



1 Consider the following statements about 'M3'-type electronic voting machines (EVMs).

1. It is "tamper-detect" meaning that it will stop functioning if someone tries to open it or tinker with it.
2. These machines are being imported from Canada, which has a reputation for producing such machines and their use in general elections.
3. The machine can automatically detect any fault with the software or system and will show it in the display.
4. The Control Unit and Ballot Unit of the EVM cannot communicate with each other making it less vulnerable to hacking.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : D

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Statement 1: These are third-generation EVMs that will stop functioning if someone tries to tinker with it in any way.

Statement 2: The M3 EVM production is starting from August at the Electronics Corporation of India Ltd and Bharat Electronics Lt plants.

Statement 3 and 4: Another feature of these new machines is self-diagnosis. That is, it can automatically detect any fault with the software or system and will show it in the display.

The third part is digital certification. The Control Unit and Ballot Unit can communicate with each other. If someone plants a Ballot Unit or Control Unit from outside, the digital signature will not match and the system would stop functioning.

Further, by 2019 all EVMs will be attached with voter verifiable paper audit trail units. And, the vehicles carrying the EVMs will be fitted with GPS to monitor their movement. EVM machines will have paper trail slips in every constituency

They will be used from 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

**Q Source:**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/new-tamper-detect-evms-to-be-used-in-2019-polls-cec/story-0S4eMqUJA2dnM7plM2q9CP.html>

2 Consider the following about 'Silk Road'.

1. The Silk Road was founded by Zin Wudi by opening up the first route from China to the West in the 2nd century BC, as a trading expedition.
2. The Silk Road network criss-crossed Eurasia.



3. Maritime routes were an important part of this network.  
4. The term 'Silk Road' was coined in 15th CE by Jean Baptiste Tavernier.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : D

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Statement 1: The man who is often credited with founding the Silk Roads by opening up the first route from China to the West in the 2nd century BC, General Zhang Qian, was on a diplomatic mission rather than a trading expedition.

Sent to the West in 139 BC by the Han Emperor Wudi to ensure alliances against the Xiongnu, the hereditary enemies of the Chinese, Zhang Qian was captured and imprisoned by them. Thirteen years later he escaped and made his way back to China.

Pleased with the wealth of detail and accuracy of his reports, the emperor sent Zhang Qian on another mission in 119 BC to visit several neighbouring peoples, establishing early routes from China to Central Asia.

Statement 2 and 3: Eurasia was criss-crossed with communication routes and paths of trade, which gradually linked up to form what are known today as the Silk Roads; routes across both land and sea, along which silk and many other goods were exchanged between people from across the world. Maritime routes were an important part of this network, linking East and West by sea, and were used for the trade of spices in particular, thus becoming known as the Spice Routes.

Statement 4: 'Silk Road' is in fact a relatively recent term, and for the majority of their long history, these ancient roads had no particular name. In the mid-nineteenth century, the German geologist, Baron Ferdinand von Richthofen, named the trade and communication network Die Seidenstrasse (the Silk Road), and the term, also used in the plural, continues to stir imaginations with its evocative mystery.

These vast networks carried more than just merchandise and precious commodities however: the constant movement and mixing of populations also brought about the transmission of knowledge, ideas, cultures and beliefs, which had a profound impact on the history and civilizations of the Eurasian peoples. Travellers along the Silk Roads were attracted not only by trade but also by the intellectual and cultural exchange that was taking place in cities along the Silk Roads, many of which developed into hubs of culture and learning.

**Q Source:** Additional Research: Page 77: Xth History NCERT

<https://en.unesco.org/silkroad/about-silk-road>



3 Consider the following statements about BRICS forum.

1. The Chairmanship of the forum is rotated annually among the members, in accordance with the country that is hosting the conference.
2. BRICS forum is well known to engage all “tracks” of interaction such as Track I, Track II and Track III.

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only ✓
- C. Both 1 and 2 ✗
- D. None

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Statement 1: The Chairmanship of the forum is rotated annually among the members, in accordance with the acronym B-R-I-C-S.

S2: Over and above the summit, BRICS cooperation in the past decade has expanded to include an annual programme of over 100 sectoral meetings. Cooperation among members is predicated on three levels or “tracks” of interaction, namely:

Track I: Formal diplomatic engagement between the national governments.

Track II: Engagement through government-affiliated institutions, e.g. state-owned enterprises and business councils.

Track III: Civil society and “people-to-people” engagement.

6th	14–17 July 2014	Brazil	Dilma Rousseff	Fortaleza (Centro de Eventos do Ceará) <sup>[46]</sup> Brasília	BRICS New Development Bank and BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement agreements signed. Guest: Leaders of Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) <sup>[47][48]</sup>
7th	8–9 July 2015	Russia	Vladimir Putin	Ufa (Congress Hall) <sup>[49]</sup>	Joint summit with SCO-EEU
8th	15–16 October 2016	India	Narendra Modi	Benaulim (Taj Exotica)	Joint summit with BIMSTEC
9th	3–5 September 2017	China	Xi Jinping	Xiamen (Xiamen International Conference Center)	Joint summit with EMDCD
10th	25–27 July 2018	South Africa	Cyril Ramaphosa	Johannesburg	
11th	TBD 2019	Brazil	-		
12th	TBD 2020	Russia	Vladimir Putin	Chelyabinsk <sup>[50]</sup>	Joint summit with SCO

The First BRIC Summit was held in June 2009 in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

The Ninth BRICS Summit was held in Xiamen, China under the theme “BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future”. The leaders built on achievements already made with a share vision for future development of BRICS, discussed international and regional issues of common



concern and adopted the Xiamen Declaration.

**Q Source:** Recent BRICS conference in South Africa

4 Consider the following statements about the Swatantra Party formed in India.

1. It was formed after the 1934 Nagpur resolution of the Congress.
2. The Swatantra Party was against land ceilings in agriculture, and opposed cooperative farming and state trading.
3. It was critical of the policy of non-alignment and maintaining friendly relations with the United States and advocated closer ties with the Soviet Union.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Swatantra Party was formed in August 1959 after the Nagpur resolution of the Congress which called for land ceilings, take-over of food grain trade by the state and adoption of cooperative farming.

The party was led by old Congressmen like C. Rajagopalachari, K.M.Munshi, N.G.Ranga and Minoo Masani. The party stood out from the others in terms of its position on economic issues.

The Swatantra Party wanted the government to be less and less involved in controlling the economy. It believed that prosperity could come only through individual freedom.

It was critical of the development strategy of state intervention in the economy, centralised planning, nationalisation and the public sector. It instead favoured expansion of a free private sector. The Swatantra Party was against land ceilings in agriculture, and opposed cooperative farming and state trading.

It was also opposed to the progressive tax regime and demanded dismantling of the licensing regime. It was critical of the policy of non-alignment and maintaining friendly relations with the Soviet Union and advocated closer ties with the United States.

The industrialists and business class who were against nationalisation and the licensing policies also supported the party.

**Q Source:** Revision of 12<sup>th</sup> NCERT India Since Independence

5 The region that is most infected with Arsenic contamination of groundwater is



- A. Gangetic plains ✓
- B. Deccan traps
- C. Regions close to Punjab and Haryana ✗
- D. Kerala and Tamil Nadu

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Arsenic (As) is an odourless and tasteless metalloid widely distributed in the earth's crust.

In South Asia, arsenic contamination in groundwater in the Ganga- Brahmaputra fluvial plains in India and Padma-Meghna fluvial plains in Bangladesh has been found to have a huge impact on human health and its consequences have been reported as the world's biggest natural groundwater calamities.

In India, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh in the flood plains of the Ganga, Assam and Manipur in the flood plains of the Brahmaputra and Imphal rivers and Rajnandgaon village in Chhattisgarh state have been reported to be affected by arsenic contamination in groundwater.

When agricultural fields are irrigated with arsenic contaminated groundwater, inorganic forms of arsenic get absorbed by the plants and hence arsenic enters the food cycle.

**Q Source:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-30-july-2018/>  
<http://www.indiawaterportal.org/topics/arsenic>

**6** What are denotified tribes?

- A. Tribes that are on the fringe of extinction and efforts are being made to save them
- B. Tribes that were labelled as criminals through a legislation by British government and were denotified post-independence ✓
- C. Tribes that do not enjoy property rights under the Forest Rights Act
- D. Tribes that are not recognized by the government

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Denotified tribes are those that were labelled as criminals through a legislation by British government and were denotified post-independence, the Nomadic tribes maintain constant geographical mobility while semi-nomads are those who are on the move but return to fixed habitations once a year, mainly for occupational reasons.

NITI Aayog has offered to set up a working group to come up with policy suggestions on many



issues of these marginalised communities.

It has also proposed lowering tuition fees and relaxing admission conditions for children from the communities, and easy allotment of land and housing for members of the community in which 90% or more are landless.

The Niti Aayog has also supported the panel's suggestion to form a dedicated National Finance Development Corporation for DNT, SNT and NTs.

**Q Source:** As mentioned above

7 Consider the following statements about the proposed agreements between India and USA, recently seen in news.

1. The Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) would allow the interoperability of some of the security related equipments of India and United States.
2. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA) would facilitate exchange of geospatial information between India and United States for both military and civilian use.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 ✓
- D. None of the above ✗

◦ Your Answer : D

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Background:** The US side has pressed the Indian side to sign the two foundational agreements for defence cooperation: Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), earlier known as the Communications and Information Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA); and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA).

India and the US have so far signed only one foundational agreement: Logistical Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA).

**Justification:** COMCASA is a “technology enabler” to help transfer high-tech avionics, encrypted communication and electronic systems to India as well as ensure secrecy of its C4ISR (command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) systems from leaking to other countries like Russia. This agreement would allow the interoperability of India and United States equipments.

BECA refers to Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation. This agreement would facilitate exchange of geospatial information between India and United States for both military and civilian use.





Significance of COMCASA:

COMCASA is needed if any classified military information is required to be exchanged between US and Indian armed forces, and would allow India to fully utilise the communication security equipment on military platforms it imports from the US.

Signing COMCASA would help because such advanced technologies and sensitive equipments are generally installed on US procured systems only. This agreement could also be important for multinational operations related to rescue, disaster relief etc.

Why is India hesitant to sign these agreements?

There are widespread fears that the use of American C4ISR systems could compromise India's tactical operational security, enabling the US to keep track of Indian warships and aircraft.

**Q Source:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/06/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-22-june-2018/>

**8** Consider the following statements.

1. Through legal and constitutional rights people essentially make demands upon the state.
2. A right is only possible when one can make a claim that is equally possible for others.
3. Rights not only indicate what the state must do, they also suggest what the state must refrain from doing.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

A. 1 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only ❌

D. 1, 2 and 3 ✅

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Statement 1: Rights are reasonable claims of persons recognised by society and sanctioned by law. However, in most cases the claimed rights are directed towards the state. That is, through these rights people make demands upon the state.

When I assert my right to education, I call upon the state to make provisions for my basic education. Society may also accept the importance of education and contribute to it on its own.

Different groups may open schools and fund scholarships so that children of all classes can get the benefit of education. But the primarily responsibility rests upon the state. It is the state that must initiate necessary steps to ensure that my right to education is fulfilled.

Statement 2: If a right can be enjoyed only by an individual or a group of people, it is not a right, but a privilege. Your freedom to drive a car on the street conjoins the freedom of other to drive on the same street.



Also, you cannot have a right that harms or hurts others. You cannot have a right to drive such a way that it hurts others on the street.

Statement 3: My right to liberty as a person, for instance, suggests that the state can not simply arrest me at its own will. If it wishes to put me behind bars it must defend that action; it must give reasons for curtailing my liberty before a judicial court. This is why the police are required to produce an arrest warrant before taking me away. My rights thus place certain constraints upon state actions.

**Q Source:** Page 72: 11<sup>th</sup> NCERT: Political Theory

**9** Which one of the following is the type of plate boundary of the Indian plate along the Himalayan Mountains?

- A. Ocean-continent convergence
- B. Divergent boundary
- C. Transform boundary
- D. Continent-continent convergence ✓

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Learning:** The Indian plate includes Peninsular India and the Australian continental portions. The subduction zone along the Himalayas forms the northern plate boundary in the form of continent—continent convergence.

In the east, the plate extends through Rakinyoma Mountains of Myanmar towards the island arc along the Java Trench. The eastern margin is a spreading site lying to the east of Australia in the form of an oceanic ridge in SW Pacific. The Western margin follows Kirthar Mountain of Pakistan. It further extends along the Makrana coast and joins the spreading site from the Red Sea rift southeastward along the Chagos Archipelago.

The boundary between India and the Antarctic plate is also marked by oceanic ridge (divergent boundary) running in roughly W-E direction and merging into the spreading site, a little south of New Zealand.

**Q Source:** Revision: 11<sup>th</sup> NCERT: Fundamentals of Physical Geography

**10** The Ambubachi Mela symbolises the fertility cult of a goddess popular in North-eastern India. It was recently celebrated in the state of

- A. Assam ✓
- B. Nagaland
- C. Tripura
- D. Mizoram





- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Learning:** Ambubachi Mela, a four-day fair to mark the annual menstruation of the goddess is being held at Kamakhya temple in Guwahati.

There is no idol in the temple, the goddess is worshipped in the form of a yoni-like stone over which a natural spring flows.

Also known as Siddha Kubjika, the goddess is a Hindu tantric goddess of desire who evolved in the Himalayan hills. She is also identified as Kali and Maha Tripura.

The festival is also known as 'Mahakumbh of the East' as it draws lakhs of devotees from all over the world.

**Q Source:** Recently in news

**11** Privy Purse was granted to the princely states due to which of these reasons?

- A. Princely states played a significant role in bringing constitutional reforms in the British administration
- B. This was a part of the compromise to get Princely states on board the Constituent Assembly
- C. Princely states had significant private property and their integration was preceded by an assurance that they will be allowed to retain some property and be given some government allowances ✓
- D. There was a revolt in the general populace with the uprooting of the princely states from the Independent India

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Learning:** The integration of the Princely States was preceded by an assurance that after the dissolution of princely rule, the then rulers' families would be allowed to retain certain private property, and given a grant in hereditary or government allowance, measured on the basis of the extent, revenue and potential of the merging state.

This grant was called the privy purse. At the time of accession, there was little criticism of these privileges since integration and consolidation was the primary aim.

Yet, hereditary privileges were not consonant with the principles of equality and social and economic justice laid down in the Constitution of India. Nehru had expressed his dissatisfaction over the matter time and again.

Following the 1967 elections, Indira Gandhi supported the demand that the government should abolish privy purses. Morarji Desai, however, called the move morally wrong and amounting to a



‘breach of faith with the princes’.

The government tried to bring a Constitutional amendment in 1970, but it was not passed in Rajya Sabha.

It then issued an ordinance which was struck down by the Supreme Court. Indira Gandhi made this into a major election issue in 1971 and got a lot of public support. Following its massive victory in the 1971 election, the Constitution was amended to remove legal obstacles for abolition of ‘privy purse’

**Q Source:** Revision of 12<sup>th</sup> NCERT India Since Independence

**12** The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2018 report was recently published by

- A. The United Nations ✓
- B. Oxfam International
- C. World Economic Forum
- D. World Bank

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Learning:** The U.N. has released its annual checkup report on the SDGs which presents an overview of progress toward achieving the Goals, which were unanimously adopted by countries in 2015.

#### Highlights of the report

**Concerns:** Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals remains uneven, and is not moving fast enough to meet the ambitious 17 goals on poverty, health, and equality by 2030.

**Challenges:** A fast-changing climate, conflict, inequality, persistent pockets of poverty and hunger and rapid urbanization are challenging countries’ efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**The hunger challenge:** There are now approximately 38 million more hungry people in the world, rising from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016. According to the report, conflict is now one of the main drivers of food insecurity in 18 countries.

**Sanitation and Health:** In 2015, 2.3 billion people still lacked even a basic level of sanitation service and 892 million people continued to practice open defecation. In 2016, there were 216 million cases of malaria compared to 210 million cases in 2013 and close to 4 billion people were left without social protection in 2016. The under-five mortality rate dropped by almost 50% and in the least developed countries.

**Q Source:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/06/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-23-june-2018/>



**13** Consider the following statements.

1. UNISPACE+50 is an initiative of the G-77 to coordinate effectively in the domain of satellite supervision and disaster management.
2. The Space2030 agenda of the U.N. will map out how spaceflight and space-related activities can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only ✗
- B. 2 only ✓
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None

◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** UNISPACE+50 will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

It will also be an opportunity for the international community to gather and consider the future course of global space cooperation for the benefit of humankind.

The shared goal for UNISPACE+50 is to build, together with all stakeholders, a comprehensive Space2030 agenda for the contribution of space activities to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, addressing overarching, long-term development concerns, and which is based on the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space.

It was a chance to assess results following the three prior UNISPACE conferences, held in 1968, 1982 and 1999, and consider how the future course of global space cooperation can benefit everyone on Earth.

The event aimed at shaping the UN's comprehensive 'Space2030' agenda. The Space2030 agenda will map out how spaceflight and space-related activities can help achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addressing overarching, long-term development concerns, through the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space.

**Q Source:** <http://www.copernicus.eu/events/unispace-50>

**14** The Lok Sabha has passed the Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018. The Bill provides for the establishment of a National Anti-Trafficking Bureau to investigate trafficking cases and implement provisions of the Bill. Consider the following about it.

1. The Bureau may transfer a case to the state government for investigation and trial, with approval from the central government.
2. The Bureau should maintain coordination between law enforcement agencies and non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders for the purposes of investigation.

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?



- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only ✗
- C. Both 1 and 2 ✓
- D. None

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The Bill provides for the prevention, rescue, and rehabilitation of trafficked persons.

Key features of the Bill include:

National Anti-Trafficking Bureau: The Bill provides for the establishment of a National Anti-Trafficking Bureau to investigate trafficking cases and implement provisions of the Bill. The Bureau will comprise of police officers, and any other officers as required. It may take over the investigation of any offence under the Bill, that has been referred to it by two or more states. Further, the Bureau may: (i) request the state government to co-operate in the investigation, or (ii) transfer the case to the state government for investigation and trial, with approval from the central government.

Functions of the Bureau: Key functions of the Bureau include: (i) coordinating and monitoring surveillance along known routes, (ii) facilitating surveillance, enforcement and preventive steps at source, transit and destination points, (iii) maintaining coordination between law enforcement agencies and non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders, and (iv) increasing international cooperation with authorities abroad for intelligence sharing, and mutual legal assistance.

State Anti-Trafficking Officers: Under the Bill, the state government will appoint a State Nodal Officer. He will be responsible for: (i) follow up action under the Bill, as per the instructions of the State Anti-Trafficking Committee, and (ii) providing relief and rehabilitation services. The state government will also appoint a Police Nodal Officer at the state and district levels. The state government will also designate Anti-Trafficking Police Officers for each district, to deal with all matters related to trafficking in the district.

Anti-Trafficking Units: The Bill also provides for the setting up of Anti-Trafficking Units (ATUs) at the district level. ATUs will deal with the prevention, rescue, and protection of victims and witnesses, and for the investigation and prosecution of trafficking offences. In districts where an ATU is not functional, this responsibility will be taken up by the local police station.

**Q Source:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/27/insights-daily-current-affairs-27-july-2018/>

**15** Consider the following statements about the Bharat 22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF).

1. The fund has been launched in pursuance of getting both domestic and Foreign Direct Investment in the better performing PSUs.
2. The fund will be managed by the Reserve Bank of India.



- Which of the above is/are correct?
  - A. 1 only
  - B. 2 only
  - C. Both 1 and 2 ✖
  - D. None ✔

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The government has announced the first Further Fund Offer (FFO) of Bharat 22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF). This is in pursuance of its disinvestment policy targeting an initial amount of Rs.6,000 crore.

Bharat 22 consists of 22 stocks of CPSE's, PSB's & strategic holding of SUUTI. Bharat 22 is a well Diversified portfolio with 6 sectors (Basic Materials, Energy, Finance, FMCG, Industrials & Utilities).

The Bharat 22 Index will be rebalanced annually. ICICI Prudential AMC will be the ETF Manager and Asia Index Private Limited (JV BSE and S& P Global) will be the Index Provider.

**Q Source:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/06/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-23-june-2018/>

**16** The merit of John Rawl's 'veil of ignorance' proposition is that

- A. It assumes that individuals make decisions selflessly
- B. It does not require social consensus
- C. It expects people to just be their usual rational selves ✔
- D. It does not require the intervention of state in any decision-making process

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Concept:** John Rawls argues that the only way we can arrive at a fair and just rule is if we imagine ourselves to be in a situation in which we have to make decisions about how society should be organised although we do not know which position we would ourselves occupy in that society.

- This is because if we know our social position already, we would be willing to abuse our rule-making power to benefit ourselves.
- Rawls describes this thinking under a 'veil of ignorance'. He expects that in such a situation of complete ignorance about our possible position and status in society, each person would decide in the way they generally do, that is, in terms of their own interests.



- But since no one knows who he would be, the merit of the 'veil of ignorance' position is that it expects people to just be their usual rational selves: they are expected to think for themselves and choose what they regard to be in their interest.
- The pertinent thing however is that when they choose under the 'veil of ignorance' they will find that it is in their interest to think from the position of the worst-off.

**Justification:** Option A: No, they think about the self as the rule they make should not land them the worst-off position.

Option B: It does require consensus, and this is the whole idea behind Rawl's proposition that people would jointly decide upon a rule that does not unfairly benefit anyone.

**Q Source:** Page 60: 11<sup>th</sup> NCERT: Political Theory

**17** Jayaprakash Narayan was associated with which of the following parties?

1. Congress Socialist Party
2. Socialist Party
3. Janta Party

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : D

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** A marxist in his youth; JP was the founder general secretary of the Congress Socialist party and the Socialist Party.

A hero of the 1942 Quit India movement; he declined to join Nehru's cabinet; and after 1955 quit active politics.

He became a Gandhian and was involved in the Bhoodan movement, negotiations with the Naga rebels, peace initiative in Kashmir and ensured the surrender of decoits in Chambal.

He was also the leader of Bihar movement, he became the symbol of opposition to Emergency and was the moving force behind the formation of Janata Party.

**Q Source:** Revision of 12<sup>th</sup> Contemporary World Politics

**18** Provisions in case of failure of constitutional machinery in the State of Jammu and Kashmir are made on the basis of which of these constitutional articles (Indian Constitution)?





- A. Article 356
- B. Article 360
- C. Article 370 ✓
- D. There is no such provision in the Indian constitution

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The imposition of governor's rule in J&K is slightly different than that in other states. In other states, the president's rule is imposed under the Article 356 of Constitution of India. In J&K, governor's rule is mentioned under Article 370 section 92 - Provisions in case of failure of constitutional machinery in the State.

Article 370 section 92: Provisions in case of failure of constitutional machinery in the State says:

If at any time, the Governor is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the Government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, the Governor may by Proclamation-

- Assume to himself all or any of the functions of the Government of the State and all or any of the powers vested in or exercisable by anybody or authority in the State.
- Make such incidental and consequential provisions as appear to the Governor to be necessary or desirable for giving effect to the objects of the Proclamation, including provisions for suspending in whole or in part the operation of any provision of this Constitution relating to anybody or authority in the State.
- Any such Proclamation may be revoked or varied by a subsequent Proclamation.
- Any such Proclamation whether varied under subsection (2) or not, shall except where it is a Proclamation revoking a previous Proclamation, cease to operate on the expiration of six months from the date on which it was first issued.
- If the Government or by a Proclamation under this section assumes, to himself any, of the powers of the Legislature to make his laws, any law made by him in the exercise of that power shall, subject to, the terms there of continue to have effect until two years have elapsed from the date on which the proclamation ceases to have effect, unless sooner.
- No Proclamation under this section shall, except where it is a Proclamation revoking a previous Proclamation, be laid before each House of the Legislature as soon as it is convened.

**Q Source:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/06/20/insights-daily-current-affairs-20-june-2018/>



**19** The roots of the Non Alignment Movement draw upon

1. Growing Cold War tensions
2. Entry of many newly decolonised African countries into the international arena
3. The realization of a bloc of countries to stay out of any involvement in wars

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : D

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Statement 3: Non-alignment is not neutrality. Neutrality refers principally to a policy of staying out of war. States practising neutrality are not required to help end a war. They do not get involved in wars and do not take any position on the appropriateness or morality of a war.

Non-aligned states, including India, were actually involved in wars for various reasons. They also worked to prevent war between others and tried to end wars that had broken out.

S1 and 2: The first non-aligned summit was held in Belgrade in 1961. This was the culmination of at least three factors:

- cooperation among the five founder countries (described below),
- growing Cold War tensions and its widening arenas, and
- the dramatic entry of many newly decolonised African countries into the international arena. By 1960, there were 16 new African members in the UN.

NAM went back to the friendship between three leaders — Yugoslavia's Josip Broz Tito, India's Jawaharlal Nehru, and Egypt's leader Gamal Abdel Nasser — who held a meeting in 1956. Indonesia's Sukarno and Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah strongly supported them. These five leaders came to be known as the five founders of NAM.

The first summit was attended by 25 member states. Over the years, the membership of NAM has expanded. The latest meeting, the 14th summit, was held in Havana in 2006. It included 116 member states and 15 observer countries.

**Q Source:** Page 10: 12<sup>th</sup> NCERT: Contemporary World Politics

**20** Currency rates in flexible or floating exchange rates of a Nation X fluctuates depending on



1. Determination of exchange rates by government of X from time to time
2. IMF Weekly exchange rate revisions for Nation X
3. Demand of goods exported by Nation X in Global market
4. Preference of the residents of Nation X for foreign goods and services

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : D

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Statement 1 and 2: Exchange rates link national currencies for purposes of international trade. There are broadly two kinds of exchange rates: fixed exchange rate and floating exchange rate

Fixed exchange rates - When exchange rates are fixed and governments intervene to prevent movements in them

Flexible or floating exchange rates - These rates fluctuate depending on demand and supply of currencies in foreign exchange markets, in principle without interference by governments. Based on this S1 and S2 are wrong.

Statement 3 and 4: The demand of a national currency depends on the export-import preferences of the nation. If the residents demand more foreign goods, imports are higher and thus the domestic currency depreciates because there is more demand for foreign currency than domestic currency.

If a nation exports goods, the case is just the opposite. In both the cases, currency rates would fluctuate.

**Q Source:** Page 101: Xth History NCERT (mention of flexible and fixed exchange rates in the deep yellow box)

**21** Consider the following statements about naturalised species.

1. Most naturalized species are endemic to a certain environment.
2. Exotic species can become naturalized species if they do not compete for resources with the native population.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 ✗
- D. None of the above ✓



- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Statement 1: An intentionally or unintentionally introduced species that has adapted to and reproduces successfully in its new environment.

Naturalised species reproduce naturally in the environments they colonise. Invasive species do this so prolifically that they alter the workings of the natural ecosystems they colonise or invade.

Statement 2: An international team — including scientists from India — have collated information on alien plant species from several sources, ranging from online plant lists to old compilations of India's national and regional flora. They found that as many as 471 plant species that are alien or exotic — not native to India — are 'naturalised,' for they can thrive in the country's wildernesses by forming stable populations.

At 332, Tamil Nadu has the highest number of naturalised exotics, followed by Kerala (290), while Lakshadweep has the least (17).

**Q Source:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-30-july-2018/>

22 The Global Slavery Index 2018 was published by

- A. Transparency International
- B. Amnesty International ✗
- C. Human Rights Watch
- D. Walk Free Foundation ✓

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The report of the Global slavery Index 2018 has been released. It is published by the Australia-based human rights group Walk Free Foundation.

The estimation data were drawn from 54 surveys conducted in 48 countries which included a module on Modern Slavery, with a total sample of 71,158 individual interviews.

Modern Slavery

"In the context of this report, modern slavery covers a set of specific legal concepts including forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage, slavery and slavery-like practices, and human trafficking".

It is used as an umbrella term which refers to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, and abuse of power.

Performance of various countries:



North Korea is at the top of the list with 104.6 per 1,000 and Japan registering the lowest prevalence rate of 0.3 per 1,000.

Globally, nearly three-quarters (71 percent) of modern slavery's victims are women and girls. There are more female than male victims across all forms of modern slavery.

The 10 countries with the largest number of absolute numbers of people in modern slavery include India, China, Pakistan, North Korea, Nigeria, Iran, Indonesia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Russia and the Philippines. These 10 countries account for 60 percent of people living in modern slavery.

Findings from the Index highlight the connection between modern slavery and two major external drivers - highly repressive regimes, in which populations are put to work to prop up the government, and conflict situations which result in the breakdown of rule of law, social structures, and existing systems of protection.

Extent of modern slavery in India:

Among 167 countries, India ranked 53. However, in absolute numbers, India topped the list on prevalence.

The index estimates that on any given day in 2016 there were nearly 8 million people living in "modern slavery" in India — a claim strongly contested by the government on the grounds that its parameters were poorly defined and too wide-ranging.

The report said that in terms of prevalence, there were 6.1 victims for every thousand people.

**Q Source:** Insights Current Affairs

**23** In case of violation of which of these rights the aggrieved person can avail a constitutional remedy by moving the Supreme court directly?

1. Imposition of tax other than by authority of law
2. Unreasonable restrictions on trade and commerce within the territory of India
3. Revoking of individual voting rights by the state arbitrarily

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : D

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** One can move the SC or HCs only for issuance of writs only for the purpose of enforcing either constitutional rights or legal rights (in case of HC only).



Besides the Fundamental Rights included in Part III, there are certain other rights contained in other parts of the Constitution. These rights are known as constitutional rights or legal rights or non-fundamental rights. IN case of these rights, one can only move the HCs and not the SC.

They are:

- No tax shall be levied or collected except by authority of law (Article 265 in Part XII).
- No person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law (Article 300-A in Part XII).
- Trade, commerce and intercourse throughout the territory of India shall be free (Article 301 in Part XIII).
- The elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assembly shall be on the basis of adult suffrage (Article 326 in Part XV).

**Q Source:** Chapter 7: Indian Polity: M Laxmikanth

**24** Which one of the following is NOT a single element mineral?

- A. Gold
- B. Mica ✓
- C. Silver
- D. Graphite

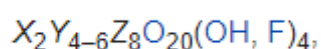
- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Mica is a mineral name given to a group of minerals that are physically and chemically similar. They are all silicate minerals, known as sheet silicates because they form in distinct layers.

Mica contains several elements.

Chemically, micas can be given the general formula.



X is K, Na, or Ca or less commonly Ba, Rb, or Cs; Y is Al, Mg, or Fe or less commonly Mn, Cr, Ti, Li, etc.; Z is chiefly Si or Al, but also may include Fe<sup>3+</sup> or Ti.





The nearly perfect cleavage, which is the most prominent characteristic of mica, is explained by the hexagonal sheet-like arrangement of its atoms.

Micas are fairly light and relatively soft, and the sheets and flakes of mica are flexible. Mica is heat-resistant and does not conduct electricity. There are 37 different mica minerals. The most common include: purple lepidolite, black biotite, brown phlogopite and clear muscovite.

**Q Source:** Revision: 11<sup>th</sup> NCERT Fundamentals of Physical Geography

**25** In India which category of persons are eligible for the office of President?

1. Any Person of Indian Origin
2. Naturalised citizen

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** In India both a citizen by birth as well as a naturalised citizen are eligible for the office of President while in USA, only a citizen by birth and not a naturalised citizen is eligible for the office of President.

A PIO or a person of Indian origin staying abroad is not an Indian citizen and thus not eligible for the office of the President.

**Q Source:** Revision of Chapter on Citizenship: Indian Polity Laxmikanth

**26** The Union ministry of health and family welfare has launched the National Health Resource Repository (NHRR). The NHRR project aims to

1. Strengthen evidence-based decision making for health related issues
2. Create a standardised geo-spatial data of all public and private healthcare centres in India

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : C



◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The NHRR project aims to strengthen evidence-based decision making and develop a platform for citizens and provider-centric services by creating a robust, standardised and secured Information Technology (IT)-enabled repository of India's healthcare resources.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the project technology partner for providing data security.

NHRR shall be the registry of authentic, standardised and updated geo-spatial data of all public and private healthcare.

This resource repository shall enable advanced research towards ongoing and forthcoming healthcare challenges arising from other determinants of health such as disease and the environment.

It shall also enhance the coordination between central and state government for optimisation of health resources, making 'live' and realistic state project implementation plans (PIPs) and improving accessibility of data at all levels, including state heads of departments, and thus decentralise the decision making at district and state level.

Benefits:

Some key benefits of the NHRR project are to create a reliable, unified registry of country's healthcare resources showing the distribution pattern of health facilities and services between cities and rural areas.

Additionally, it shall generate real-world intelligence to identify gaps in health and service ratios, and ensure judicious health resource allocation and management.

It shall also identify key areas of improvement by upgrading existing health facilities or establishing new health facilities keeping in view the population density, geographic nature, health condition, distance.

**Q Source:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/06/21/insights-daily-current-affairs-21-june-2018/>

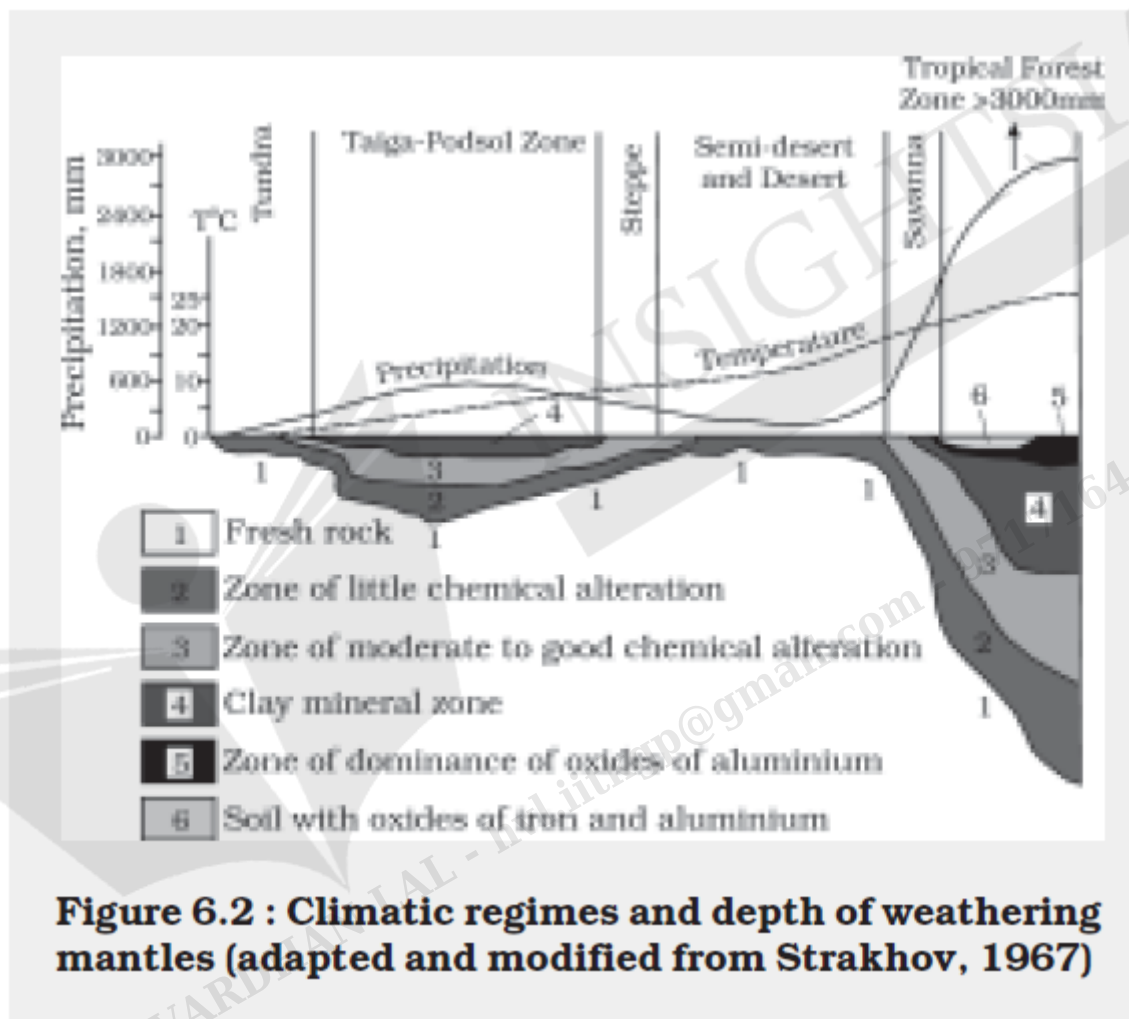
**27** The zone that experiences the maximum precipitation and the highest temperature among the following is

- A. Taiga
- B. Savannah ✓
- C. Steppe
- D. Semi arid deserts

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The image below describes these vegetation zones in terms of the climatic conditions experienced and gives the depth of the soil cover based on these conditions. Notice the direct correlation.



**Q Source:** Revision of 11<sup>th</sup> NCERT Fundamentals of Physical Geography

**28** Consider the following statements about Amnesty International.

1. It introduced the Declaration of Human Rights in the United Nations (UN) for the first time.
  2. It is the oldest and largest non-governmental organization working to uphold human rights in the world.
- Which of the above is/are correct?
- A. 1 only
  - B. 2 only ✗
  - C. Both 1 and 2
  - D. None ✓
- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : D



◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Statement 1: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the UNGA in 1948 itself, whereas the Amnesty International was found in 1961. So, 1 must clearly be wrong.

Statement 2: In the field of international human rights organisations, Amnesty has the second longest history, after the International Federation for Human Rights and broadest name recognition, and is believed by many to set standards for the movement as a whole.

**Q Source:** Additional Research: Page 97: 9<sup>th</sup> NCERT: Democratic Politics

**29** GSLV Mk III rockets have been designed to carry

1. 15 ton class of satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)
2. 20 tons to Low Earth Orbit (LEO)
3. About twice the capability of GSLV Mk II

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : D

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

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

GSLV Mk III is designed to carry 4 ton class of satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) or about 10 tons to Low Earth Orbit (LEO), which is about twice the capability of GSLV Mk II.

Carrying 15 ton to a GTO is an extremely herculean task and something that is probably decades down the line and not possible for Indian satellites now.

This is India's first fully functional rocket to be tested with a cryogenic engine that uses liquid propellants — liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen.

**Q Source:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/06/07/insights-daily-current-affairs-07-june-2018/>

**30** Under Article 19 of the Constitution, which of the following freedoms implicitly or explicitly are available to a Foreign citizen?

1. Freedom to criticise the government
2. Freedom to participate in armed revolution
3. Freedom to start a movement to change the government
4. Freedom to oppose the central values of the Constitution



- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

A. 1 and 4 only ✗  
B. None of the above ✓  
C. 2 and 3 only  
D. 1 only

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : B

- **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** A19 is not available to foreign citizens, so they cannot openly criticize the government or the constitution.

This right, is however, available to Indian citizens and except for participating in armed rebellion, we can criticize the government, its policies, officeholders and even the constitution in a peaceful way such that it does not incite a rebellion against the incumbent government or cause a threat to public order and morality.

**Q Source:** Chapter 6: 9<sup>th</sup> NCERT: Democratic Politics

- 31** Consider the following about the use of Cowry shells in Ancient India and regions around.

1. Shell money was first introduced in Southeast Asia.
2. They were given as donation to monasteries in India, and they could also form part of a ritual function in these monasteries.
3. There is evidence of the exchange of these shells for goods from Maldivian traders.

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

A. 2 and 3 only ✓  
B. 1 and 2 only  
C. 2 only  
D. 1 only ✗

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : A

- **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Statement 3: As early as 3000 BCE an active coastal trade linked the Indus valley civilisations with present-day West Asia. For more than a millennia, cowries (the Hindi cowdi or seashells, used as a form of currency) from the Maldives found their way to China and East Africa.

Statement 2: The use of cowry shell money in India is well documented. The shells were exchanged for rice and cloth from Maldivian traders, with early historical records dating to the fifth century CE.

- Not all cowries were resold but remained in India. Whilst Kovács (2008) suggests that they



were used only in Southern India, where they occupied the lowest 'niche' of currency, Deyell (1999) reports that large cowry hoards have been recovered in Northern India as well.

- Heimann (1980) highlights that India was subdivided into local market economies based on cowry exchange and trans market economies based on metal currencies.
- Cowry shell in India formed part of the state tax system and also acted as a form of donation to monasteries, where the shells would form part of a ritual function or as a component of a hoard (Yang 2011).

Statement 1: Owing to the long-standing connection between India and Southeast Asia, Thailand began to similarly use cowry shell as a form of money, utilizing the shells as small money and for religious dedications (Yang 2011).

The introduction of shell money occurred later than in India and in China, and it appears that the cowry was sourced from multiple regions—either from Borneo or the Maldives.

**Q Source:** Additional Research: Page 77 Xth History NCERT

<https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/bitstream/1885/110238/1/Litster%20Thesis%202016.pdf>

**32** THORPEX is related to

- A. Search for extra-terrestrial intelligence
- B. World Weather Research Programme ✓
- C. Monitoring of International Space Station (ISS)
- D. Powering future rocket launchers

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Learning:** The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) 10-year THORPEX (The Observing System Research and Predictability Experiment (an activity of the World Weather Research Programme) is currently addressing this very concern. It focuses on identifying problems with forecasting and research.

Enhanced observation and data analysis systems, increased understanding of atmosphere dynamics and predictability; and improved global and regional numerical weather prediction models are some areas where improvements can be made. Training more meteorologists in developing nations and providing them with more and sophisticated equipment are also necessary.

Concerted efforts are being made by some National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and leading international climate modelling groups under the coordination of the World Climate Research Programme to develop regional climate models so that they become capable of providing





regional-scale (typically 25 x 25 km and higher resolution with appropriate computing facilities), climate information for impact studies, to facilitate their use within the modest computational infrastructure of developing countries, and to provide training in the use of this information as necessary.

**Q Source:** Additional Research on the reference of WMO in the current affairs of last one week:  
<https://public.wmo.int/en/about-us/FAQs/faqs-weather>

**33** Which of these foods were introduced in India from outside during the Medieval age?

1. Potato
2. Chillies
3. Groundnut
4. Maize
5. Tomato

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Food offers many examples of long-distance cultural exchange. Traders and travellers introduced new crops to the lands they travelled.

Many of our common foods such as potatoes, soya, groundnuts, maize, tomatoes, chillies, sweet potatoes, and so on were not known to our ancestors until about five centuries ago.

These foods were only introduced in Europe and Asia after Christopher Columbus accidentally discovered the vast continent that would later become known as the North Americas. In fact, many of our common foods came from America's original inhabitants – the American Indians.

It is believed that noodles travelled west from China to become spaghetti. Or, perhaps Arab traders took pasta to fifth-century Sicily, an island now in Italy. Similar foods were also known in India and Japan, so the truth about their origins may never be known.

Further details are not relevant to our test series, and we omit it.

**Q Source:** Page 78: Xth History NCERT

**34** Which of these European nations did NOT have a colony in the African Continent?

- A. Germany

- B. Italy
- C. Spain
- D. Greece ✓

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Learning:** In 1885 the big European powers met in Berlin to complete the carving up of Africa between them. Britain and France made vast additions to their overseas territories in the late nineteenth century. Belgium and Germany became new colonial powers. The US also became a colonial power in the late 1890s by taking over some colonies earlier held by Spain.



**Q Source:** Page 85: Xth History NCERT

35 Gaofen-11, recently seen in news, will be useful for the Chinese in



- A. Land survey and urban planning ✓
- B. Air warfare
- C. Maintaining Sea lines of communication ✗
- D. Designing nano robots

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** It is an optical remote sensing satellite, launched by China as part of its high-resolution Earth observation project. It will aid in the Belt and Road Initiative. It was the 282nd flight mission by a Long March carrier rocket.

The satellite can be used for land survey, urban planning, road network design, agriculture, and disaster relief.

Part of CHEOS: Gaofen-11 will become part of the China High-resolution Earth Observation System (CHEOS), initiated in 2010 to provide all-weather, all-day coverage by 2020 with optical and synthetic aperture radar satellites, and could also include airborne and near-space systems such as stratospheric balloons.

**Q Source:**

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/08/02/insights-daily-current-affairs-01-august-2018-2/>

**36** World Bank was found in order to finance

- A. The development needs of Third World countries
- B. Post-war reconstruction ✓
- C. Gaps in international trade and settlement
- D. The OECD development fund

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Learning:** The Bretton Woods conference established the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to deal with external surpluses and deficits of its member nations. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (popularly known as the World Bank) was set up to finance post-war reconstruction.

The IMF and the World Bank are referred to as the Bretton Woods institutions or sometimes the Bretton Woods twins. The post-war international economic system is also often described as the Bretton Woods system.

The IMF and the World Bank commenced financial operations in 1947. Decision-making in these institutions is controlled by the Western industrial powers. The US has an effective right of veto



over key IMF and World Bank decisions.

**Q Source:** Page 99: Xth History NCERT

**37** Homeopathy is a medical system based on the belief that

1. The body can cure itself
2. A substance that causes the symptoms of a disease in healthy people would cure similar symptoms in sick people

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only ✗
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 ✓
- D. None

◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Homeopathy is a medical system based on the belief that the body can cure itself. Those who practice it use tiny amounts of natural substances, like plants and minerals. They believe these stimulate the healing process.

- A basic belief behind homeopathy is “like cures like.” In other words, something that brings on symptoms in a healthy person can -- in a very small dose -- treat an illness with similar symptoms. This is meant to trigger the body’s natural defenses.
- For example, red onion makes your eyes water. That’s why it’s used in homeopathic remedies for allergies. Treatments for other ailments are made from poison ivy, white arsenic, crushed whole bees, and an herb called arnica.
- Homeopathic doctors (who also are called “homeopaths”) weaken these ingredients by adding water or alcohol. Then they shake the mixture as part of a process called “potentization.” They believe this step transfers the healing essence.
- Homeopaths also believe that the lower the dose, the more powerful the medicine. In fact, many of these remedies no longer contain any molecules of the original substance. They come in a variety of forms, like sugar pellets, liquid drops, creams, gels, and tablets.
- It was developed in the late 1700s in Germany. It’s common in many European countries, but it’s not quite as popular in the United States.



**Q Source:** Additional Research

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/08/01/insights-daily-current-affairs-01-august-2018/>

**38** Consider the following statements.

1. Parliament can empower any other court to issue directions, orders and writs of all kinds and can take away the same powers from a higher court.
2. The President can suspend the right to move any court for the enforcement of the fundamental rights during a national emergency.
3. Article 32 can be invoked to determine the constitutionality of any executive order or legislation.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Statement 1: While these powers can be given to a lower court they cannot be taken away from the higher courts. This will be unconstitutional.

Statement 2: The right to move the Supreme Court shall not be suspended except as otherwise provided for by the Constitution. Thus the Constitution provides that the President can suspend the right to move any court for the enforcement of the fundamental rights during a national emergency (Article 359).

Statement 3: The violation of a fundamental right is the sine qua non for the exercise of the right conferred by Article 32. In other words, the Supreme Court, under Article 32, cannot determine a question that does not involve Fundamental Rights.

Article 32 cannot be invoked simply to determine the constitutionality of an executive order or a legislation unless it directly infringes any of the fundamental rights.

**Q Source:** Chapter 7: Indian Polity: M Laxmikanth

**39** LIBOR or ICE LIBOR is a benchmark rate that some of the world's leading banks charge each other for

- A. Use of international SWIFT services
- B. Short-term loans ✓
- C. Remittance transfer
- D. Long-term borrowing

◦ Your Answer : B



- Correct Answer : B

- **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** LIBOR stands for Intercontinental Exchange London Interbank Offered Rate and serves as the first step to calculating interest rates on various loans throughout the world.

LIBOR is the world's most widely-used benchmark for short-term interest rates. It serves as the primary indicator for the average rate, at which contributing banks may obtain short-term loans in the London interbank market. Currently, there are 11 to 18 contributor banks for five major currencies (US\$, EUR, GBP, JPY, and CHF).

LIBOR sets rates for seven different maturities. A total of 35 rates are posted every business day (number of currencies times the number of different maturities).

LIBOR is administered by the ICE Benchmark Administration (IBA) and serves seven different maturities: overnight, one week, and 1, 2, 3, 6 and 12 months. There are a total of 35 different LIBOR rates each business day.

The most commonly quoted rate is the three-month U.S. dollar rate (usually referred to as the "current LIBOR rate").

**Q Source:** Surprise questions

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/l/libor.asp>

**40** Countries that were members of the Warsaw Pact among the following are

1. Hungary
2. Poland
3. Germany
4. Italy

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

- **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Most countries of western Europe sided with the US and those of eastern Europe joined the Soviet camp. That is why these were also called the 'western' and the 'eastern' alliances.





Map showing the way Europe was divided into rival alliances during the Cold War

**Q Source:** Page 5: 12<sup>th</sup> NCERT: Contemporary World Politics

**41** Consider the following statements.

1. In the process of orogeny, the crust is severely deformed into folds and thus it is called as a mountain building process.
2. Due to epeirogeny, there may be a simple deformation in the crust and thus it is called as a continental building process.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** All processes that move, elevate or build up portions of the earth's crust come under diastrophism.

They include: (i) orogenic processes involving mountain building through severe folding and affecting long and narrow belts of the earth's crust; (ii) epeirogenic processes involving uplift or warping of large parts of the earth's crust; (iii) earthquakes involving local relatively minor



movements; (iv) plate tectonics involving horizontal movements of crustal plates.

In the process of orogeny, the crust is severely deformed into folds. Due to epeirogeny, there may be simple deformation. Orogeny is a mountain building process whereas epeirogeny is continental building process.

Through the processes of orogeny, epeirogeny, earthquakes and plate tectonics, several landscapes are formed.

**Q Source:** Revision of Ch. 5: 11<sup>th</sup> NCERT Fundamentals of Physical Geography

**42** Consider the following about important treaties signed during the Cold War era.

1. The Limited test ban treaty (LTBT) banned nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water.
2. The Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT-I and II) were conducted between USA and China.
3. The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty I (START-I) was negotiated between USSR France and USA.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Statement 1: LTBT banned nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water. Signed by the US, UK and USSR in Moscow on 5 August 1963. Entered into force on 10 October 1963.

Statement 2: Strategic Arms Limitation Talks I (SALT-I)

The first round of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks began in November 1969. The Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and the US President Richard Nixon signed the following in Moscow on 26 May 1972 - a) Treaty on the limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (ABM Treaty); and b) Interim Agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive arms. Entered into force on 3 October 1972.

Statement 3: Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty I (START-I)

Treaty signed by the USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and the US President George Bush (Senior) on the reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms in Moscow on 31 July 1991

**Q Source:** Page 14: 12<sup>th</sup> NCERT: Contemporary World Politics

**43** To ensure a fair trial in courts, the Constitution provides which of these rights?

1. No person would be punished for the same offence more than once



2. No law shall declare any action as illegal from a backdate
3. No person shall be asked to give evidence against himself

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : D

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Our Constitution ensures that persons accused of various offences would also get sufficient protection. We often tend to believe that anyone who is charged with some offence is guilty. However, no one is guilty unless the court has found that person guilty of an offence.

It is also necessary that a person accused of any crime should get adequate opportunity to defend herself or himself. To ensure a fair trial in courts, these rights are provided.

**Q Source:** <http://nhrc.nic.in/FAQ.htm>

**44** Consider the following statements.

1. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) is part of the International Bill of Human Rights.
2. Both the ICCPR and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) recognise rights that are not directly a part of the Fundamental Rights in the Indian Constitution.
3. The ICCPR is monitored by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Statement 1: The ICCPR is part of the International Bill of Human Rights, along with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

Statement 2: Part 1 (Article 1) of ICCPR recognizes the right of all peoples to self-determination, including the right to "freely determine their political status", pursue their economic, social and cultural goals, and manage and dispose of their own resources. Our Indian constitution does not

give a right to self-determination.

Statement 3: Part 4 of ICCPR (Articles 28 – 45) governs the establishment and operation of the Human Rights Committee (a different body from UNHRC) and the reporting and monitoring of the Covenant. It also allows parties to recognise the competence of the Committee to resolve disputes between parties on the implementation of the Covenant (Articles 41 and 42).

Part 3 (Articles 6 – 27) lists the rights themselves. These include rights to:

**Learning:** The rights included under ICCPR are:

- physical integrity, in the form of the right to life and freedom from torture and slavery (Articles 6, 7, and 8);
- liberty and security of the person, in the form of freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention and the right to habeas corpus (Articles 9 – 11);
- procedural fairness in law, in the form of rights to due process, a fair and impartial trial, the presumption of innocence, and recognition as a person before the law (Articles 14, 15, and 16);
- individual liberty, in the form of the freedoms of movement, thought, conscience and religion, speech, association and assembly, family rights, the right to a nationality, and the right to privacy (Articles 12, 13, 17 – 24);
- prohibition of any propaganda for war as well as any advocacy of national or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence by law (Article 20);
- political participation, including the right to the right to vote (Article 25);
- Non-discrimination, minority rights and equality before the law (Articles 26 and 27).

Rights under ICESCR include:

- right to work: opportunity to everyone to earn livelihood by working
- right to safe and healthy working conditions, fair wages that can provide decent standard of living for the workers and their families
- right to adequate standard of living including adequate food, clothing and housing



- right to social security and insurance
- right to health: medical care during illness, special care for women during childbirth and prevention of epidemics
- right to education: free and compulsory primary education, equal access to higher education.

**Q Source:** Additional Research: Chapter 6: 9<sup>th</sup> NCERT: Democratic Politics

**45** Consider the following statements. The Global Data-Processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS)

1. It encompasses all systems operated by members including those jointly coordinated with other international organizations such as ICAO.
2. It facilitates the development of worldwide systems for the generation and dissemination of weather analyses and forecast products for all time-scales ranging from minutes to decades.
3. It not only contributes to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) but also towards the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS).

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Background:** Owing to the high computational cost of global and limited-area Numerical Weather Prediction models, including Ensemble Prediction Systems using multiple model runs, few Members have the operational capacity to implement such systems.

- Many of the latest advances in Numerical Weather Prediction systems, such as so-called “convection-permitting” models, are particularly suitable for severe weather forecasting in tropical and sub-tropical regions; however, as they are extremely computationally intensive, they are supported only by the leading Meteorological Services.
- The Global Data-processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS) strengthens the capabilities of Members to meet the needs of users by sharing Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) products and services related to operational meteorology and related fields in all time-scales.

**Justification and Learning:** The GDPFS encompasses all systems operated by Members (including those jointly coordinated with other international organizations such as ICAO) and enables them to





make use of the advances in Numerical Weather Prediction by providing a framework for sharing data related to operational meteorology, hydrology, oceanography and climatology.

- The main support for the exchange and delivery of these data is the WMO Information System (WIS). One of the key benefits of the WMO Information System is the expansion of the range of centres that can connect to the system, increasing the range of Global Data-Processing and Forecasting System applications.
- The Programme facilitates the development, operation and enhancement of worldwide systems for the generation and dissemination of analyses and forecast products for all time-scales (from minutes to decades), as well as severe weather advisories and warnings, and related operational information.

The Global Data-processing and Forecasting System facilitates cooperation and exchange of information in operational meteorology and related field. By contributing to capacity development amongst all Members, especially developing and least developed countries, the Programme supports:

- weather forecasting and warning services, contributing to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and to socio-economic sectors such as agriculture and food security, aviation, marine safety and transportation, and so on;
- climate prediction and the production of climate services, contributing to the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS); and
- specific applications through the provision of specialized products.

**Q Source:** Additional Research:

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/28/insights-daily-current-affairs-28-july-2018/>

<https://public.wmo.int/en/programmes/global-data-processing-and-forecasting-system>

**46** Consider the following statements about the Northeast gas pipeline grid project.

1. The project is being implemented under the Urja Ganga Gas Pipeline Project.
  2. The proposed gas pipeline grid will connect Guwahati to the major Northeast cities and major load centers.
  3. The pipeline is proposed to connect with the National Gas Grid.
- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
- A. 1 only
  - B. 1 and 3 only
  - C. 2 and 3 only ✗





D. 1, 2 and 3

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Background:** The Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project aims to provide piped cooking gas to residents of Varanasi and later to millions of people in states like Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha.

From Varanasi's perspective, an 800-km long MDPI pipeline will be laid and 50,000 households and 20,000 vehicles will get PNG and CNG gas respectively. The government estimates that around 5 lakh gas cylinders will be sent at rural areas annually.

According to GAIL, with the Urja Ganga project, 20 lakh households will get PNG connections. The project is said to be a major step towards collective growth and development of the Eastern region of India.

GAIL has built a network of trunk pipelines covering the length of around 11,000 km. With Urja Ganga project, this number will further increase by 2540 km.

**Justification:** The proposed gas pipeline grid will connect Guwahati to the major Northeast cities and major load centers. The project is being implemented under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious Urja Ganga Gas Pipeline Project.

Besides connecting all the state capitals in the region, the pipeline will also connect with the National Gas Grid through Barauni-Guwahati Gas Pipeline, which is being laid by GAIL.

From Guwahati, the pipeline will extend to Numaligarh, Dimapur, Kohima and Imphal in one direction; Shillong, Silchar, Aizawl and Agartala in the second direction and to Itanagar in the third direction. Gangtok will be connected from Siliguri from the gas pipeline of GAIL coming from Barauni to Guwahati.

**Q Source:** In news last month as mentioned

47 The 'Pariwartan' scheme, recently seen in news, concerns

- A. Swacch Bharat Mission
- B. Empowerment of Self-Help groups
- C. Socio Economic Caste Census update
- D. Power asset warehousing and revitalisation

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**



**Justification:** The Rural Electrification Corporation has finalised a plan to revitalise stressed power sector assets in a joint venture with the Power Finance Corp and lenders. The plan is named Pariwarta and stands for power asset warehousing and revitalisation.

Under the plan, the REC has proposed that a special purpose vehicle, a subsidiary company to securitise assets, be set up with PFC and the lending banks, which would be overlooked by an asset management company.

The asset management firm will take on assets with a capacity of about 40,000 MW at net book value, and seek between 4-5% of equity from the National Infrastructure Investment Fund to run power projects under the scheme.

The goal of this scheme is to run these power assets to service their current debt, and look at breaking even before the lenders decide to takeover or sell the assets.

Most of the assets that would be brought under the scheme face coal supply shortages and suffer from a lack of power purchase agreements. The scheme looks to solve these issues by providing special coal supply assistance with assistance from the coal ministry.

Electricity produced during a 48 month period under the plan would also be sold at power exchanges and short term power purchase agreements would be sought from state governments.

The 'Pariwarta' scheme is inspired by the Troubled Asset Relief Programme, or TARP, which was introduced in the US during the 2008 financial crisis.

**Q Source:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/06/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-22-june-2018/>

**48** Cloud seeding is employed in many countries in an effort to

1. Reduce fog around airports
2. Reduce the size of hailstones that form in thunderstorms
3. Increase precipitation in drought-stricken areas
4. To provoke snowfall at major ski resorts

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Concept:** Cloud seeding is a type of weather modification that aims to change the amount or type of precipitation that falls from clouds, by dispersing substances into the air that serve as cloud condensation or ice nuclei, which alter the microphysical processes within the cloud.



- The usual intent is to increase precipitation (rain or snow), but hail and fog suppression are also widely practiced in airports, where harsh weather conditions are experienced.
- Today, cloud seeding is employed in many countries in an effort to increase precipitation in drought-stricken areas, reduce the size of hailstones that form in thunderstorms, reduce fog around airports and even to provoke snow at major ski resorts.
- However, the impacts of operations in rainfall enhancement and hail suppression have still not been properly quantified and modification remains an area of active research.

**Justification:** Statement 1: Fog dispersal, artificial dissipation of fogs, is done usually by seeding or heating. It is done primarily at airports to improve visibility.

Many attempts have been made to clear fogs at temperatures above freezing (0 °C) by seeding them with salt particles, by downwash mixing (that is, using whirling helicopter rotors to pump dry air downward into the fog layer), and by heating the air near landing strips with burners; however, these techniques have been shown to provide only short-term relief under limited conditions.

Fog dispersal at temperatures below freezing, however, is regularly performed at many airports by seeding them with solid and liquid carbon dioxide or with propane gas sprayed from the ground.

**Q Source:** Cloud seeding is often in news as a geo-engineering suggestion to improve local weather, even in India

**49** In which of the following climate types dead vegetation is rapidly oxidised leaving very low humus content in the soil?

- A. Tundra climate
- B. Temperate type climate
- C. Humid tropical and equatorial climates ✓
- D. Arid or semi arid climate zones

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Intensity of bacterial activity shows up differences between soils of cold and warm climates. Humus accumulates in cold climates as bacterial growth is slow. With undecomposed organic matter because of low bacterial activity, layers of peat develop in sub-arctic and tundra climates.

In humid tropical and equatorial climates, bacterial growth and action is intense and dead vegetation is rapidly oxidised leaving very low humus content in the soil. Further, bacteria and other soil organisms take gaseous nitrogen from the air and convert it into a chemical form that can be used by plants. This process is known as nitrogen fixation.



**Q Source:** 11<sup>th</sup> NCERT Fundamentals of Physical Geography

**50** Consider the following statements about National Register of Citizens.

1. The NRC was first prepared in 1972 to identify illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.
2. Present legislation authorizes NRC to contain no more data than is contained in the Aadhaar of an individual.
3. Assam is the only state having an NRC.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** S1 and 2: During the Census of 1951, a national citizen register was created that contained the details of every person by village. The data included name, age, father's/husband's name, houses or holdings belonging to them, means of livelihood and so on. These registers covered every person enumerated during the Census of 1951 and were kept in the offices of deputy commissioners and sub-divisional officers as per the Centre's instructions issued in 1951.

In the early 1960s these registers were transferred to the police.

Assam is the only state having this arrangement.

The NRC will be updated as per the provisions of The Citizenship Act, 1955 and The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.

Updation basically means the process of enlisting the names of those persons (or their descendants) whose names appear in any of the Electoral Rolls up to 1971, 1951 NRC or any of the admissible documents stipulated.

The need of the hour therefore is for the Union Government to allay apprehensions presently in the minds of the people of Assam and take steps to contain any adverse fallout after the publication of the final draft of the NRC. At the same time, it also needs to spell out what it intends to do with the persons whose names do not figure in the final NRC.

**Q Source:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/five-things-to-know-about-assams-national-register-of-citizens/articleshow/65207192.cms>

**51** Consider the following statements about the effect of commercialization of agriculture in British India.



1. It brought about a significant and sustained decline in the prices of agricultural produce due to the widespread availability and ready markets.
2. Price movements and business fluctuations in the world markets began to affect the incomes of Indian farmers.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Statement 1: The commercialisation also brought about an enormous increase in foreign demand for India's agricultural produce which, in turn, led to a general but steady rise in prices. In 1859-60, the total value of India's exports amounted to Rs. 29 crores; it rose to rupees 69 crores in 1879-80 and Rs. 166 crores in 1906-7.

The commercial Revolution had a far reaching impact on the socio-economic structure of the Indian rural society. It brought a severe break with the past for it remained no longer necessary for a village or even a whole region to be self-sufficient in food-grains and other necessities of life.

A national market for agricultural produce developed where the farmer could sell his crop as it was harvested and from where he could buy his requirements when the need arose. Thus, under the impact of new forces, the village could no longer remain the compact unit that it was before. Instead, the growing tendency was for each family to make ends meet as best as it could.

Wheat was mostly Exported to the U.K. Rice, however, was sent to every part of the world such as Ceylon, East Africa, West Indies and South America. Oil seeds were another important item of export.

While choosing his crops, the farmer now began to pay greater attention to market demand and prices than to the needs of his home or village.

As India was linked up with foreign markets, price movements and business fluctuations in the world markets began to affect the fortunes of the Indian farmer to a degree never seen before. The same rail roads which carried away the Commercial Crops from the village brought back machine-made products.

**Q Source:** Revision questions

**52** Consider the following statements about the Nipah virus recently seen in news.

1. It is transmitted from animals to humans.
2. Human-to-human transmission has not been observed.
3. Currently, there are no vaccines for both humans and animals.



- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

A. 1 and 2 only ✗  
B. 1 and 3 only ✓  
C. 2 only  
D. 1 only

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : B

- **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** According to WHO, the Nipah virus infection is a newly emerging zoonosis, that is, a disease transmitted from animals to humans. The virus belongs to a new genus termed Henipavirus (subfamily Paramyxovirinae).

The natural host of the virus are fruit bats belonging to the family Pteropodidae. In 2004, humans were affected after eating the date palm contaminated by infected fruit bats. Pigs can also act as intermediate hosts.

It was first identified in 1998 at Kampung Sungai Nipah village, Malaysia. The virus is named after this village.

The symptoms of Nipah are similar to that of influenza: fever, muscle pain, and respiratory problems. Inflammation of the brain can also cause disorientation. Late onset of Encephalitis can also occur. Sometimes a person can have an asymptomatic infection, and be a carrier of Nipah and not show any symptoms.

Currently, there are no vaccines for both humans and animals. Intensive supportive care is given to humans infected by Nipah virus.

According to WHO, ribavarin can reduce the symptoms of nausea, vomiting, and convulsions associated with the disease. Individuals infected need to be hospitalised and isolated. Special care should be taken to prevent human-to-human transmission. Surveillance systems should be established to detect the virus quickly and to initiate appropriate control measures.

**Q Source:** Recently in news

**53** Which of these forms a land bridge between Asia and Africa?

A. Persian strait  
B. Ismailia Peninsula  
C. Sinai Peninsula ✓  
D. Somalian strait

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

- **Answer Justification :**





**Learning:** The Sinai Peninsula is a peninsula in Egypt, and the only part of the country located in Asia.

It is situated between the Mediterranean Sea to the north and the Red Sea to the south, and is a land bridge between Asia and Africa. Sinai has a land area of about 60,000 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of approximately 1,400,000 people.

Administratively, the Sinai Peninsula is divided into two governorates: the South Sinai Governorate and the North Sinai Governorate.

Three other governorates span the Suez Canal, crossing into African Egypt: Suez Governorate on the southern end of the Suez Canal, Ismailia Governorate in the centre, and Port Said Governorate in the north.

**Q Source:** Map of West Asia: Revision

- 54** There is a marked contrast between winters on the North-eastern coasts of Japan facing the Sea of Japan, and the eastern coasts. This is mainly because
1. Cold winds from the northern Asian continent blow east over the Sea of Japan, dumping deep heavy snow on the north-western coasts.
  2. The warm western Boundary currents are not as active on the Sea of Japan as on the eastern coast of Japan.
- Which of the above is/are correct?
    - A. 1 only ✓
    - B. 2 only ✗
    - C. Both 1 and 2
    - D. None
  - Your Answer : B
  - Correct Answer : A
  - **Answer Justification :**

**Background:** The Japanese islands are for the most part in the temperate zone, they stretch from north to south in latitudes similar to those of the eastern United States.

But latitude and longitude are not the only things that influence climate. Ocean currents, such as the Kuroshio and Tsushima currents from the south, warm the Pacific side of the islands and those near the Korean straits, especially toward the south, while the cold Kurile current, coming southward toward Hokkaidô, brings plentiful nourishment to the coastal waters and improves the fishing.

**Justification:** On the other hand, cold winds from the northern Asian continent blow east over the Sea of Japan, dumping deep, heavy snow on the north-western coasts of Japan. There is a marked contrast between winters on the coast facing the Sea of Japan, called Japan's "snow country," where people often have to tunnel under the snow to move from house to house, and the clear, crisp winters on the eastern shore, with little snow at all, leaving dry winters on the more heavily



populated side of the main islands.

**Q Source:** Based on the map of Japan

<http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/japan/japanworkbook/geography/japgeo.html>

**55** Arabian Sea borders which of these nations

1. Yemen
2. Oman
3. UAE
4. Kuwait

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The coastline of UAE touches Persian Gulf, not Arabian Sea. Arabian Sea borders Somalia, Yemen, Oman, Pakistan, India and the Maldives.



**Q Source:** West Asia map

**56** With reference to CUTS International (Consumer Unity & Trust Society), consider the following statements.

1. It is a recognised, non-profit, non-government organisation (NGO) operating in India and abroad.
2. The roots of CUTS lie in the wall newspaper Gram Gadar published in India.

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only ✗
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 ✓
- D. None

◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** CUTS began its journey in 1983 in Rajasthan, from a rural development communication initiative, a wall newspaper Gram Gadar (Village Revolution).

This monthly wall newspaper is published regularly and has been instrumental in providing a forum for the oppressed classes to get justice. On seeing Gram Gadar, Rubens Ricupero, Secretary-General of UNCTAD (1995-2004) observed: "It confirmed my view that often the simple lack of



awareness lies at the root of so much misery”

Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) is a registered, recognised, non-profit, non-partisan, non-government organisation (NGO) pursuing social justice and economic equity both within and across borders.

Today, it operates out of five programme centres in India located in Jaipur, Chittorgarh and Calcutta, India. The advocacy centre is located at New Delhi, India, and resource centres at Lusaka, Zambia; Nairobi etc.

CUTS’ work is divided into five operational areas: Consumer Protection; International Trade and Development; Competition, Investment and Economic Regulation ; Human Development, and Consumer Safety.

**Q Source:** Surprise questions

**57** Which of these is/are earthquake prone zones?

1. The Alpine-Himalayan belt
  2. Rim of Pacific Ocean
- Which of the above is/are correct?
- A. 1 only
  - B. 2 only
  - C. Both 1 and 2
  - D. None

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** This zone is called the ring of fire and it extends as a line of dots in the central parts of the Atlantic Ocean almost parallel to the coastlines.

It further extends into the Indian Ocean. It bifurcates a little south of the Indian subcontinent with one branch moving into East Africa and the other meeting a similar line from Myanmar to New Guiana.

You will notice that this line of dots coincides with the mid-oceanic ridges. Another area of concentration coincides with the Alpine-Himalayan system and the rim of the Pacific Ocean. In general, the foci of the earthquake in the areas of mid-oceanic ridges are at shallow depths whereas along the Alpine-Himalayan belt as well as the rim of the Pacific, the earthquakes are deep-seated ones.

The rim of the Pacific is also called rim of fire due to the existence of active volcanoes in this area.

**Q Source:** Revision: 11<sup>th</sup> NCERT: Fundamentals of Physical Geography



58 Consider the following statements about FAME India Scheme.

1. The scheme presently involves cash incentives for buyers of electric cars.
2. The scheme covers both hybrid and electric technology based vehicles.
3. It was launched by Ministry of Road Transport and Shipping.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Background:** Currently, the government offers a discount of up to Rs 1.3 lakh on an electric car as part of its clean-energy programme, FAME (faster adoption and manufacturing of hybrid and electric vehicles). This is being proposed to be removed in the new FAME Phase 2 draft policy drawn up by the heavy industries ministry.

The Centre plans to scrap cash incentives currently offered to buyers of electric cars under FAME scheme. The move, experts said, will further dampen sales of private electric cars.

The government seeks to withdraw the cash incentives for private electric cars because it neither makes a “substantial difference in promoting sales nor serves the purpose of a clean environment”.

Instead, the government has now decided to give cash subsidies to electric vehicles used by shared-mobility operators such as Ola and Uber, as their vehicles will run much more than private cars.

The government feels that the addition of cab aggregators like Ola and Uber to the list of subsidy beneficiaries would prompt these companies to go for electrics, which offer highly-lucrative running costs as compared with conventional diesel/petrol or CNG alternatives.

**Learning:** With an aim to promote eco-friendly vehicles, the government had launched the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME-India) scheme in 2015. It was launched by union ministry for heavy industries.

**Aim:** The FAME India Scheme is aimed at incentivising all vehicle segments, including two-wheelers, three wheeler auto, passenger four-wheeler vehicle, light commercial vehicles and buses. The scheme covers hybrid and electric technologies like a strong hybrid, plug-in hybrid and battery electric vehicles.

FAME India – Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric vehicles in India – is a part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan. The scheme envisages Rs 795 crore support in the first two fiscals. It is being administered by the Heavy Industries Ministry.

**Q Source:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/06/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-22-june-2018/>



59 Nearly half of the earth's crust is composed of

- A. Feldspar ✓
- B. Mica
- C. Quartz
- D. Granite

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Learning:** Silicon and oxygen are common elements in all types of feldspar and sodium, potassium, calcium, aluminium etc. are found in specific feldspar variety. Half of the earth's crust is composed of feldspar. It has light cream to salmon pink colour. It is used in ceramics and glass making.

Option C: Quartz is one of the most important components of sand and granite. It consists of silica. It is a hard mineral virtually insoluble in water. It is white or colourless and used in radio and radar. It is one of the most important components of granite.

**Q Source:** Revision: 11<sup>th</sup> NCERT: Fundamentals of Physical Geography

60 How is the Coefficient of human inequality calculated?

- A. Taking a simple average of inequality across the three dimensions of the Human Development Index (HDI) ✓
- B. Taking a weighted average of inequality across the three dimensions of the Human Development Index (HDI)
- C. Dividing Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MDPI) by a simple average of the HDI and Gender Development Index (GDI)
- D. Taking a simple average of the indicators of the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MDPI)

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The Coefficient of Human Inequality, introduced in the 2014 HDR as an experimental measure, is a simple average of inequalities in health, education and income. The average is calculated by an unweighted arithmetic mean of estimated inequalities in these dimensions.

When all inequalities are of a similar magnitude, the coefficient of human inequality and the loss in HDI differ negligibly, when inequalities differ in magnitude, the loss in HDI tends to be higher than the coefficient of human inequality.

**Q Source:** Revision: Previous test syllabus

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/what-does-coefficient-human-inequality-measure>





**61** Consider the following statements about the Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA) that was recently seen in news.

1. It is aimed at the resolution of loan accounts with a size of ₹50 crore or less and that are under the control of a group of lenders.
2. It is part of the “Sashakt” plan approved by the government to address the problem of resolving bad loans.
3. The agreement is based on a recommendation by the Deepak Parekh committee that looked into a problem related to the agreement.
4. Consensus between all creditors is a core value of the ICA.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- B. 2 only ✓
- C. None of the above
- D. 2 and 4 only

◦ Your Answer :

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Statement 1, 2 and 3: The inter-creditor agreement is aimed at the resolution of loan accounts with a size of ₹50 crore and above that are under the control of a group of lenders. It is part of the “Sashakt” plan approved by the government to address the problem of resolving bad loans.

The agreement is based on a recommendation by the Sunil Mehta committee that looked into resolution of stressed assets.

Statement 4: The agreement says if 66% of lenders by value agree to a resolution plan, it would be binding on all lenders. The dissenting creditors will, however, have the option to sell their loans to other lenders at a discount of 15% to the liquidation value, or buy the entire portfolio paying 125% of the value agreed under the debt resolution plan by other lenders.

Dissenting creditors can also exit by selling their loans to any entity at a price mutually arrived at between the lender and buyer.

The agreement has a standstill clause wherein all lenders are barred from enforcing any legal action against the borrower for recovery of dues.

Significance of the agreement:

The agreement is a “huge step forward” in tackling the bad loan issue as it is drawn up by banks themselves and is a reflection of bankers’ resolve to collectively find a solution to stressed asset mess. Almost the entire banking system and prominent NBFCs like REC, PFC are joining the ICA which has held back fast and effective resolution of stressed assets for decades in the past.

**Q Source:** [www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/25/insights-daily-current-affairs-25-july-2018/](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/25/insights-daily-current-affairs-25-july-2018/)



62 Consider the following statements.

1. 2018 FDI Confidence Index was recently released by global consultancy firm A T Kearney.
2. The FDI Confidence Index is based on the actual production trends and profitability of the industries concerned in the host countries.

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only ✓
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 ✗
- D. None

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The AT Kearney Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index, created in 1998, is an annual survey of the business executives that ranks countries which are likely to attract the most FDI in the next three years.

S2: The Index is calculated as a weighted average of the number of low, medium and high responses to questions on the possibility of making a direct investment in a market over the next three years. So, 2 is wrong.

Global performers:

The United States (US) topped the index, followed by Canada at 2nd and Germany at the 3rd place.

China falls three spots to 5th place this year, the lowest ranking of the country in the history of the Index.

Only four emerging markets appear among the top 25 countries for FDI intentions- China, India, Mexico and Brazil.

Performance of India:

- India was ranked 11th, down from 8th in 2017 and 9th in 2016.
- Fall in India's rankings may be due to teething troubles in implementation of goods and services tax (GST) and Government's demonetisation decision in 2016.


**Q Source:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/27/insights-daily-current-affairs-27-july-2018/>

63 The Shakti Peeth are significant shrines and pilgrimage destinations in Shaktism, the goddess-focused Hindu tradition. Which of these Asian countries/regions host these 108 Shakti Peethas?

1. Nepal

2. Bangladesh
3. Tibet
4. Sri Lanka
5. Pakistan

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : D

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** There are 51 or 108 Shakti peethas by various accounts, of which between 4 and 18 are named as Maha (major) in medieval Hindu texts.

Most of these historic places of goddess worship are in India, but some are in Nepal, Bangladesh, and one each in Tibet (Mansarovar), Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Some of the great religious texts like the Shiva Purana, the Devi Bhagavata, the Kalika Purana and the AstaShakti recognize four major Shakti Peethas (centers), like Bimala (Pada Khanda) (inside the Jagannath temple of Puri, Odisha), Tara Tarini (Sthana Khanda, Purnagiri, Breasts) (Near Berhampur, Orissa), Kamakhya Temple (Yoni khanda) (Near Guwahati, Assam) and Dakshina Kalika (Mukha khanda) (Kolkata, West Bengal) originated from the parts of the Corpse of Mata Sati in the Satya Yuga.

Various legends explain how the Shakti Peetha came into existence. The most popular is based on the story of the death of the goddess Sati. Out of grief and sorrow, Shiva carried Sati's body, reminiscing about their moments as a couple, and roamed around the universe with it. Vishnu had cut her body into 52 body parts, using his Sudarshana Chakra, which fell on Earth to become sacred sites where all the people can pay homage to the Goddess. To complete this massively long task, Lord Shiva took the form of Bhairava.

**Q Source:** Additional Research:

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/06/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-23-june-2018/>

**64** Inner Line Permit (ILP) for the North Eastern states can be issued for

1. Purchasing property in NE states
2. Travel purposes
3. Setting up business

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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



D. 2 only ✓

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document issued by the Government of India to grant inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period. It is obligatory for Indians residing outside those states to obtain permission prior to entering the protected areas.

Currently, the Inner Line Permit is operational in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland. The document has been issued under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873 and the conditions and restrictions vary from state to state.

It can be issued for travel purposes solely. Visitors are not allowed to purchase property in these regions. However, there might be a different set of rules for long term visitors, though they are not valid for central government employees and security forces.

**Q Source:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-30-july-2018/>

**65** Consider the following statements.

1. Hepatitis A and E are typically caused by ingestion of contaminated food or water.
2. Hepatitis B, C and D usually occur as a result of parenteral contact with infected body fluids.
3. Hepatitis A among all Hepatitis types is the most common cause of liver cirrhosis and cancer.

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

- Your Answer :
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** There are 5 main hepatitis viruses, referred to as types A, B, C, D and E. These 5 types are of greatest concern because of the burden of illness and death they cause and the potential for outbreaks and epidemic spread.

In particular, types B and C lead to chronic disease in hundreds of millions of people and, together, are the most common cause of liver cirrhosis and cancer.

Hepatitis A and E are typically caused by ingestion of contaminated food or water. Hepatitis B, C and D usually occur as a result of parenteral contact with infected body fluids.



**Statement 2:** Parenteral is defined as something that is put inside the body, but not by swallowing. An example of something parenteral is an injection given into the muscle on the leg, or a subcutaneous injection.

Common modes of transmission for these viruses include receipt of contaminated blood or blood products, invasive medical procedures using contaminated equipment and for hepatitis B transmission from mother to baby at birth, from family member to child, and also by sexual contact.

**Q Source:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-30-july-2018/>

**66** Idate Commission, which was recently seen in news, was established to deal with

- A. Illiteracy among rural adolescents
- B. Power distribution in Panchayats
- C. Use of non-LPG fuel
- D. Denotified nomadic tribes ✓

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Bhiku Ramji Idate Commission on DNT, SNT, and NT communities, in its report, had recommended to set up a permanent commission for the communities on the lines of similar commissions for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes.

**Composition:** In its report submitted to the social justice ministry in January 2018, the Idate Commission said such a permanent commission should have a prominent community leader as its chairperson, and a senior Union government bureaucrat, an anthropologist, and a sociologist as members.

Other important recommendations of the panel include granting Constitutional protection to these communities under a separate third schedule after Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, making them eligible for reservation, and extending the protective cover of Prevention of Atrocities Act to them.

**Need for special attention:**

The DNT, NT, SNT communities have been identified as the most marginalised by several commissions set up since Independence. The community has for long not been enumerated in the Census data. The Renke Commission report of 2008 had arrived at a rough estimate of their population being between 10-12 crore but none of its recommendations were implemented.

**Q Source:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/denotified-nomadic-tribes-may-come-under-sc-st-act-dalit-5157803/>

**67** The two states that have the highest tribal populations are

- A. Jharkhand and Odisha
- B. Madhya Pradesh and Odisha ✓
- C. Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh
- D. Chattisgarh and Maharashtra

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Learning:** As per Census 2011, Odisha has the second highest tribal population in the country after Madhya Pradesh.

Odisha Government has recently unveiled first-ever 'Tribal Atlas of Odisha', a compilation of demographic and cultural information of the tribal population in the state. This book will help provide comprehensive data on tribal population.

It is claimed to be first-of-its-kind tribal compilation in the country. The book was published by SC and ST Research and Training Institute in collaboration with Academy of Tribal Language and Culture (ATLC).

**Q Source:** As mentioned above

**68** Consider the following statements about the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE):

1. It is a body established through executive resolution.
2. It was created to oversee standards, procedures and processes in Indian education system.
3. NCTE plans and co-ordinates the development of teacher education system throughout the country for both central as well as state governments.

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** It is statutory body of Central Government set up under NCTE Act, 1993 in 1995 to formally oversee standards, procedures and processes in Indian education system.

NCTE plans and co-ordinates the development of teacher education system throughout the country (for both central as well as state governments).

It also ensures the maintenance of norms and standards in the teacher education system. Its headquarters are in New Delhi.





This council functions for the central as well as state governments on all matter with regard to the Teacher Education.

**Q Source:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ncte-amendment-bill-passed/article24497666.ece>

**69** The International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) was established in 2005 under the aegis of

- A. International Civil Aviation Organization ✖
- B. United Nations ✔
- C. International Maritime Organization
- D. International Seabed Authority

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Established under the umbrella of the United Nations, promotes voluntary cooperation on matters of mutual interest related to civil satellite-based positioning, navigation, timing, and value-added services.

The ICG contributes to the sustainable development of the world. Among the core missions of the ICG are to encourage coordination among providers of global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), regional systems, and augmentations in order to ensure greater compatibility, interoperability, and transparency, and to promote the introduction and utilization of these services and their future enhancements, including in developing countries, through assistance, if necessary, with the integration into their infrastructures.

The ICG also serves to assist GNSS users with their development plans and applications, by encouraging coordination and serving as a focal point for information exchange.

**Q Source:** <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/icg/icg.html>

**70** Parliamentary privileges are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by members of Parliament, individually and collectively, so that they can effectively discharge their functions. When any of these rights and immunities is disregarded, the offence is called a breach of privilege and is punishable under law of Parliament. Consider the following statements about them.

1. A notice for such a breach is moved in the form of a resolution by any member of either House against those being held guilty of breach of privilege.
2. Such a notice is available even in the case of breach of privilege of a Select or Joint committee of the Parliament.
3. The Presiding officers of respective houses help elect a committee of privileges consisting of 25 members as per respective party strengths to discuss privilege notices in detail.

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.



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

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Statement 1: A notice is moved in the form of a **motion** by any member of either House against those being held guilty of breach of privilege. **Motions are different from resolutions.** Resolutions only express the will of the house rather than a substantial action concerning the matters of the house. Each House also claims the right to punish as contempt actions which, while not breach of any specific privilege, are offences against its authority and dignity.

Statement 2: A member may, with the consent of the Speaker or the Chairperson, raise a question involving a breach of privilege **either of a member or of the House or of a committee thereof.** The rules however mandate that any notice should be relating to an incident of recent occurrence and should need the intervention of the House. Notices have to be given before 10 am to the Speaker or the Chairperson.

Statement 3: In the Lok Sabha, the Speaker nominates a committee of privileges consisting of 15 members as per respective party strengths. A report is then presented to the House for its consideration. The Speaker may permit a half-hour debate while considering the report. The Speaker may then pass final orders or direct that the report be tabled before the House.

A resolution may then be moved relating to the breach of privilege that has to be unanimously passed. In the Rajya Sabha, the deputy chairperson heads the committee of privileges that consists of 10 members.

The Speaker/RS chairperson is the first level of scrutiny of a privilege motion. The Speaker/Chair can decide on the privilege motion himself or herself or refer it to the privileges committee of Parliament. If the Speaker/Chair gives consent under Rule 222, the member concerned is given an opportunity to make a short statement.

The Congress recently submitted a notice to Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan for a privilege motion against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for allegedly misleading the House on the commercial value of the deal to buy Rafale fighter jets from France.

**Q Source:** Recently in news due to a motion being raised in LS

**71** The logo of 'International Yoga Day' includes which of these elements?

1. Earth
2. Leaves
3. Elephant

## 4. Sun

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

- **Answer Justification :**

**Justification & Learning:**

Yoga aims to transform both body and mind.

In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared June 21st as the International Day of Yoga.

- Folding of both hands in the logo Symbolise Yoga, the union, which reflects the union of individual Consciousness with that of universal Consciousness, a perfect harmony between mind & body, man & nature; a holistic approach to health & well being.
- The brown leaves symbolise the Earth element, the green leaves symbolise the Nature, blue symbolises the Water element, brightness symbolises the Fire element and the Sun symbolise the source of energy and inspiration.
- The logo reflects harmony and peace for humanity, which is the essence of Yoga.

It is further important to know why the date June 21 was suggested. It is the Summer Solstice; the date is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and has special significance in many parts of the world.

**Q Source:** Celebrated recently

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/06/21/insights-daily-current-affairs-21-june-2018/>



72 NASAMS-II recently seen in news is a

- A. Airborne Radar system
- B. Surface-to-Air Missile System ✓
- C. Advanced SONAR system for mineral detection in the oceans
- D. Medically loaded armour suit for soldiers in the battlefield

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** India is in talks with United States to procure National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System-II (NASAMS-II).

It is an advanced air defence system.

It is highly adaptable mid-range solution for any operational air defence requirement.

It provides tailorable, state-of-the-art defence system that can maximise the ability to quickly identify, engage and destroy current and evolving enemy aircraft, UAV or emerging cruise missile threats.

It is part of the air defence network guarding US capital city Washington DC. It is also deployed in several NATO countries.

**Q Source:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-30-july-2018/>

73 The Atal Innovation Mission has which of these two core functions?

#5218

1. Entrepreneurship promotion through Self-Employment and Talent Utilization
2. Rendering Higher education Universities as the centre of research and innovation
3. Sponsor international networks and agencies that support innovation

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is the Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.



AIM is mandated to create an umbrella structure to oversee innovation ecosystem of the country and revolutionizing the innovation eco-system – touching upon the entire innovation life cycle through various programs.

These two functions are:

- Entrepreneurship promotion through Self-Employment and Talent Utilization, wherein innovators would be supported and mentored to become successful entrepreneurs.
- Innovation promotion: to provide a platform where innovative ideas are generated.

**Learning:** In view of this, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog & MyGov (a citizen centric platform of the Government of India) have launched “Innovate India Platform”.

InnovateIndia portal aims to serve as the common point for all the innovation happening across the nation.

It creates the much-needed innovations platform for registering both grassroots and deep-tech innovators at a national level. Those searching for a critical innovation can leverage the portal advantageously for the benefit of the economy as well as national social needs.”

The platform is open to all Indian citizens.

**Q Source:** Frequently in news

**74** Biodiversity hotspots are regions that have

- A. Highest density of flora and fauna populations
- B. Extremely unique flora and fauna population owing to the isolation of the environments
- C. Very rich and endemic biodiversity that is also threatened due to various factors ✓
- D. A close association with equatorial vegetation

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** A biodiversity hotspot is a biogeographic region that is both a significant reservoir of biodiversity and is threatened with destruction. The term biodiversity hotspot specifically refers to 25 biologically rich areas around the world that have lost at least 70 percent of their original habitat.

The remaining natural habitat in these biodiversity hotspots amounts to just 1.4 percent of the land surface of the planet, yet supports nearly 60 percent of the world's plant, bird, mammal, reptile, and amphibian species.



**Q Source:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-30-july-2018/>

**75** Article 34 provides for the restrictions on fundamental rights while martial law is in force in any area within the territory of India. Consider the following about it.

1. The Act of Indemnity made by the Parliament cannot be challenged in any court on the ground of contravention of any of the fundamental rights.
2. There is no specific or express provision in the Constitution that authorises the executive to declare martial law.
3. The Supreme Court held that the declaration of martial law results in the suspension of all writs other than mandamus.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Statement 1: A34 empowers the Parliament to indemnify any government servant or any other person for any act done by him in connection with the maintenance or restoration of order in any area where martial law was in force. The Parliament can also validate any sentence passed, punishment inflicted, forfeiture ordered or other act done under martial law in such area.

The Act of Indemnity made by the Parliament cannot be challenged in any court on the ground of contravention of any of the fundamental rights.

Statement 2: There is also no specific or express provision in the Constitution that authorises the executive to declare martial law. However, it is implicit in Article 34 under which martial law can be declared in any area within the territory of India. The martial law is imposed under the extraordinary circumstances like war, invasion, insurrection, rebellion, riot or any violent resistance to law.

Its justification is to repel force by force for maintaining or restoring order in the society.

Statement 3: The Supreme Court held that the declaration of martial law does not ipso facto result in the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.

The declaration of a martial law under Article 34 is different from the declaration of a national emergency under Article 352.

During the operation of martial law, the military authorities are vested with abnormal powers to take all necessary steps. They impose restrictions and regulations on the rights of the civilians, can punish the civilians and even condemn them to death.



**Q Source:** Chapter 7: Indian Polity: M Laxmikanth

**76** Consider the following statements.

1. Out of all the existing and proposed National Waterways, the majority are in the North-eastern states.
2. No National waterway in the NE states has been planned on the Brahmaputra owing to the rapid flow, turns and bends of the river.

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None ✓

◦ Your Answer : D

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** 20 National Waterways out of 111 are in North Eastern Region (NER). NW-2 (**river Brahmaputra**) from Dhubri to Sadiya (891 km) is operational for transport and cruise and cargo vessels are moving on it.

***Proposed waterways in the North East:***

Sl. No.	Name of the Waterways	States	Length of the Waterway (km)
1	SUBANSIRI RIVER (NW-95)	Assam	111
2	DHANSIRI / CHATHE RIVER (NW-31)	Assam	110
3	TIZU - ZUNGKI RIVERS (NW-101)	Nagaland	42
4	LOHIT RIVER (NW-62)	Assam & Arunachal Pradesh	100
5	AAI RIVER (NW-6)	Assam	71
6	BEKI RIVER (NW-18)	Assam	73
7	DEHING RIVER (NW-30)	Assam	114
8	DIKHU RIVER (NW-32)	Assam	63
9	DOYANS RIVER (NW-33)	Assam	61
10	KOPILI RIVER (NW-57)	Assam	46
11	PUTHIMARI RIVER (NW-82)	Assam	72

Sl. No.	Name of the Waterways	States	Length of the Waterway (km)
12	TLWANG (DHALESWARI) RIVER (NW-102)	Assam & Mizoram	86
13	GANGADHAR RIVER (NW-38)	Assam & West Bengal	62
14	JINJIRAM RIVER (NW-50)	Assam & Meghalaya	43
15	GANOL RIVER (NW-39)	Meghalaya	49
16	UMNGOT (DAWKI) RIVER (NW-106)	Meghalaya	20
17	SIMSANG RIVER (NW-93)	Meghalaya	62
18	KYN Shi RIVER (NW-61)	Meghalaya	28

The National Waterways Act 2016 declared 106 new waterways as national waterways (NWs) in addition to the existing five NW.

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has estimated that approximately Rs 25,000 crore would be required for development of identified projects on NWs till 2022-23.


**Q Source:** Development of waterways has been frequently in news

77 Consider the following statements.

The Commission for Basic Systems oversees the development, implementation and operation of integrated systems for

1. EU's CERN programme for high energy particle collisions
2. Detecting gravitational waves in an underground laboratory setting of the University of Geneva

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None 

◦ Your Answer : D

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The Commission works for observing, data processing, data communication and data management. It guides the work of the World Weather Watch, Public Weather Services and WMO Space Programmes.



The integrated systems for weather, climate and water related observations and data sharing worldwide is coordinated through the Commission for Basic Systems. Through its activities, the Commission develops, implements and operates observation network and the related data processing, communication and management - and the provision of public weather services - in response to requirements of all WMO programmes.

As the lead Technical Commission for the World Weather Watch Programme (WWW), the WMO Space Programme and the Public Weather Services Programme, the Commission takes advantages of all opportunities offered by technological developments.

**Q Source:** Additional Research on the reference of WMO in the current affairs of last one week:  
<https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/how-we-do-it/technical-commissions/commission-basic-systems-cbs>

**78** It is the only scaly mammal on earth. Some of its species are found in India as well. It is

- A. Leapin Lizard
- B. Alligator
- C. Pangolin ✓
- D. Aldabra Tortoise

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Option A, B and D: They are either reptiles or amphibians.

Pangolin is only scaly mammal on the planet. According to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), it is also the most illegally traded vertebrate within its class (Mammalia).

Of the eight species of pangolin worldwide, two are found in India. They are Chinese pangolin, mostly found in northeast India and Indian pangolin.

Chinese pangolin has been listed as “critically endangered” by UN affiliated International Union for Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) Red List. Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) has been listed as “endangered” in IUCN Red List. It is also a Schedule I category protected animal, under the Wildlife Protection Act (1972).

**Q Source:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/odisha-police-to-approach-interpol-for-help-in-busting-global-pangolin-smuggling-operation-5263961/>

**79** Article 31A saves five categories of laws from being challenged and invalidated on the ground of contravention of the fundamental rights conferred by Article 14 and Article 19. They are related to

1. Agricultural land reforms
2. Industry and commerce



### 3. International aid and development

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : C

- **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** These include:

- Acquisition of estates and related rights by the State;
- Taking over the management of properties by the State;
- Amalgamation of corporations;
- Extinguishment or modification of rights of directors or shareholders of corporations; and
- Extinguishment or modification of mining leases.

Article 31A does not immunise a state law from judicial review unless it has been reserved for the president's consideration and has received his assent.

This Article also provides for the payment of compensation at market value when the state acquires the land held by a person under his personal cultivation and the land is within the statutory ceiling limit.

**Q Source:** Chapter 7: Indian Polity: M Laxmikanth

**80** The Lok Sabha has passed the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill. Consider the following about it.

1. The Bill will give the right to the government to confiscate the property of such economic offenders in India and abroad.
2. The Bill will also be applicable on the proxy-owned properties of the economic offenders.
3. The Bill will only be used for economic offences over Rs 10 crores.

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only ✗



- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 2 only ✓

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** It aims to deter fugitive economic offenders from evading the legal process by fleeing the country and remaining outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts.

Highlights of the Bill

- The Bill defines the economic offenders as those against whom a legal warrant has been issued, but they refuse to adhere to the summons of the legal authorities.
- The law balances itself with a provision that allows the accused to file an appeal in the High Court to state their case.
- The Bill keeps the banks and other financial institutions at the Centre and seeks to help them recover the amount. The Bill will only be used for economic offences over Rs 100 crores.
- The Bill makes provisions for a Court ('Special Court' under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002) to declare a person as a Fugitive Economic Offender.

Statement 3: The amount is 100 crores because it will be impossible to keep track of small offenders.

**Q Source:** As mentioned above. The bill was passed recently by Lok Sabha.

**81** Consider the following statements.

1. Right to pray to a God of one's choice is a fundamental right.
2. Right to enter the religious place of any denomination is a constitutional right.

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
  - A. 1 only ✓
  - B. 2 only
  - C. Both 1 and 2
  - D. None of the above

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**



**Justification:** Statement 1: Article 25 (1) mandates freedom of conscience and right to practise religion. "All persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion". This means right to pray is a constitutional right.

Statement 2: This is not a right. In fact, it is the right of a religious denomination to exclude people from other religions to access their shrines. Several Vaishnavite temples which follow very strict agama codes do not allow other religious people to enter their shrines and this can well be considered a part of their religious freedom.

**Q Source:** Chapter 7: Indian Polity: Laxmikanth

**82** The World Happiness Report is an annual publication of the

- A. World Bank
- B. World Economic Forum
- C. United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network ✓
- D. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The World Happiness Report is an annual publication of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network which contains rankings of national happiness and analysis of the data from various perspectives.

The World Happiness Report is a landmark survey of the state of global happiness. The World Happiness Report 2018, ranks 156 countries by their happiness levels, and 117 countries by the happiness of their immigrants.

The main focus of this year's report, in addition to its usual ranking of the levels and changes in happiness around the world, is on migration within and between countries.

The overall rankings of country happiness are based on the pooled results from Gallup World Poll surveys from 2015-2017, and show both change and stability. There is a new top ranking country, Finland, but the top ten positions are held by the same countries as in the last two years, although with some swapping of places. Four different countries have held top spot in the four most recent reports- Denmark, Switzerland, Norway and now Finland.

All the top countries tend to have high values for all six of the key variables that have been found to support well-being: income, healthy life expectancy, social support, freedom, trust and generosity. Among the top countries, differences are small enough that that year-to-year changes in the rankings are to be expected.

**Q Source:** World Happiness Report 2018

**83** According to the German philosopher Immanuel Kant





1. If all persons are granted dignity, all other individual rights and opportunities would flow from it.
2. Justice requires that we give due and equal consideration to all individuals.

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only ✓
- C. Both 1 and 2 ✗
- D. None

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Statement 1: As per Kant, all human beings possess dignity. If all persons are granted dignity then what is due to each of them is that they have the opportunity to develop their talents and pursue their chosen goals. This, however, does not mean that they would automatically get all the other rights and opportunities.

Statement 2: Kant says that Justice requires that we give due and equal consideration to all individuals. This means that the notion of justice is rooted in fairness and not favouring any individual arbitrarily.

**Q Source:** Page 55: 11<sup>th</sup> NCERT: Political Theory

**84** Which one of the following is a salient feature of metamorphic rocks?

- A. Low melting point
- B. Lustre ✗
- C. Crystalline
- D. Foliation ✓

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** In the process of metamorphism in some rocks grains or minerals get arranged in layers or lines. Such an arrangement of minerals or grains in metamorphic rocks is called foliation or lineation.

Sometimes minerals or materials of different groups are arranged into alternating thin to thick layers appearing in light and dark shades.

Such a structure in metamorphic rocks is called banding and rocks displaying banding are called banded rocks. Types of metamorphic rocks depend upon original rocks that were subjected to metamorphism.



Metamorphic rocks are classified into two major groups — foliated rocks and non-foliated rocks. Gneissoid, granite, syenite, slate, schist, marble, quartzite etc. are some examples of metamorphic rocks.

**Q Source:** Revision: 11<sup>th</sup> NCERT Fundamentals of Physical Geography

**85** The Supreme Court held that a religious denomination must satisfy which of these conditions?

1. It should have at least one hundred or more followers
2. It should be registered with the local authorities or the State government
3. It must have association with a charitable trust or hold one itself
4. It should be a collection of individuals who have a system of beliefs which they regard as conducive to their spiritual well-being

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The conditions are the following;

(a) It should be a collection of individuals who have a system of beliefs (doctrines) which they regard as conducive to their spiritual well-being;

(b) It should have a common organisation; and

(c) It should be designated by a distinctive name.

Under the above criteria, the Supreme Court held that the 'Ramakrishna Mission' and 'Ananda Marga' are religious denominations within the Hindu religion. It also held that Aurobindo Society is not a religious denomination.

**Learning:** Article 25 guarantees rights of individuals, while Article 26 guarantees rights of religious denominations or their sections. In other words, Article 26 protects collective freedom of religion.

According to Article 26, every religious denomination or any of its section shall have which of the following rights:

(a) Right to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable purposes;

(b) Right to manage its own affairs in matters of religion;

(c) Right to own and acquire movable and immovable property; and



(d) Right to administer such property in accordance with law.

**Q Source:** Additional Research: Chapter 7: Indian Polity: M Laxmikanth

**86** Consider the following statements about the Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act that was recently in news.

1. The Act provides for a Court of Session to be a Special Court to try offences under this Act in each district.
2. Breaking the self-respect and esteem of the scheduled castes and tribes community is considered an offence under the Act.
3. It was enacted after the enactment of the Forest Rights Act.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

A. 2 only ❌

B. 1 and 2 only ✅

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 2 and 3 only

◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act is popularly known as POA Act was enacted in 1989. The rules for the Act were notified in 1995.

The SC/ST Act lists 22 offences relating to various patterns or behaviours inflicting criminal offences and breaking the self-respect and esteem of the scheduled castes and tribes community. This includes denial of economic, democratic and social rights, discrimination, exploitation and abuse of the legal process.

According to the SC/ST Act, the protection is provided from social disabilities such as denial of access to certain places and to use customary passage, personal atrocities like forceful drinking or eating of inedible food sexual exploitation, injury etc, atrocities affecting properties, malicious prosecution, political disabilities and economic exploitation.

For speedy trial, Section 14 of the SC/ST Act provides for a Court of Session to be a Special Court to try offences under this Act in each district.

The prime objective of the SC/ST Act is to deliver justice to marginalised through proactive efforts, giving them a life of dignity, self-esteem and a life without fear, violence or suppression from the dominant castes.

**Q Source:**

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/08/02/insights-daily-current-affairs-01-august-2018-2/>

**87** Consider the following statements about the different types of weathering.

1. Salts in pore spaces of rocks undergo rapid and repeated hydration and help in rock fracturing.



2. Oxidation can cause rock breakdown due to the disturbance caused by addition of oxygen.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Many clay minerals swell and contract during wetting and drying and a repetition of this process results in cracking of overlying materials.

Salts in pore spaces undergo rapid and repeated hydration and help in rock fracturing.

The volume changes in minerals due to hydration will also help in physical weathering through exfoliation and granular disintegration.

In weathering, oxidation means a combination of a mineral with oxygen to form oxides or hydroxides. Oxidation occurs where there is ready access to the atmosphere and oxygenated waters. The minerals most commonly involved in this process are iron, manganese, sulphur etc. In the process of oxidation rock breakdown occurs due to the disturbance caused by addition of oxygen.

Red colour of iron upon oxidation turns to brown or yellow. When oxidised minerals are placed in an environment where oxygen is absent, reduction takes place. Such conditions exist usually below the water table, in areas of stagnant water and waterlogged ground. Red colour of iron upon reduction turns to greenish or bluish grey.

These weathering processes are interrelated. Hydration, carbonation and oxidation go hand in hand and hasten the weathering process.

**Q Source:** Revision of Ch. 5: 11<sup>th</sup> NCERT Fundamentals of Physical Geography

**88** Consider the following about the procedure of renaming of the state.

1. It can be initiated by either the Parliament or the State Legislatures concerned.
2. A bill for renaming a state must be introduced in the Parliament on the recommendation of the President.
3. The views of the state assembly on a bill, sent to the state, for renaming are not binding either on the President or on the Parliament.
4. The bill in order to take the force of a law must be passed by a special majority in the Parliament.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only ✗



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

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The procedure of renaming of the state can be initiated by either the Parliament or the State Legislator (by passing a resolution in the assembly) and the procedure is as follows

- The renaming of a state requires Parliamentary approval under Article 3 and 4 of the Constitution.
- A bill for renaming a state may be introduced in the Parliament on the recommendation of the President.
- Before the introduction of the bill, the President shall send the bill to the respective state assembly for expressing their views within a stipulated time. The views of the state assembly are not binding, neither on the President nor on the Parliament.
- On the expiry of the period, the bill will be sent to the Parliament for deliberation. The bill in order to take the force of a law must be passed by a simple majority.
- The bill is sent for approval to the President. After the approval of the said bill, the bill becomes a law and the name of the state stands modified.
- If any fresh proposal comes from states to the Home Ministry, it will prepare a note for the Union Cabinet for an amendment to the Schedule 1 of the Constitution. Thereafter, a Constitution Amendment Bill will be introduced in Parliament, which has to approve it with a simple majority, before the President gives his assent to it.

**Q Source:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/27/insights-daily-current-affairs-27-july-2018/>

**89** Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a severe, often fatal illness in humans. Consider the following about it.

1. Wild animals may carry the bacteria that cause Ebola.
2. It can spread through human-to-human transmission.
3. There is no licensed treatment proven to neutralise the disease pathogen.

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.  
A. 1 only



- B. 2 only ❌  
C. 1, 2 and 3  
D. 2 and 3 only ✅

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Statement 1 and 2: The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission.

The average EVD case fatality rate is around 50%. Case fatality rates have varied from 25% to 90% in past outbreaks.

Statement 3: Community engagement is key to successfully controlling outbreaks. Good outbreak control relies on applying a package of interventions, namely case management, surveillance and contact tracing, a good laboratory service and social mobilisation.

Early supportive care with rehydration, symptomatic treatment improves survival. There is as yet no licensed treatment proven to neutralise the virus but a range of blood, immunological and drug therapies are under development.

You can find more information at the Q Source.

**Q Source:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/28/insights-daily-current-affairs-28-july-2018/>

**90** FASTags use which of the following technologies?

- A. Bar Code Reader  
B. Light Detection and Ranging or LIDAR  
C. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) ✅  
D. QR Code Reading

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** It is a device that uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making toll payments directly from the prepaid account linked to it.

It is affixed on the windscreen of vehicle and enables to drive through toll plazas without waiting.

The tag has a validity of 5 years and after purchase, it only needs to be recharged or topped up. The service is applicable to all kinds of vehicles but use of the service is currently voluntary.

Benefits of FASTags:





It helps quicken passage through toll barriers and helps avoid use of cash. Long queues of vehicles waiting while cumbersome cash transactions happen at the counter can be avoided. Here, it helps reduce use of fuel and pollution due to high waiting-times at the barriers.

It can also help the government identify the quantum of road use and types of vehicles passing through, aiding budgets for road widening and other infrastructure expenses. Theoretically, it could help increase accruals to the government as some operators managing toll plazas have, in the past, have been suspected of under reporting their revenues.

**Q Source:** Frequently in news

**91** Consider the following statements.

1. BrahMos missile can be launched from either Land or Sea or Air.
2. Brahmos cruise missiles have an inter-continental strike range.

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only ✓
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None

◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Weighing 2.5 ton, BrahMos ALCM is the heaviest weapon to be deployed on India's Su-30 fighter aircraft. It has been modified by HAL to carry weapons.

It is a world-class weapon with multi-platform, multi-mission role and is capable of being launched from land, sea and air.

BrahMos is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) of India and NPOM of Russia.

The name Brahmos has been taken from two rivers – Brahmaputra and Moskva.

The heavyweight missile, integrated with the long-range fighter, is seen as a force multiplier for the IAF.

The Brahmos cruise missiles have an effective strike range of around 290-300 km.

The land and warship versions have already been inducted by the armed forces.

**Q Source:** As mentioned in the explanation

**92** Consider the following statements about the writ of Quo Warranto.

1. The writ of quo warranto is used to judicially control executive actions in the matter of making

appointments to public offices under relevant statutory provisions.

2. The writ is also used to protect a citizen from the holder of a public office to which he has no right.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 only ✗
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 ✓
- D. None of the above

◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The term quo warranto means what is your authority . The writ of quo warranto is used to judicially control executive action in the matter of making appointments to public offices under relevant statutory provisions.

The writ is also used to protect a citizen from the holder of a public office to which he has no right. The writ calls upon the holder of a public office to show to the court under what authority he is holding the office in question.

If he is not entitled to the office , the court may restrain him from acting in the office and may also declare the office to be vacant . The writ proceedings not only give a weapon to control the executive from making appointments to public office against law but also tend to protect the public from being deprived of public office to which it has a right.

**Q Source:** Revision of Chapter 7 of Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

**93** Consider the following statements about the Water Governance Facility (WGF).

1. WGF is a mechanism that contributes to the implementation of the UNDP Water and Oceans Governance Programme.
2. WGF supports developing countries on a demand basis to strengthen water governance reform implementation through policy support and technical advisory services.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The UNDP Water Governance Facility (WGF) provides strategic water governance support to developing countries to advance socially equitable, environmentally sustainable and

economically efficient management of water resources and water and sanitation services to improve the livelihood of poor people.

WGF supports developing countries on a demand basis to strengthen water governance reform implementation through:

- Policy support and technical advisory services;
- Developing and disseminating water governance knowledge and strengthening capacities
- Developing and applying water governance assessments at national and global levels

WGF works with water governance in multiple thematic areas such as, integrated water resources management, transboundary water, water supply and sanitation, climate change adaptation, gender and water integrity. It works in several countries in regions such as Central and South Asia, East and Southern Africa and the Middle East.

WGF is a mechanism that contributes to the implementation of the UNDP Water and Oceans Governance Programme. The financial support from UNDP, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and MDG Achievement Fund (MDG-F) is greatly acknowledged.

For more information visit [www.watergovernance.org](http://www.watergovernance.org)

**Q Source:**

[http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/files/file/Groundwater\\_Governance\\_India-2013.pdf](http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/files/file/Groundwater_Governance_India-2013.pdf)

<http://www.prsindia.org/administrator/uploads/general/1455682937~~Overview%20of%20Ground%20Water%20in%20India.pdf>

**94** Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFC) are freight-only railway lines to move goods between industrial heartlands in the North and ports on the Eastern and Western coasts. Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, an important DFC, will pass through which of the following states?

1. Rajasthan
2. Uttar Pradesh
3. Punjab
4. Kerala

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : A



◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The dedicated freight-only lines are being built along the four key transportation routes – known as the Golden Quadrilateral and connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Howrah and its two diagonals (Delhi – Chennai and Mumbai – Howrah).

The WDFC 1,504-km-long route — from JNPT to Dadri via Vadodara-Ahmedabad- Palanpur-Phulera-Rewari — Western DFC will pass through Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. It is proposed to join the Eastern Corridor at Dadri.

Covering a total of 10,122 km, all these DFC corridors carry the heaviest traffic and are highly congested. The route carries 52% of passenger traffic and 58% of freight traffic, according to the Make-in-India report of 2017. Also, these routes are highly saturated, with line capacity utilisation reaching as high as 150%.

**Q Source:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/28/insights-daily-current-affairs-28-july-2018/>

**95** The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. Which of the following find mention in its Preamble?

1. Human rights should be protected by the rule of law.
2. Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of humans is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.
3. It is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** This was a fairly simple question – the preamble, excerpt, reads that:

- Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,
- Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,



- Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law, Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,
- Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,
- Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,
- Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realisation of this pledge,

Now, therefore THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society,

**Q Source:** Page 77: 11<sup>th</sup> NCERT: Political Theory

**96** The Union Cabinet has recently approved the first extension of Concessional Financing Scheme (CFS) to

- A. Provide extra financial cushion to companies engaged in making products for the differently abled ❌
- B. Encourage exploration of hydrocarbons in the sedimentary basins of India
- C. Support Indian Entities bidding for strategically important infrastructure projects abroad ✅
- D. None of the above

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Under the CFS, the Govt. of India has been supporting Indian Entities bidding for strategically important infrastructure projects abroad since 2015-16.

- Under the Scheme, MEA selects the specific projects keeping in view strategic interest of India and sends the same to Department of Economic Affairs (DEA).
- The strategic importance of a project to deserve financing under this Scheme, is decided, on a



case to case basis, by a Committee chaired by Secretary, DEA.

- Once approved by the Committee, DEA issues a formal letter to EXIM Bank conveying approval for financing of the project under CFS.
- The Scheme is presently being operated through the Export-Import Bank of India, which raises resources from the market to provide concessional finance.
- Government of India (GoI) provides counter guarantee and interest equalization support of 2% to the EXIM Bank.
- Under the Scheme, EXIM Bank extends credit at a rate not exceeding LIBOR (avg. of six months) + 100 bps. The repayment of the loan is guaranteed by the foreign govt.

**Q Source:**

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/08/02/insights-daily-current-affairs-01-august-2018-2/>

**97** 'State Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index' in India has recently been released by

- A. Smart Power India SDRP
- B. CARE India GRID
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE) ✓

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** It was released by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).

The nationwide Index is a joint effort of the NITI Aayog and BEE. The index assesses state policies and programmes.

The Index will help in implementing national energy efficiency initiatives in states and meet both State as well as national goals on energy security, energy access and climate change.

It has 63 indicators across Building, Industry, Municipality, Transport, Agriculture and DISCOM with 4 cross-cutting indicators.

The Index examines states' policies and regulations, financing mechanisms, institutional capacity, adoption of energy efficiency measures and energy savings achieved.

Performance of states:





States are categorised based on their efforts and achievements towards energy efficiency implementation, as 'Front Runner', 'Achiever', 'Contender' and 'Aspirant'.

The 'Front Runner' states in the inaugural edition of the Index are: Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, and Rajasthan based on available data.

Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Haryana have been categorised in the second best category of 'achiever' states.

Significance of the Index:

Such an index assumes significance in a country that is now the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after the US and China, and which is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change. India plans to reduce its carbon footprint by 33-35% from its 2005 levels by 2030, as part of its commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted by 195 countries in Paris in 2015.

**Q Source:**

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/08/02/insights-daily-current-affairs-01-august-2018-2/>

**98** A Geographical Indication tag be given to

1. Industrial goods
2. Handicrafts
3. Agricultural product

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** A GI is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.

Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin.

Once the GI protection is granted, no other producer can misuse the name to market similar products. It also provides comfort to customers about the authenticity of that product.

**Learning:** India has unveiled a tagline and a tricolour logo for geographical indication (GI) certified products. From now on, the GI-registered goods will sport the logo and the tagline to make them more attractive.



Tagline: "Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India".

A total of 320 products have been conferred the GI status in India so far.

Karnataka comes first with 38 GI products, followed by Maharashtra which has 32 products.

Tamil Nadu comes third with 25 GI products.

**Q Source:**

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/08/02/insights-daily-current-affairs-01-august-2018-2/>

**99** Over the nineteenth century, Britain's trade surplus in India helped them pay the 'home charges'. This included

1. Private remittances sent home by British officials and traders
2. Interest payments on India's external debt
3. Pensions of British officials in India

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

A. 1 only

B. 1 and 3 only ✗

C. 1, 2 and 3 ✓

D. 2 and 3 only

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** Over the nineteenth century, British manufactures flooded the Indian market. Food grain and raw material exports from India to Britain and the rest of the world increased. But the value of British exports to India was much higher than the value of British imports from India.

Thus Britain had a 'trade surplus' with India. We have covered this concept in an earlier test (Test 2, export surplus concept).

Britain used this surplus to balance its trade deficits with other countries – that is, with countries from which Britain was importing more than it was selling to.

This is how a multilateral settlement system works – it allows one country's deficit with another country to be settled by its surplus with a third country.

By helping Britain balance its deficits, India played a crucial role in the late-nineteenth-century world economy.

Britain's trade surplus in India also helped pay the so-called 'home charges' that included private remittances home by British officials and traders, interest payments on India's external debt, and pensions of British officials in India.

**Q Source:** Page 91: Xth History NCERT



**100** Consider the following statements.

1. The Group of 77 (G77) at the United Nations is a coalition of developing nations.
2. The G77 was founded at the first General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) Conference.
3. India and China are not the members of G77, but participate as observers.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : D

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** G77 at the UN is a coalition of developing nations, designed to promote its members' collective economic interests and create an enhanced joint negotiating capacity in the United Nations.

The group was founded in 1964, by the "Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Countries" issued at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

There were 77 founding members of the organization, but by November 2013 the organization had since expanded to 134 member countries (including China).

Statement 3: India and China both are members (see here <http://www.g77.org/doc/members.html>) . As of July 2017, the group comprises all of the UN member states (along with the State of Palestine), excluding the following countries:

- Members of the Council of Europe, except for Bosnia.
- Members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, except for Chile.
- Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States Free Trade Area, except for Tajikistan
- Two Pacific microstates: Palau and Tuvalu.

<http://www.g77.org/doc/>

**Q Source:** Page 100: Xth History NCERT