoral states of the Indian Ocean region.

- It provides a forum to increase maritime security cooperation, providing a forum for discussion of regional maritime issues and promote friendly relationships among the member nations.
- Inaugural IONS was held in India in 2008.

69. The painting of Bodhisattva Padmapani is one of the most famous and oft-illustrated paintings at

- A. Ajanta
- B. Badami

- C. Bagh
- D. Ellora

Answer: A

Solution: Factual question.

70. Consider the following pairs:

Traditions	Communities
1. Chaliha Sahib Festival	— Sindhis
2. Nanda Raj JaatYatra	— Gonds
3. Wari-Warkari	— Santhals

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

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

Answer: A

Solution: • The Chaliha is an important festival of the Sindhis wherein they pray to their God- Jhulelal.

• Nanda Devi Raj JaatYatra is a festival of Gharwali people in Uttarakhand wherein goddess Nanda Devi is worshipped.

• WariWarkari is a festival of Marathas of Maharashtra wherein Hindu god Vithoba is worshipped.

71. Which of the following practices can help in water conservation in agriculture?

1. Reduced or zero tillage of the land
2. Applying gypsum before irrigating the field
3. Allowing crop residue to remain in the field.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Solution: • The 'zero tillage' method is economical, prevents degradation and helps retain moisture in soil.

• Gypsum helps in dissolution of the salt clay found in soils that hinder the percolation of water. Hence it can solve the water percolation process.

• Crop residues or other organic matter left in or added to the field improve water penetration and moisture retention. It also reduces evaporation of farm soil water.

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/a-new-cultivation-practice-grows-on-yadgir-farmers/article3010951.ece>

72. Consider the following statements: The nation-wide 'Soil Health Card Scheme' aims at

1. expanding the cultivable area under irrigation.

2. enabling the banks to assess the quantum of loans to be granted to farmers on the basis of soil quality.

3. checking the overuse of fertilizers in farmlands.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 3 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Solution: Under the Soil Health Card Scheme, the government issues soil cards to farmers which carry crop-wise recommendations of nutrients and fertilisers required for the individual farms to help farmers to improve productivity through judicious use of inputs.

Commonly used / consumed materials	Unwanted or controversial chemicals likely to be found in them
1. Lipstick	- Lead
2. Soft drinks	-Brominated vegetable oils
3. Chinese fast food	- Monosodium glutamate

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

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

Answer: D

Solution: • Lead is not listed as an ingredient in lipstick, but trace amounts can be found in the mineral based additives.

- Brominated vegetable oil is used primarily to help emulsify citrus- flavored soft drinks, preventing them from separating during distribution.
- Monosodium glutamate (MSG) is used in the food industry as a flavor enhancer with an umami taste that intensifies the meaty, savory flavor of food.

74.Organic Light Emitting Diodes (OLEDs) are used to create digital display in many devices. What are the advantages of OLED displays over Liquid Crystal displays?

1. OLED displays can be fabricated on flexible plastic substrates.
2. Roll-up displays embedded in clothing can be made using OLEDs.
3. Transparent displays are possible using OLEDs. Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: C

Solution: • An organic light-emitting diode (OLED) is a light-emitting diode (LED) in which the emissive electroluminescent layer is a film of organic compound that emits light in response to an electric current.

Multilayer OLEDs can be fabricated with two or more layers in order to improve device efficiency.

- OLED displays can be fabricated on flexible plastic substrates, leading to the possible fabrication of flexible organic light-emitting diodes for other new applications, such as roll-up displays embedded in fabrics or clothing.
- Transparent displays are possible using OLEDs.

75. Which of the following is/are famous for Sun temples?

1. Arasavalli
2. Amarakantak
3. Omkareshwar

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: A

Solution: • Arasavalli Sun Temple is located in Andhra Pradesh.

• Amarkantak is a pilgrim town in Madhya Pradesh. The Amarkantak is the meeting point of the Vindhya and the Satpura Ranges, with the Maikal Hills being the fulcrum.

• Omkareshwar is a Hindu temple dedicated to God Shiva. It is located in Madhya Pradesh.

76. Consider the following statements:

1. In the election for Lok Sabha or State Assembly, the winning candidate must get at least 50 percent of the votes polled, to be declared elected.
2. According to the provisions laid down in the Constitution of India, in Lok Sabha, the Speaker's post goes to the majority party and the Deputy Speaker's to the Opposition.

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

Solution: ● In India, the First past the post system is followed wherein majority of votes and not 50% votes is necessary to get elected.

● According to convention, the Speaker's post goes to the majority party and the Deputy Speaker's to the Opposition. This is not a constitutional provision but just a convention.

77. Which of the following has/have occurred in India after its liberalization of economic policies in 1991?

1. Share of agriculture in GDP increased enormously.
2. Share of India's exports in world trade increased.
3. FDI inflows increased.
4. India's foreign exchange reserves increased enormously.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: B

Solution: ● Benefits of liberalization of economic policies in 1991 bypassed the agriculture and share of agriculture in GDP infact declined.

● Liberalization of economic policies abolished the licence raj which freed the Indian industries and it became easier to start business in the country. This increased the production and hence exports. Increased exports helped to earn foreign exchange reserves. Further, the rules were simplified which attracted FDI.

78. What is the application of Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer Technology?

- A. Production of biolarvicides
- B. Manufacture of biodegradable plastics
- C. Reproductive cloning of animals
- D. Production of organisms free of diseases

Answer: C

Solution: Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (SCNT) is a technology for creating a viable embryo from a body cell and an egg cell. The technique consists of taking an enucleated oocyte (egg cell) and implanting a donor nucleus from a somatic (body) cell. It is used in reproductive cloning.

79. Consider the following statements:

1. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) helps in promoting the financial inclusion in the country.
2. NPCI has launched RuPay, a card payment 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: C

Solution: • National Payments Corporation of India is the umbrella organisation for all retail payment systems in India which aims to allow all Indian citizens to have unrestricted access to e-payment services.

• National Payments Corporation of India has launched the domestic card payment network called RuPay, reducing the dependency on international card schemes.

80. The term 'M-STrIPES' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of

- A. Captive breeding of Wild Fauna
- B. Maintenance of Tiger Reserves
- C. Indigenous Satellite Navigation System
- D. Security of National Highways

Answer: B

Solution: • M-STrIPES-Monitoring System for Tigers - Intensive Protection and Ecological Status- is a software-based monitoring system.

• It aims to strengthen surveillance of the Endangered Bengal tiger.

81. What is/are the most likely advantages of implementing 'Goods and Services Tax (GST)'?

1. It will replace multiple taxes collected by multiple authorities and will thus create a single market in India.
2. It will drastically reduce the 'Current Account Deficit' of India and will enable it to increase its foreign exchange reserves.
3. It will enormously increase the growth and size of economy of India

and will enable it to overtake China in the near future. 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: A

Solution: ● Replacing multiple taxes collected by multiple authorities and creating a single market in India, is primary aim of GST.

● ‘Drastically’, ‘Enormously’- Be careful about these radical words. GST does not promise to reduce the CAD **drastically**. GST alone can not increase size of economy **enormously**.

82. 'Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of negotiations held between India and

- A. European Union
- B. Gulf Cooperation Council
- C. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- D. Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Answer: A

Solution: Factual question.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-eu-free-trade-pact-talks-remain-deadlocked/article9890351.ece>

83. Consider the following statements:

1. India has ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of WTO.
2. TFA is a part of WTO's Bali Ministerial Package of 2013.
3. TFA came into force in January 2016.

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. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Solution: • The TFA contains provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. It also sets out measures for effective cooperation between customs and other appropriate authorities on trade facilitation and customs compliance issues.

• WTO members concluded negotiations of TFA at the 2013 Bali Ministerial Conference on the landmark Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which entered into force on 22 February 2017 following its ratification by two-thirds of the WTO membership.
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tradfa_e/tradfa_e.htm

84. What is the importance of developing Chabahar Port by India?

- A. India's trade with African countries will enormously increase.
- B. India's relations with oil-producing Arab countries will be strengthened.
- C. India will not depend on Pakistan for access to Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- D. Pakistan will facilitate and protect the installation of a gas pipeline between Iraq and India.

Answer: C

Solution: • Chabahar Port is a seaport in Chabahar located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.

- By the access to Chabahar port, India can bypass Pakistan in transporting goods to Afghanistan.
- Chabahar port will boost India's access to Iran, the key gateway to the International North-South Transport Corridor that has sea, rail and road routes between India, Russia, Iran, Europe and Central Asia.

85. In India, it is legally mandatory for which of the following to report on cyber security incidents?

1. Service providers
2. Data centres
3. Body corporate

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Solution: Factual question. The CERT Rules impose an obligation on service providers, intermediaries, data centres and body corporates to report cyber incidents within a reasonable time.

<https://cis-india.org/internet-governance/blog/incident-response-requirements-in-indian-law>

86. Right to vote and to be elected in India is a

- A. Fundamental Right
- B. Natural Right
- C. Constitutional Right
- D. Legal Right

Answer: C

Solution: It is mentioned in New NCERT Class 9: Democratic Politics that the right to vote and to be elected in India is a constitutional right.

87. What is the purpose of 'evolved Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (eLISA)' project?

- A. To detect neutrinos
- B. To detect gravitational waves
- C. To detect the effectiveness of missile defence system
- D. To study the effect of solar flares on our communication systems

Answer: B

Solution: Factual question. Evolved Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (eLISA) project aims to detect gravitational waves.

88. What is the purpose of Vidyanjali Yojana?

1. To enable the famous foreign educational institutions to open their campuses in India.
2. To increase the quality of education provided in government schools by

taking help from the private sector and the community.

3. To encourage voluntary monetary contributions from private individuals and organizations so as to improve the infrastructure facilities for primary and secondary schools.

Select the correct answer using the code. given below:

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

Answer: A

Solution: Vidyanjali is a school volunteer programme and an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to boost community and private sector participation in government schools.

89. What is the aim of the programme Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'?

- A. Achieving 100% literacy by promoting collaboration between voluntary organizations and government's education system and local communities.
- B. Connecting institutions of higher education with local communities to address development challenges through appropriate technologies.
- C. Strengthening India's scientific research institutions in order to make India a scientific and technological power.
- D. Developing human capital by allocating special funds for health care and education of rural and urban poor, and organizing skill development programmes and vocational training for them.
- E. None of these

Answer: B

Solution: Unnat Bharat Abhiyan was launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development with an aim to connect institutions of higher education, including Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research (IISERs) etc. with local communities to address the development challenges through appropriate technologies.

90. Consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission of India is a five-member body.
2. Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the

conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.

3. Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognised political parties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

Solution: • The Election Commission of India is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, state Legislative Assemblies and the offices of the President and Vice President.

- Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognised political parties.
- The Election Commission of India is a three member body.
- The Election Commission of India itself decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.

91. In India, if a species of tortoise is declared protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, what does it imply?

- A. It enjoys the same level of protection as the tiger.
- B. It no longer exists in the wild, a few individuals are under captive protection; and now it is impossible to prevent its extinction.
- C. It is endemic to a particular region of India.
- D. Both B and C stated above are correct in this context.

Answer: A

Solution: • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has six schedules which give varying degrees of protection. Schedule I provides absolute protection - offences under these are prescribed the highest penalties.

- Tiger is covered in Schedule I of the act. Hence, if a species of tortoise is declared protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, it would enjoy the same level of protection as the tiger.

92. In India, Judicial Review implies

- A. the power of the Judiciary to pronounce upon the constitutionality of laws and executive orders.
- B. the power of the Judiciary to question the wisdom of the laws enacted by the Legislatures.
- C. the power of the Judiciary to review all the legislative enactments before they are assented to by the President.
- D. the power of the Judiciary to review its own judgements given earlier in similar or different cases.

Answer: A

Solution: Judicial review is the power of the Judiciary to examine the actions of the legislative, executive, and administrative arms of the government and to determine whether such actions are consistent with the constitution.

93. With reference to Indian freedom struggle, consider the following events:

1. Mutiny in Royal Indian Navy
2. Quit India Movement launched
3. Second Round Table Conference

What is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?

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

Answer: C

Solution: ● Second Round Conference was organized in the year 1931.

- Quit India Movement was started in 1942.
- Mutiny in Royal Indian Navy happened in the year 1946.

94. Consider the following statements:

1. Tax revenue as a percent of GDP of India has steadily increased in the last decade.
2. Fiscal deficit as a percent of GDP of India has steadily increased in the last decade.

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

Solution: • Tax revenue as a percent of GDP of India had fallen after sub-prime crisis (2007-2010). Hence, first statement is wrong.

• Fiscal deficit as a percent of GDP of India has been declining from 2011 to 2016. Hence, second statement too is wrong.



[Source: Economic Survey 2014-15]

95. Recently there was a proposal to translocate some of the lions from their natural habitat in Gujarat to which one of the following sites?

- A. Corbett National Park
- B. KunoPalpur Wildlife Sanctuary
- C. Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary
- D. Sariska National Park

Answer: B

Solution: • The Asiatic Lion Reintroduction Project aims to provide safeguards to the Asiatic lion from extinction in the wild by means of reintroduction.

• The project aims to establish a second independent population of Asiatic lions at the Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh

96. Which of the following are not necessarily the consequences of the proclamation of the President's rule in a State?

1. Dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly
2. Removal of the Council of Ministers in the State
3. Dissolution of the local bodies

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. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Solution: ● President's rule implies suspension of state government (Council of Ministers) and imposition of direct Central Government rule in a state.

- President's rule is imposed under Article 356 of the Constitution of India.
- Under President's rule, state council of ministers are removed. However, legislative assembly of state may or may not be dissolved.

97. Which of the following are envisaged by the Right against Exploitation in the Constitution of India?

1. Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour
2. Abolition of untouchability
3. Protection of the interests of minorities
4. Prohibition of employment of children in factories and mines

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: C

Solution: ● The right against exploitation is given in Articles 23 and 24 of the constitution.

- The right against exploitation provides for the abolition of trafficking in human beings and abolition of employment of children below the age of 14 years in dangerous jobs like factories, mines, etc.

98. Which of the following is geographically closest to Great Nicobar?

- A. Sumatra
- B. Borneo
- C. Java
- D. Sri Lanka

Answer: A

Solution: Factual answer.

99. Out of the following statements, choose the one that brings out the principle underlying the Cabinet form of Government:

- A. An arrangement for minimizing the criticism against the Government whose responsibilities are complex and hard to carry out to the satisfaction of all.
- B. A mechanism for speeding up the activities of the Government whose responsibilities are increasing day by day.
- C. A mechanism of parliamentary democracy for ensuring collective responsibility of the Government to the people.
- D. A device for strengthening the hands of the head of the Government whose hold over the people is in a state of decline.

Answer: C

Solution: A mechanism of parliamentary democracy for ensuring collective responsibility of the Government to the people, is central to the Cabinet form of Government.

100. Which one of the following is not a feature of Indian federalism?

- A. There is an independent judiciary in India.
- B. Powers have been clearly divided between the Centre and the States.
- C. The federating units have been given unequal representation in the Rajya Sabha.
- D. It is the result of an agreement among the federating units.

Answer: D

Solution: • The features of a federation are: two government, division of powers, written Constitution, supremacy of Constitution, rigidity of Constitution, independent judiciary and bicameralism.

• Article 1 of the constitution describes India as a 'Union of States' which implies two things: (i) Indian Federation is not the result of an agreement by the states, and (ii) No state has the right to secede from the federation.

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