

# General Studies Paper I , 2016



<https://www.entri.me>



<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=me.entri.entri.me>

1. Regarding 'Atal Pension Yojana', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a minimum guaranteed pension scheme mainly targeted at unorganized sector workers.
2. Only one member of a family can join the scheme.
3. Same amount of pension is guaranteed for the spouse for life after subscriber's death.

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

### Solution

- **Statements 1 and 3 are correct:** To address the longevity risks among the workers in unorganised sector and to encourage the workers in unorganised sector to voluntarily save for their retirement, APY was launched.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is open to all bank account holders who are not members of any statutory social security scheme.

- It doesn't bar the number of family members from a family.

2. The term 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership' often appears in the news in the context of the affairs of a group of countries known as

A G20

B ASEAN

C SCO

D SAARC

### Solution

- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement among **ASEAN + Six FTA Partners (Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand)**: Based on the Declaration of the Leaders during the ASEAN Summit in November 2012, negotiations for a comprehensive economic partnership between the 10 ASEAN member states and its six FTA partners commenced in May 2013.
- Ten rounds of negotiations have so far been held. The 10th round was held from 8 to 16 October 2015 in Busan, Korea.
- The negotiations cover a number of areas like trade in goods, services, investment, intellectual property, economic and technical

cooperation, competition, ecommerce and legal and institutional issues.

- Papua New Guinea is not a member of ASEAN.

3. **On which of the following can you find the Bureau of Energy Efficiency Star Label?**

1. **Ceiling fans**
2. **Electric geysers**
3. **Tubular fluorescent lamps**

**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

**Solution**

- The Bureau initiated the Standards & Labeling programme for equipment and appliances in 2006 to provide the consumer an informed choice about the energy saving and thereby the cost saving potential of the relevant marketed product.
- The scheme is invoked for 21 equipment/appliances, i.e. Room Air Conditioners, Tubular Fluorescent Tube Lights, Frost Free Refrigerators, Distribution Transformers, Induction Motors, Direct Cool Refrigerator, electric storage type geyser, Ceiling fans, Color

TVs, Agricultural pump sets, LPG stoves, Washing machine,  
Laptops, ballast, floor standing ACs, office automation products,  
Diesel Generating sets & Diesel pumpsets.

4. **India is an important member of the 'International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor'. If this experiment succeeds, what is the immediate advantage for India?**

**A** It can use thorium in place of uranium for power generation

**B** It attain a global role in satellite-navigation

**C** It can drastically improve the efficiency of its fission reactors in power generation

**D** It can build fusion reactors for power generation

### **Solution**

- A mega international nuclear fusion research & engineering project, ITER is currently building the world's largest experimental tokamak nuclear fusion reactor.
- A tokamak is a device that uses a magnetic field to confine plasma (fourth state of matter) in the shape of a torus. The ITER project aims to make the long-awaited transition from experimental studies of plasma physics to full-scale electricity-producing fusion power plants.
- It is seen as a method for electricity production from fusion energy - one for the future.



- The most vital aim is to produce at least 10 times more thermal energy than that required to operate it.
- This energy could be converted into electricity in future power-producing reactors.

5. In the context of the history of India, consider the following pairs:

**Term : Description**

1. Eripatti : Land, revenue from which was set apart for the maintenance of the village tank
2. Taniyurs : Villages donated to a single Brahmin or a group of Brahmins
3. Ghatikas : Colleges generally attached to the temples

Which of the pairs given above correctly matched?

**A** 1 and 2

**B** 3 only

**C** 2 and 3

**D** 1 and 3

**Solution**

- Taniyur, is a large village under Chola administrative division.
- Eripatti was a special category of land known in South india. This land was donated by individuals, revenue from which was set apart for the maintenance of the village tank.
- Land grants and generous donations were given to educational institutions like Ghatikas and Mathas.

- Mathas were residential schools for early education in Pallava kingdoms.

**6. Consider the following statements:**

- 1. The International Solar Alliance was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2015.**
- 2. The Alliance includes all the member countries of the United Nations.**

**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

**Solution**

- India and France have launched an International Solar Alliance to boost solar energy in developing countries.
- The initiative was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris.
- It will be a common platform for cooperation among solar resource rich countries lying fully or practically between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

- It will not duplicate or replicate the efforts that others (like International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), International Energy Agency (IEA), Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), United Nations bodies, bilateral organizations etc.) are currently engaged in, but will establish networks and develop synergies with them.

7. **'European Stability Mechanism', sometimes seen in the' news, is an**

**A**

agency created by EU to deal with the impact of millions of refugees arriving from Middle East

**B**

**agency of EU that provides financial assistance to eurozone countries**

**C**

agency of EU to deal with all the bilateral and multilateral agreements on trade

**D**

agency of EU to deal with the conflicts arising among the member countries

### **Solution**

- The European Stability Mechanism is a European Union agency that provides financial assistance, in the form of loans, to eurozone countries or as new capital to banks in difficulty.
- It is a permanent agency, based in Luxembourg, and has replaced the temporary European Financial Stability Facility.

8. Which of the following is/are the advantage/advantages of practicing drip irrigation?

1. Reduction in weed
2. Reduction in soil salinity
3. Reduction' in-soil erosion

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

A 1 and 2 only

B 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D None of the above is an advantage of practising drip irrigation

### Solution

- Advantages of Drip Irrigation:
  1. Maximum use of available water.
  2. No water being available to weeds.
  3. Maximum crop yield.
  4. High efficiency in the use of fertilizers.
  5. Less weed growth and restricts population of potential hosts.
  6. Low labour and relatively low operation cost.
  7. No soil erosion.

8. Improved infiltration in soil of low intake.
  9. Ready adjustment to sophisticated automatic control.
  10. No runoff of fertilizers into ground water.
  11. Less evaporation losses of water as compared to surface irrigation.
  12. Improves seed germination.
  13. Decreased tillage operations.
- Disadvantages of Drip Irrigation: In spite of the fact that drip irrigation has so many potential benefits, they're a certain limitation also, there are as follow:
    1. Sensitivity to clogging
    2. Moisture distribution problem
    3. Salinity hazards
    3. High cost compared to furrow.
    4. High skill is required for design, install and operation.



9. Regarding 'DigiLocker', sometimes seen in the news, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a digital locker system offered by the Government under Digital India Programme.
2. It allows you to access your e-documents irrespective of your physical location.

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

### Solution

- DigiLocker is a "digital locker" service launched by the Government of India in February 2015 to provide a secure dedicated personal electronic space for storing the documents of resident Indian citizens.
- DigiLocker is one of the key initiatives under the Digital India Programme.
- This was released by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY), Government of India. The storage space

(maximum 10 MB at the time of launching & now upgraded to 1GB) is linked to the Unique Identification Authority of India (Aadhaar number) of the user.

- The space can be utilized for storing personal documents like University certificates, Permanent account number (PAN) cards, voter id cards, etc., and the URIs of the edocuments issued by various issuer departments.
- The idea is that this should minimise the need for physical documents; if your birth and education certificates are online, and you apply for a passport, then the Passport Office could use your Aadhaar number to request the DIGILocker for your details, without needing you to carry a large file of documents for the application.

10. **Recently, linking of which of the following rivers was undertaken?**

**A** Cauvery and Tungabhadra

**B** Godavari and Krishna

**C** Mahanadi and Son

**D** Narmada and Tapti

### **Solution**

- The plan is to eventually divert water from the Polavaram dam, since the dam is still under construction and will take at least 4 to 5 years to be ready, the Chandrababu Naidu government decided to divert Godavari water from the Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Scheme.
- This plan kicked off on September 16, 2015.

11. In the cities of our country, which among the following atmospheric gases are normally considered in calculating the value of Air Quality Index?

1. Carbon dioxide
2. Carbon monoxide
3. Nitrogen dioxide
4. Sulfur dioxide
5. Methane

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

A 1, 2 and 3 only

B 2, 3 and 4 only

C 1, 4 and 5 only

D 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

### Solution

- National Air Quality Index: There are six AQI categories, namely Good, Satisfactory, Moderately polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe.
- The AQI considers eight pollutants (PM10, PM2.5, NO2, SO2, CO, O3, NH3, and Pb) for which short-term (up to 24-hourly averaging period) National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed.



12. With reference to 'Astrosat,' the astronomical observatory launched by India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Other than USA and Russia, India is the only country to have launched a similar observatory into space.
2. Astrosat is a 2000 kg satellite placed in an orbit at 1650 km above the surface of the Earth.

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

### Solution

- ASTROSAT is India's first dedicated multi wavelength space observatory.
- ASTROSAT will observe universe in the optical, Ultraviolet, low and high energy X-ray regions of the electromagnetic spectrum. India's observatory will be the fourth in space, after the Hubble(USA), Russia's Spektr R and Suzaku of Japan.
- ASTROSAT with a lift-off mass of about 1513 kg was launched into a 650 km orbit inclined at an angle of 6 deg to the equator by PSLV-

C30.

- ASTROSAT will observe universe in the optical, Ultraviolet, low and high energy X-ray regions of the electromagnetic spectrum, whereas most other scientific satellites are capable of observing a narrow range of wavelength band.

13. **With reference to the economic history of medieval India, the term 'Araghatta' refers to**

**A** bonded labour

**B** land grant made to military officers

**C** waterwheel used in the irrigation of land

**D** wasteland converted to cultivated land

### **Solution**

- The 'ara-ghatta' originates from the blend of the words "ara" which means talked and "ghatta" which means pot.
- There is confirmation to contend that this arrangement of lifting water from open wells was presumably designed in the India of the past.



14. **With reference to the cultural history of India, the memorizing of chronicles, dynastic histories and epic tales was the profession of who of the following?**

**A** Shramana

**B** Parivraajaka

**C** Agrahaarika

**D** Maagadha

### **Solution**

- During Gupta period, the memorizing of chronicles, dynastic histories or epic tales was the work of a different group of people, the sutas and magadhas.

15. Recently, for the first time in our country, which of the following States has declared a particular butterfly as ‘State Butterfly’?

A Arunachal Pradesh

B Himachal Pradesh

C Karnataka

D Maharashtra

### Solution

- The Blue Mormon is a large, swallowtail butterfly found primarily in Sri Lanka and India, mainly restricted to the Western Ghats of Maharashtra, South India and coastal belts.
- It may occasionally be spotted in the Maharashtrian mainland between Vidarbha and Western Maharashtra.
- It is reportedly the second largest butterfly found in India, just smaller than the southern birdwing.
- Not uncommon. Not thought to be threatened. Occurs throughout the year but more common in the monsoon and immediately after it.
- Maharashtra has become the first State in the country to have a ‘State butterfly.’
- **Thus all statements are wrong.**

16. **Consider the following statements: The Mangalyaan launched by ISRO**

- 1. is also called the Mars Orbiter Mission**
- 2. made India the second country to have a spacecraft orbit the Mars after USA**
- 3. made India the only country to be successful in making its spacecraft orbit the Mars in its very first attempt**

**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

### **Solution**

- **Statements 1 and 3 are correct.** The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) has various achievements to its credit after it was inserted into Mars orbit on September 24, 2014. The details of significant achievements of MOM include

- i. First interplanetary mission realized by India and first Indian spacecraft to incorporate full scale onboard autonomy to overcome the long distances and the communication gaps due to non-visibility periods.
- ii. First Indian spacecraft to successfully survive Van Allen belt crossing 39 times.
- iii. First Indian spacecraft to escape the Sphere Of Influence of Earth and orbit Sun.
- iv. First Mars mission in the world to succeed Mars Orbit Insertion in first attempt.
- v. Most economical interplanetary mission in the world and paved way for costeffective access to deep space.
  - The launch vehicle, Spacecraft and Ground Segment have been realised with a budget of Rs 450 Cr.
  - **Statement 2 is not correct.** Since the first successful flyby in 1965, four entities have successfully made it to Mars: NASA, the Soviet Union, the European Space Agency and the Indian Space Research Organization, while others, including Japan and China, have tried.

17. **What was the main reason for the split in the Indian National Congress at Surat in 1907?**

**A** Introduction of communalism into Indian politics b Lord Minto

**B** **Extremists' lack of faith in the capacity of the moderates to negotiate with the British Government**

**C** Foundation of Muslim League

**D** Aurobindo Ghosh's inability to be elected as the President of the Indian National Congress

### **Solution**

- Surat Split refers to the splitting of the Congress party into 'Moderates' and 'Extremists' after a clash at the session.
- The extremists were led by Lokmanya Tilak, Lajpat Rai and Sri Aurobindo and the moderates were led by Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Pherozeshah Mehta and Surendranath Banerjee.
- The divided Congress re-united in the crucial Lucknow session of congress in 1916.

**18. The plan of Sir Stafford Cripps envisaged that after the Second World War?**

**A** India should be granted complete independence

**B** India should be partitioned into two before granting independence

**C** India should be made a republic with the condition that she will join the commonwealth

**D** India should be given dominion status

### **Solution**

- Cripps Mission was sent to India under the president ship of Stafford Cripps in march 1942.
- The intention was to get Indian support for Britishers in the ongoing World War II.
- An Indian Dominion that will be free to decide its relations with the commonwealth and United Nations
- A constituent assembly to be convened to frame a new constitution.

19. Consider the following pairs:

**Famous Place : Region**

1. Bodhgaya : Baghelkhand
2. Khajuraho : Bundelkhand
3. Shirdi : Vidarbha
4. Nasik (Nashik) : Malwa
5. Tirupati : Rayalaseema

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

A 1, 2 and 4

B 2, 3, 4 and 5

C 2 and 5 only

D 1, 3, 4 and 5

**Solution**

- Bagelkhand or Baghelkhand is a region and also a mountain range in central India that covers the northeastern regions of Madhya Pradesh and a small area of western Uttar Pradesh.
- Bodhgaya is in Bihar.
- The Khajuraho group of monuments was built during the rule of the Rajput Chandela dynasty.

- The building activity started almost immediately after the rise of their power, throughout their kingdom to be later known as Bundelkhand.
- Vidarbha is the eastern region of the Indian state of Maharashtra, comprising Nagpur Division and Amravati Division.
- Shirdi is a town and falls under Ahmednagar District in Maharashtra.
- It is not in Vidarbha region.
- Tirupati lies in the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh.



**20. The Parliament of India acquires the power to legislate on any item in the State List in the national interest if a resolution to that effect is passed by the**

**A** Lok Sabha by a simple majority of its total membership

**B**

Lok Sabha by a majority of not less than two-thirds of its total membership

**C** Rajya Sabha by a simple majority of its total membership

**D**

**Rajya Sabha by a majority of not less than two-thirds of its members present and voting**

## Solution

- If Rajya Sabha passes a resolution by a majority of not less than two-thirds of members present and voting saying that it is “necessary or expedient in the national interest” that Parliament should make a law on a matter enumerated in the State List, Parliament becomes empowered to make a law on the subject specified in the resolution, for the whole or any part of the territory of India.
- Such a resolution remains in force for a maximum period of one year but this period can be extended by one year at a time by passing a similar resolution further.

21. **Recently, which of the following States has explored the possibility of constructing an artificial inland port to be connected to sea by a long navigational channel?**

**A** Andhra Pradesh

**B** Chhattisgarh

**C** Karnataka

**D** Rajasthan

### **Solution**

- Government of Rajasthan is planning to develop Inland Shipping Port at Jalore which would be connected to the Arabian Sea by developing a channel along the Kutch Creek.
- The Rajasthan government is exploring ways to develop an artificial inland port in Jalore by bringing in Arabian Sea water into Rajasthan through Gujarat.
- If implemented, Rajasthan will become accessible by water transport and will be able to shed the tag of a landlocked state.

**22. With reference to the Agreement at the UNFCCC Meeting in Paris in 2015, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- 1. The Agreement was signed by all the member countries of the UN and it will go into effect in 2017.**
- 2. The Agreement aims to limit the greenhouse gas emissions so that the rise in average global temperature by the end of this century does not exceed 2°C or even 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.**
- 3. Developed countries acknowledged their historical responsibility in global warming and committed to donate S 1000 billion a year from 2020 to help developing countries to cope with climate change.**

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

### **Solution**

- 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) also known as Paris Agreement successfully concluded in Paris under the United Nations

## Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

- The agreement is scheduled to go into effect from 2020. (**Statement 1 is not correct**).
- One of the main focus of the agreement is to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre- industrial level and on driving efforts to limit it even further to 1.5°C.
- It covers all the crucial areas identified as essential for a comprehensive and balanced agreement, including mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity building and transparency of action and support.
- A marked departure from the past is the Agreement's bottom-up approach, allowing each nation to submit its own national plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, rather than trying to repeat a top-down approach advocated by the Kyoto Protocol, giving each country an emission reduction target.
- **Statement 3 is not correct.**

23. Consider the following statements:

1. The Sustainable Development Goals were first proposed in 1972 by a global think tank called the 'Club of Rome'.
2. The Sustainable Development Goals have to be achieved by 2030.

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

### Solution

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The 'Club of Rome' is a global think tank which in its 1972 book "Limits to Growth" talked about sustainability; however they didn't propose Sustainable Development Goals.
- As per the resolution of UN General Assembly in September, 2015 the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been adopted by 193 member nations.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** These developmental schemes are mostly addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are targeted to be achieved by 2030.

24. A recent movie titled **The Man Who Knew Infinity** is based on the biography of

**A** S. Ramanujan

**B** S. Chandrashekhar

**C** S. N. Bose

**D** C. V. Raman

### Solution

- ‘The Man Who Knew Infinity’, movie is based on a book by the same name written by Robert Kanigel on the life and times of Ramanujan.
- The 46th IFFI opened with the film.



25. Consider the following statements:

1. The minimum age prescribed for any person to be a member of Panchayat is 25 years.
2. A Panchayat reconstituted after premature dissolution continues only for the remainder period.

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

## Solution

- The minimum age for contesting elections to panchayats is 21 years.
- In case of dissolution of Panchayats before expiry of its term, it is mandatory to hold elections within 6 months of its dissolution.
- Every Panchayat shall continue for full term of 5 years.
- However, a Panchayat reconstituted after premature dissolution shall continue for only the remainder of the period.
- If the period is less than 6 months then it is not mandatory to held the elections.

26. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. A Bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses on its prorogation.
2. A Bill pending in the Rajya Sabha, which was not been passed by the Lok Sabha, shall not lapse on dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

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

### Solution

- When the Lok Sabha is dissolved, all business including bills, motions, resolutions, notices, petitions and so on pending before it or its committees lapse.
- They (to be pursued further) must be reintroduced in the newlyconstituted Lok Sabha.
- However, some pending bills and all pending assurances that are to be examined by the Committee on Government Assurances do not lapse on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

- The position with respect to lapsing of bills is as follows: A bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses (whether originating in the Lok Sabha or transmitted to it by the Rajya Sabha).
- A bill passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses.
- A bill not passed by the two Houses due to disagreement and if the president has notified the holding of a joint sitting before the dissolution of Lok Sabha, does not lapse.
- A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha does not lapse.
- A bill passed by both Houses but pending assent of the president does not lapse.
- A bill passed by both Houses but returned by the president for reconsideration of Houses does not lapse.

27. Which of the following is/are the indicator/ indicators used by IFPRI to compute the Global Hunger Index Report?

1. Undernourishment
2. Child stunting
3. Child mortality

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

A 1 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1, 2 and 3

D 1 and 3 only

### Solution

- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger globally and by country and region.
- Calculated each year by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the GHI highlights successes and failures in hunger reduction and provides insights into the drivers of hunger.
- By raising awareness and understanding of regional and country differences in hunger, the GHI aims to trigger actions to reduce hunger.

- **To reflect the multidimensional nature of hunger, the GHI combines the following four component indicators into one index:**
  - **Undernourishment:** the proportion of undernourished people as a percentage of the population (reflecting the share of the population whose caloric intake is insufficient);
  - **Child wasting:** the proportion of children under the age of five who suffer from wasting (that is, low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition);
  - **Child stunting:** the proportion of children under the age of five who suffer from stunting (that is, low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition); and
  - **Child mortality:** the mortality rate of children under the age of five (partially reflecting the fatal synergy of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments).

28. There has been a persistent deficit budget year after year. Which action/actions of the following can be taken by the Government to reduce the deficit?

1. Reducing revenue expenditure
2. Introducing new welfare schemes
3. Rationalizing subsidies
4. Reducing import duty

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, 3 and 4

### Solution

- Budget deficit is used to define a status of financial health in which expenditures exceed revenue.
- Reducing the revenue expenditure will certainly help in bridging the gap.
- Subsidies are a part of expenditure and rationalizing them would reduce the deficit.

- Introducing new welfare schemes will most likely result in increasing expenditure and so will expanding industries which would require capital infusion.



29. The establishment of 'Payment Banks' is being allowed in India to promote financial inclusion. Which of the following statements is/are correct in this context?

1. Mobile telephone companies and supermarket chains that are owned and controlled by residents are eligible to be promoters of Payment Banks.
2. Payment Banks can issue both credit cards and debit cards.
3. Payment Banks cannot undertake lending activities.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

A 1 and 2 only

B 1 and 3 only

C 2 only

D 1, 2 and 3

### Solution

- In August 2015, Reserve Bank of India granted 'in-principle' approval to 11 applicants to start payments banks.
- These include Reliance Industries, Airtel M Commerce Services, Tech Mahindra, Vodafone mpesa, Aditya Birla Nuvo, Department of Posts, Cholamandalam Distribution Services, Fino PayTech, PayTm, National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) and Sun Pharma.

- They can issue debit cards but not credit cards.
- FDI of 74% is allowed in these banks.

30. With reference to 'LiFi', recently in the news, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It uses light as the medium for high-speed data transmission.
2. It is a wireless technology and is several times faster than 'WiFi'.

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

### Solution

- Using light to deliver wireless internet will also allow connectivity in environments that do not currently readily support Wi-Fi, such as aircraft cabins, hospitals and hazardous environments.
- Light is already used for data transmission in fibre-optic cables and for point to point links, but Li-Fi is a special and novel combination of technologies that allow it to be universally adopted for mobile ultra high speed internet communications.

- Using the visible light spectrum, Li-Fi technology can transmit data and unlock capacity which is 10,000 times greater than that available within the radio spectrum.

31. The term ‘Intended Nationally Determined Contributions’ is sometimes seen in the news in the context of

A

pledges made by the European countries to rehabilitate refugees from the war-affected Middle East

B

plan of action outlined by the countries of the world to combat climate change

C

capital contributed by the member countries in the establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

D

plan of action outlined by the countries of the world regarding Sustainable Development Goals

### Solution

- Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) is a term used under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that all countries that signed the UNFCCC were asked to publish in the lead up to the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Paris, France in December 2015.
- The INDCs, which lay out the blueprint for tackling climate change, emphasised eight key goals — sustainable lifestyles, cleaner

economic development, reducing emission intensity of GDP, increasing the share of nonfossil fuel based electricity, enhancing carbon sink, adaptation and mobilising finance, technology transfer and capacity building.

32. Which one of the following is a purpose of 'UDAY', a scheme of the Government?

A

Providing technical and financial assistance to startup entrepreneurs in the field of renewable sources of energy

B

Providing electricity to every household in the countries by 2018

C

Replacing the coal-based power plants with natural gas, nuclear, solar, wind and tidal power plants over a period of time

D

**Providing for financial turnaround and revival of power distribution companies**

### Solution

- The Union Cabinet had given its approval to a new scheme moved by the Ministry of Power - Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojna or UDAY.
- UDAY provides for the financial turnaround and revival of Power Distribution companies (DISCOMs), and importantly also ensures a sustainable permanent solution to the problem.
- Under UDAY, state governments will take over 75 per cent of the debt held by their discoms as of September 30, 2015.
- Half the debt will be taken over in 2015-16 and 25 per cent in 2016-17.

- The balance 25 per cent of the debt is to be serviced through state government-guaranteed bonds issued by the discoms.



33. **With reference to ‘IFC Masala Bonds’, sometimes seen in the news, which of the statements given below is/are correct?**

- 1. The International Finance Corporation, which offers these bonds, is an arm of the World Bank.**
- 2. They are the rupeedenominated bonds and are a source of debt financing for the public and private sector,**

**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

### **Solution**

- Bonds are instruments of debt
- typically used by corporates to raise money from investors.
- Masala bonds have to be explained in the context of Indian corporates raising money from overseas investors.
- The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the investment arm of the World Bank, issued a Rs. 1,000 crore bond in November last year.
- The purpose of the issue was to fund infrastructure projects in India.

- Companies including NTPC, Neyveli Lignite Corporation, Power Finance Corporation, Power Trading Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation are likely to launch these Masala Bonds totalling \$1 billion in the next three or four months in the UK to gauge the investor appetite.
- The tenor of these bonds is likely to be limited to a band of five to seven years and these are going to be in smaller denominations ranging from \$150-250 million.
- These will be subject to decisions made by the Boards of the PSU energy companies.

34. **Regarding the taxation system of Krishna Deva, the ruler of Vijayanagar, consider the following statements:**

1. **The tax rate on land was fixed depending on the quality of the land.**
2. **Private owners of workshops paid an industries tax.**

**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

### **Solution**

- Vijayanagara rulers followed an oppressive taxation policy. The prosperity of the empire can be explained through their taxation principles in the following lines.
- They collected variety of taxes ranging on the nature of lands.
- The villages were classified into eight types for tax purpose.
- They were:
  - 1)The brahmadeya villages

2)The devadana villages

3)The mathapura villages

4)The sarvamanya villages

5) The kodagi lands

6) Rakta-kodagal lands

7) Guttagi lands

8) The rest of the villages or lands.

- The first four types prevailed prior to the Vijayanagar times. Private owners also paid industries taxes.
- Merchant guilds were empowered to levy taxes on goods manufactured, sold or transported.

35. Which one of the following books of ancient India has the love story of the son of the founder of Sunga dynasty?

A Swapnavasavadatta

**B Malvikagnimitra**

C Meghadoota

D Ratnavali

### Solution

- Kalidasa is the most distinguished dramatist and his treatment of the rasa of love in all its possible manifestations in the three plays Malvikagnimitra (Malavika and Agnimitra), Vikramorvasiya (Vikram and Urvasi) and Abhigyana Shakuntala (the recognition of Shakuntala) is unparalleled.
- He is the poet of love and beauty, and believes in the affirmation of life, the joy of which lies in pure, sacred and ever-widening love.

36. In the context of which of the following do you sometimes find the terms 'amber box, blue box and green box' in the news?

**A** WTO affairs

**B** SAARC affairs

**C** UNFCCC affairs

**D** India-EU negotiations on FTA

### Solution

- In WTO terminology, subsidies in general are identified by “Boxes” which are given the colours of traffic lights: green (permitted), amber (slow down — i.e. be reduced), red (forbidden). In agriculture, things are, as usual, more complicated.
- The Agriculture Agreement has no Red Box, although domestic support exceeding the reduction commitment levels in the Amber Box is prohibited; and there is a Blue Box for subsidies that are tied to programmes that limit production.
- The '**amber box**': For agriculture, all domestic support measures considered to distort production and trade (with some exceptions) fall into the amber box.
- The '**green box**': In order to qualify for the "green box", a subsidy must not distort trade, or at most cause minimal distortion.

- These subsidies have to be government-funded (not by charging consumers higher prices) and must not involve price support.
- The '**blue box**': The blue box is an exemption from the general rule that all subsidies linked to production must be reduced or kept within defined minimal ("de minimis") levels.
- It covers payments directly linked to acreage or animal numbers, but under schemes which also limit production by imposing production quotas or requiring farmers to set aside part of their land.
- Countries using these subsidies - and there are only a handful - say they distort trade less than alternative amber box subsidies.
- Currently, the only members notifying the WTO that they are using or have used the blue box are: the EU, Iceland, Norway, Japan, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, and the US (now no longer using the box).

37. Which of the following is/are included in the capital budget of the Government of India?

1. Expenditure on acquisition of assets like roads, buildings, machinery, etc.
2. Loans received from foreign governments
3. Loans and advances granted to the States and Union Territories

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**

### Solution

- The Capital Budget is an account of the assets as well as liabilities of the central government, which takes into consideration changes in capital. It consists of capital receipts and capital expenditure of the government.
- This shows the capital requirements of the government and the pattern of their financing. The main items of capital receipts are loans raised by the government from the public which are called market borrowings, borrowing by the government from the Reserve Bank



and commercial banks and other financial institutions through the sale of treasury bills, loans received from foreign governments and international organisations, and recoveries of loans granted by the central government.

- **Capital Expenditure:** There are expenditures of the government which result in creation of physical or financial assets or reduction in financial liabilities.
- This includes expenditure on the acquisition of land, building, machinery, equipment, investment in shares, and loans and advances by the central government to state and union territory governments, PSUs and other parties.

**38. What is/are the importance/ importances of the ‘United Convention to Combat Desertification’?**

- 1. It aims to promote effective action through innovative national programmes and supportive international partnerships**
- 2. It has a special/particular focus on South Asia and North Africa regions, and its Secretariat facilitates the allocation of major portion of financial resources to these regions.**
- 3. It is committed to bottomup approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating the desertification.**

**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

### **Solution**

- Desertification, along with climate change and the loss of biodiversity, were identified as the greatest challenges to sustainable development during the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. Established in 1994, UNCCD is the sole legally binding international agreement

linking environment and development to sustainable land management.

- The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found.
- The Convention's 195 parties work together to improve the living conditions for people in drylands, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects of drought.
- The UNCCD is particularly committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification and land degradation.
- The UNCCD secretariat facilitates cooperation between developed and developing countries, particularly around knowledge and technology transfer for sustainable land management.

39. **Recently, which one of the following currencies has been proposed to be added to the basket of IMF's SDR?**

**A** Rouble

**B** Rand

**C** Indian Rupee

**D** Renminbi

### **Solution**

- The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund decided to include the Chinese currency, the renminbi (yuan), into its basket of currencies that make up the IMF's Special Drawing Right (SDR).
- The decision was taken during the IMF's five-yearly review of the basket of currencies.
- SDRs are artificial currency created to augment international liquidity.
- It is neither a currency nor a claim on IMF rather it supplements the existing reserves of member countries of IMF.
- To be included as SDR a currency must be freely usable, widely used and widely traded. U.S. dollar, the euro, British pound and the Japanese yen form the SDR basket.

- IMF has decided to include Yuan in the SDR basket with effect from October 1, 2016.
- The respective weights of the U.S. dollar, euro, Chinese renminbi, Japanese yen, and pound sterling are 41.73 percent, 30.93 percent, 10.92 percent, 8.33 percent

40. **With reference to the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), consider the following statements:**

- 1. IMFC discusses matters of concern affecting the global economy, and advises the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the direction of its work.**
- 2. The World Bank participates as observer in IMFC's meetings.**

**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

### **Solution**

- The IMFC advises and reports to the IMF Board of Governors on the supervision and management of the international monetary and financial system, including on responses to unfolding events that may disrupt the system although the IMFC has no formal decision-making powers, in practice, it has become a key instrument for providing strategic direction to the work and policies of the IMF.
- A number of international institutions, including the World Bank, participate as observers in the IMFC's meetings.



41. **‘Rashtriya Garima Abhiyaan’ is a national campaign to**

**A**

rehabilitate the homeless and destitute persons and provide them with suitable sources of livelihood

**B**

release the sex workers from their practice and provide them with alternative sources of livelihood

**C**

**eradicate the practice of manual scavenging and rehabilitate the manual scavengers**

**D**

release the bonded labourers from their bondage and rehabilitate them

### **Solution**

- Campaign has started in 2001 known as ‘Rashtriya Garima Abhiyan’, (National Campaign for Dignity and Elimination of Manual Scavenging) has proven to be a very innovative and effective program to eliminate manual scavenging practice.
- Campaign has liberated 11,000 women manual scavengers in various parts of India and urged them to give up this caste-based, unconstitutional practice. In its efforts campaign attain to social, economic, political and cultural rehabilitation of Manual Scavenger.



42. **With reference to the cultural history of medieval India, consider the following statements:**

- 1. Siddhas (Sittars) of Tamil region were monotheistic and condemned idolatry.**
- 2. Lingayats of Kannada region questioned the theory of rebirth and rejected the caste hierarchy.**

**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

### **Solution**

- The twelfth century witnessed the emergence of a new movement in Karnataka, led by a Brahmana named Basavanna (1106-68) who was initially a Jaina and a minister in the court of a Chalukya king.
- His followers were known as Virashaivas (heroes of Shiva) or Lingayats (wearers of the linga).
- The Lingayats challenged the idea of caste and the “pollution” attributed to certain groups by Brahmanas.
- They also questioned the theory of rebirth.

- These won them followers amongst those who were marginalised within the Brahmanical social order.
- Siddhas (Sittars) Saiva school in Tamil Nadu which held the monotheistic puritan creed and roundly condemned idolatry, their history are not known they seem to be known as most active during 16th and 17th century.

43. Which of the following best describes the term ‘import cover’, sometimes seen in the news?

A

It is the ratio of value of imports to the Gross Domestic Product of a country

B

It is the total value of imports of a country in a year

C

It is the ratio between the value of exports and that of imports between two countries

D

**It is the number of months of imports that could be paid for by a country’s international reserves**

### Solution

- Import cover is an important indicator of the stability of the currency.
- It measures the number of months of money available in the national bank to cover the cost of imports or the stock of foreign exchange reserves in terms of months of retained imports of goods as at end of year.
- During the currency crisis of 2013, when foreign exchange reserves fell to around \$275 billion, import cover dipped to around seven months.

44. Consider the following pairs:

Community sometimes mentioned in the news In the affairs of

1. Kurd : Bangladesh
2. Madhesi : Nepal
3. Rohingya : Myanmar

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

A 1 and 2

B 2 only

C 2 and 3

D 3 only

### Solution

- The **Madhesi** also referred to as Teraibasi Nepali are an indigenous ethnic group of Nepalese people who are natives of the Madhesh plains of Southern Nepal in Terai belt of South Asia.
- Between 25 and 35 million Kurds inhabit a mountainous region straddling the borders of Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran and Armenia.
- They make up the fourth-largest ethnic group in the Middle East, but they have never obtained a permanent nation state.

- The Rohingya are an ethnic Muslim minority in the majority Buddhist Myanmar.
- Many of their enemies refuse to acknowledge that the Rohingya are an ethnically distinct group.
- They claim instead that the Rohingya are Bengali and that their presence in Myanmar is the result of illegal immigration (more on that later).
- The Rohingya, for their part, claim to be pre-colonial residents of Myanmar's Rakhine state, the Middle East Institute explains, with the earliest known appearance of the term Rohingya in 1799.

45. With reference to ‘Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)’, consider the following statements:

1. It is an organization of European Union in working relation with NATO and WHO.
2. It monitors chemical industry to prevent new weapons from emerging.
3. It provides assistance and protection to States (Parties) against chemical weapons threats.

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

### Solution

- OPCW is the Hague-based autonomous body, which works within the framework of the United Nations, was established in 1997 by the Chemical Weapons Convention to carry out its mandate.

### OBJECTIVES:

- OPCW Member States share the collective goal of preventing chemistry from ever again being used for warfare, thereby strengthening international security.
- To this end, the Convention contains four key provisions: destroying all existing chemical weapons under international verification by the OPCW monitoring chemical industry to prevent new weapons from re-emerging; providing assistance and protection to States Parties against chemical threats; and fostering international cooperation to strengthen implementation of the Convention and promote the peaceful use of chemistry.

46. With referene to ‘Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana’, consider the following statements:

1. Under this scheme, farmers will have to pay a uniform premium of two percent for any crop they cultivate in any reason of the year.
2. This scheme covers postharvest losses arising out of cyclones and unseasonal rains.

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

### Solution

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is the new crop damage insurance scheme that has been approved by the Union Cabinet in January 2016.
- It will replace the existing two crop insurance schemes National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified NAIS.
- The new scheme will come into force from the Kharif season starting in June this year.



- One of the highlights included there will be a uniform premium of only 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5%.
- Also **POST-HARVEST LOSSES includes** (individual farm basis): Coverage is available upto a maximum period of 14 days from harvesting for those crops which are kept in "cut & spread" condition to dry in the field after harvesting, against specific perils of cyclone / cyclonic rains, unseasonal rains throughout the country.
- **Hence only statement 2 is correct.**

47. In which of the following regions of India are you most likely to come across the 'Great Indian Hornbill' in its natural habitat?

**A** Sand deserts of northwet India

**B** Higher Himalayas of Jammu and Kashmir

**C** Salt marshes of western Gujarat

**D** Western Ghats

### Solution

- The great hornbill, a magnificent bird reaching a length of three-and-a-half feet, is distinguished by a big yellow beak with a casque and striking tail feathers the magnificent birds which were a common sight in the Western Ghats are rarely seen, due to deforestation. habitat loss threatens its future, and hunting has depleted populations.
- It is protected at the highest level under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, but that can do little to save the habitat.

48. Which of the following are the key features of 'National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)?

1. River basin is the unit of planning and management.
2. It spearheads the river conservation efforts at the national level.
3. One of the Chief Ministers of the States through which the Ganga flows becomes the Chairman of NGRBA on rotation basis.

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

### Solution

- The Central Government set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) in 2009 and mandated it to take up regulatory and developmental functions with sustainability needs for effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a river basin approach for comprehensive planning and management.

- The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR) is the nodal Ministry for the NGRBA.
- The authority is chaired by the Prime Minister and has as its members the Union Ministers concerned, the Chief Ministers of the States through which Ganga flows, viz., Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, among others.
- This initiative is expected to rejuvenate the collective efforts of the Centre and the States for cleaning the river.
- NGRBA functions include development of a Ganga River Basin Management Plan, regulation of activities aimed at prevention, control and abatement of pollution, to maintain water quality and to take measures relevant to the river ecology in the Ganga basin states.
- It is mandated to ensure the maintenance of minimum ecological flows in the river Ganga and abate pollution through planning, financing and execution of programmes including that of

1) Augmentation of Sewerage Infrastructure

2) Catchment Area Treatment

3) Protection of Flood Plains

4) Creating Public Awareness

49. **Why does the Government of India promote the use of 'Neem-coated Urea' in agriculture?**

**A**

Release of Neem oil in the soil increases nitrogen fixation by the soil microorganisms

**B**

**Neem coating slows down the rate of dissolution of urea in the soil**

**C**

Nitrous oxide, which is a greenhouse gas, is not at all released into atmosphere by crop fields

**D**

It is a combination of a weedicide and a fertilizer for particular crops

### **Solution**

- Urea is an important supplier of nitrogen, which is necessary for the development of plants.
- But only 30-40 per cent of nitrogen present in the urea is utilised by crops.
- The rest gets degraded.
- When ordinary urea is applied, it gets converted to ammonium carbamate.
- Some of this gets converted to ammonia gas in what is called ammonia volatilisation.
- About 8-10 per cent nitrogen is lost during volatilization.

- The rest of the ammonium carbamate undergoes chemical transformation and nitrates are formed.
- Some of these are absorbed by the plants.
- The rest are either leached into the underground water or are denitrified to gaseous nitrogen and nitrous oxide under anaerobic conditions (absence of oxygen).
- Neem has properties that check nitrogen loss at each stage. It slows down the process of nitrate formation and hence excess nitrate is not available for denitrification.
- When farmers use this urea, the slow release of nitrogen helps the fertility of the soil. Therefore, there will be more yield to the extent of 15-20%.
- Also, the higher usage of neem-coated urea would check diversion of urea for industrial use. Neem coated urea also works as insecticide

50. Consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Secretary in a State is appointed by the Governor of that State.
2. The Chief Secretary in a State has a fixed tenure.

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

### Solution

- The incumbent to the post of Chief Secretary is chosen by and appointed by the Chief Minister and the Ministers of the State.
- The trend is that the Chief Minister consults the Union Government regarding the appointment of the Chief Secretary but, this consultation is not obligatory.
- There is no fixed tenure for the post of Chief Secretary.
- Administrative reform commission in 1969 had recommended that a Chief secretary should have a minimum tenure of three to four years.

51. **With reference to ‘Stand Up India Scheme’, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- 1. Its purpose is to promote entrepreneurship among SC/ST and women entrepreneurs.**
- 2. It provides for refinance through SIDBI.**

**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

### **Solution**

- "Stand Up India Scheme" was initiated to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes, Schedule Tribes and Women.
- The scheme will provide financial aid through the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) with an initial amount of Rs 10,000 crore.
- The system will personally guide each entrepreneur through the pre-loan and operational phases.



- The scheme will also familiarise the entrepreneurs with factoring services, emarket places and registration with online platforms and other aspects of web entrepreneurship.

52. The FAO accords the status of ‘Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS)’ to traditional agricultural systems. What is the overall goal of this initiative?

1. To provide modern technology, training in modern farming methods and financial support to local communities of identified GIAHS so as to greatly enhance their agricultural productivity.
2. To identify and safeguard eco-friendly traditional farm practices and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems of the local communities
3. To provide Geographical Indication status to all the varieties of agricultural produce in such identified GIAHS

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

### Solution

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** GIAHS aims to protect traditional agricultural systems. It will not provide any modern technology and

training.

- **Statement 2 is correct.** GIAHS aims to identify and safeguard eco-friendly traditional farm practices and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems of the local communities.
- **Statement 3 is also incorrect.** There is no such provision.

53. Which of the following is/are tributary/ tributaries of Brahmaputra?

1. Dibang
2. Kameng
3. Lohit

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

### Solution

- Tributaries- Dibang River, Lohit River, Dhansiri River, Kolong River, Kameng River, Manas River, Raidak River, Jaldhaka River, Teesta River, Subansiri River.
- Brahmaputra River originates in the great glacier mass north of Kailash ranges of the Himalayas (elevation 5,150 m) & south of a lake called 'Konggyu Tsho'.
- It is only next to Amazon with a specific yield of 85 ha m / sq km in comparison to 87 ha m /sq km of the latter.

- Brahmaputra traverses a distance of 2,900 km through four countries – Tibet (China), Bhutan, India and Bangladesh before entering the Bay of Bengal.
- The source of this river lies in the Kanglung Kang Glacier near the Kailash range of the Himalayas located in the south-western part of the Tibetan plateau at an elevation of 5,300 m, near Konggyu Tso Lake Here, the river is called Tamchok Khambab Kangri. Many snow-fed streams join the river from the passes at about 60 km southeast of Mansarovar Lake.
- It has a catchment area of 580,000 sq. km, an average annual discharge of 19,820 cumec, an average annual sediment load of 735 million metric tonnes, and a specific flood discharge of 0.149 cumec/ sq. km.
- The catchment area of the river falls in four countries.

54. The term 'Core Banking Solution' is sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following statements best describes/describe this term?

1. It is a networking of a bank's branches which enables customers to operate their accounts from any branch of the bank on its network regardless of where they open their accounts.
2. It is an effort to increase RBI's control over commercial banks through computerization.
3. It is a detailed procedure by which a bank with huge non-performing assets is taken over by another bank.

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

### Solution

- Only statement 1 is correct.

- Core banking solution enables customers to operate their accounts, and avail banking services from any branch of the bank on CBS network, regardless of where they open
- The core banking solution of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the E-kuber. It enables commercial banks to access their current account with the RBI, at any time, from any place and maintain their account.

**55. Consider the following pairs:**

**Terms sometimes seen in the news : Their origin**

- 1. Annex-I Countries : Cartagena Protocol**
- 2. Certified Emissions Reductions : Nagoya Protocol**
- 3. Clean Development Mechanisms : Kyoto Protocol**

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

**A** 1 and 2 only

**B** 2 and 3 only

**C** 3 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3

**Solution**

- The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), created multilaterally under the UNFCCC is one of the mitigation instruments under the Kyoto Protocol.
- The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), defined in Article 12 of the Protocol, allows a country with an emission-reduction or emission-limitation commitment under the Kyoto Protocol (Annex B Party) to implement an emissionreduction project in developing countries.



- Such projects can earn saleable certified emission reduction (CER) credits, each equivalent to one tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>, which can be counted towards meeting Kyoto targets.
- Annex-I countries are parties to Kyoto protocol.

56. In the context of the developments in Bioinformatics, the term 'transcriptome', sometimes seen in the news, refers to

- A** a range of enzymes used in genome editing
- B** the full range of mRNA molecules expressed by an organism
- C** the description of the mechanism of gene expression
- D** a mechanism of genetic mutations taking place in cells

### Solution

- Bioinformatics refers to the application of computer technology to the management of biological information.
- Transcriptome refers to the full range of messenger RNA (mRNA) molecules expressed from the genes of an organism.
- The human genome is made up of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), a long, winding molecule that contains the instructions needed to build and maintain cells. These instructions are spelled out in the form of "base pairs" of four different chemicals, organized into 20,000 to 25,000 genes. For the instructions to be carried out, DNA must be "read" and transcribed - in other words, copied - into RNA (ribonucleic acid). These gene readouts are called transcripts, and a transcriptome is a collection of all the gene readouts present in a cell.

- There are various kinds of RNA. The major type, called messenger RNA (mRNA), plays a vital role in making proteins. In this process: mRNA is transcribed from genes; then the mRNA transcripts are delivered to ribosomes, the molecular machines located in the cell's cytoplasm; then the ribosomes read, or "translate," the sequence of chemical letters in the mRNA and assemble building blocks called amino acids into proteins.
- DNA can also be transcribed into other types of RNA that do not code for proteins. Such transcripts may serve to influence cell structure and to regulate genes.

57. 'Mission Indradhanush' launched by the Government of India pertains to

**A** immunization of children and pregnant women

**B** construction of smart cities across the country

**C** India's own search for the Earth-like planets in outer space

**D** New Educational Policy

### Solution

- **Mission Indradhanush:** It was launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 25th Dec 2014.
- The objective is to ensure that all children under the age of two years as well as pregnant women are fully immunized with seven vaccine preventable diseases.
- By 2020, provide vaccination to all children who are either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated against:
  - Diphtheria
  - Pertussis (Whooping cough)
  - Tetanus,
  - Tuberculosis,
  - Polio,

- Measles
- Hepatitis B
- The aim is to reach atleast 90% vaccination. At present the immunisation is around 65%.

**58. Which of the following best describes/ describe the aim of ‘Green India Mission’ of the Government of India?**

- 1. Incorporating environmental benefits and costs into the Union and State Budgets thereby implementing the ‘green accounting’**
- 2. Launching the second green revolution to enhance agricultural output so as to ensure food security to one and all in the future**
- 3. Restoring and enhancing forest cover and responding to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 and 3 only

**C** 3 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3

### **Solution**

- The National Mission for Green India (GIM) is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- It aims at protecting; restoring and enhancing India’s diminishing forest cover and responding to climate change by a combination of

adaptation and mitigation measures.

- It envisages a holistic view of greening and focuses on multiple ecosystem services, especially, biodiversity, water, biomass, preserving mangroves, wetlands, critical habitats etc. along with carbon sequestration as a co-benefit.
- **Statements 1 and 2 are not the aims of Green India Mission.**

**59. With reference to prepackaged items in India, it is mandatory to the manufacturer to put which of the following information on the main label, as per the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011?**

- 1. List of ingredients including additives**
- 2. Nutrition information**
- 3. Recommendation, if any, made by the medical profession about the possibility of any allergic reactions**
- 4. Vegetarian/nonvegetarian**

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

**A** 1, 2 and 3

**B** 2, 3 and 4

**C** 1, 2 and 4

**D** 1 and 4 only

### **Solution**

- Every pre-packaged items in India the following information on the label:

1. Name of the food
2. list of ingredients



3. declaration of food additives
4. Net quantity or net weight
5. Batch identification
6. Name and address of the manufacturer
7. Date Marking
8. Veg/ Non veg declaration

60. 'Project Loon', sometimes seen in the news, is related to

A waste management technology

**B wireless communication technology**

C solar power production technology

D water conservation technology

### Solution

- Project Loon is a research and development project being developed by Google X with the mission of providing Internet access to rural and remote areas.
- The project uses high-altitude balloons placed in the stratosphere at an altitude of about 18 km (11 mi) to create an aerial wireless network with up to 4G-LTE speeds.
- By partnering with Telecommunications companies to share cellular spectrum Google is trying to enable people to connect to the balloon network directly from their phones and other LTE-enabled devices.
- Microsoft is planning to use unused TV spectrum to provide internet access in remote areas.

61. 'Net metering' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of promoting the

**A** production and use of solar energy by the households/consumers

**B** use of piped natural gas in the kitchens of households

**C** installation of CNG kits in motor-cars

**D** installation of water meters in urban households

### Solution

- Net metering is a billing mechanism that credits solar energy system owners for the electricity they add to the grid.
- It gives consumer power over electricity bills and promote renewable energy.
- It is the mechanism of selling the surplus solar power where meters measure the solar power exported to the grid; the consumer is given credit for the exported power, lightening the bill.

62. **India's ranking in the 'Ease of Doing Business Index' is sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following has declared that ranking?**

**A** Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

**B** World Economic Forum

**C** **World Bank**

**D** World Trade Organization (WTO)

### **Solution**

- World bank's Ease of doing business report, India's position has improved from 142 to 130.
- This is on account of ease of starting a business, dealing with construction permit and getting electricity permits.
- Now, companies can get connected to the grid and get on with their business, 14 days sooner than before.
- The number of days it takes to start a new business has gone up marginally from last year, from 28.4 to 29 Credit is one area where India performs poorly and needs to improve.
- Access to credit and ease of paying taxes has worsened, according to the World Bank's Doing Business Report 2016.

63. Banjaras during the medieval period of Indian history were generally

A agriculturists

B warriors

C weavers

D traders

### Solution

- There were many kinds of traders in medieval period these included the Banjaras.
- They were the most important trader nomads.
- Their caravan was called tanda.
- Sultan Alauddin Khalji used the Banjaras to transport grain to the city markets.
- Emperor Jahangir wrote in his memoirs that the Banjaras carried grain on their bullocks from different areas and sold it in towns.

64. **Who of the following had first deciphered the edicts of Emperor Ashoka?**

**A** Georg Buhler

**B** James Prinsep

**C** Max Muller

**D** William Jones

### **Solution**

- James Prinsep, a British antiquary and colonial administrator was the first person to decipher Ashoka's edicts. These Ashoka's inscriptions are the first tangible evidence of Buddhism.
- They were kept in public places and along trade routes so that the maximum number of people would read them. More than religious discourses, they talk about the moral duties of the people, how to conduct life, Ashoka's desire to be a good and benevolent ruler, and Ashoka's work towards this end.
- There are 33 inscriptions in total and primarily classified into the following:
  - Major rock edicts

- Minor rock edicts
- Separate rock edicts
- Major pillar edicts
- Minor pillar edicts
- In the earlier half of his reign, the edicts were inscribed on conveniently located rock surfaces and were distributed in the areas of public settlement, where people could easily read them and are referred to as major and minor rock edicts.
- In the later part of his reign, the inscriptions were on well polished monolithic pillars (from the sites of Chunar, near Varanasi), each edict surmounted with a finely sculpted animal capital involving great technological expertise in cutting and engraving and were mainly confined to the Ganges plain.
- The inscriptions were composed in the Prakrit language (in Magadhi, the dialect of Prakrit in Magadha) and written in Brahmi script throughout the greater part of the empire. But in the north-western part, they appear in Kharosthi script and in Kandahar in Afghanistan, they were written in Aramaic, in Greek script and Greek language.

65. With reference to the 'Gram Nyayalaya Act', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. As per the Act, Gram Nyayalayas can hear only civil cases and not criminal cases.
2. The Act allows local social activists as mediators/reconciliators.

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

### Solution

- Gram Nyayalayas are mobile village courts in India established under Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 for speedy and easy access to justice system in the rural areas.
- **Statement 1 is not correct.**
- Gram Nyayalaya exercises the powers of both Criminal and Civil Courts.
- The Gram Nyayalaya are supposed to try to settle the disputes as far as possible by bringing about conciliation between the parties and



for this purpose, it can make use of the conciliators such social activists/mediators.

66. **With reference to the ‘TransPacific Partnership’, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is an agreement among all the Pacific Rim countries except China and Russia.**
- 2. It is a strategic alliance for the purpose of maritime security only.**

**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

### **Solution**

- The Trans-Pacific Partnership was signed by only 12 member nations of Pacific rim, not all the Pacific Rim countries except China and Russia.
- **The members are:** Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam.
- It is not a strategic alliance. It is a trade alliance.

**67. Consider the following statements: The India-Africa Summit**

- 1. held in 2015 was the third such Summit**
- 2. was actually initiated by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1951**

**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

**Solution**

- The 3rd India-Africa summit was held in New Delhi in October 2015.
- The previous two gatherings were held in 2008 in New Delhi and in 2011

**India Africa Summit**

- Started in 2008
- Intergovernmental attempt to give direction and thrust to bilateral synergy Summits: 2008 (New Delhi); 2011 (Addis Adaba) ; 2015 (New Delhi)

## Achievements:

- India has committed unprecedented level of resource e.g. promise of \$5bn in soft loans
- India offered duty free access to Africa's Least developed countries
- Institution building and training fellowships to Africa
- Increased People to people contact: Students, Entrepreneurs, medical tourists
- Increased cultural and informational contacts and mutual awareness
- Many Indian corporates have invested in Africa (India – 6% ahead of China – 3% in Private corporate investment)

**68. What is/are the purpose/purposes of the ‘Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR)’ announced by RBI?**

- 1. These guidelines help improve the transparency in the methodology followed by banks for determining the interest rates on advances.**
- 2. These guidelines help ensure availability of bank credit at interest rates which are fair to the borrowers as well as the banks.**

**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

### **Solution**

- To ensure better transmission and transparency of rates, the RBI introduced the MCLR framework, under which banks have to calculate their cost of funds based on the latest rates offered on deposits or borrowings. This was to ensure that changes in deposit rates were immediately reflected on banks’ cost of funds.

- Apart from helping improve the transmission of policy rates into the lending rates of banks, these measures are expected to improve transparency in the methodology followed by banks for determining interest rates on advances.
- The guidelines are also expected to ensure availability of bank credit at interest rates which are fair to the borrowers as well as the banks.
- Further, marginal cost pricing of loans will help the banks become more competitive and enhance their long run value and contribution to economic growth.

69. What is/are unique about 'Kharai camel', a breed found in India?

1. It is capable of swimming up to three kilometres in seawater.
2. It survives by grazing on mangroves.
3. It lives in the wild and cannot be domesticated.

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

### Solution

- The Kharai camel grazes on mangroves and is tolerant to saline water.
- It is found only in Gujarat's coastal areas. It is capable of swimming up to three kilometers into the sea in search of mangroves.
- **3rd statement is incorrect.** It can be domesticated.
- Given the breed's ability to survive both on land and sea, the Kharai camel is one of the most preferred choices of graziers in the arid coastal region of Kachchh.

- People consume its milk, while male calves are sold for economic returns.



70. **Recently, our scientists have discovered a new and distinct species of banana plant which attains a height of about 11 metres and has orange-coloured fruit pulp. In which part of India has it been discovered?**

**A** Andaman Islands

**B** Anaimalai Forests

**C** Maikala Hills

**D** Tropical rain forests of northeast

### **Solution**

- Scientists at the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) discovered the new species of banana from a remote tropical rain forest on the Little Andaman islands.
- The new species has orangecoloured fruit pulp and is about 11 metres high, whereas as the usual banana species is about three to four metres high.

71. Which one of the following is the best description of 'INS Astradharini', that was in the news recently?

A Amphibious warfare ship

B Nuclear-powered submarine

C Torpedo launch and recovery vessel

D Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier

### Solution

- INS Astradharini is an indigenously designed and built torpedo launch and recovery vessel built by Shoft Shipyard for Indian Navy.
- It was commissioned by Indian Navy on 6 October 2015 at Naval Base in Visakhapatnam.

72. What is 'Greased Lightning10 (GL-10)', recently in the news?

**A** Electric plane tested by NASA

**B** Solar-powered twoseater aircraft designed by Japan

**C** Space observatory launched by China

**D** Reusable rocket designed by ISRO

### Solution

- The GL-10 or Greased Lightning is a 28kg, battery-powered drone prototype that can switch between helicopter and airplane modes, giving the aircraft the maneuverability and vertical take-off capabilities of a chopper, as well as the speed and endurance of a plane designed by NASA.
- The Greased Lightning or GL10 is the electric plane with 10 engines tested by NASA that can take off and land like a helicopter and fly efficiently like an aircraft.

**73. With reference to ‘Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intestive Millets Promotion’, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- 1. This initiative aims to demonstrate the improved production and post-harvest technologies, and to demonstrate value addition techniques, in an integrated manner, with cluster approach.**
- 2. Poor, small, marginal and tribal farmers have larger stake in this scheme.**
- 3. An important objective of the scheme isto encourage farmers of commercial crops to shift to millet cultivation by offering them free kits of critical inputs of nutrients and microirrigation equipment.**

**Select the the correct answer using the code given below.**

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 and 3 only

**C** 1 and 2 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3

**Solution**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millets Promotion aims to demonstrate the improved production and post-harvest technologies in an integrated manner with cluster approach.
- **Statement 2 is also correct.** Millets are mainly grown in regions of low annual rainfall and poor arid soil.
- It is poor, small, marginal and tribal farmers, who cannot afford costly irrigation practices, depend on cultivation of millets. Hence these farmers benefit from the scheme and have a larger stake in this scheme.
- **Statement 3 is not correct.** There is no such provision of encouraging farmers of commercial crops to shift to millet cultivation.

74. The 'Swadeshi' and 'Boycott' were adopted as methods of struggle for the first time during the

**A** agitation against the Partition of Bengal

**B** Home Rule Movement

**C** Non-Cooperation Movement

**D** visit of the Simon Commission to India

### Solution

- **The correct option is A** agitation against the Partition of Bengal.
- The British Government's decision to partition Bengal had been made public in December 1903.
- The Swadeshi and Boycott Movement was an effort by Indian people to oppose British rule. It began when British officials separated the Bengal province dividing it by Bengali Hindi and Oriya languages and Muslim and Hindu religions. Indians responded by boycotting British products and using only Indian-made goods.
- **Swadeshi and Boycott started against Partition of Bengal in 1905.**

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

- 1. The concept of Bodhisattva is central to Hinayana sect of Buddhism.**
- 2. Bodhisattva is a compassionate one on his way to enlightenment.**
- 3. Bodhisattva delays achieving his own salvation to help all sentient beings on their path to it.**

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

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 and 3 only

**C** 2 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3

### **Solution**

- Bodhisattva in Buddhism is one who seeks awakening or enlightenment.
- This concept is central to Mahayana sect of Buddhism.
- In Mahayana Buddhism, bodhisattva refers to a human being committed to the attainment of enlightenment for the sake of others.

- A Bodhisattva may delay achieving his own salvation to help all sentient beings on their path to it.



76. **‘Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontieres)’**, often in the news, is

**A** a division of World Health Organization

**B** a non-governmental international organization

**C** an inter-governmental agency sponsored by European Union

**D** a specialized agency of the United Nations

### **Solution**

- Doctors without Borders or Medecins Sans Frontiers is a non-profitable international medical humanitarian organisation created by doctors and journalists in France in 1971.
- MSF gives emergency aid to people affected by wars, epidemics, famine, natural disasters and man-made disasters, or areas where there is no healthcare available.
- It provides this help to all people, regardless their race, religion or political beliefs. In 1999, Doctors Without Borders was awarded the Noble Peace Prize.

77. **With reference to an initiative called ‘The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. **It is an initiative hosted by UNEP, IMF and World Economic Forum.**
2. **It is a global initiative that focuses on drawing attention to the economic benefits of biodiversity.**
3. **It presents an approach that can help decisionmakers recognize, demonstrate and capture the value of ecosystems and biodiversity.**

**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

### **Solution**

- The initiative on 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity' (TEEB) is an important partner in implementing the CBD programme of work on incentive measures, and in particular its work on valuation.

- This major international initiative, funded by the European Commission, Germany, United Kingdom, Norway, the Netherlands and Sweden, and managed by the United Nations Environment Programme as part of its Green Economy Initiative (GEI), seeks to draw attention to the global economic benefits of biodiversity, to highlight the growing costs of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, and to draw together expertise from the fields of science, economics and policy to enable practical actions moving forward.
- Members of the TEEB Advisory Board include the Executive Director of UNEP, the Executive Secretary of the CBD and the Director General of IUCN, amongst others.

78. **With reference to ‘Red Sanders’, sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is a tree species found in a part of South India.**
- 2. It is one of the most important trees in the tropical rain forest areas of South 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

### **Solution**

- Red Sanders, botanical name *Pterocarpus santalinus*, is a non-fragrant variety of sandalwood that mostly grows in rocky, hilly regions. Saplings reach 8 to 10 m in 3- 4 years, but growth slows down after that.
- The trunks are slender, and it takes at least 20-25 years for the tree’s beautiful, deep red wood to be of use.
- It is found in the thorny scrub/dry deciduous forests of the central Deccan, between 500 ft and 3000 ft. only in a small pocket roughly

5,200 sq km in the Palakonda and Seshachalam hills in the districts of Kadapa and Chittoor, in some contiguous areas of Anantapur district, in the Nallamalla forests in Kurnool and Prakasam, and in parts of Nellore district.

- Some contiguous patches in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka see some wild growth.
- Red Sanders is a protected species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora.

79. Which of the following statements is/are correct? Proper design and effective implementation of UNREDD+ Programme can significantly contribute to

1. protection of biodiversity
2. resilience of forest ecosystems
3. poverty reduction

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**

### Solution

- Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) attempts to create financial value for the carbon stored in forests, offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development.
- REDD+ goes beyond deforestation and forest degradation, and includes the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

- It is predicted that financial flows for greenhouse gas emission reductions from REDD+ could reach up to US\$30 billion a year.
- This significant north-south flow of funds could reward a meaningful reduction of carbon emissions and support new, pro-poor development, help conserve biodiversity and secure vital ecosystem services.

## 80. What is 'Greenhouse Gas Protocol'?

**A**

**It is an international accounting tool for government and business leaders to understand, quantify and manage greenhouse gas emissions.**

**B**

It is an initiative of the United Nations to offer financial incentives to developing countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adopt ecofriendly technologies

**C**

It is an intergovernmental agreement ratified by all the member countries of the United Nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to specified levels by the year 2022

**D**

It is one of the multilateral REDD+ initiatives hosted by the World Bank

### **Solution**

- The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol, developed by World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD), sets the global standard for how to measure, manage, and report greenhouse gas emissions.
- Many companies and organizations around the world are using GHG Protocol standards and tools to manage their emissions and become more efficient, resilient, and prosperous organizations.



81. **With reference to ‘Financial Stability and Development Council’, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is an organ of NITI Aayog.**
- 2. It is headed by the Union Finance Minister.**
- 3. It monitors macroprudential supervision of the economy.**

**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

### **Solution**

- **The correct option is C**
- The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) is a non-statutory apex council under the Ministry of Finance constituted by the Executive Order in 2010.
- It is chaired by the Finance Minister and its members include the heads of all Financial Sector Regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA & IRDA), Finance Secretary, Secretary of Department of Economic

Affairs (DEA), Secretary of Department of Financial Services (DFS), and Chief Economic Adviser.

**The objective of FSDC is to**

1. Strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability
2. Enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development.
3. Monitor macro-prudential supervision of the economy.
4. It will assess the functioning of the large financial conglomerates

82. **With reference to ‘Agenda 21’, sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is a global action plan for sustainable development.**
- 2. It originated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002.**

**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

### **Solution**

- Agenda 21 is yet another outcome of the 1992 Earth Summit which was held in Rio de Janeiro.
- It is the 'Voluntary' action plan of the United Nations (UN) related to sustainable development.
- This 40 point document was a comprehensive blueprint of action to be taken globally, nationally and locally by organisations of the UN, governments, and major groups in every area in which humans directly affect the environment.

- For implementation of these points, a Commission on Sustainable Development was established as a high level forum on sustainable development.
- The United Nations Division for Sustainable Development acts as the secretariat to the Commission and works within the context of Agenda 21.

**83. Satya Shodhak Samaj organized**

**A** a movement for upliftment of tribals in Bihar

**B** a temple-entry movement in Gujarat

**C** an anti-caste movement in Maharashtra

**D** a peasant movement in Punjab

**Solution**

- Satya Shodhak Samaj was established by Jyotirao Phule in 1873.
- The main objective of the group was to liberate the social states of Shudra and untouchable castes.
- Through his writings and activities, Mahatma Phule always condemned caste hierarchy and he began this with his attack on the Vedas.
- Through Satya Shodhak Samaj, he also preached that there is no requirement of intermediary such as priest or a perceptor to offer his prayer to God.

84. Which of the following statements is/are correct? Viruses can infect

1. bacteria
2. fungi
3. plants

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

### Solution

- Viruses are too small to be seen by the naked eye. They can't multiply on their own, so they have to invade a 'host' cell and take over its machinery in order to be able to make more virus particles.
- **Virus infects all of the given organisms (Bacteria, Fungi and Plant).**
- **Mycoviruses** are viruses that infect fungi. The majority of mycoviruses have doublestranded RNA (dsRNA) genomes.
- Many different viruses can infect plants.

- Certain crops are well known to be affected by virus diseases including geraniums, roses, Easter lilies, dahlias, gladiolus, and tulips.
- The Virus that Infects Bacteria. **Coliphage T4** is a virus that looks like an alien landing pod. With its six legs, the bacteriophage attaches to the surface of the much larger bacteria Escherichia coli (E. coli). Once attached, the bacteriophage injects DNA into the bacterium.

85. The term 'Base Erosion and Profit Shifting' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of

A

mining operation by multinational companies in resource-rich but backward areas

B

curbing of the tax evasion by multinational companies

C

exploitation of genetic resources of a country by multinational companies

D

lack of consideration of environmental costs in the planning and implementation of developmental projects.

### Solution

- The 2015 final reports of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)-led project on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) — which refer to the erosion of a nation's tax base due to the accounting tricks of Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) and the legal but abusive shifting out of profits to low-tax jurisdictions respectively — lays out 15 action points to curb abusive tax avoidance by MNEs.
- As a participant of this project, India is expected to implement at least some of these measures.



86. Recently, India's first 'National Investment and Manufacturing Zone' was proposed to be set up in

**A** Andhra Pradesh

**B** Gujarat

**C** Maharashtra

**D** Uttar Pradesh

### Solution

- Andhra Pradesh is set to house India's first national investment and manufacturing zone after the state assured the Centre of availability of 10 sq km of land in one place in Prakasham district.
- The imminent final approval for the NIMZ, which is expected to give a fillip to Make in India campaign, comes four years after the concept was mooted to boost manufacturing in the country.
- Two years after the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion gave an inprinciple nod to Andhra Pradesh in this regard.

87. **What is/are the purpose/purposes of ‘District Mineral Foundations’ in India?**

- 1. Promoting mineral exploration activities in mineral-rich districts**
- 2. Protecting the interests of the persons affected by mining operations**
- 3. Authorizing State Governments to issue licenses for mineral exploration**

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

### **Solution**

- District Mineral Foundation (DMF) is a trust set up as a non-profit body, in those districts affected by the mining works, to work for the interest and benefit of persons and areas affected by mining related operations.
- It is funded through the contributions from miners.

- Its manner of operation comes under the jurisdiction of the relevant State Government.

88. 'SWAYAM', an initiative of the Government of India, aims at

A promoting the Self Help Groups in rural areas

B providing financial and technical assistance to young start-up entrepreneurs

C promoting the education and health of adolescent girls

**D providing affordable and quality education to the citizens for free**

### Solution

- Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), is a Web portal where Massive Open On-line Courses (MOOCs) will be available on all kinds of subjects.
- SWAYAM is the Indian electronic e-education platform which proposes to offer courses from the high school stage to Post-Graduate stage in an interactive electronic platform.
- The IT platform for SWAYAM is going to be built and is expected to be operationalized by 31st March 2016 with a capacity to host nearly 2,000 courses.

89. **The Montague-Chelmsford Proposals were related to**

**A** social reforms

**B** educational reforms

**C** reforms in police administration

**D** constitutional reforms

### **Solution**

- On 20th August, 1917 Lord Montague, the Secretary of State for India, made the following declaration in British Parliament: “ The Policy of His Majesty’s government... is that of increasing association of Indians in every branch of administration, and the gradual development of selfgoverning institutions, with a view to the progressive realization of responsible government in India as an integral part of the British empire.
- Importance of Montagu's Statement- From now onwards, the demand by nationalists for selfgovernment or Home Rule could not be termed as seditious since attainment of self-government for Indians now became a government policy, unlike Morley's statement in 1909 that the reforms were not intended to give self-government to India.

- The objective of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919 was: 1) to give more power to the local government. 2) to establish dyarchy in the provisions. 3) the extension of provincial government.

90. **What is/are common to the two historical places known as Ajanta and Mahabalipuram?**

- 1. Both were built in the same period.**
- 2. Both belong to the same religious denomination.**
- 3. Both have rock-cut monuments.**

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

**A** 1 and 2 only

**B** 3 only

**C** 1 and 3 only

**D** None of the statements given above is correct

### **Solution**

- The Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra, a World Heritage Site, are 30 rock-cut cave Buddhist temples carved into the sheer vertical side of a gorge near a waterfall-fed pool located in the hills of the Sahyadri mountains.
- Guntapalle is a rock-cut cave site near Eluru.
- The other important site where rock-cut stupas have been excavated is Anakapalle near Vishakhapatnam.

- The Pallavas were one of the ancient South Indian dynasties that were active in the Andhra region from the second century CE onwards and moved south to settle in Tamil Nadu.
- Their early buildings, it is generally assumed, were rockcut, while the later ones were structural.
- The tradition of rock-cut cave continued in the Deccan and they are found not only in Maharashtra but also in Karnataka, mainly at Badami and Aihole, executed under the patronage of the Chalukyas; in Andhra Pradesh in the area of Vijayawada; and in Tamil Nadu, mainly at Mahabalipuram, under the patronage of the Pallavas.



91. **With reference to ‘Bitcoins’, sometimes seen in the news, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- 1. Bitcoins are tracked by the Central Banks of the countries.**
- 2. Anyone with a Bitcoin address can send and receive Bitcoins from anyone else with a Bitcoin address.**
- 3. Online payments can be sent without either side knowing the identity of the other.**

**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

### **Solution**

- Bitcoin is digital currency which was founded in 2008.
- It is designed for secure financial transactions that require no central authority, no banks and no government regulators.
- Bitcoin would let transacting parties remain anonymous, keep transactions very secure, and eliminate middlemen fees.
- What drove its initial development was its purely digital existence, away from the control of government regulators.

- The values of other currencies can rise and fall when a Central Bank decides to print more paper money But since Bitcoin is digital and there is a limited number of them, the expectation is that it won't be prone to such.

92. Consider the following statements:

1. New Development Bank has been set up by APEC.
2. The headquarters of New Development Bank is in Shanghai.

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

### Solution

- The New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).
- The bank is headquartered in Shanghai, China.
- The first regional office of the NDB will be opened in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- The idea for setting up the bank was proposed by India at the 4th BRICS summit in 2012 held in Delhi.

- The creation of a new development bank was the main theme of the meeting.
- BRICS leaders agreed to set-up a development bank at the 5th BRICS summit held in Durban, South Africa on 27th March, 2013.
- According to Devex, the name of the bank is believed to have been proposed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On 15th July, 2014, the first day of the 6th BRICS summit held in Fortaleza, Brazil, the BRICS states signed the Agreement on the New Development Bank, which makes provisions for the legal basis of the bank.
- On 11th May, 2015, K V Kamath was appointed as the President of the bank.

93. 'Gadgil Committee Report' and 'Kasturirangan Committee Report', sometimes seen in the news, are related to

A constitutional reforms

B Ganga Action Plan

C linking of rivers

D protection of Western Ghats

### Solution

- Both the committee reports are related to the protection and conservation of Western Ghats.
- These committees were formed during the tenure of UPA Government.
- Initially Gadgil Committee was formed, later Kasturirangan Committee was formed.
- Western Ghats is an extensive region and home to many endemic, endangered plants and animals.
- It has been recognised by UNESCO as one of the world's eight most important biodiversity hotspots, these forested hills are also source to numerous rivers, including Godavari, Krishna and Cauvery.
- Western Ghats acts as a huge water tank supplying water to Southern states. Western Ghats needs high attention in the sustainability

aspect of endemic flora and fauna of India.

- Gadgil Committee Report said that 94-97% area of the Western Ghats should be considered as eco-sensitive.
- Ecologically Sensitive Zone is area which needs special protection and concern because of its landscape, wildlife, etc.
- The Gadgil Committee Report was more environment friendly and was less concerned about realities.
- Almost three-fourth of the hills, including plantations, cultivated lands and large habitations, is turned into a restricted development zone with an over-arching authority to regulate the region superseding the elected authorities' role.
- This report recommended that no new dams based on large scale storage, hydroelectricity project and industrial activity be permitted in the region.
- The Kasturirangan panel has recommended that there should be a complete ban on mining activity in ecologically sensitive area and current mining activities should be phased out within five years, or at the time of expiry of the mining lease.
- This panel banned development of any township or construction over the size of 20,000 sq m in this ecologically sensitive zone.
- However, panel has not recommended a ban on hydroelectric projects in the zone which was banned in Gadgil report.
- For dams, it has demanded and interrupted ecological flow of at least 30% level of the rivers flow till individual baselines for dams are set.
- No thermal power is allowed in report. Red industries which are highly polluting are strictly banned in these areas.

94. Consider the following:

1. Calcutta Unitarian Committee
2. Tabernacle of New Dispensation
3. Indian Reform Association

**Keshab Chandra Sen is associated with the establishment of which of the above?**

**A** 1 and 3 only

**B** 2 and 3 only

**C** 3 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3

### **Solution**

- On the occasion of the anniversary festival on 24th January, 1868, Keshub laid the foundation stone of his mandir called the Tabernacle of New Dispensation.
- Keshub and his followers marched to the proposed spot early in the morning performing sankirtan and this was the first Brahma street procession and it was the first of its kind in Calcutta.
- Adi Samaj condemned it as a degradation of Brahmoism Indian Reform Association was formed on 29th October, 1870 keshab

## Chandra Sen as President.

- It represented the secular side of the Brahmo Samaj and included many who did not belong to Brahmo Samaj.
- The objective was to put into practice some of the ideas Sen was exposed to during his visit to Great Britain.
- The Calcutta Unitarian Committee was established by Rammohan Roy, Dwarkanath Tagore and William Adam in 1823.



95. Which of the following is not a member of 'Gulf Cooperation Council'?

**A** Iran

**B** Saudi Arabia

**C** Oman

**D** Kuwait

### Solution

- Iran is not a member of Gulf Cooperation Council.
- Iran has maximum population of Persian; Arabs are present in very less number the Cooperation Council for the Arab states of the Gulf known as the Gulf Cooperation Council is a regional inter-governmental political and economic union consisting of all Arab states of the Persian Gulf, except for Iraq.
- Its member states are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.
- Gulf Cooperation Council was established in Abu Dhabi on 25th May, 1981.
- The unified economic agreement between the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council was signed on 11th November, 1981 in Abu Dhabi.

- These countries are often referred to as the GCC states.

**96. What is/are the purpose/purposes of Government's 'Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme' and 'Gold Monetization Scheme'?**

- 1. To bring the idle gold lying with Indian households into the economy.**
- 2. To promote FDI in the gold and jewellery sector**
- 3. To reduce India's dependence on gold imports**

**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

### **Solution**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 5th November, 2015 launched 3 gold related schemes.
- The schemes are - Gold Monetisation Scheme, Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme and Indian Gold Coins.
- The primary purpose of the schemes is to reduce dependence on imported gold, recycle the unutilised gold in the country and most significantly, streamline the gold business within the country.
- At present, India is the largest consumer of gold within the world.

- Gold Monetisation Scheme, which would replace both the present Gold Deposit and Gold Metal Loan Schemes, is intended to mobilise gold held by households and institutions of the country.
- The purpose of the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme is to reduce the demand for physical gold and to shift part of the estimated three hundred tonnes of physical bars and coins purchased per annum for investment into Oemat (Dematerialised) gold bonds.

97. **‘Belt and Road Initiative’ is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of**

**A** African Union

**B** Brazil

**C** European Union

**D** China

### **Solution**

- Belt and Road initiative is being undertaken by China.
- Plan was unveiled in 2013. The Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st century Maritime Silk Road, also known as the Belt and Road, One Belt, One Road or the Belt and Road Initiative is a development strategy and framework, proposed by Chinese that focuses on connectivity and cooperation among countries primarily between the People's Republic of China and the rest of Eurasia, which consists of two main components, the land-based 'Silk Road Economic Belt' (SREB) and oceangoing 'Maritime Silk Road'(MSR).
- The Silk Road Economic Belt (SREB) that would be established along the Eurasian land corridor from the Pacific coast to the Baltic Sea.

- The SREB focuses on bringing together China, Central Asia, Russia and Europe (the Baltic); linking China with the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean Sea through Central Asia and West Asia; and connecting China with South-East Asia, South Asia and the Indian Ocean.
- The 21st century M'SR, in turn is designed to go from China's coast to Europe through the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean in one route, and from China's coast through the South China Sea to the South Pacific in the other.
- The 'belt and road' would be serviced by a network of roads, high-speed railways, fiber-optical lines, transcontinental submarine optical cable projects, and satellite information passageways.
- The strategy underlines China's push to take a bigger role in global affairs, and its need to export China's production capacity in areas of overproduction such as steel manufacturing and it is believed that trade volume will increase along with bringing geo-economic shift towards Eurasia.

98. Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana is aimed at

**A** bringing the small entrepreneurs into formal financial system

**B** providing loans to poor farmers for cultivating particular crops

**C** providing pensions to old and destitute persons

**D** funding the voluntary organizations involved in the promotion of skill development and employment generation

### Solution

- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) is a flagship scheme of Government of India to 'fund the unfunded' by bringing such enterprises to the formal financial system and extending affordable credit to them.
- It enables a small borrower to borrow from all Public Sector Banks such as PSU Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks, Private Sector Banks, Foreign Banks, Micro Finance Institutions (MFI) and Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC) for loans upto Rs.10 lakh for non-farm income generating activities.
- The scheme was launched on 8th April, 2015 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

99. In which of the following regions of India are shale gas resources found?

1. Cambay Basin
2. Cauvery Basin
3. Krishna-Godavari Basin

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

### Solution

- Shale gas is the natural gas that is trapped within shale formations. ONGC sought permission for drilling 11 exploratory wells for shale oil and shale gas in Cambay basin at Mehsana, Ahmedabad and Bharuch districts of Gujarat, one well in Cauvery basin at Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu and five wells in KG Basin at East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh.



- Other regions in India where shale gas resources are found - Cauvery, Ganga & Assam and Assam - Arakan; Gondwana basin (including Damodar).
- Shale gas is an 'unconventional' source of methane, like coal-bed gas (in coal seams) and tight gas (trapped in rock formations).
- It is colourless, odourless, lighter than air.
- In Europe, shale gas is not used because of environmental rules and limited property rights.
- In America, shale gas use has already begun.

100. 'Global Financial Stability Report' is prepared by the

A European Central Bank

**B International Monetary Fund**

C International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

D Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

### Solution

- A Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR) is developed and published by the International Monetary Fund.
- The report is issued twice per year and provides updates on current economic conditions and financial markets worldwide.
- The Global Financial Stability Report focuses on current conditions, especially financial and structural imbalances that could risk an upset in global financial stability and access to financing by emerging market countries.
- It emphasises the ramifications of financial and economic imbalances that are highlighted in one of the IMF's other publications, the World Economic Outlook.



[.https://www.entri.me](https://www.entri.me)



[.https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=me.entri.entri.me](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=me.entri.entri.me)