

1. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: **(b)**

Solution:

The Congress party won 364 of the 489 seats in the first Lok Sabha. Communist Party of India which opposed Congress didn't win much seats in that election to form the opposition.

The leader of the largest opposition party having not less than one-tenth seats of the total strength of the House is recognised as the Leader of Opposition in that house.

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

1. Hard and waxy leaves
2. Tiny leaves
3. Thorns instead of leaves

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Choice: **(d)**

Solution:

All the given are leaf modifications in the desert areas.

3. As per the NSSO 70th Round "Situation Assessment Survey of Agriculture Households", consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: **(c)**

Solution:

Out of the total households in the country, a little over 45 percent being to OBCs.

About 16 percent of agricultural households were from Scheduled Castes (SC) and 13 percent were from Scheduled Tribes (ST).

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: **(b)**

Solution:

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

5. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

Laws placed in the Ninth Schedule are opened to judicial scrutiny. It was after the Keshwanand Bharti Judgment on April 24, 1973, when it propounded the "basic structure" doctrine, were open to challenge.

6. Which one of the following best describes the term "Merchant Discount Rate" sometimes seen in news?

- (a) The incentive given by a bank to a merchant for accepting payments through debit cards pertaining to that bank. (b) The amount paid back by banks to their customers when they use debit cards for financial transactions for purchasing goods or services.
- (c) The charge to a merchant by a bank for accepting payments from his customers through the bank's debit cards. (d) The incentive given by the Government to merchants for promoting digital payments by their customers through Point of Sale (PoS) machines and debit cards

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

The merchant discount rate is the rate charged to a merchant for payment processing services on debit and credit card transactions. The merchant must setup this service and agree to the rate prior to accepting debit and credit cards as payment.

7. What is/are the consequence/consequences of a country becoming the member of the 'Nuclear Suppliers Group'?

1. It will have access to the latest and most efficient nuclear technologies.
2. It automatically becomes a member of "The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)".

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

Membership to one or more of the NPT, the Treaties of Pelindaba, Rarotonga, Tlatelolco, Bangkok, Semipalatinsk or an equivalent international nuclear non - proliferation agreement, and full compliance with the obligations of such agreements are needed. So, it does not automatically become a member of NPT.

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Choice: (d)

Solution:

Equalisation Levy was introduced in India in 2016, with the intention of taxing the digital transactions. It is aimed at taxing business to business transactions.

As the levy was not introduced as part of the Income Tax Act but as a separate legislation under the Finance Bill, global firms that offer such services in India cannot claim a tax credit in their home country under the double taxation avoidance agreements

9. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

The Central Government has domestic liabilities of 46.1% of GDP (2016-17) and as a per cent of GDP, States' liabilities increased to 23.2 per cent at end-March 2016.

10. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

Government imposes customs duty on edible oils to safeguard the interests of domestic oil crushing industry. The duty on two major edible oils, namely crude sunflower seed oil and crude canola/rapeseed/mustard is 25 per cent.

11. He wrote biographies of Mazzini, Garibaldi, Shivaji and Shrikrishna; stayed in America for some time; and was also elected to the Central Assembly. He was

- (a) Aurobindo Ghosh (b) Bipin Chandra Pal  
(c) Lala Lajpat Rai (d) Motilal Nehru

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

Lala Lajpat Rai was an Indian freedom fighter. He played a pivotal role in the Indian Independence movement. He was popularly known as Punjab Kesari. He was one third of the "Lal Bal Pal" triumvirate. He was also associated with activities of Punjab National Bank and Lakshmi Insurance Company in their early stages in 1894.

12. Consider the following statements:

1. Aadhaar card can be used as a proof of citizenship or domicile.
2. Once issued, Aadhaar number cannot be deactivated or omitted by the Issuing Authority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (d)

Solution:

The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Bill, 2016 states that the number can't be used as proof of citizenship or domicile.

An individual's Aadhaar number may be "omitted" permanently or deactivated temporarily by the Unique Identification Authority of India.

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

1. Aral Sea
2. Black Sea
3. Lake Baikal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

Aral Sea has dried up immensely

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

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

Correct Choice: (d)

Solution:

The World Justice Project (WJP) releases the Rule of Law Index Report. This report is an annual publication that includes rule of law assessments of countries based on their level of adherence to 44 indicators grouped into the following 8 categories:

1. Constraints on Government Powers
2. Absence of Corruption
3. Open Government
4. Fundamental Rights
5. Order and Security
6. Regulatory Enforcement
7. Civil Justice
8. Criminal Justice

Countries are also evaluated on their adherence to a ninth factor – informal justice—that is not included in the aggregate scores.

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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| (a) Indian Banks' Association              | (b) National Securities Depository Limited |
| (c) National Payments Corporation of India | (d) Reserve Bank of India                  |

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

National Financial Switch (NFS) is the largest network of shared automated teller machines (ATMs) in India. It was designed, developed and deployed by the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) in 2004, with the goal of inter-connecting the ATMs in the country and facilitating convenience banking. It is run by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

16. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

Statement 1 is correct.

CAR is decided by central banks and bank regulators to prevent commercial banks from taking excess leverage and becoming insolvent in the process.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

Both the given statements are correct.

Aadhaar authentication is the process wherein Aadhaar Number, along with other attributes, including biometrics, are submitted online for its verification on the basis of information or data or documents available with it. Aadhaar authentication provides several ways in which a resident can authenticate themselves using the system. Authentication can be 'Demographic Authentication' and/or 'Biometric Authentication'.

It can be integrated into any electronic device is not correct. Any device may include Television, Radio etc. which the integration is not possible.

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

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) Angola and Zambia      | (b) Morocco and Tunisia   |
| (c) Venezuela and Colombia | (d) Yemen and South Sudan |

Correct Choice: (d)

Solution:

Yemen is now facing "the world's largest famine", according to the United Nations. The breakdown of government services, lack of drinking water and a crumbling health sector, besides the miseries of civil war and aerial bombardment, are fast turning Yemen into a failed state, and a breeding ground for extremist groups such as al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

One year after South Sudan briefly declared a famine, more than half of the people in the world's youngest nation face extreme hunger amid civil war.

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

Statement 1 is correct. It recommended a system of grants - in -aid to encourage private enterprise.

Statement 3 is incorrect. It recommended English as the medium of instruction for higher studies and vernaculars at school level.

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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| (a) Committee on Government Assurances | (b) Committee on Subordinate Legislation |
| (c) Rules Committee                    | (d) Business Advisory Committee          |

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

The Committee on Subordinate Legislation examines and reports to the House whether the powers to make rules, regulations, bye - laws, schemes or other statutory instruments conferred by the Constitution or delegated by Parliament are being properly exercised. In both the Houses, the committee consists of 15 members.

21. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

After the National Council of Teacher Education was set up, the number of TEIs exploded, to about 16,000 (over 90% private) by 2011.

22. Consider the following pairs:

Tradition - State

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

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

Thang-ta dance belongs to the state of Manipur and was evolved from the martial arts drills promoted by the kings of Manipur.

23. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the Administrative Ministry for the implementation of FSSAI. The Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have already been appointed by Government of India. Before the formation of FSSAI, from 1954 onwards Prevention of Food Adulteration was part of Directorate General of Health Services. The authority is holding independent authority and has attained special status.

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

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

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

The two-state solution refers to a solution of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict which calls for “two states for two groups of people.” The two-state solution envisages an independent State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel, west of the Jordan River. The boundary between the two states is still subject to dispute and negotiation, with Palestinian and Arab leadership insisting on the “1967 borders”, which is not accepted by Israel.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two thirds of the population.

Besides meal to pregnant women and lactating mothers during pregnancy and six months after the child birth, such women will also be entitled to receive maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000.

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

- |            |         |
|------------|---------|
| (a) ILO    | (b) IMF |
| (c) UNCTAD | (d) WTO |

Correct Choice: (d)

Solution:

The WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) defines "geographical indications" as indications that identify a good as "originating in the territory of a Member, or a region or locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographic origin."

27. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (d)

Solution:

The auction of mining licences of non-coal minerals is conducted by the respective state governments.

India has gold deposits spread across several states including Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan.

Iron ore mines are located in Bhilwara in Rajasthan.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

There are three levels of authentication that are required in BHIM app. One is the device ID and mobile number, then the bank account which you are linking to this app, and the finally the UPI Pin which is needed to complete the transaction.

A normal net banking app or a chip pin debit card which will only have two factors of authentication.

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

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

Delhi and Bengaluru are located almost on the same longitude.

Longitude of Delhi- 77.1025° E

Longitude of Bengaluru- 77.5946° E

Longitude of Hyderabad- 78.4867° E

Longitude of Nagpur- 79.0882° E

Longitude of Pune- 73.8567° E

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

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

India recently ratified the two Core Conventions of International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions 138 regarding admission of age to employment Convention 182 regarding worst forms of Child Labour.

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

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

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

A money bill is concerned with the appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India.

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

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

Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

Every elected member of either House of Parliament shall have such number of votes as may be obtained by dividing the total number of votes assigned to members of the legislative assemblies of the states by the total number of the elected members of both the Houses of Parliament.

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| (a) The civilian nuclear reactors come under IAEA safeguards                                  | (b) The military nuclear installations come under the inspection of IAEA |
| (c) The country will have the privilege to buy uranium from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) | (d) The country automatically becomes a member of the NSG                |

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

The agreement had paved the way for the 45-member Nuclear Suppliers Group to grant India specific waiver for it to have commercial relations with other countries in the civilian atomic field.

34. Consider the following countries :

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



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

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

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

ASEAN has existing free trade agreements with Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand.

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

GACSA is an inclusive, voluntary and action-oriented multi-stakeholder platform on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA). GACSA was launched in September 2014 in the margins of the UN Climate Summit.

Some of the Indian NGOs are its member. But India is not instrumental in creation of GACSA.

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

1. Formation of India's own Internet companies like China did.
2. Establish a policy framework to encourage overseas multinational corporations that collect Big Data to build their large data centres within our national geographical boundaries.
3. Connect many of our villages to the Internet and bring Wi-Fi to many of our schools, public places and major tourist centres.

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

Under the Digital India Plan, NII would integrate the network and cloud infrastructure in the country to provide high speed connectivity and cloud platform to various government departments up to the panchayat level. Cities with population of over 1 million and tourist centres would be provided with public wi-fi hotspots to promote digital cities.

37. Consider the following pairs :

Towns sometimes mentioned in news – Country

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

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

Kirkuk and Mosul are in Iraq.

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

(a) Federal Legislature

(b) Viceroy

(c) Provincial Legislature

(d) Provincial Governors

Correct Choice: **(b)**

Solution:

Residuary powers were vested in the Viceroy, who could, in his discretion, assign any such power by a public notification to the federal legislature or the provincial legislature.

39. Consider the following statements :

1. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly shall vacate his/her office if he/she ceases to be a member of the Assembly.

2. Whenever the Legislative Assembly is dissolved, the Speaker shall vacate his/her office immediately.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Choice: **(a)**

Solution:

Article 179 of the Indian Constitution provides that whenever the Assembly is dissolved, the Speaker shall not vacate his office until immediately before the first meeting of the Assembly after the dissolution.

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

(a) If there are more laws, there is less liberty.

(b) If there are no laws, there is no liberty.

(c) If there is liberty laws have to be made by the people.

(d) If laws are changed too often, liberty is in danger.

Correct Choice: **(b)**

Solution:

Liberty does not mean 'license' to do what one likes, and has to be enjoyed within the limitations mentioned in the Constitution and various laws. Absence of laws does not ensure liberty.

41. Consider the following statements :

1. No criminal proceedings shall be instituted against the Governor of a State in any court during his term of office.

2. The emoluments and allowances of the Governor of a State shall not be diminished during his term of office.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Choice: **(c)**

Solution:

Both the given statements are correct.

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

(a) Bundi school

(b) Jaipur school

(c) Kangra school

(d) Kishangarh school.

Correct Choice: **(d)**

Solution:

Bani Thani is an Indian miniature painting painted by Nihâl Chand from the Marwar school of Kishangarh. It portrays a woman who is elegant and graceful.

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

(a) An Israeli radar system

(b) India's indigenous anti-missile programme

(c) An American anti-missile system

(d) A defence collaboration between Japan and South Korea

Correct Choice: **(c)**

Solution:

Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), formerly Theater High Altitude Area Defense, is an American anti-ballistic missile defense system designed to shoot down short-, medium, and intermediate-range ballistic missiles in their terminal phase (descent or reentry) by intercepting with a hit-to-kill approach.

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

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

Statements 1 is not correct. Most of Tyagaraja's songs were in praise of Rama, who, like Krishna, is believed to be an incarnation of the god Vishnu.

Statement 3 is not correct. Tyagaraja belonged to the 18th century and Annamacharya to the 15th century.

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

The three meanings to the doctrine of rule of law mentioned are:

1. Supremacy Of Law
2. Equality Before The Law
3. Predominance Of Legal Spirit

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

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

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

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

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

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

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

Opportunity cost is the cost of choosing one alternative over another and missing the benefit offered by the forgone opportunity, investing or otherwise.

48. Increase in absolute and per capita real GNP do not connote a higher level of economic development, if

- (a) industrial output fails to keep pace with agricultural output.
- (b) agricultural output fails to keep pace with industrial output.
- (c) poverty and unemployment increase.
- (d) imports grow faster than exports.

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

Increase in absolute and per capita GNP is reflective of growth in income of a small section of society and that majority of the population is poverty stricken and unemployed.

49. Consider the following statements :

Human capital formation as a concept is better explained in terms of a process which enables

1. individuals of a country to accumulate more capital.
2. increasing the knowledge, skill levels and capacities the people of the country.
3. accumulation of tangible wealth.
4. accumulation of intangible wealth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

The process of acquiring and increasing the number of persons who have the skills, education and experience which are critical for the economic and the political development of the country.

Human capital formation enables accumulation of intangible wealth.

50. Despite being a high saving economy, capital formation may not result in significant increase in output due to

- (a) weak administrative machinery
- (b) illiteracy
- (c) high population density
- (d) high capital-output ratio

Correct Choice: (d)

Solution:

Capital formation means increasing the stock of real capital in a country. Capital formation involves making of more capital goods such as machines, tools, factories, transport equipment, materials, electricity, etc., which are all used for future production of goods.

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

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

Both the given statements are correct.

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

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

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

In the latter half of the 19th century, a significant trend was the emergence of the commercialisation of agriculture. Agriculture began to be influenced by commercial considerations. Commercial crops like cotton, jute, groundnut, oilseeds, sugarcane, tobacco, etc. were more remunerative than foodgrains.

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

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

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

During President's Rule under Article 356, the state governor, on behalf of the President, carries on the state administration with the help of the chief secretary of the state or the advisers appointed by the President. Further, the President either suspends or dissolves the state legislative assembly. The Parliament passes the state legislative bills and the state budget.

54. Consider the following pairs :

Craft – Heritage of

1. Puthukkuli shawls – Tamil Nadu
2. Sujni embroidery – Maharashtra
3. Uppada Jamdani saris – Karnataka

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

Sujani (also known as Sujini) is a form of embroidery originating from the Bhusura village of Bihar in India.

Uppada jamdani sarees are diaphanous silk saree that trace its origin to Uppada in Andhra Pradesh. Jamdani itself is a hand woven fabric that is also known as muslin.

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

1. Mobile phone operations
2. Banking operations
3. Controlling the power grids

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Correct Choice: (d)

Solution:

GPS can be used in all the given fields.

56. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

The Reserve Bank of India manages public debt and issues Indian currency denominated loans on behalf of the central and the state governments under the powers derived from the Reserve Bank of India Act.

57. Consider the following statements :

1. The Earth's magnetic field has reversed every few hundred thousand years.
2. When the Earth was created more than 4000 million years ago, there was 54% oxygen and no carbon dioxide.

3. When living organisms originated, they modified the early atmosphere of the Earth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

When Earth formed 4.6 billion years ago, it had almost no atmosphere. As Earth cooled, an atmosphere formed mainly from gases spewed from volcanoes. It included hydrogen sulfide, methane, and 10 to 200 times as much carbon dioxide as today's atmosphere.

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

- (a) Exoplanets (b) Cryptocurrency  
(c) Cyber attacks (d) Mini satellites

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

The WannaCry ransomware attack was a May 2017 worldwide cyberattack by the WannaCry ransomware cryptoworm.

EternalBlue is an exploit in older Windows systems released by The Shadow Brokers a few months ago.

Petya is a family of encrypting ransomware that was first discovered in 2016.

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

Conservation Agriculture is a set of soil management practices that minimize the disruption of the soil's structure, composition and natural biodiversity.

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

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

Correct Choice: (d)

Solution:

Wildlife is dying out due to habitat destruction, overhunting, toxic pollution, invasion by alien species and climate change. The ultimate cause of all of these factors is human overpopulation and continued population growth, and overconsumption.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

IRNSS is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary, which is its primary service area.

62. Consider the following phenomena :

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

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

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

Correct Choice: (d)

Solution:

All the given phenomenon are the predictions of Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity,

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

The GM mustard uses a system of genes from soil bacterium that makes the plant better suited to hybridisation than current methods.

The GM mustard was developed by Delhi University-based Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (CGMCP).

64. Consider the following pairs :

Terms sometimes seen in news – Context /Topic

1. Belle II experiment – Artificial Intelligence
2. Blockchain technology – Digital/ Cryptocurrency
3. CRISPR – Cas9 – Particle Physics

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

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

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

The Belle II experiment is a particle physics experiment.

CRISPR-Cas9 is a genome editing tool.

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

- (a) Increased plant growth due to increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere (b) Increased temperature of Earth due to increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere  
(c) Increased acidity of oceans as a result of increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere (d) Adaptation of all living beings on Earth to the climate change brought about by the increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

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

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

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

- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (a) Border Gateway Protocol | (b) Internet of Things      |
| (c) Internet Protocol       | (d) Virtual Private Network |

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

The Internet of Things (IoT) is the network of physical devices, vehicles, home appliances and other items embedded with electronics, software, sensors, actuators, and connectivity which enables these things to connect and exchange data, creating opportunities for more direct integration of the physical world into computer-based systems, resulting in efficiency improvements, economic benefits and reduced human intervention.

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

1. India is the third largest in the world in the manufacture of silicon wafers used in photovoltaic units.
2. The solar power tariffs are determined by the Solar Energy Corporation of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Correct Choice: (d)

Solution:

Manufacture of solar panels start with polysilicon, which is made from silicon. Polysilicon is made into ingots, which are cut into wafers. Cells are made with wafers and a string of cells is a module. Today, only modules and cells are made in India, with imported material.

Solar Power tariffs are determined either through the regulations of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission/State Electricity Regulatory Commission or through competitive bidding.

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

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| (a) Raw cotton, oil-seeds and opium      | (b) Sugar, salt, zinc and lead        |
| (c) Copper, silver, gold, spices and tea | (d) Cotton, silk, saltpetre and opium |

Correct Choice: (d)

Solution:

Cotton, raw silk, saltpetre, opium were the major commodities exported from Bengal by the English East India Company.

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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| (a) Active all-India participation of lawyers, students and women in the National Movement | (b) Active involvement of Dalit and Tribal communities of India in the National Movement |
| (c) Joining of peasant unrest to India's National Movement                                 | (d) Drastic decrease in the cultivation of plantation crops and commercial crops         |

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

Champaran Satyagraha was the first peasant movement that attained nationwide attention. The Champaran Satyagraha yoked the peasant unrest to the freedom struggle.

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (a) B. Krishna Pillai, E.M.S. Namboodiripad and K.C. George   | (b) Jayaprakash Narayan, De Dayal Upadhyay and M.N. Roy |
| (c) C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, K. Kamaraj and Veeresalingam Pantulu | (d) Ashok Mehta, T.S. Ramanujam and G.G. Mehta          |

Correct Choice: (d)



Solution:

The Hind Mazdoor Sabha was founded in Howrah in West Bengal on 29 December 1948, by socialists, Forward Bloc followers and independent unionists. Its founders included Basawon Singh (Sinha), Ashok Mehta, R.S. Ruikar, Maniben Kara, Shibnath Banerjee, R.A. Khedgikar, T.S. Ramanujam, V.S. Mathur, G.G. Mehta.

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

- |                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| (a) Buddhism    | (b) Jainism  |
| (c) Vaishnavism | (d) Shaivism |

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

Sthanakvasi is a sect of Swethambara Jainism founded by a merchant named Lavaji in 1653 AD. It believes that idol worship is not essential in the path of soul purification and attainment of Nirvana/Moksha.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

Instead of stones and marble, in Bara Imambara, brick and lime were used. Stucco ornamentation (gajkari) was used to decorate the monuments, giving it a deep relief effect even on flat walls.

Pottery was used for roof finials and ornaments. This skill can be seen in the delicately built Rumi Darwaza that was the main gateway to the Bara Imambara.

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

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

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

Jean-Baptiste Tavernier was a 17th-century French gem merchant and traveler. The Hope Diamond, said to be mined in the Kollur mines in Andhra Pradesh, and acquired by him.

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

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| (a) Avalokiteshvara | (b) Lokeshvara |
| (c) Maitreya        | (d) Padmapani  |

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

The coming of Maitreya will be characterized by a number of physical events. The oceans are predicted to decrease in size, allowing Maitreya to traverse them freely. Maitreya will then reintroduce true dharma to the world.

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

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

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

There was no component of fixed income under the system of Subsidiary Alliance.

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

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

### 3. Orientalist and Anglicist Controversy

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Correct Choice: (d)

Solution:

All the given factors led to the introduction of English Education in India.

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

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

Kodaikanal Lake, also known as Kodai Lake is a manmade lake located in the Kodaikanal city in Dindigul district in Tamil Nadu.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana comes under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

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

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

When Gandhi had become the president of the All India Home Rule League in 1920. Its name was changed to 'Swaraj Sabha'.

80. Which among the following events happened earliest?

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

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

Swami Dayanand established Arya Samaj - 1875

Dinabandhu Mitra wrote Neeldarpan - 1858

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote Anandmath - 1882

Satyendranath Tagore became the first Indian to succeed in the Indian Civil Services Examination – 1863

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

1. Decreased salinity in the river
2. Pollution of groundwater
3. Lowering of the water-table

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Correct Choice: **(b)**  
Solution:

Heavy sand mining may also lead to saline -water intrusion from the nearby sea, thus causing increase in salinity.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Correct Choice: **(b)**  
Solution:

Increased levels of organic matter and associated soil fauna lead to greater pore space with the immediate result that water infiltrates more readily and can be held in the soil.

Salinization occurs when significant amounts of water are provided by irrigation, with no adequate provision of drainage for the leaching and removal of salts, resulting in the soils becoming salty and unproductive.

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

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

Correct Choice: **(b)**  
Solution:

PAGE aims to contribute to the transformation of national economic structures in developing countries with the ultimate intention to achieve environmental sustainability, decent job creation, reduced poverty, and improved human well-being. PAGE is designed as a multi-year initiative.

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Correct Choice: **(d)**  
Solution:

All the given field contains the applications of 3D printing.

85. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

(c) 3 only

(d) 1 and 3

Correct Choice: **(a)**

Solution:

It is located 140kms to the east of Port Blair (lies in South Andaman).

The Barren Island volcano had been lying dormant for more than 150 years until it saw a major eruption in 1991. Since then it has shown intermittent activity, including eruptions in 1995, 2005 and 2017.

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

(a) Its extract is widely used in cosmetics.

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

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

(d) None of the above

Correct Choice: **(b)**

Solution:

*Prosopis juliflora* is a shrub or small tree. It is native to Mexico, South America and the Caribbean. It has become established as an invasive weed in Africa, Asia, Australia etc.

87. Consider the following statements :

1. Most of the world's coral reefs are in tropical waters.

2. More than one-third of the world's coral reefs are located in the territories of Australia, Indonesia and Philippines.

3. Coral reefs host far more number of animal phyla than those hosted by tropical rainforests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Choice: **(d)**

Solution:

All the given statements are correct.

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

(a) The Intergovernmental panel on Climate Change

(b) The UNEP Secretariat

(c) The UNFCCC Secretariat

(d) The World Meteorological Organization

Correct Choice: **(c)**

Solution:

The UNFCCC secretariat launched its Climate Neutral Now initiative in 2015. The following year, the secretariat launched a new pillar under its Momentum for Change initiative focused on Climate Neutral Now, as part of larger efforts to showcase successful climate action around the world.

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

Institution – Founder

1. Sanskrit College at Benaras – William Jones

2. Calcutta Madarsa – Warren Hastings

3. Fort William College – Arthur Wellesley

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2

(b) 2 only

(c) 1 and 3

(d) 3 only

Correct Choice: **(b)**

Solution:

Sanskrit College at Benares - Jonathan Duncan

Fort William College - Richard Wellesley

90. Consider the following pairs :

Regions sometimes mentioned in news – Country

1. Catalonia – Spain

2. Crimea – Hungary

3. Mindanao – Philippines

4. Oromia – Nigeria

Which of the pairs given, above are correctly matched ?

(a) 1, 2 and 3

(b) 3 and 4 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 2 and 4 only

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

Crimea - Ukrain (currently under Russian control)

Oromia - Ethiopia

91. Consider the following events :

1. The first democratically elected communist party government formed in a State in India.

2. India's then largest bank, 'Imperial Bank of India', was renamed 'State Bank of India'.

3. Air India was nationalised and became the national carrier.

4. Goa became a part of independent India.

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

(a) 4-1-2-3

(b) 3-2-1-4

(c) 4-2-1-3

(d) 3-1-2-4

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

1953 - Air India nationalised and becomes India's national carrier.

1955 - India's largest bank Imperial Bank of India renamed as State Bank of India.

1957 - First democratically elected Communist Party government outside Europe gets to power in Kerala with CPI leader EMS Namboodiripad as the Chief Minister.

1961 - Goa is officially ceded to India after 400 years of Portuguese rule.

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

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

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

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

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

Correct Choice: (c)

Solution:

Right to Privacy comes under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution which is in Part III (Fundamental Rights).

93. Consider the following :

1. Areca nut

2. Barley

3. Coffee

4. Finger millet

5. Groundnut

6. Sesamum

7. Turmeric

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

(a) 1, 2, 3 and 7 only

(b) 2, 4, 5 and 6 only

(c) 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only

(d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

Initially, MSP covered paddy, rice, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi (Finger Millet), barley, gram, tur, moong, urad, sugarcane, groundnut, soybean, sunflower seed, rapeseed and mustard, cotton, jute and tobacco. From 1994-95 onwards, Nigerseed and Sesame were included under MSP Scheme of CACP, in addition to the edible oilseeds already covered by the Commission. Similarly, during 2001-2002, the government enhanced the terms of reference of the Commission by including lentil (masur).

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

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

Pakke Tiger Reserve, also known as Pakhui Tiger Reserve, is a Project Tiger reserve in the East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh in northeastern India.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

PSLV comes in the category of medium-lift launchers with a reach up to various orbits, including the Geo Synchronous Transfer Orbit, Lower Earth Orbit, and Polar Sun Synchronous Orbit.

GSLV Mk III is a three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle developed by ISRO. The vehicle has two solid strap-ons, a core liquid booster and a cryogenic upper stage.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

Capital infusion into public sector banks by the Government of India has not steadily increased in the last decade.

97. Consider the following items:

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

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

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

While cereals, eggs, fish etc. are exempted from GST, 'cooked' and 'processed' will be available at restaurants and factories. These are therefore not exempted from the purview of GST.

With reference to newspapers containing advertisements, government has recently published a clarification that these will be taxed under GST.

98. Consider the following statements :

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (a)

Solution:

Under the act the District Level Committee shall ensure that all Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups receive habitat rights, in consultation with the concerned traditional institutions of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups and their claims for habitat rights are filed before the concerned Gram Sabhas.

99. Consider the following :

1. Birds
2. Dust blowing
3. Rain
4. Wind blowing

Which of the above spread plant diseases?

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

Correct Choice: (d)

Solution:

All the given means may spread plant diseases.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Choice: (b)

Solution:

The National 'Programme for Organic Production' (NPOP) is operated under the guidelines and directions of the Ministry of Commerce.