

# General Studies Paper I , 2018



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

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

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

**A** 1 only

**B** 1 and 2 only

**C** 2 and 3 only

**D** None

### **Solution**

- S1: The space segment consists of the IRNSS constellation of eight satellites, NavIC.
  - Three satellites are located in suitable orbital slots in the geostationary orbit and the remaining four are located in geosynchronous orbits with the required inclination and

equatorial crossings in two different planes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- S2: It is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary, which is its primary service area. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- S3: There are long term plans to extend it to SAARC region, but not by 2019. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

**2. Consider the following phenomena :**

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

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

**A** 1 and 2 only

**B** 3 only

**C** 1 and 3 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3

**Solution**

- S1: Einstein's theory of relativity has important astrophysical implications. For example, it implies the existence of black holes—regions of space in which space and time are distorted in such a way that nothing, not even light, can escape—as an end-state for massive stars.
  - There is ample evidence that the intense radiation emitted by certain kinds of astronomical objects is due to black holes; for example, micro quasars and active galactic nuclei result from

the presence of stellar black holes and super massive black holes, respectively.

- The bending of light by gravity can lead to the phenomenon of gravitational lensing, in which multiple images of the same distant astronomical object are visible in the sky. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- S2: General relativity also predicts the existence of gravitational waves, which have since been observed directly by the physics collaboration LIGO.
  - In addition, general relativity is the basis of current cosmological models of a consistently expanding universe. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- S3: General relativity is Einstein's law of gravity, his Justification of that fundamental force which holds us to the surface of the Earth. Gravity, Einstein asserted, is caused by warping of space and time or space-time. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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

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

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

**A** 1 and 3 only

**B** 2 only

**C** 2 and 3 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3

### **Solution**

- S1: It is developed by using three genes viz., barnase, barstar and bar from *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* for hybrid seed production.  
**Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The barnase gene confers male sterility to a plant in which it is inserted and barstar gene restore the fertility to produce fertile hybrid plants and seeds.

- The third gene bar synthesizes an enzyme called PAT, which is responsible for tolerance to glufosinate in the plant. Glufosinate is a broad spectrum herbicide, which indiscriminately eliminates weeds and any plant that does not have the bar gene.
- Glufosinate herbicides contain the active ingredient phosphinothricin, which kills plants by blocking the enzyme responsible for nitrogen metabolism and for detoxifying ammonia, a by-product of plant metabolism.
- S2: It has mainly two genes ('barnase' and 'barstar') that allow for cross-pollination and hybridisation in mustard, which is largely a self-pollinating plant because of its individual flowers containing both female and male reproductive organs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- S3: GM mustard was developed by scientists at Delhi University and the project was part-funded by the Department of Biotechnology, a division of the Science Ministry. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect**

**4. Consider the following pairs :**

<b>Terms sometimes seen in news</b>	<b>Context / Topic</b>
1. Belle 2 experiment	Artificial Intelligence
2. Block chain technology	Digital Crypto currency
3. CRISPR – Cas9	Particle Physics

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

**A** 1 and 3 only

**B** 2 only

**C** 2 and 3 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3

**Solution**

- S1: The Belle II experiment is designed to record data at Super KEKB, a 3 km circumference asymmetric electron-positron collider with a performance similar or better than Belle or BaBar, the B factory detectors, in a much more severe beam background environment.



- Belle-2 experiment in Tsukuba, Japan, by The High Energy Accelerator Research Organisation (KEK) is designed to study violations of the Standard Model of particle physics.
- S2: A block chain is a digitized, decentralized, public ledger of all crypto currency transactions.
  - Constantly growing as ‘completed’ blocks (the most recent transactions) are recorded and added to it in chronological order, it allows market participants to keep track of digital currency transactions without central recordkeeping.
  - Each node (a computer connected to the network) gets a copy of the block chain, which is downloaded automatically.
- S3: CRISPR technology is a simple yet powerful tool for editing genomes.
  - It allows researchers to easily alter DNA sequences and modify gene function.
  - Its many potential applications include correcting genetic defects, treating and preventing the spread of diseases and improving crops. However, its promise also raises ethical concerns.

5. Which of the following statements best describes “carbon fertilization”?

**A**

Increased plant growth due to increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere

**B**

Increased temperature of Earth due to increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere

**C**

Increased acidity of oceans as a result of increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere

**D**

Adaptation of all living beings on Earth to the climate change brought about by. The increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere

## Solution

- The carbon fertilization effect suggests that the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increases the rate of photosynthesis in plants.
- The effect varies depending on the plant species, the temperature, and the availability of water and nutrients.
- From a quarter to half of Earth's vegetated lands has shown significant greening over the last 35 years largely due to rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

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

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

**A** Border Gateway Protocol

**B** Internet of Things

**C** Internet Protocol

**D** Virtual Private Network

### **Solution**

- The Internet of Things (IoT) refers to a network comprised of physical objects capable of gathering and sharing electronic

information. The Internet of Things includes a wide variety of “smart” devices, from industrial machines that transmit data about the production process to sensors that track information about the human body.

- Often, these devices use internet protocol (IP), the same protocol that identifies computers over the World Wide Web and allows them to communicate with one another.
- The goal behind the internet of things is to have devices that self-report in real time, improving efficiency and bringing important information to the surface more quickly than a system depending on human intervention.

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

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

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

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 only

**C** Both 1 and 2

**D** Neither 1 nor 2

### **Solution**

The Correct Answer is Option 4 i.e Neither 1 nor 2.

- Not a single silicon chip for solar energy is manufactured in India.
- Every solar panel which is made in India is assembled while all the material comes other countries.
- **India is yet to develop semiconductor clusters.**
- India plans to invest \$480 million to set up its first unit for manufacturing solar silicon cells that will feed a project to build the

world's largest solar power plant.

- **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission regulate the tariff of generating companies owned or controlled by the Central Government.**
- **Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) has a power trading license.**

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

**A** Raw cotton, oil-seeds and opium

**B** Sugar, salt, zinc and lead

**C** Copper, silver, gold, spices and tea

**D** Cotton, silk, saltpetre and opium

### **Solution**

The Correct Answer is Option 4 i.e Cotton, silk, saltpetre and opium.

- Opium was a very important staple from Bengal that found a ready market in China.
- Bengal also supplied rice, butter, vegetable oils and saltpetre.
- Saltpetere was another staple of export which was abundantly produced in the Patna district.
- Cotton and silk are the other staple commodities of export by the English East India Company from Bengal in the middle of the 18th century.



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

A

Active all-India participation of lawyers, students and women in the National Movement

B

Active involvement of Dalit and Tribal communities of India in the National Movement

C

**Joining of peasant unrest to India's National Movement**

D

Drastic decrease in the cultivation of plantation crops and commercial crops

### Solution

The Correct Answer is Option 3 i.e Joining of peasant unrest to India's national Movement.

- Champaran Satyagraha (1917): The issue was Indigo Cultivation under the Tinkathia System ((3/20)th of total land).
- Gandhi convinced the authorities to end the system Demand was accepted and 25% compensation was given.
- It was the first Satyagraha, taken up by Gandhiji in India.
- Joining of peasant unrest to India's national Movement is a very significant aspect of the Champaran Satyagraha.

10. Who among the following were the founders of the “Hind Mazdoor Sabha” established in 1948?

A Krislum Pillai, E.M.S. Namboodiripad and K.C. George

B Jayaprakash Narayan, Deen Dayal Upadhyay and M.N. Roy

C P. Ramaswamylyer, K. Kamaraj and Veeresalingam Pantulu

D Ashok Mehta, T.S. Ramanulam and G.G. Mehta

### Solution

- The HMS was founded in Howrah in 1948 by socialists Forward Bloc followers and independent unionists which included **Basawon Singh (Sinha), Ashok Mehta, R.S. Ruikar, Maniben Kara, Shibnath Banerjee, R.A. Khedgikar, T.S. Ramanujam, V.S. Mathur, G.G. Mehta.**
- R.S. Ruikar was elected president and Ashok Mehta general secretary.
- HMS absorbed the Royist Indian Federation of Labour and the Hind Mazdoor Panchayat, which was formed in 1948 by socialists leaving the increasingly communist dominated AITUC.

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

A Buddhism

B Jainism

C Vaishnavism

D Shaivism

### Solution

- After Bhadrabahu, the Jainism split into Digambara and Svetambara.
- The Digambara belong to the lineage of Acharya Vishakha and Shvetambar follow the tradition of Acharya Sthulabhadra.
- In around 1500 AD, the Swetambar sect divided into three sub-sects known as SwetambarMurtipujak, Sthanakvasi, and Terapanthi.

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

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

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

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 only

**C** Both 1 and 2

**D** Neither 1 nor 2

### **Solution**

- S1: The Buland Darwaza is made of red and buff sandstone, decorated by white and black marble and is higher than the courtyard of the mosque.
  - The Buland Darwaza is symmetrical and is topped by large free standing kiosks, which are the chhatris.

- S2: The architectural style of the Rumi Darwaza is completely in sync with the Nawabi architecture of Lucknow, and its significantly different from the Mughals.
  - The material used for the drawaza is bricks and its then coated with lime, while the Mughals often used red sand stone.
  - This is why the detailing on the Darwaza is more intricate, which would be impossible to achieve in stone.

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

A Francois Bernier

**B Jean Baptiste Tavernier**

C Jean de Thevenot

D Abbe Barthel Carre

### Solution

- **Jean-Baptiste Tavernier (1605–1689)** was a renowned 17th-century French gem merchant and traveller.
  - Tavernier, a private individual and merchant travelling at his own expense, covered, by his own account, 60,000 leagues in making six voyages to Persia and India between the years 1630 and 1668.
  - Tavernier is best known for his 1666 discovery or purchase of the 116-carat Tavernier Blue diamond.
  - He elaborately discussed the diamonds and diamond mines of India.
- **Jean De Thevenot (1626):** One of the first French travellers, graphically describes the cultivation of indigo and the extent of its cultivation in his book Remonstrantie.

- Frenchman, **Francois Bernier (1656– 58)**: His book *Travels in the Mughal Empire* mentioned the life of the peasantry, their poor conditions, towns, industries, life in the countryside and the urban culture and, above all, the major manufactures of India.
- **Abbe Carre** also a Frenchman, visited Mughal India between 1672 and 1674 and recorded his information in *The travels of Abbe Carre in India and the Near East*. He wrote about the port towns and the role of the newly formed French East India Company.

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

**A** Avalokiteshvara

**B** Lokeshvara

**C** Maitreya

**D** Padmapani

### **Solution**

- Maitreya is regarded as a future Buddha of this world in Buddhist eschatology.
- In some Buddhist literature, such as the Amitabha Sutra and the Lotus Sutra, he is referred to as Ajita.
- According to Buddhist tradition, Maitreya is a bodhisattva who will appear on Earth in the future, achieve complete enlightenment, and teach the pure dharma.
- According to scriptures, Maitreya will be a successor to the present Buddha, Gautama Buddha (also known as Śākyamuni Buddha).



- The prophecy of the arrival of Maitreya refers to a time in the future when the dharma will have been forgotten by most on the terrestrial world. Maitreya has also been adopted for his millenarian role by many non-Buddhist religions in the past, such as the White Lotus, as well as by modern new religious movements, such as Yiguandao.

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

**A** To maintain a large standing army at other's expense.

**B** To keep India safe from Napoleonic danger.

**C** To secure a fixed income for the Company.

**D** To establish British paramountcy over the Indian States.

### Solution

- The French assistance to Tipu Sultan in 1798 was the last instance of active intervention of any other European power in India.
- To counter the intrigues of Napoleon and any further development in French Power in India, Wellesley, who was extremely influenced with the imperial thoughts, came up with the scheme of eliminating the French Power from India for ever.
- He placed the British on the head of the great Indian confederacy.
- The Fourth Anglo Mysore war had placed England on the Military supremacy in India and now Wellesley used the Subsidiary Alliance System aggressively.

- It was a Treaty, between the company and the Indian native rulers. In return for a payment or subsidy, the company would place garrison troops in that ruler's territory to fight against their rivals.
- An Indian ruler entering into a subsidiary alliance with the British would accept British forces within his territory and to pay for their maintenance.

**16. Consider the following statements:**

- 1. In the first Lok Sabha, the largest party in the opposition was the Swatantra Party.**
- 2. In the Lok Sabha, a “Leader of the Opposition” was recognized for the first time in 1969.**
- 3. In the Lok Sabha, if a party does not have a minimum of 75 members, its leader cannot be recognized as the Leader of the Opposition. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

**A** 1 and 3 only

**B** 2 only

**C** 2 and 3 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3

**Solution**

- The Indian general election of 1951–52, held from 25 October 1951 to 21 February 1952, was the first election to the Lok Sabha since India became independent in August 1947.
- The Indian National Congress (INC) won a landslide victory, winning 364 of the 489 seats and 45% of the total votes polled.
- Jawaharlal Nehru became the first democratically elected Prime Minister of the country.

- The Communist Party of India (CPI) came second with 16 seats. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- In 1969, an official leader of the opposition was recognized for the first time. However, it was given statutory recognition in 1977. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The leader of the largest opposition party having not less than one-tenth seats of the total strength of the House is recognized as the leader of Opposition in that House.
- The 10% of the total strength of the House is 55 seats in the Lok Sabha. This is as per the **Mavalakar Rule**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A 2 and 3 only

B 2 only

C 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

### Solution

- All the options given above are correct as the climate of the desert region is of xerophytic type.
- That means the vegetation that grows here is highly adaptive to survive in a little liquid water environment.
- **Features:**
  - Long roots
  - Hard and Waxy leaves
  - Thick Barks

- Thorns instead of leaves
- Tiny leaves.
- **Example:** Cactus, Pineapple, Thorns, etc.
- Hard and waxy leaves in the region help in preventing water loss through evaporation.
- Tiny leaves are found in the plants with a wax coating which again helps in preventing water loss.
- Plants have fleshy stems that help in storing water like Cactus. Deep roots and thorns.

18. As per the NSSO 70th Round “Situation Assessment Survey of Agriculture Household”, consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 2 and 3 only

B 2 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

### Solution

- The results of the survey are based on the Central Sample canvassed by NSSO, consisting of 4,529 villages spread over rural areas of all States and Union Territories. A total number of 35,200 households



were surveyed in first visit and 34,907 of them could be re-surveyed in second visit. Some salient findings of the survey regarding situation of agricultural households in the country are as follows:

- Number of Agricultural households
  - During the agricultural year July 2012- June 2013.
  - Rural India had an estimated total of 90.2 million agricultural households, which constituted about 57.8 percent of the total estimated rural households of the country during the same period
  - Uttar Pradesh, with an estimate of 18.05 million agricultural households, accounted for about 20 percent of all agricultural households in the country.
- S1: Rajasthan had highest percentage of agricultural households (78.4 percent) among its rural households and Kerala had the least percentage share of agricultural households (27.3. percent) in its rural households. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- S2: Out of the total estimated agricultural households in the country, about 45 percent belonged to Other Backward Classes. **So, statement 2 is incorrect.**

### **Source of Income of Agricultural households**

- Principal source of income of agricultural households is largely determined by the extent of land possession.
- Majority of the agricultural households which possessed more than 0.40 hectare land, reported cultivation as their principal source of income.
- Among the agricultural households having less than 0.01 hectare land, about 56 percent reported wage/salary employment as their principal source of income and another 23. Percent reported livestock as their principal source of income.

- S3: Agricultural activity (cultivation, livestock and other agricultural activities) was reported to be the principal source of income for majority of the agricultural households in all the major States, except Kerala where about 61 percent of the agricultural households reported to have received maximum income from sources other than agricultural activities. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

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

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

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

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 only

**C** Both 1 and 2

**D** Neither 1 nor 2

### **Solution**

- **The National Green Tribunal (NGT)** is a statutory body that was established in 2010 by the National Green Tribunal Act.
  - It was set up to handle cases and speed up the cases related to environmental issues.
  - The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided

by principles of natural justice.

- New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai shall be the other 4 places of sitting of the Tribunal.
- **The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**, the statutory organization, was constituted in September 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - Further, CPCB was entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
  - Principal Functions of the CPCB, as spelled out in the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, to promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the States by prevention, control and abatement of water pollution, and to improve the quality of air and to prevent, control or abate air pollution in the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

20. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 only

**C** Both 1 and 2

**D** Neither 1 nor 2

### Solution

- **Statement 1:** Once a law is enacted and included in the Ninth Schedule, it gets protection under Article 31-B (validation of certain Acts and Regulations) and is not subject to judicial scrutiny.
  - The Ninth Schedule (Article 31-B) was introduced by the former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to keep certain laws particularly those on land reforms beyond the scope of judicial review.

- **Statement 2:** The mandate of ninth schedule is to prevent judicial scrutiny but in a landmark ruling in IR Coelho versus State of Tamil Nadu, 2007, the Supreme Court of India ruled that all laws (including those in the Ninth Schedule) would be open to Judicial Review if they violated the basic structure of the constitution.
  - The Supreme Court judgment laid that the laws placed under Ninth Schedule after April 24, 1973. Shall be open to challenge in court if they violated fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 14, 19, 20 and 21 of the Constitution.

21. **Which of the following best describes the term “Merchant Discount Rate” sometimes seen in news?**

**A**

The incentive given by a bank to a merchant for accepting payments through debit cards pertaining to that bank.

**B**

The amount paid back by banks to their customers when they use debit cards for financial transactions for purchasing goods or services.

**C**

**The charge to a merchant by a bank for accepting payments from his customers through the bank’s debit cards.**

**D**

The incentive given by the Government to merchants for promoting digital payments by their customers through Point of Sale (PoS) machine and debit cards.

### **Solution**

- The merchant discount rate is a fee that merchants must consider when managing the overall costs of their business.
- Local merchants and e-commerce merchants will typically have varying fees and service level agreements.
- To accept debit and credit cards, merchants must set up this service and agree to the rate.
- Most merchants can expect to pay a 1% to 3% fee for payment processing of each transaction.

- Payment processors have well-established infrastructures and fee schedule arrangements in place to support all types of merchant payments.



22. **What is/are the consequence/consequences of a country becoming the member of the ‘Nuclear Suppliers Group’?**

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

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

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 only

**C** Both 1 and 2

**D** Neither 1 nor 2

### **Solution**

The correct answer is 1 only.

- The Nuclear Suppliers Group(NSG) is a multilateral export control regime and a group of nuclear supplier countries that seek to prevent nuclear proliferation by controlling the export of materials, equipment, and technology that can be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.

- The getting of NSG membership means access to technology for a range of uses from medicine to building nuclear power plants for India from the NSG which is essentially a traders' cartel.
- India has its own indigenously developed technology but to get its hands on state of the art technology that countries within the NSG possess, it has to become part of the group. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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

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

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

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 only

**C** Both 1 and 2

**D** Neither 1 nor 2

### **Solution**

The correct answer is Neither 1 nor 2.

- Equalisation Levy was introduced in India in 2016, with the intention of taxing the digital transactions i.e. the income accruing to foreign e-commerce companies from India.
- It is aimed at taxing business to business transactions.

- Equalisation Levy is a direct tax, which is withheld at the time of payment by the service recipient.
- The two conditions to be met to be liable to equalization levy:
  - The payment should be made to a non-resident service provider;
  - The annual payment made to one service provider exceeds Rs. 1,00,000 in one financial year.
- As the levy was not introduced as part of the Income Tax Act but as separate legislation under the Finance Bill, global firms that offer such services in India cannot claim a tax credit in their home country under the double taxation avoidance agreements.

24. Consider the following statements:

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

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

The correct answer is 1 and 3 only.

- The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Review Committee chaired by Mr. N.K. Singh submitted its report in January 2017.
- The Committee suggested using debt as the primary target for fiscal policy.
- Debt to GDP ratio of 60% should be targeted with a 40% limit for the center and 20% limit for the states.
- The targeted debt to GDP ratio should be achieved by 2023. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Central Government has domestic liabilities of 46.1% of GDP (2016-17) and as a percent of GDP, whereas States' Government liabilities increased to 23.2 % at end-March 2016. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Article 293(1) empowers State Governments to borrow only from domestic sources.
- Further, according to Article 293(3) as long as a State has outstanding borrowings from the Central Government, it is required to obtain Central Government's prior approval before incurring debt. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

25. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 only

**C** Both 1 and 2

**D** Neither 1 nor 2

### Solution

The correct answer is 1 only.

- India occupies a prominent position in the world oilseeds industry with a contribution of around 10% in worldwide production.
- But the demand for edible oils (extracted from oilseeds in addition to palm oil) is significantly higher than the domestic production, leading to dependence on imports (60% of requirement). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The government imposes customs duty on edible oils to safeguard the interests of the domestic oil crushing industry.
- The duty on two major edible oils, namely crude sunflower seed oil and crude canola/rapeseed/mustard is 25 percent, while crude soybean oil attracts 30 percent duty. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**



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

A Aurobindo Ghosh

B Bipin Chandra Pal

C Lala Lajpat Rai

D Motilal Nehru

### Solution

- Lala Lajpat Rai was gifted with a perceptive mind, he was a prolific writer and authored several works like – “Unhappy India”, “Young India: An Interpretation”, “History of Arya Samaj”, “England’s Debt to India” and a series of popular biographies.
- His biographies of Mazzini, Garibaldi, and Shivaji were published in 1896 and those of Dayanand and Shri Krishna in 1898.
- His purpose in selecting Mazzini and Garibaldi was to infuse patriotic sentiment in the youth of Punjab, who had no access to books in English.
- He wanted his countrymen to become acquainted with the teachings of Italian leaders who had so impressed his own mind.

- He traveled to the US in 1907 and noted sociological similarities between the notion of 'color-caste' there and within castes in India.
- He joined the Swaraj Party in 1926 and was elected as its Deputy Leader in the Central Legislative Assembly.
- He later resigned from the Swaraj Party in August 1926.

27. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 only

B 2 only

C Both 1 and 2

D Neither 1 nor 2

### Solution

The correct answer is Neither 1 nor 2.

- Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 states that “the Aadhaar number or the authentication thereof shall not, by itself, confer any right of, or be proof of, citizenship or domicile in respect of an Aadhaar number holder.” **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Aadhaar Act regulations, state that an individual’s Aadhaar number may be “omitted” permanently or deactivated temporarily by the Unique Identification Authority of India, the agency

responsible for issuing the numbers and managing the database.

**Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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

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

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 and 3

**C** 2 only

**D** 1 and 3

### Solution

The correct answer is the Aral Sea.

- The Aral Sea is a saline lake located in Central Asia that was once the world's fourth-largest salt lake.
- In the 1960s the Aral Sea, which was the drainage basin for Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Kazakhstan, began to shrink as the Soviet Union began to divert water for agricultural purposes.

- As per NASA, over the last 50 years, the Aral Sea has shrunk by about 75% of its original size mainly because of water diversion for agricultural usages in surrounding areas.
- The depth of the Aral Sea has also decreased from 68 meters in the 1960s to at less than 10 meters in the present day.

29. “Rule of Law Index” is released by which of the following?

A Amnesty International

B International Court of Justice

C The Office of UN Commissioner for Human Rights

D World Justice Project

### Solution

- The World Justice Project (WJP) releases the WJP Rule of Law Index.
- This index measures how the rule of law is experienced and perceived worldwide based on household and expert surveys in 128 countries and jurisdictions.
- The World Justice Project Rule of Law Index is a quantitative assessment tool designed to offer a detailed and comprehensive picture of the extent to which countries adhere to the rule of law in practice.
- The Index provides data on eight dimensions of the rule of law: limited government powers; absence of corruption; order and security; fundamental rights; open government; regulatory enforcement; civil justice; and criminal justice.
- These factors are further disaggregated into forty-four indicators.

- Together, they provide a comprehensive picture of the rule of law compliance. The index is typically published annually.
- The Rule of Law Index is an annual report based on national surveys of more than 130,000 households and 4,000 legal practitioners and experts around the world. It is the world's leading source for original, independent data on the rule of law.



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

A Indian Banks' Association

B National Securities Depository Limit

C National Payments Corporation of India

D Reserve Bank of India

### Solution

The correct answer is National Payments Corporation of India.

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is the apex authority for maintaining a nationwide link of all the ATMs in India.
- The NPCI was founded on 2008 for the operation of retail payments in India.
- NPCI exercises this role through its wing IDRBT (Institute for Development of Research in Banking Technology).
- IDRBT created a massive network called National Financial Switch in the year 2004 for linking all the ATMs in India.
- The NPCI provides a variety of services those are Rupay: A domestic card scheme, BHIM: Unified payment interface, Check truncation system and Aadhar enabled payment system.

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

A

The money which is tendered in courts of law to defray the fee of legal cases.

B

The money which a creditor is under compulsion to accept in settlement of his claims.

C

The bank money in the form of cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, etc.

D

The metallic money in circulation in a country.

### Solution

The correct answer is - The money which a creditor is under compulsion to accept in settlement of his claims.

- Legal tender is defined as “any official medium of payment recognized by law, that can extinguish public or private debt, or meet a financial obligation.”
- It is the national currency, such as paper money and coins, that is declared by law to be valid payment for debts and financial obligations.
- Cheques are not legal tenders since they can be refused as a mode of payment settlement by a party.

32. **If a commodity is provided free to the public by the Government, then :**

**A** The opportunity cost is zero.

**B** The opportunity cost is ignored.

**C** **The opportunity cost is transferred from the consumers of the product to the tax-paying public.**

**D** The opportunity cost is transferred from the consumers of the product to the Government.

### **Solution**

The correct answer is the opportunity cost is transferred from the consumers of the product to the tax-paying public.

- Opportunity cost is what a business owner misses out on when selecting one option over another.
- Opportunity cost represents the benefits an individual, investor, or business misses out on when choosing one alternative over another.
- If a commodity is provided free to the public by the Government, then the opportunity cost is transferred from the consumers of the product to the tax-paying public.

- As per microeconomics, the opportunity cost is zero for free goods such as air and common goods such as fish/grazing land.
- For public goods such as street lights and defense, the opportunity cost is involved (The government could have spent that much money on street lights rather than on the military). So, the opportunity cost is not zero.

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

**A** Industrial output fails to keep pace with agricultural output.

**B** Agricultural output fails to keep pace with industrial output.

**C** **Poverty and unemployment increase.**

**D** Imports grow faster than exports.

### **Solution**

The correct answer is poverty and unemployment increase.

- Economic growth means an increase in real national income/national output.
- Economic development means an improvement in the quality of life and living standards, e.g. measures of literacy, life-expectancy and health care.
- If with economic growth, a country experiences various economic changes such as a reduction in poverty and unemployment, reduction in income and wealth inequality, an increase in literacy rate, improvement in health and hygiene, etc, that improve the quality of life then that is economic development.

34. Consider the following statements:

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

- 1. Individuals of a country to accumulate more capital.**
- 2. Increasing the knowledge, skill levels and capacities of the people of the country.**
- 3. Accumulation of tangible wealth.**
- 4. Accumulation of intangible wealth.**

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

**A** 1 and 2

**B** 2 only

**C** 2 and 4 onlt

**D** 1, 3 and 4 only

**Solution**

- According to the OECD, human capital is defined as: “the knowledge, skills, competencies and other attributes embodied in individuals or groups of individuals acquired during their life and used to produce goods, services or ideas in market circumstances”.

**Hence statement 2 is correct.**

- Intangible wealth of a nation comprises of the skilled population, human resource base, culture, arts etc. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**
- Human capital formation is the outcome of investments in education, health, on-the-job training, migration and information.
- As per RBI, Gross capital formation refers to the 'aggregate of gross additions to fixed assets (that is fixed capital formation) plus change in stocks during the counting period. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Tangible capital is also GCF as it involves largely infrastructural components. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

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

**A** Weak administrative machinery

**B** Illiteracy

**C** High population density

**D** **High capital-output ratio**

### **Solution**

- Capital Output Ratio (COR) is a measure of the percentage increase in capital formation required to obtain a percentage increase in GDP.
- The capital-output ratio is the relationship between investment and resulting output over a period of time.
- COR is a measure of capital required for producing one unit of output.
- If capital to output ratio is high then capital formation may not result in a significant increase in the output.



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

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

Select the correct answer using the codes below.

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 only

**C** Both 1 and 2

**D** Neither 1 nor 2

### Solution

- Santhals were the agricultural people settled in Rajmahal Hills of Bihar.
- They are native to the Indian states of predominantly Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha.
- It was after the Santhal Revolt (1855-56) that the Santhal Pargana was created, carving out 5,500 square miles from the districts of Bhagalpur and Birbhum.
- The colonial state hoped that by creating a new territory for the Santhals and imposing some special laws within it, the Santhals

could be conciliated.

- It became illegal for a Santhal to transfer land to a non-Santhal.
- British government enacted laws so that the land of tribals could not be taken by outsiders (dikus).

37. **Economically, one of the results of the British rule in India in the 19th century was the :**

- A** Increase in the export of Indian handicrafts.
- B** Growth in the number of Indian owned factories.
- C** **Commercialization of Indian agriculture.**
- D** Rapid increase in the urban population.

### **Solution**

- Economically, one of the results of British rule in India in the 19th century was the growth of commercial crops and the raw materials for the industries in Britain.
- Different kinds of commercial crops such as tea, coffee, indigo, opium, cotton, jute, sugarcane, and oilseeds were introduced with different intentions.
- Colonial rule negatively affected Indian industries and handicrafts.
- The import of a large amount of products manufactured by mechanical looms in England led to an increasing threat for the handicraft industries as the British goods were sold at a much cheaper price.
- There was no rapid increase in the urban population.

**38. If the President of India exercises his power as provided under Article 356 of the Constitution in respect of a particular state, then :**

**A** The Assembly of the state is automatically dissolved.

**B**

**The powers of the Legislature of that State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of the Parliament.**

**C** Article 19 is suspended in that state.

**D** The President can make laws relating to that State.

### **Solution**

- President rule (Article 356):
  - President rule is imposed in a state if the state government cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.
  - Proclamation of President's Rule must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue. The approval takes place through a simple majority.
  - Initially, the President's rule is valid for six months and it can be extended for a maximum period of three years with the approval of the Parliament, every six months.
  - It is also known as 'State Emergency' or 'Constitutional Emergency'.

- In case of failure of constitutional machinery, the state legislature is suspended and the executive authority of the state is assumed by the president in whole or in part.
- **President by proclamation can declare that the powers of the Legislature of the State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament.**

39. Consider the following pairs:

Craft Heritage of	Region
1. Puthukkuli shawls	Tamil Nadu
2. Sujni embroide	Maharashtra
3. Uppada Jamdani saris	Karnataka

Select the correct answer using the codes below.

**A** 1 only

**B** 1 and 2

**C** 3 only

**D** 2 and 3

### Solution

- **Puthukkuli shawls – Tamil Nadu:**

- Puthukkuli shawls are made by Todas of Nilgiri hills in Tamil Nadu.
- Locally called Pugur, meaning flower, the fine and intricate Toda embroidery is done by tribal men and women on shawls.

- The shawl adorned with the Toda embroidery is called Poothkuli
- **Sujni embroidery – Bihar:**
  - Sujni embroidery is a form of embroidery originating from the Bhusura village of Bihar.
  - It was given a GI tag.
- **Uppada jamdani sarees – Andhra Pradesh:**
  - Uppada Silk sarees or Jamdani Sari is a silk sari style woven in Uppada of East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.
  - It was also given a GI tag.

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A 1 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

### Solution

- GPS is a satellite navigation system, used to determine the ground position of an object.
- Cell towers use it to route your phone calls, ATMs and cash registers use it for your transactions, electrical grids use it to send power to your house, and stock exchanges use it to regulate the trades that go into your stock portfolio or investment fund.
- It is a U.S owned utility that provides users with positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) services.



- It is a network 24 satellite which provides service to civilian and military users.

41. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 3 only

C 2 and 3 only

D 1 , 2 and 3

### Solution

- Government security (G-Sec) is a tradeable instrument issued by the central government or state governments. It acknowledges the government's debt obligations.
- The G-Secs issuances are managed by the RBI, who on behalf of the Centre, regularly conducts G-Sec auctions every Friday.
- State Government transactions are carried out by RBI in terms of the agreement entered into with the State Governments.
- **Treasury bills:**

- They are short-term debt instruments issued by the Central government.
- State Government don't issue treasury bills. Treasury bills play a vital role in cash management of the Government.
- Being risk-free, their yields at varied maturities serve as short term benchmarks and help pricing varied floating-rate products in the market.
- Treasury bills are issued at a discount and redeemed at the face value at maturity.

42. Consider the following statements:

1. The Earth's magnetic field has reversed every few hundred thousand years.
2. When the Earth was created more than 4000 million years ago, there was 54% oxygen and no carbon dioxide.
3. When living organisms originated, they modified the early atmosphere of the Earth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 and 3 only

**C** 1 and 3 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3

### Solution

- Scientists estimate reversals have happened at least hundreds of times over the past three billion years.
- Over the last 20 million years, magnetic north and south have flipped roughly every 200,000 to 300,000 years.
- The last of these major reversals occurred about 780,000 years ago.
- Between 4.5 and 2.5 billion years (the Archaean and Proterozoic time), the earliest secondary atmosphere contained carbon dioxide

(CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), water vapor (H<sub>2</sub>O), carbon monoxide (CO), a little nitrogen (N), and hydrogen (H).

- So Carbon dioxide is present and **hence statement 2 is wrong.**
- When living organisms originated, they did not affect the early atmosphere. However, according to the official answer key, **the answer is Option C , i.e 1 and 3 only.**

43. The terms 'WannaCry, Petya, Eternal Blue' sometimes mentioned news recently are related to :

**A** Exoplanets

**B** Crypto currency

**C** Cyber attacks

**D** Mini satellites

### Solution

- The terms 'WannaCry, Petya and EternalBlue' are all related to Cyber attacks.
- Wannacry ransomware locks user's devices and prevents them from accessing data and software until a certain ransom is paid to its creator.
- Petya spreads rapidly through networks that use Microsoft Windows.
- EternalBlue is the name given to a software vulnerability in Microsoft's Windows operating system.

44. **With reference to the circumstances in Indian agriculture, the concept of “Conservation Agriculture” assumes significance” Which of the following fall under the Conservation Agriculture?**

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

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

**A** 1, 3 and 4

**B** 2, 3, 4 and 5

**C** 2, 4 and 5

**D** 1, 2, 3 and 5

### **Solution**

- According to Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, Conservation agriculture (CA) can be defined as “a concept for resource-saving agricultural crop production that strives to achieve acceptable profits together with high and sustained production levels while concurrently conserving the environment”

- Conservation agriculture systems utilize soils for the production of crops with the aim of reducing excessive mixing of the soil and maintaining crop residues on the soil surface in order to minimize damage to the environment.

The 3 principles of CA are:

1. Minimum tillage and soil disturbance.
2. Permanent soil cover with crop residues and live mulches.
3. Crop rotation and intercropping.



45. **The term “sixth mass extinction/sixth extinction” is often mentioned in the news in the context of the discussion of :**

**A**

Widespread monoculture Practices agriculture and large-scale commercial farming with indiscriminate use of chemicals in many parts of the world that may result in the loss of good native ecosystems.

**B**

Fears of a possible collision of a meteorite with the Earth in the near future in the manner it happened 65million years ago that caused the mass extinction of many species including those of dinosaurs.

**C**

Large scale cultivation of genetically modified crops in many parts of the world and promoting their cultivation in other Parts of the world which may cause the disappearance of good native crop plants and the loss of food biodiversity.

**D**

**Mankind’s over-exploitation/misuse of natural resources, fragmentation/loss, natural habitats, destruction of ecosystems, pollution and global climate change.**

### **Solution**

- The term "sixth mass extinction/sixth extinction" is often referred to as the Holocene extinction, which is the ongoing extinction event of species during the present Holocene epoch, mainly as a result of human activity.
- The five mass extinctions that took place in the last 450 million years have led to the destruction of 70-95 percent of the species of

plants, animals, and microorganisms that existed earlier.

- These extinctions were caused by “catastrophic alterations” to the environment, such as massive volcanic eruptions, depletion of oceanic oxygen, or collision with an asteroid.
- The large number of extinctions spans numerous families of plants and animals, including mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and arthropods.
- The current extinction rate is approximately 100 extinctions per million species per year, or 1,000 times higher than natural background rates.

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

1. Charter Act of 1813
2. General Committee of Public Instruction
3. Orientalist and Anglicist Controversy

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

**A** 1 and 2 only

**B** 2 only

**C** 1 and 3 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3

### Solution

- Charter Act of 1813:
  - The monopoly of EIC was abolished in terms of trade with India.
  - The company still enjoyed the monopoly in terms of tea and china trade for 20 more years.
  - This act provided a grant of one lakh rupees per annum for the promotion of education in India.

- This act gave power to local governments to impose and collect taxes.
- It included a clause asserting the Crown's undoubted sovereignty over all of the Company's territories and required it to open up India to Christian missionaries.
- The **Charter Act 1813** created a controversy between the anglicist and classicist on the medium of instruction and so the fund was kept unspent till 1823 due to the controversy.
- In 1823, the Governor-General-in Council appointed a “General Committee of Public Instruction”, which had the responsibility to grant the one lakh of rupees for education.
- That committee was headed by Lord Macaulay consisting of ten European members.
- The committee decided to spend major portions from the grant for the improvement of oriental literature.
- Even, the General Committee of Public Instruction also was not able to decide the medium of instruction by vote; because out of ten members, five were supporters of the English language as the medium of instruction and the rest were supporters of oriental or classic language as a medium of instruction.
- As a President of the General Committee of Public Instruction, Lord Macaulay wrote a minute on 2nd February 1835, where he made the conclusion regarding the controversy.
- Lord Macaulay stressed the implementation of the English language as a medium of instruction through his minute.

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

**A** Kodaikanal (Tamil Nadu)

**B** Kolleru (Andhra Pradesh)

**C** Nainital (Uttarakhand)

**D** Renuka (Himachal Pradesh)

### Solution

- **Kodaikanal (Tamil Nadu):**

- It is a manmade/artificial lake located in the Kodaikanal city in Dindigul district in Tamil Nadu.
- Kodaikanal Lake was created in the year 1863 by Sir Vere Henry Levinge, the former Collector of Madurai.

- **Kolleru (Andhra Pradesh):**

- Kolleru Lake is one of the largest freshwater lakes in India located in the state of Andhra Pradesh and forms the largest shallow freshwater lake in Asia.
- The lake is located between Krishna and Godavari Deltas.

- **Nainital (Uttarakhand):**

- It is a natural fresh water lake and is of tectonic origin, located amidst the Nainital city of Uttarakhand.

- **Renuka (Himachal Pradesh):**

- It is the largest natural lake in Himachal Pradesh, this lake is named after the goddess Renuka.

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

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

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

**A** 1 and 3 only

**B** 2 only

**C** 2 and 3 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3

### **Solution**

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana:**
  - It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
  - It is implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.
  - Under this Scheme, Training and Assessment fees are completely paid by the Government.

- The objective of this Skill Certification Scheme is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood.
- Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- Apart from providing training according to the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF), Training Centres shall also impart training in Soft Skills, Entrepreneurship, Financial and Digital Literacy.
- Individuals with prior learning experience or skills shall be assessed and certified under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) component of the Scheme RPL aims to align the competencies of the unregulated workforce of the country to the NSQF.



49. In 1920, which of the following changed its name to “Swarajya Sabha”?

**A** All India Home Rule League

**B** Hindu Mahasabha

**C** South Indian Liberal Federation

**D** The Servants of Indian Society

### Solution

- Home rule movement:
  - Its objective was to establish self-government.
  - Tilak started the movement in April 1916 at Belgaum while Annie Besant started in September 1916 at Adyar, Madras.
  - Tilak’s movement was confined to Maharashtra and Karnataka and the Annie Besant movement was spread to other parts of India.
  - The All India Home league ended in 1920 when it elected Mahatma Gandhi as its President and when it merged into the Indian National Congress.
  - In 1920, All India Home Rule League changed its name to Swarajya Sabha.
- Hindu Mahasabha:

- It was established in 1915 to protect the rights of the Hindu community.
- It was known previously as the Sarvadeshak Hindu Sabha.
- In April 1921 it changed its name to Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha.
- Servants of India Society:
  - The Servants of India Society was formed in 1905 by Gopal Krishna Gokhale in Pune, Maharashtra.
  - Its aim is to build a dedicated group of people for social service and reforms.
- South Indian Liberal Federation:
  - It was popularly known as the Justice Party.
  - It was a political party in the Madras Presidency of British India.
  - It was established on 20 November 1916 in Victoria Memorial Hall in Madras by Dr. C. Natesa Mudaliar.

50. Which among the following events happened earliest?

A Swami Dayanand established Arya Samaj.

**B Dinabandhu Mitra wrote Neeldarpan.**

C Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote Anandmath.

D Satyendranath Tagore became the first Indian to succeed in the Indian Civil Services Examination.

### Solution

- Neel Darpan was a Bengali play written by Dinabandhu Mitra in 1858-1859 and published in Dhaka in 1860.
- Arya Samaj:
  - It was founded in 1875 at Bombay by Swami Dayanand Saraswati.
  - Swami Dayanand Saraswati gave the slogan 'Go back to the Vedas' and 'the Vedas are the source of all knowledge'
  - It believes in one God having no physical existence.
  - Arya Samaj emphasized education for girls but was against co-education.
  - Introduced the Shuddhi movement or mass purification and later in 1882 the Arya Samaj formed a 'Cow Protection Association'.

- 'Anandmath' is a Bengali novel written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and was published in the year 1882.
  - The national song of India 'Vande Mataram' was published in this book.
- Satyendranath Tagore became the first Indian to succeed in the Indian Civil Services Examination in 1864. Satyendranath Tagore was allotted Bombay Presidency Cadre.

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A 1 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

### Solution

- Heavy sand mining in riverbeds leads to the increase of velocity of the flowing water, thereby eventually erode the river banks.
- Sand aquifer helps in recharging the water table; its progressive depletion in the river is accompanied by the lowering of the water table in the nearby areas.
- As the turbidity increases at the mining site, saline water intrusion takes along the coastal aquifers thereby polluting the ground water.

- It also leads to an imminent danger of saline water ingress into fresh water. **Hence, Statement 1 is NOT correct.**

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

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

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

**A** 1 and 2 only

**B** 3 only

**C** 1 and 3 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3

### **Solution**

- Soil water-holding capacity is the amount of water that a soil can hold for crop use.
  - Soil texture and organic matter are the key components that determine soil water holding capacity.
- Sulphur is one of three nutrients that are cycled between the soil, plant matter and the atmosphere.

- Although sulphur is primarily found in sedimentary rocks, it is particularly important to living things as it is a component of many proteins.
- Sulphur is released by the weathering of rocks and minerals.
- Soil salinity is an enormous problem for agriculture under irrigation.
  - Irrigation over a period of time can contribute to the salinization of some agricultural lands as deposits of salts build up in the soil and can cause harm to crops.



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

**A** The Earth Summit on Sustainable Development 2002, Johannesburg.

**B** **The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012, Rio de Janeiro.**

**C** The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2015, Paris.

**D** The World Sustainable Development Summit 2016, New Delhi.

### **Solution**

The correct answer is option B, i.e The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012, Rio de Janeiro.

- In 2012, Rio+20 (the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) was held in Brazil.
- **The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)** was launched in 2013 as a response to the call at Rio+20 to support those countries wishing to embark on greener and more inclusive growth trajectories.
- PAGE represents a mechanism to coordinate UN action on the green economy and to assist countries in achieving and monitoring the

emerging Sustainable Development Goals.

- Four UN organizations, including ILO, UN Environment, UNIDO and UNITAR initially joined forces to be able to provide countries with broad and tailored support.

54. '3D printing' has applications in which the following?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

**A** 1, 3 and 4 only

**B** 2, 3 and 5 only

**C** 1 and 4 only

**D** 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

### Solution

- 3D printing is being used in a wide range of industries, from construction to medical technology.
- Some of the applications of 3D printing:
  - Through 3D printing you can create ornamental prototypes, starting from construction drawings, as well as mechanical parts.
  - 3D printing of confectionery has focused primarily on chocolate and hard sugar candy, but recent innovations have

led to the printing of gummy candy.

- The 3D-printed bionic ear that can "hear" radio waves.
- 3D Printing in Facial Reconstructive Surgery, People can now receive custom 3D-printed facial implants to help after illness or injuries.
- Multimaterial voxel-printing method enabling the physical visualization of data sets commonly associated with scientific imaging.
- It has also use in Maritime Industry, Electronics and Entertainment and Broadcasting etc.

55. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 and 3 only

**C** 3 only

**D** 1 and 3

### Solution

The Correct Answer is Option 1 i.e 1 only.

- Barren Island is located in the Andaman Sea, about 140 km from Port Blair.
- Barren Island volcano is the only active volcano located in the Indian territory, Andaman Islands.
- It is along a volcanic arc connecting Sumatra and Myanmar.
- The last time the Barren Island volcano erupted was in 2017.



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

**A** Its extract is widely used in cosmetics.

**B** It tends to reduce the biodiversity in the area in which it grows

**C** Its extract is used in the pesticides.

**D** None of the above

### **Solution**

The Correct Answer is Option 2 i.e It tends to reduce the biodiversity in the area in which it grows.

- The kikar or *Prosopis juliflora* was brought to Delhi from Mexico by the British more than a century ago.
- It tends to reduce the biodiversity in the area in which it grows.
- The exotic plant became invasive and wiped out most of the native plants and along with it the animals, which once used to roam in the ridges.
- With its deep roots, it had also wreaked havoc on the city's groundwater.
- The kikar's leaf contains toxins, which when falls on the ground, inhibit the growth of other plants.

57. Consider the following statements:

1. Most of the world's coral reefs are in tropical waters.
2. More than one-third of the world's coral reefs are located in the territories of Australia, Indonesia and Philippines.
3. Coral reefs host far more number of animal phyla than those hosted by tropical rainforests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

### Solution

- Most of the world's coral reefs are located within the tropical zone between  $30^{\circ}$  N and  $30^{\circ}$  S latitude. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Conditions for the growth of Coral Reefs: It required a preferred temperature range of approximately  $22^{\circ}$  to  $30^{\circ}$  C.
- For the growth of coral, the depth of the water should not exceed 200m.
- Corals can live only in saline waters, and the average salinity should be between 27 to 40‰ for their proper growth.



- More than one-third of the world's coral reefs are located in territories of Australia, Indonesia, and the Philippines. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The coral reefs are most commonly grown in the Pacific and the Indian Ocean, due to their shallow, warm, and clean water.
- Some scientists estimate that more than 25,000 described species from thirty-two of the world's thirty-three animal phyla live in reef habitats - four times the number of animal phyla found in tropical rain forests. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

58. **“Momentum for Change: Climate Neutral Now” is an initiative launched by :**

**A** The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

**B** The UNEP Secretariat

**C** The UNFCCC Secretariat

**D** The World Meteorological Organization

### **Solution**

- The UNFCCC secretariat launched its Climate Neutral Now initiative in 2015.
- It is an initiative launched to urge individuals, companies, and governments to measure their climate footprint, reduce their greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible.
- The secretariat in 2016 launched a new pillar under its Momentum for Change initiative focused on Climate Neutral Now, as part of larger efforts to showcase successful climate action around the world.
- Climate neutrality is a three-step process, which requires individuals, companies, and governments to:
  - Measure their climate footprint;
  - Reduce their emissions as much as possible;

- Offset what they cannot reduce with UN certified emission reductions.

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

	Institution	Founder
1.	Sanskrit College	William Jones at Banaras
2.	Calcutta Madras	Warren Hastings
3.	Fort William Arthur	Wellesley College

Which of the pairs given below is/are correct?

**A** 1 and 2

**B** 2 only

**C** 1 and 3

**D** 3 only

### Solution

The Correct Answer is Option 2 i.e 2 only.

- Calcutta Madrasa was set up by Warren Hastings in 1781 for the study and learning of Persian and Arabic.
- In 1791, Jonathan Duncan opened Sanskrit College at Banaras for the understanding of the laws, literature, and religion of the Hindus.

**Hence, Pair 1 is INCORRECTLY matched.**

- The Fort William College was set up by Lord Wellesley in 1800 for the training of the civil servants of the company in vernacular languages and customs of India. **Hence, Pair 3 is INCORRECTLY matched.**

60. Consider the following pairs:

	Regions sometimes mentioned in news	Country				
1.	Catalonia	Spain				
2.	Crimea	Hungary				
3.	Mindanao	Philippines				
4.	Oromia	Nigeria				

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

**A** 1, 2 and 3 only

**B** 3 and 4 only

**C** 1 and 3 only

**D** 2 and 4 only

### Solution

The Correct Answer is Option 3 i.e 1 and 3 only.

- **Catalonia:**
  - It is located in Spain.

- It is bordered by France and Andorra in the north, the Mediterranean Sea to the east, the autonomous community of Valencia to the south, and the autonomous community of Aragon to the west.
- **The Republic of Crimea**, officially part of Ukraine, lies on a peninsula stretching from the south of Ukraine between the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.
  - It is separated from Russia by the narrow Kerch Strait.
- **Mindanao:**
  - It is an island located in the Philippines.
  - It is surrounded by the Bohol, Philippine, Celebes, and Sulu seas.
- **Oromia:**
  - It is a regional state of Ethiopia.
  - Ethiopia is a landlocked country located in Eastern Africa.

61. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 only

**C** Both 1 and 2

**D** Neither 1 nor 2

### Solution

- The Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) is a measurement of a bank's available capital expressed as a percentage of a bank's risk-weighted credit exposures.
- The Capital Adequacy Ratio, also known as capital-to-risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR), is used to protect depositors and promote the stability and efficiency of financial systems around the world.
- It is decided by central banks and bank regulators to prevent commercial banks from taking excess leverage and becoming



insolvent in the process.

62. The identity platform ‘Aadhar’ provides open “Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)”. What does it imply?

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 only

B 2 only

C Both 1 and 2

D Neither 1 nor 2

### Solution

- Aadhaar Authentication is the process wherein Aadhaar number, along with other attributes, including biometrics, are submitted online to the Central Identities Data Repository for its verification and such a repository verifies the correctness, or the lack thereof, on the basis of the information available with it.
- An authentication request is entertained by the UIDAI only upon a request sent by a requesting entity electronically in accordance with its regulations.

- The modes of authentication include Demographic Authentication, one-time pin-based authentication, Biometric-based authentication, Multi-factor authentication. According to Nandan Nilekani's blog in Times of India in 2016, Aadhaar provides open Application Programming Interfaces or APIs, which can be integrated easily into any electronic device.
  - These APIs enable online authentication using a fingerprint or iris.
- Hence, both statements are right.**

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

**A** Angola and Zambia

**B** Morocco and Tunisia

**C** Venezuela and Colombia

**D** Yemen and South Sudan

### **Solution**

The correct answer is Yemen and South Sudan.

- Yemen and South Sudan are two countries in which lakhs of people suffered from acute famine/ malnutrition and died due to starvation caused by war or conflicts.
- These countries are facing a humanitarian crisis due to famine and civil war.
- Yemen is now on the brink of “the world’s largest famine”, according to the United Nations.
  - Already, 17 million people are dependent on external aid for food and medicine, while the country is fighting a massive cholera outbreak.

- The breakdown of government services, lack of drinking water and a crumbling health sector, besides the miseries of civil war and aerial bombardment, are fast turning Yemen into a failed state, and a breeding ground for extremist groups such as al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.
- One year after South Sudan briefly declared a famine, more than half of the people in the world's youngest nation face extreme hunger amid civil war.
- A new report by the United Nations and South Sudan's government says more than six million people are at threat without aid, up about 40% from a year ago.

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

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

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

**A** 1 and 2 only

**B** 2 and 3 only

**C** 1 and 3 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3

### **Solution**

- Wood's Despatch:
  - In 1854, Charles Wood prepared a Despatch on an educational system for India.
  - It was considered the "Magna Carta of English Education in India".
  - This document was the first comprehensive plan for the spread of education in India.

- Some of the provisions of Charles Wood Despatch are as follows -
  - It asked the Government of India to assume responsibility for the education of the masses, thus repudiating the 'downward filtration theory', at least on paper.
  - It systematized the hierarchy from vernacular primary schools in villages at the bottom, followed by Anglo-Vernacular High Schools and an affiliated college at the district level, and affiliating universities in the presidency towns of Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras.
  - It recommended a system of grants-in-aid to encourage private enterprise. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - It recommended English as the medium of instruction for higher studies and vernaculars at the school level. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
  - The Despatch recommended the establishment of universities in the three Presidency towns of Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras.
  - The universities were to be modeled after the London University and these were to have a senate consisting of a Chancellor, a Vice-Chancellor, and fellows who were nominated by the Government. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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

**A** Committee on Government Assurances

**B** Committee on Subordinate Legislation

**C** Rules Committee

**D** Business Advisory Committee

### **Solution**

- The Committee on Subordinate Legislation constituted in 1953 examines and reports to the House whether the powers to make rules, regulations, bye-laws, schemes, or other statutory instruments conferred by the Constitution or delegated by Parliament are being properly exercised. In both the Houses, the committee consists of 15 members.
- The Chairman of the Committee shall be appointed by the Chairman from amongst the members of the Committee.



- Provided that if the Deputy Chairman is a member of the Committee, he shall be appointed Chairman of the Committee.
- In order to constitute a meeting of the Committee, the quorum shall be five.
- The Committee shall have the power to require the attendance of persons or the production of papers or records if such a course is considered necessary for the discharge of its duties.

66. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 and 2

B 2 only

C 1 and 3

D 3 only

### Solution

- In accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 23 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has laid

down the minimum qualifications for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in class I to VIII, vide its Notification dated August 23, 2010. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- One of the essential qualifications for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in any of the primary schools is that he/she should pass the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) which will be conducted by the appropriate Government. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- From the mid-1960s to 1993, the number of Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) in India went up from about 1,200 to about 1,500.
- After the NCTE was set up, the number of TEIs exploded to about 16,000 by 2011, of which over 90% are private.
- So in India, more than 90% of teacher education institutions are private institutes. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

67. Consider the following pairs :

	Tradition	State
1.	Chapchar Kut festival	Mizoram
2.	Khongjom Parba ballad	Manipur
3.	Thang-Ta dance	Sikkim

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

A 1 only

B 1 and 2

C 3 only

D 2 and 3

### Solution

- Chapchar Kut is the biggest festival of the Mizos and is celebrated in March after completion of jhum operation. It is a spring festival.  
**Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Khongjom Parba is a style of ballad singing from Manipur using Dholak (drum) which depicts stories of the heroic battle fought by Manipuris against the mighty British Empire in 1891.

- It is one of the most popular musical art forms of Manipur inciting the spirit of patriotism and nationalism among the people at one time. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Thang-Ta is a martial dance of Manipur.
- Manipur dance has a large repertoire, however, the most popular forms are the Ras, the Sankirtana and the Thang-Ta.
- Thang-ta dance of Manipur evolved from the martial arts drills promoted by the kings of Manipur. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

68. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 only

**C** Both 1 and 2

**D** Neither 1 nor 2

### Solution

- The Food Safety and Standards(FSS) Act, 2006 consolidates various acts & orders that had earlier handled food-related issues in various Ministries and Departments.
- The acts that were repealed after commencement of FSS Act, 2006 are as follows:
  - Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 Hence, statement 1 is correct.
  - Fruit Products Order, 1955

- Meat Food Products Order, 1973
- Vegetable Oil Products (Control) Order, 1947
- Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order 1988
- Milk and Milk Products Order, 1992
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is an autonomous statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
- The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the Administrative Ministry for the implementation of FSSAI.
- Before the formation of FSSAI, from 1954 onwards Prevention of Food Adulteration was part of the Directorate General of Health Services.
- After having detached from the direct administrative control of the Health Ministry, this authority is holding independent authority and has attained a special status. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

69. The term “Two state Solution” is sometimes mentioned in the new in the context of the affairs of :

A China

B Israel

C Iraq

D Yemen

### Solution

- The Two-State Solution is used in the context of the Israel Palestine issue.
- It envisages an independent State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel west of the Jordan River.
- UNSC Resolution 1397 agreed in 2000 with support from the USA and became the first UNSC resolution to agree on a two-state solution.



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

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

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

**A** 1 and 2

**B** 2 only

**C** 1 and 3

**D** 3 only

### **Solution**

- The government has notified the National Food Security Act, 2013 on 10th September 2013.
- The objective is to provide for food and nutritional security in the human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantities

of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.

- Some of the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 are as follows:
  - The Act provides for coverage of up to 75% of the rural population and up to 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the population. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - It provides that the eldest woman of the household of age 18 years or above is to be the head of the household for the purpose of issuing ration cards. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - Besides meals to pregnant women and lactating mothers during pregnancy and six months after childbirth, such women will also be entitled to receive maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000.
  - The nutritional and feeding norms for supplementary nutrition are 500 calories and 12-15 grams of protein of children between the ages of 6 months to 6 years, 600 (not 1600) calories and 18-20 grams of protein to pregnant and nursing mothers and 800 calories and 20-25 gm. of protein to malnourished children. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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

**A** ILO

**B** IMF

**C** UNCTAD

**D** WTO

### **Solution**

- Geographical Indications (GI) are one of the eight intellectual property items coming under WTO's TRIPs (Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights).
- According to the WTO, "Geographical indications are indications which identify a good as originating in the territory of a Member, or a region or locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristics of the good is essentially attributable to its geographical origin."
- India enacted the Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 which came into force with effect from September 15, 2003, to comply with India's obligations under the TRIPS agreement.

- The Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks (CGPDT), (under the Dept of Industrial Policy and Promotion of Ministry of Commerce and Industry) is the ‘Registrar of Geographical indications’.
- The CGPDT directs and supervises the functioning of the Geographical Indications Registry (GIR).

72. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 and 2

B 2 only

C 1 and 3

D 3 only

### Solution

- As per the new mining law — Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 — which came into effect from January 2015, the non-coal mines have to be auctioned by the respective state governments. **(Hence statement 1 is incorrect)**
- In Rajasthan, the Iron-Ore Deposits are located in the district of Jaipur, Udaipur, Jhunjhunu, Sikar, Bhilwara, Alwar, Bharatpur, Dausa and Banswara. **(Hence statement 3 is correct)**

- In Andhra Pradesh gold mines are found in Ramagiri in Anantapur district.
- Jharkhand has both alluvial and native gold.
  - Alluvial gold is obtained from the sands of the Subarnarekha (gold streak) river, Sona Nadi in Singhbhum district, and the streams draining the Sonapat valley. Native gold is found near Lowa in Singhbhum district. **(Hence statement 2 is incorrect)**

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

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

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

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 only

**C** Both 1 and 2

**D** Neither 1 nor 2

### **Solution**

- Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) is a UPI enabled initiative to make easy and quick payment transactions. **(Hence statement 1 is correct)**
- It is an Indian mobile payment App developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- Chip pin debit card does not have four factor authorization while BHIM app has three factor authentication. **(Hence statement 2 is incorrect)**





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

**A** Bengaluru

**B** Hyderabad

**C** Nagpur

**D** Pune

### Solution

- The longitude of Delhi is 77.2167210 E.
- The longitude of Bangalore is 77.59450 E.
- The longitude of Nagpur is 79.08880 E.
- The longitude of Pune is 73.84740 E.
- Therefore among the following cities, Bengaluru is the city that lies on a longitude closest to that of Delhi.



**75. International Labour Organisation, Conventions 138 and 182 are related to :**

**A** Child labour

**B** Adaptation of agricultural practices to global climate change.

**C** Regulation of food prices and food security.

**D** Gender parity at the workplace.

### **Solution**

The correct answer is Child labour.

- International Labour Organization's Conventions 138 and 182 are related to Child Labour.
- Convention No. 182 calls for the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, which includes slavery, forced labour and trafficking.
- Minimum Age Convention (No 138) mandates member countries of the ILO to fix the minimum age for admission to employment or work within its territory.

76. Consider the following events :

1. The first democratically elected communist party government formed in a State in India.
2. India's then largest bank, 'Imperial Bank of India', was renamed 'State Bank of India'.
3. Air India was nationalised and became the national carrier.
4. Goa became a part of independent India.

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

A 4 – 1 – 2 – 3

B 3 – 2 – 1 – 4

C 4 – 2 – 1 – 3

D 3 – 1 – 2 – 4

### Solution

- The first democratically elected communist party government formed in a state in India in 1957.
- In the first general election held to the Kerala State Legislative Assembly in 1957, the Communist Party of India won sixty seats out of 126.

- Imperial Bank of India was nationalized by the Government of India in the year 1955 with the Reserve Bank of India taking a 60% stake and the name was changed to State Bank of India.
- Air India was nationalized in 1953.
- The government of India passed the Air Corporations Act in 1953 and purchased a majority stake in the carrier from Tata Sons.
- Goa became an independent state of India on 18 December 1961 and Goa was freed from the Portuguese.
- On December 18, 1961, Operation Vijay was launched by the Indian Government to bring back the Goa into India.

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

**A**

Article 14 and the provisions under the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution

**B**

Article 17 and the Directive Principles of state Policy in Part IV

**C**

**Article 21 and freedom guaranteed in part III**

**D**

Article 24 and provisions under the 44th Amendment to the constitution

### **Solution**

- Right to Privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty under Article Article 21 and the freedoms guaranteed in Part III of the Indian Constitution.
- Right to Privacy has been declared as a Fundamental Right by the Supreme Court in the case of Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd) vs Union of India.
- The Judgement overruled the verdicts given in M.P. Sharma case in 1958 and the Kharak Singh case in 1961, both of which said that the right to privacy is not protected under the Indian constitution.

**78. Consider the following:**

- 1. Areca nut**
- 2. Barley**
- 3. Coffee**
- 4. Finger millet**
- 5. Groundnut**
- 6. Sesamum**
- 7. Turmeric**

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

**A** 1, 2, 3 and 7 only

**B** 2, 4, 5 and 6 only

**C** 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only

**D** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7

### **Solution**

- The government announces, Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for agricultural commodities each year in both the Crop seasons after taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

- As of now, CACP recommends MSPs of 23 commodities, which comprise 7 cereals (paddy, wheat, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, barley and ragi), 5 pulses (gram, tur, moong, urad, lentil), 7 oilseeds (groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soyabean, sesamum, sunflower, safflower, nigerseed), and 4 commercial crops (copra, sugarcane, cotton and raw jute).
- The Correct Answer is Option B, i.e 2, 4, 5 and 6 only.



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

**A** Arunachal Pradesh

**B** Manipur

**C** Meghalaya

**D** Nagaland

### Solution

The correct answer is Arunachal Pradesh.

- Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary, also known as Pakke Wildlife Sanctuary is located at the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas in Arunachal Pradesh.
- It was renamed as Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary in 2001 and became Pakhui Tiger Reserve in 2002.
- It is known for its amazing sightings of hornbill species.
- Keibul-Lamjao (Loktak Lake) National Park is located in the state of Manipur.
- Siju Bird Sanctuary, Balpakram National Park and Nokrek Biosphere Reserve are located in Meghalaya.

- Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary, Rangapahar Wildlife Sanctuary, Singphan Wildlife Sanctuary are located in Nagaland.

80. With reference to India's satellite launch vehicle, consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 and 3

**C** 1 and 2

**D** 3 only

### Solution

- Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV):
  - PSLV is the third generation launch vehicle of India.

- It has been called the Workhorse of ISRO due to its consistent delivery of various satellites to Low Earth Orbits.
- It is a four-stage launch vehicle of ISRO with second and fourth stages using liquid rocket engines and first and third stages using solid rocket motors.
- PSLV is designed to deliver the “earth-observation” or “remote-sensing” satellites with lift-off mass of up to about 1750 Kg to Sun-Synchronous circular polar orbits of 600-900 Km altitude.
- Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV):
  - Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) is developed, designed and operated by ISRO mainly to deliver communication satellites.
  - GSLV Mk 3 is a three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle developed by ISRO.
  - The vehicle has two solid strap-on, a core liquid booster and a cryogenic upper stage.
  - GSLV Mk III is designed to carry Four ton class of satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) or about 10 tons to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
  - Due to their geo-synchronous nature, the satellites in these orbits appear to remain permanently fixed in the same position in the sky, as viewed from a particular location on Earth.

81. **With reference to the governance of ‘public sector banking in India’, consider the following statements:**

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

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

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 only

**C** Both 1 and 2

**D** Neither 1 nor 2

### **Solution**

- Capital infusion into public sector banks by the Government of India has not steadily increased in the last decade, there has been a fall in between. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- To put the public sector banks in order, the merger of associate banks with the parent State Bank of India has been affected.
- Merging of banks would help in strengthening the bargaining power of the banks, reduce operational expenditure, enhance capital

efficiency, streamline banking operations and reduce their NPA burden. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

82. Consider the following items:

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

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

A 1 only

B 2 and 3 only

**C 1, 2 and 4 only**

D 1, 2, 3 and 4

### Solution

The Correct Answer is Option C, i.e 1, 2 and 4 only.

- Previously GST council imposed a 5% rate of GST on hulled grains.
- However, later on 11th June 2017, the rate of GST applicable on hulled grains is 0% (nil rate) fixed by GST council at the introduction of GST in July 2017 is 0% Cereal grains hulled falls under GST HSN code chapter 1104.

- Cooked eggs is exempted from paying GST, the rate of GST payable on cooked eggs is nil rate.
- Fish, crustaceans, molluscs & other aquatic invertebrates in processed, cured or frozen state are taxable at 5% rate under GST.
- Newspapers containing advertising material has 0% GST rate.
- However, ads attract 5% GST, not the newspapers publishing them.
- Newspapers with or without advertisements are exempted from GST.



83. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

**A** 1 and 2 only

**B** 1, 2 and 2 only

**C** 3 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3

### Solution

- The definition of ‘critical wildlife habitat’ is incorporated only in the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.
- Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal ministry and officially decides and declares Habitat Rights for Primitive and Vulnerable Tribal Groups in any part of India.

- For the first time habitat rights have been given to Baigas under the Forest Rights Act of 2006.
- Baiga tribals become India's first community to get habitat rights.
- Critical wildlife habitats (CWH) are defined under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, as the “areas of national parks and sanctuaries where it has been specifically and clearly established, case by case, on the basis of scientific and objective criteria, that such areas are required to be kept as inviolate for the purposes of wildlife conservation.”

84. Consider the following:

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

Which of the above spread plant diseases?

A 1 and 3 only

B 3 and 4 only

C 1, 2 and 4 only

D 1, 2, 3 and 4

### Solution

- Birds moving through crops can carry pathogens from one infected plant to another plant.
- Some plant pathogenic bacteria are carried to short distance by wind.
- Some bacteria are often disseminated by splashing of raindrops, as in case of Citrus canker disease.
- In some places, rain seems to be more important than insects in disseminating the fire blight bacteria, by its washing or splattering

effect of rain.

- Soil and field operations also disseminate the diseases as they result in dust blowing.

85. **With references to organic farming in India, consider the following statements:**

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

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

**A** 1 and 2 only

**B** 2 and 3 only

**C** 3 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3

### **Solution**

- Ministry of Commerce has implemented the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) since 2001.
- The objectives of NPOP are as under:
  - To provide the means of evaluation of certification programme for organic agriculture and products (including

wild harvest, aquaculture, livestock products) as per the approved criteria.

- To accredit certification programmes of Certification Bodies seeking accreditation.
  - To facilitate certification of organic products in conformity with the prescribed standards.
  - To facilitate certification of organic products in conformity with the importing countries organic standards as per equivalence agreement between the two countries or as per importing country requirements.
  - To encourage the development of organic farming and organic processing.
- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority' (APEDA) is the implementation agency of NPOP.
  - Sikkim has become India's first fully organic State.

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

**A**

A bill shall be deemed to be money bill if it contains only provisions related to imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax.

**B**

A Money Bill has provisions for the custody of the Consolidated Fund of India or the Contingency Fund of India.

**C**

**A Money Bill is concerned with appropriation of moneys out of the Contingency Fund of India.**

**D**

A Money Bill deals with the regulation of borrowing of money or giving of any guarantee by the government of India.

### **Solution**

- A money bill cannot be introduced in Rajya Sabha.
- Rajya Sabha can neither reject a Money Bill nor amend it.
- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha decides whether the Bill is a Money Bill or not. Also, the Speaker's decision shall be deemed to be final.
- Article 110 of the constitution deals with Money Bill in India.
- A Money Bill may only be introduced in Lok Sabha, on the recommendation of the President.

- It must be passed in Lok Sabha by a simple majority It may be sent to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations, which Lok Sabha may reject if it chooses to.
- If such recommendations are not given within 14 days, it will be deemed to be passed by Parliament.
- A Bill is said to be a Money Bill if it only contains provisions related to taxation, borrowing of money by the government, expenditure from or receipt to the Consolidated Fund or Contingency Fund of India, and the appropriation of money out of the consolidated Fund of India (**Option C is incorrect.**).



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

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

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

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 only

**C** Both 1 and 2

**D** Neither 1 nor 2

### **Solution**

- The electoral college of President of India consists of elected members of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Legislative Assemblies of the states, and the Legislative Assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry.
- He is elected indirectly by the principle of Proportional Representation by means of Single Transferable Vote.
- Under Article 324 of the Constitution of India, the authority to conduct elections to the Office of President is vested in the Election

## Commission of India.

- The value of votes of MLAs would differ from State to State as it is based on population criterion and population of each state is different. **(Hence statement 1 is correct)**
- However, the value of votes of all MPs is the same whether in Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha. **(Hence statement 2 is incorrect)**

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

**A** The civilian nuclear reactors come under IAEA safeguards.

**B** The military nuclear installations come under the inspection of IAEA.

**C** The country will have the privilege to buy uranium from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

**D** The country automatically becomes a member of the NSG.

### Solution

- The correct answer is A - The civilian nuclear reactors come under IAEA safeguards.
- India signed the Additional Protocol (AP) to the IAEA safeguards agreement on May 15, 2009.
- An Additional Protocol (AP) to the Safeguards Agreement between the Government of India and the IAEA for the Application of Safeguards to Civilian Nuclear Facilities entered into force on 25 July 2014. **(Hence option 1 is correct)**
- The ratification of additional protocol will ensure the collection of data of India's nuclear exports, to guarantee that the material is not diverted for unauthorised use.



89. Consider the following counties:

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

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

**A** 1, 2, 4 and 6

**B** 3, 4, 5 and 6

**C** 1, 3, 4 and 5

**D** 2, 3, 4 and 6

### Solution

- ASEAN has five free trade agreements (FTAs) with six Dialogue Partners, namely China, Japan, Republic of Korea, India, and Australia and New Zealand.
- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional grouping that promotes economic, political, and security cooperation among its ten members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos,

Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

- ASEAN was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok.

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A 1 and 3 only

B 2 only

C 2 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

### Solution

- The concept of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) was originally developed by FAO and officially presented and at the Hague Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change in 2010, through the paper "Climate-Smart Agriculture: Policies, Practices and Financing for Food Security, Adaptation and Mitigation". **(Hence statement 1 is incorrect)**

- GACSA is an inclusive, voluntary and action-oriented multi-stakeholder platform on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA).
- GACSA aims to catalyze and help create transformational partnerships to encourage actions that reflect an integrated approach to the three pillars of CSA.
- Membership in the Alliance does not create any binding obligations and each member individually determines the nature of its participation. **(Hence statement 2 is correct)**
- GACSA is an independent alliance, governed by its members. India is just a signatory to GACSA but was not instrumental in its creation. **(Hence statement 3 is incorrect)**



91. Which of the following is/are the aims of “Digital India” Plan of the Government of India?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A 1 and 2 only

B 3 only

C 2 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

### Solution

- The ‘Digital India’ Programme was launched by the Prime Minister on 1st July 2015.
- Digital India aims to provide the much-needed thrust to the nine pillars of growth areas, namely Broadband Highways, Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity, Public Internet Access Programme, e-Governance: Reforming Government through Technology, e-

Kranti - Electronic Delivery of Services, Information for All, Electronics Manufacturing, IT for Jobs and Early Harvest Programmes.

- The programme is centred around three key areas, namely, Digital Infrastructure to every citizen, Digital services & governance on demand and Digital empowerment of citizens.
- The Government's ambitious "Digital India" plan aims to digitally connect all of India's villages and gram panchayats by broadband internet, promote e-governance and transform India into a connected knowledge economy. **(Hence statement 3 is correct)**

92. Consider the following pairs :

	Towns sometimes mentioned	Country in news
1.	Aleppo	Syria
2.	Kirkuk	Yemen
3.	Mosul	Palestine
4.	Mazar-i-sharif	Afghanistan

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

**A** 1 and 2 only

**B** 1 and 4 only

**C** 2 and 3 only

**D** 3 and 4 only

### Solution

The correct answer is B - 1 and 4 only.

- Aleppo – Syria, Damascus (capital of Syria)
- Kirkuk – Iraq, Baghdad (capital of Iraq)
- Mosul – Iraq

- Mazar-i-sharif – Afghanistan, Kabul (Capital of Afghanistan)

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

A Federal Legislature

B Governor General

C Provincial Legislature

D Provincial Governors

### Solution

- The correct answer is - Viceroy.
- Residuary legislative powers were vested in the Viceroy under the Government of India Act of 1935.
- The Federal Court of India was established in Delhi under the Government of India Act, 1935.

94. Consider the following statements:

1. Speaker of the legislative assembly shall vacate his/her office of he/she ceases to be a member of the assembly.
2. Whenever the legislative assembly is dissolved the speaker shall vacate his/her office immediately.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

**A** 1 only

**B** 2 only

**C** Both 1 and 2

**D** Neither 1 nor 2

### Solution

- A member holding office as Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly—
  - (a) shall vacate his office if he ceases to be a member of the Assembly; **(Hence statement 1 is correct)**
  - (b) may at any time by writing under his hand addressed, if such member is the Speaker, to the Deputy Speaker, and if such member is the Deputy Speaker, to the Speaker, resign his office; and

- (c) maybe removed from his office by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly passed by a majority of all the then members of the Assembly:
- Whenever the Legislative Assembly is dissolved, the Speaker shall not vacate his office until immediately before the first meeting of the Assembly after the dissolution. **(Hence statement 2 is incorrect)**

95. Which of the following reflects the most appropriate relationship between law of the land and liberty?

A If there are more laws, there is less liberty.

**B If there is no law, there is no liberty.**

C If there is liberty laws have to be made by the people.

D If laws are changed to often liberty is in danger.

### Solution

The correct answer is - If there are no laws, there is no liberty.

- Absence of all restraints on an individual is defined as liberty.
- John Locke wrote that “the end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom.”
- Where there is no Law, there is no Freedom.
- For Liberty is to be free from restraint and violence from others which cannot be, where there is no Law.



96. Consider the following statements:

1. No criminal proceedings shall be instituted against the governor of a state in any court during his term of office.
2. Emoluments and allowances of the governor of a state shall not be diminished during his term of office.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 only

B 2 only

C Both 1 and 2

D Neither 1 nor 2

### Solution

- **According to Article 361:**

- No criminal proceedings whatsoever shall be instituted or continued against the President, or the Governor of a State, in any court during his term of office. **(Hence statement 1 is correct)**
- No process for the arrest or imprisonment of the President, or the Governor of a State, shall issue from any court during his term of office.

- **According to Article 158:**

- The Governor shall not be a member of either House of Parliament or of a House of the Legislature of any State specified in the First Schedule, and if a member of either House of Parliament or of a House of the Legislature of any such State is appointed Governor, he shall be deemed to have vacated his seat in that House on the date on which he enters upon his office as Governor.
- The Governor shall not hold any other office of profit.
- The Governor shall be entitled without payment of rent to the use of his official residences and shall be also entitled to such emoluments, allowances and privileges as may be determined by Parliament by law and, until provision in that behalf is so made, such emoluments, allowances and privileges as are specified in the Second Schedule.
- The emoluments and allowances of the Governor shall not be diminished during his term of office. **(Hence statement 2 is correct)**

97. The well-known painting “BaniThani” belongs to the :

**A** Bundi school

**B** Jaipur school

**C** Kangra school

**D** Kishangarh school

### Solution

- BaniThani is an Indian miniature painting painted by Nihâl Chand from the Marwar school of Kishangarh.
- It portrays a woman who is elegant and graceful.
- The painting’s subject, BaniThani, was a singer and poet in Kishangarh in the time of kingSawant Singh (1748–1764).
- She has been compared to the Mona Lisa. Inspired by Radha, BaniThani is characterized by idealized distinct features such as arched eyebrows, lotus-like elongated eyes and pointed chin.
- This painting was featured in an Indian stamp issued in 1973.

98. What is “Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)”, sometimes seen in the news?

A An Israeli radar system

B India’s indigenous anti-missile programme

C An American anti-missile system

D A defence collaboration between Japan and South Korea

### Solution

- Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), formerly Theater High Altitude Area Defense, is an American anti-ballistic missile defense system designed to shoot down short-, medium-, and intermediate-range ballistic missiles in their terminal phase (descent or re-entry) by intercepting with a hit-to-kill approach.
- THAAD was developed after the experience of Iraq’s Scud missile attacks during the Gulf War in 1991.
- The THAAD interceptor carries no warhead, but relies on its kinetic energy of impact to destroy the incoming missile.

- A kinetic energy hit minimizes the risk of exploding conventional-warhead ballistic missiles, and the warhead of nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles will not detonate on a kinetic-energy hit.

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

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A 1 and 3 only

B 2 and 4 only

C 1, 2 and 3

D 2, 3 and 4

### Solution

- Tyagaraja was born on 14th May 1767 in the village of Thiruvayaru in the Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu whereas Tallapāka Annamācārya (or Annamayya) (22 May 1408 – 4 April 1503) was a 15th-century Hindu saint. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

- Tyagaraja was an ardent devotee of lord Rama. In his praise and honour he wrote numerous musical operas, and about twenty four thousand songs, a claim that has been speculated among music historians.
- Tyagaraja's songs and compositions are full of devotion to his god Rama. **(Hence statement 1 is incorrect)**
- Tyagaraja introduced several unusual ragas in Carnatic music. **(Hence statement 2 is correct)**
- Annamacharya kirtanas are devotional songs in praise of Lord Venkateshwara.
- Tallapāka Annamācārya (or Annamayya) is the earliest known Indian musician to compose songs called sankirtanas in praise of the god Venkateswara, a form of Vishnu. **(Hence statement 4 is correct)**

100. Which of the following are regarded as the main features of the “Rule of Law”?

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

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

A 1 ad 3 only

B 2 and 4 only

C 1, 2 and 4 only

D 1, 2,3 and 4

### Solution

- It is the government that is responsible to the people and not the vice versa. **(Hence statement 3 is not correct)**
- The term "rule of law" is originated from England and India has adopted the concept.
- The basic features of Rule of Law as per Dicey:
  - Law does not recognize any special rights for any individual or group of individuals.



- Law does not recognize any distinction between one individual and the other on the basis of religion, race, sex, etc. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- None is punished without proper trial.
- All will be tried by the same court under the same law.
- Rule of Law is to safeguard and advance the political and civil rights of the individual in a free society. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**
- The rule of law does not give scope to absolute and arbitrary powers to the executive. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**



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