

# INSIGHTSONINDIA



## DAILY QUIZ AUGUST 2017

[www.insightsonindia.com](http://www.insightsonindia.com) | [www.insightsias.com](http://www.insightsias.com)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

DATE	PAGE NO.
AUGUST 1, 2017	3
AUGUST 2, 2017	5
AUGUST 3, 2017	7
AUGUST 4, 2017	9
AUGUST 5, 2017	12
AUGUST 7, 2017	14
AUGUST 8, 2017	16
AUGUST 9, 2017	18
AUGUST 10, 2017	20
AUGUST 11, 2017	22
AUGUST 14, 2017	24
AUGUST 15, 2017	26
AUGUST 16, 2017	28
AUGUST 17, 2017	30
AUGUST 18, 2017	33
AUGUST 19, 2017	35
AUGUST 21, 2017	37
AUGUST 22, 2017	40
AUGUST 23, 2017	43
AUGUST 24, 2017	46
AUGUST 25, 2017	50
AUGUST 26, 2017	53
AUGUST 28, 2017	55
AUGUST 29, 2017	58
AUGUST 30, 2017	60
AUGUST 31, 2017	63

Q. No.	Question	Solution
AUGUST 1, 2017		
1.	<p>Which of the following statements is/are provisions found in the Whistleblowers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It prohibits disclosures to be made if they are covered by the Official Secrets Act, 1923</li> <li>It prohibits the reporting of a corruption-related disclosure if it falls under certain prohibited categories which are modelled on those under the RTI Act</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Regarding Statement 1:</b> The amendment Bill seeks to remove immunity provided to whistle-blowers from prosecution under the draconian Official Secrets Act (OSA) for disclosures made under the WBP law. Offences under the OSA are punishable by imprisonment of up to 14 years. Threat of such stringent penalties would deter even genuine whistle-blowers. The basic purpose of the WBP Act is to encourage people to report wrongdoing. If whistle-blowers are prosecuted for disclosing information as part of their complaints and not granted immunity from the OSA, the very purpose of the law would be defeated.</li> <li><b>Regarding Statement 2:</b> The amendment bill tries to bring the WBP act in line with the RTI Act. The amendments ignore the fact that the two laws have completely different objectives. The RTI Act seeks to provide information to people, while the WBP Act provides a mechanism for disclosures to be made to competent authorities within the government to enable inquiry into allegations of corruption and provide protection to whistle-blowers.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">TH: Don't shoot the messenger;</a></p>
2.	<p>Mindanao province, where IS-affiliated terror groups have established control, is in</p> <p>(a) Philippines (b) Myanmar (c) Cambodia (d) Indonesia</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>"In a significant development, India has decided to provide a financial assistance of \$5,00,000 (₹3.2 crore) to the Philippines to aid its fight against the Islamic State (IS)-affiliated terror groups in the troubled Mindanao province. This is the first time India is sending aid to another nation to help it fight terrorism, thereby becoming an important marker in New Delhi's attempts to burnish its credentials as an emerging security provider to the wider Asian region."</p> <p><a href="#">Th: The Manila Envelope;</a></p>
3.	<p>The 42nd Amendment Act 1976 imposed a freeze on the population figure for readjustment at the 1971 census and has been extended by the 84th Amendment Act 2001 till 2026. As a result, the House of the People today represents the population figure of the 1971 census. For what purpose has the freeze on undertaking delimitation been extended up to the year 2026?</p> <p>(a) To enable State Governments to pursue the agenda for population stabilisation</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>The same question was posted here earlier.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <a href="#">Statement of Objects and Reasons</a> to the Constitution (84th Amendment) Act, 2001 states, "There have been consistent demands, both for and against undertaking the exercise of fresh delimitation. Keeping in view the progress of family planning programmes in different parts of the country, the Government, as part of the National Population Policy strategy, recently decided to extend the current freeze on undertaking fresh delimitation up to the year 2026</li> </ul>

	<p>(b) To ensure continuity in developmental programmes for periods longer than the interval between successive censuses</p> <p>(c) To avoid unnecessary expenditure that the exchequer would incur due to the associated costs of increased number of people's representatives in both the centre and state governments</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>as a motivational measure to enable the State Government to pursue the agenda for population stabilisation."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch-22, Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth: "This ban on readjustment was extended for another 25 years (ie, upto year 2026) by the 84th Amendment Act of 2001, with the same objective of encouraging population limiting measures."</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">TH: Dilemmas of delimitation;</a></p>
4.	<p>Which of the following is/are geo-engineering approaches to tackling climate change?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dumping iron solution into the oceans to encourage plankton to bloom</li> <li>Injection of sulphate aerosols into the atmosphere</li> <li>Thinning down cirrus clouds of the upper troposphere</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">BBC</a>: Cirrus ice clouds extend their thin and wispy tendrils in the upper troposphere, at altitudes of about 5-15 kilometres. Researchers say that these thin clouds are known with confidence to have a net warming effect on our planet, since their ice crystals re-emit infrared radiation absorbed from the sun-warmed surface back down towards ground. So if we can make cirrus thinner still, we'll let out more heat and cool the globe.</li> <li><a href="#">BBC</a>: One of the largest Geo engineering experiments, known as <b>Lohafex</b>, was an Indian-German experiment in 2009 which involved dumping six tonnes of an iron solution into the South Atlantic to encourage plankton to bloom – trapping carbon which would then be sent to the seabed when the organisms died. Results showed limited success.</li> <li>Large volcano eruptions inject ash particles and sulphur-rich gases into the troposphere and stratosphere and these clouds can circle the globe within weeks of the volcanic activity. The small ash particles decrease the amount of sunlight reaching the surface of the earth and lower average global temperatures. The sulphurous gases combine with water in the atmosphere to form acidic aerosols that also absorb incoming solar radiation and scatter it back out into space.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">TH: Beating back climate change;</a></p>
5.	<p>The Supreme Court recently prohibited the use of five chemicals, labelled as toxic by the Central Pollution Control Board, in the manufacture of fire crackers. Which one of the following is <b>not</b> one of these chemicals?</p> <p>(a) Lithium</p> <p>(b) Lead</p> <p>(c) Mercury</p> <p>(d) Sulphur</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>"A Bench of Justices Madan B. Lokur and Deepak Gupta recorded in its short order that, "that no firecrackers manufactured by the respondents shall contain <i>antimony, lithium, mercury, arsenic and lead in any form whatsoever</i>. It is the responsibility of the Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organisation (PESO) to ensure compliance particularly in Sivakasi." ..."</p> <p><a href="#">Th: SC bans five toxic chemicals ;</a></p>

AUGUST 2, 2017

<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p>'Blue Whale Challenge', recently seen in the news, refers to</p> <p>(a) An online game which has been blamed for the deaths of more than a hundred lives all over the world</p> <p>(b) The International Whaling Commission's initiative which enables anyone with an internet connection to keep a tab on activities in the oceans in near real-time, to check illegal whale hunting activities</p> <p>(c) A worldwide hands-on, school-based science and education programme focusing on the environment</p> <p>(d) A bidding technique, similar to the Swiss Challenge Method</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>A main-examination oriented question.</p> <p>"Police had said the online game, which originated in Russia, starts by asking participants via social media to draw a blue whale on a piece of paper. The participants are then asked to carve the whale on their body. They are given other tasks, like watching a horror movie alone, they added. The tasks have to be recorded on video and uploaded to access the next stage of the game. The final task is to commit suicide, according to reports. In Russia, more than 130 children have allegedly committed suicide in a bid to compete the game tasks. The creator of the game has been arrested and sentenced to three years in jail in Russia last month."</p> <p><a href="#">TH: Fadnavis to request centre to ban blue whale death game;</a></p>
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p>Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kleiner Perkins Caufield &amp; Byers – An American venture capital firm</li> <li>2. The BMJ – An international peer-reviewed medical journal</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">TH: Network challenges:</a> A <a href="#">Kleiner Perkins</a> Internet Trends Report for 2017 notes that even though smartphone and data costs are declining in India, they are still too high for most.</li> <li>• <a href="#">TH: Breaking addiction:</a> A study published a few days ago in the journal <a href="#">BMJ</a> found that a "substantial increase" in e-cigarette use among adult smokers had led to a "significant increase" in the quitting rate among smokers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p>With reference to the recently adopted Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons under the aegis of the United Nations, consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Only one country abstained from voting, while only one country voted against it</li> <li>2. It prohibits not only the use of nuclear weapons, but also the threat of use of these weapons</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the first multilateral legally-binding instrument for nuclear disarmament to have been negotiated in 20 years.</li> <li>• A number of countries stayed out of the negotiations, including the United States, Russia and other nuclear-weapon States, as well as many of their allies. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) did not join the talks either.</li> <li>• The delegations of the United States, United Kingdom and France said they "have not taken part in the negotiation of the treaty... and do not intend to sign, ratify or ever become party to it.. This initiative clearly disregards the realities of the international security environment," they said. "Accession to the ban treaty is incompatible with the policy of nuclear deterrence, which has been essential to keeping the peace in Europe and North Asia for over 70 years."</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The treaty – adopted by a vote of 122 in favour to one against (Netherlands), with one abstention (Singapore) – prohibits a full range of nuclear-weapon-related activities, such as undertaking to develop, test, produce, manufacture, acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, as well as the use or threat of use of these weapons.</li> <li>The treaty will be open for signature to all States at UN Headquarters in New York on 20 September 2017, and enter into force 90 days after it has been ratified by at least 50 countries.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">UN News Centre;</a></p> <p><a href="#">TH: For a nuclear-free world;</a></p>
4.	<p>With reference to the Jharkhand Religious Independence Bill, 2017, approved recently for introduction in the state legislative assembly by the Jharkhand Cabinet, consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If passed, the state will become the first in India to have a law against conversion by force or enticement</li> <li>It provides differential punishments based on which section of society was forcefully converted</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anyone found violating the provisions of the bill will be liable for three years' imprisonment or Rs 50,000 fine or both.</li> <li>The bill provides for tougher action on forced conversions of minor girls and women from the scheduled tribes. In this case, the perpetrator would face jail term of up to four years and penalty of Rs 1 lakh or both.</li> <li>If passed, Jharkhand will become the seventh state to have a law against conversion by force or enticement, which already exists in <a href="#">Madhya Pradesh</a>, <a href="#">Chhattisgarh</a>, Odisha, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh.</li> <li>The cabinet's decision to clear the bill seems to have stemmed from the figures of the 2011 census released by the Centre earlier. The census report said while the state's Hindu population grew by 21% in the last 10 years, the Christian population grew by 29.7% and Muslims by 28.4%.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">TH: Nod for Jharkhand religious bill;</a></p> <p>Primary source: <a href="#">Tol;</a></p>
5.	<p>Which one of the following cities is <b>not</b> a venue for the FIFA U-17 World Cup this year?</p> <p>(a) New Delhi</p> <p>(b) Guwahati</p> <p>(c) Kochi</p> <p>(d) Gwalior</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>"The Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Vijay Goel said in the Rajya Sabha today the preparations for the FIFA U-17 World Cup scheduled to be held from 6th to 28th October, 2017 at six venues viz., New Delhi, Navi Mumbai, Kolkata, Kochi, Guwahati and Goa is progressing as per the plans and in terms of core infrastructure, almost 90% of all the requirements are already in place."</p> <p><a href="#">PIB;</a></p>

6.	<p>Consider the following pairs:</p> <table><thead><tr><th><b>Indigenous games disciplines</b></th><th><b>States in which they have traditionally been played</b></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1. Kalaripayattu</td><td>: Karnataka</td></tr><tr><td>2. Silambam</td><td>: Kerala</td></tr><tr><td>3. Mukna</td><td>: Assam</td></tr><tr><td>4. Khomlainai</td><td>: Manipur</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 3 and 4 only</p> <p>(c) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<b>Indigenous games disciplines</b>	<b>States in which they have traditionally been played</b>	1. Kalaripayattu	: Karnataka	2. Silambam	: Kerala	3. Mukna	: Assam	4. Khomlainai	: Manipur	<p>Solution: d.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kalaripayattu, Kerala</li><li>• Silambam, Tamilnadu</li><li>• Kabaddi, Telengana</li><li>• Archery, Jharkhand</li><li>• Malkhamb, Maharashtra</li><li>• Mukna, Imphal</li><li>• Thangta, Imphal</li><li>• Khomlainai, Assam</li><li>• Gatka, Punjab</li></ul> <p><a href="#">PIB: Promotion of traditional sports;</a></p>
<b>Indigenous games disciplines</b>	<b>States in which they have traditionally been played</b>											
1. Kalaripayattu	: Karnataka											
2. Silambam	: Kerala											
3. Mukna	: Assam											
4. Khomlainai	: Manipur											
7.	<p>‘Container Corporation of India Limited’ is a PSU under the</p> <p>(a) Ministry of Shipping</p> <p>(b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries</p> <p>(c) Ministry of Railways</p> <p>(d) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p><a href="#">In the news:</a> Indian Railways’ PSU CONCOR (Container Corporation of India Ltd.) is developing a cold store at Lasalgaon near Nashik for storage of onions and other perishable produce. This cold storage will have a total capacity of 2500 MT out of which 1500 MT will be exclusively utilised for onion storage and remaining for other perishable commodities such as fruits &amp; vegetables. The cold storage is being set up on CSR model by CONCOR.</p>										
AUGUST 3, 2017												
1.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>1. Results of wet bulb thermometers are normally lower than just the pure air temperatures</p> <p>2. A wet-bulb temperature of 37°C is considered to be the upper limit on human survivability</p> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The first, or “dry bulb” instrument, records the temperature of the air. The other, or “wet bulb” thermometer, measures relative humidity in the air and the results are normally lower than just the pure air temperature. For humans, this wet bulb reading is critically important.</li><li>• <b>The “critically important” bit:</b> While the normal temperature inside our bodies is 37C, our skin is usually at 35C. This temperature difference allows us to dissipate our own metabolic heat by sweating.</li><li>• However, if wet bulb temperatures in our environment are at 35C or greater, our ability to lose heat declines rapidly and even the fittest of people would die in around six hours.</li></ul> <p><a href="#">In the news:</a> Most of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh will experience temperatures close to the limits of survivability by 2100, without emissions reductions. This is to say, the wet bulb thermometer reading by the year 2100 will be 35C under a business-as-usual scenario of future greenhouse gas emissions. However, cuts in carbon emissions as</p>										

		pledged under the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement dramatically reduces the risk to the region.
2.	<p>'BRICS-ARP' will</p> <p>(a) Help achieve gender equality</p> <p>(b) Promote sustainable use of marine resources</p> <p>(c) Ensure access to affordable, sustainable and modern energy for all</p> <p>(d) Address the issue of inequality between farmers' and non-farmers' income</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>An MoU on establishment of the <b>Agricultural Research Platform</b> was signed by the foreign Ministers of BRICS countries in the 8th BRICS Summit held on 16th October, 2016 at Goa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BRICS-ARP will be the natural global platform for science-led agriculture-based sustainable development for addressing the issues of world hunger, under-nutrition, poverty and inequality, particularly between farmers' and non-farmers' income, and enhancing agricultural trade, bio-security and climate resilient agriculture.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">In the news:</a> The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed among India and various BRICS countries for establishment of the BRICS Agriculture Research Platform (BRICS-ARP).</p>
3.	<p>Where is the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC), recently approved by the Union Cabinet, set to come up?</p> <p>(a) Karnal, Haryana</p> <p>(b) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh</p> <p>(c) Amritsar, Punjab</p> <p>(d) Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the ISARC at campus of National Seed Research and Training Center (NSRTC) in Varanasi.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the proposal, a Centre of Excellence in Rice Value Addition (CERVA) will be set up in Varanasi. This will include a modern and sophisticated laboratory with capacity to determine quality and status of heavy metals in grain and straw. The Centre will also undertake capacity building exercises for stakeholders across the rice value chain.</li> <li>This Center will be the first international Center in the eastern India and it will play a major role in harnessing and sustaining rice production in the region.</li> <li>The Centre will help in utilizing the rich biodiversity of India to develop special rice varieties. This will help India to achieve higher per hectare yields and improved nutritional contents. India's food and nutritional security issues will also be addressed. This will reduce wastage, add value and generate higher income for the farmers. The farmers in Eastern India will benefit in particular, besides those in South Asian and African countries.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">PIB (July 12th);</a></p> <p><a href="#">PIB (2nd August);</a></p>



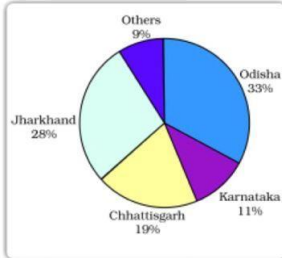
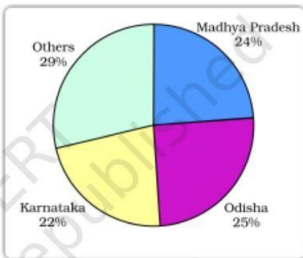
<p>4.</p>	<p>Which one of the following ministries is responsible for promoting India as a Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) destination?</p> <p>(a) Ministry of Urban Development</p> <p>(b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry</p> <p>(c) Ministry of Tourism</p> <p>(d) Ministry of External Affairs</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The India Convention Promotion Bureau (ICPB) has been set up under the patronage of the Ministry of Tourism to promote India as a venue for International Conferences and Exhibitions.</li> <li>India is also being promoted as a preferred Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) destination through the Global Incredible India media campaign and through Road Shows and Seminars conducted by the Indiatourism offices overseas.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">PIB;</a></p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>The recently launched programme 'Innovate in India', or 'i3', is related to</p> <p>(a) Accelerating biopharmaceutical development in India</p> <p>(b) ISRO's efforts to provide a fillip to India's e-vehicles programme</p> <p>(c) The National Campaign for Water Conservation in India</p> <p>(d) The Office of the President of India's Festival of Grassroots Innovation</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>The same question was posted here earlier.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Biopharma Mission, named Innovate in India (i3), is the first ever Industry-Academia mission to accelerate biopharmaceutical development in India</li> <li>India has been an active player in the pharmaceutical industry and has contributed globally towards making life saving drugs and low cost pharmaceutical products accessible and affordable for those in need. Be it the Rotavirus vaccine, heart valve prosthesis or affordable insulin, India has been a forerunner in these and many more. Despite, these advances Indian biopharmaceutical industry is still 10-15 years behind their counterparts in the developed countries and faces stiff competition from China, Korea and others. The lacuna primarily exists due to disconnected centers of excellence, less focus on translational research and staggered funding. There was an immediate need felt to focus on consolidated efforts to promote product discovery, translational research and early stage manufacturing in the country to ensure inclusive innovation.</li> <li>i3 is committed to addressing these gaps with a Mission to make India a hub for design and development of novel, affordable and effective biopharmaceutical products and solutions.</li> <li>The Mission to be implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a Public Sector Undertaking of Department of Biotechnology, and is partially being funded by the World Bank.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">PIB1;</a> <a href="#">PIB2;</a></p>
AUGUST 4, 2017		
<p>1.</p>	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>1. The Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill, 2017, passed recently by Rajya Sabha, does not grant constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Rajya Sabha, amendments were moved by the opposition, including one for the inclusion of a woman member and a minority member in the commission. The amendments needed to be passed with a simple majority, and it did with a 74-52 margin. But that is</li> </ul>

<p>2. The majority of the provisions in the Constitution need to be amended by a special majority of the Parliament</p> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>when the situation changed. The amendments had passed with a simple majority but for the clause amended to become part of the Bill, it needed a two-third majority since it was a Constitution amendment Bill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After several reminders from the chair to the members that the passed amendments could not be un-passed and that the only hope for the entire Bill lay in the House voting together on the relevant clause — this meant that the government would have to vote ‘Aye’ on the clause amended at the Opposition’s behest — and suspension of business for a few minutes to evolve consensus, the clause had to be dropped since it could not secure the requisite majority.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">IE: Key clause in Constitution 123rd Amendment Bill falls for lack of numbers;</a></p> <p><a href="#">PRS MPR July 2017;</a></p> <p>Ch-10, Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth;</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Which of the following is/are provisions of the Law Commission of India’s draft bill for the use and regulation of DNA-based technology?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A DNA Profiling Board will be constituted, which will be responsible for establishing DNA laboratories</li> <li>DNA profiling would be undertaken exclusively for identification of a person and not for extraction of any other information</li> <li>No bodily substances will be taken from a person who is arrested as an accused of a crime unless consent is given for the same</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 1 and 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>Some of the salient features of the recommendations are as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DNA Profiling Board</b> – A statutory body: A DNA Profiling Board be constituted, which would undertake functions such as (among others) laying down procedures and standards to establish DNA laboratories and granting accreditation to such laboratories (not responsible for establishing laboratories)</li> <li><b>Only for identification:</b> DNA profiling would be undertaken exclusively for identification of a person and would not be used to extract any other information. Further no bodily substances will be taken from a person unless the consent is given for the same;</li> <li><b>DNA Data Bank:</b> The Bill proposes a National DNA Data Bank and Regional DNA Data Banks (for the states). The Data Banks will be responsible for storing DNA profiles received from the accredited laboratories; and</li> <li><b>Penalties:</b> The violators of the provisions would be liable for punishment of imprisonment, which may extend up to three years and also a fine which may extend up to Rs two lakhs.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">PRS July 2017 MPR;</a></p> <p><a href="#">IE: the new DNA tech bill;</a></p> <p><a href="#">LCI: Report 271;</a></p>

<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p>The promulgation of the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2017</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enables the Union Government to authorise the RBI to issue directions to banks for initiating proceedings in case of a default in loan repayment</li> <li>2. Empowers the RBI to appoint authorities or committees to advise banking companies for stressed asset resolution</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 24, 2017. It seeks to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to insert provisions for handling cases related to stressed assets. Stressed assets are loans where the borrower has defaulted in repayment or where the loan has been restructured (such as by changing the repayment schedule). It will replace the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017.</p> <p>For details of the amendments, refer to: <a href="#">PRS: The Banking Regulation (amendment) bill, 2017</a>; <a href="#">PRS July 2017 MPR</a>;</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p>The deadline for which one of the following matters in the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 does the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2017 seek to amend?</p> <p>(a) No detention policy (b) Minimum standard qualifications of teachers (c) Shut down of unrecognised schools (d) Basic minimum school infrastructure</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>The Bill amends the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 by extending the deadline for teachers to acquire the prescribed minimum qualifications for their appointment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009</b>, is effective from 1st April, 2010. It envisages free and compulsory elementary education to every child in the age group of 6-14 years.</li> <li>• The Proviso to Section 23(2) of the Act specifies that all teachers at elementary level who, at the commencement of this Act, did not possess the minimum qualifications as laid down under the RTE Act, need to acquire these within a period of five years i.e., 31st March, 2015.</li> <li>• However, several State governments have reported that out of a total number of 66.41 lakh teachers at the elementary level, 11.00 lakh are still untrained.</li> <li>• In order to ensure that all teachers, in position as on 31st March, 2015, acquire the minimum qualifications prescribed by the academic authority, it is necessary to carry out appropriate amendment in the RTE Act, 2009 to extend the period for such training for four years up to 31st March, 2019.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">PRS July 2017 MPR</a>;</p> <p>PIB; <a href="#">Th</a>;</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p>Trains on Indian Railways are hauled by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Diesel locomotives</li> <li>2. Steam locomotives</li> <li>3. Electric locomotives</li> <li>4. Gasoline/petrol locomotives</li> </ol>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>The Comptroller and Auditor General of India released an audit report on the electrification projects in Indian Railways. Trains on Indian Railways are hauled either by diesel locomotives or electric locomotives. As on March 31,</p>

<p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1, 2 and 3</p> <p>(b) 2 and 4 only</p> <p>(c) 1 and 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 3 and 4</p>	<p>2016, 42% of the total railway route length has been electrified.</p> <p><a href="#">PRS July 2017 MPR;</a></p>
<p><b>6.</b> NITI Aayog in its draft National Energy Policy has recommended that in order to improve the supply of oil and gas, the government must encourage setting up of new refineries, preferable at coastal locations. Why is it preferable for new refineries to be set up at coastal locations?</p> <p>(a) India has a heavy dependence on oil and gas imports, and India exports refined petroleum products</p> <p>(b) All unexploited oil and gas reserves of India are located in the coastal regions</p> <p>(c) Crude oil evaporates at a higher rate than refined products</p> <p>(d) Most of India's market for refined petroleum products are in the coastal regions</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>In India, the share of oil and gas in energy consumption in 2015-16 was 26% and 6.5%, respectively. While the consumption of each has registered a sharp increase, production has increased only moderately. In order to improve the supply of oil and gas, the government must encourage capacity expansion and setting up of new refineries, preferably at coastal locations (the most appropriate reason for this is that India has a heavy dependence on oil and gas imports and also that export of refined petroleum products is an important contributor to India's export earnings).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Petroleum refining does not lead significant weightloss, unlike the aluminum/copper/sugarcane/timber processing.</li> <li>Virtually all the by-products can be used. Therefore, refineries can be set up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>near the raw material or</li> <li>near the market or</li> <li>at an intermediate break of the bulk location (ports/coastal locations)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Mrunal: Petroleum Refineries: Location;</a></p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="#">PRS July 2017 MPR;</a></p>

## AUGUST 5, 2017

<p><b>1.</b> The Supreme Court recently ordered that leaseholders should pay compensation equivalent to 100% value of the minerals they extracted illegally. This judgement was on the basis of a PIL plea filed by NGO Common Cause about the rampant illegal mining of iron and manganese ore in?</p> <p>(a) Odisha</p> <p>(b) Karnataka</p> <p>(c) Jharkhand</p> <p>(d) Madhya Pradesh</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p><small>Fig. 5.2: Production of iron ore showing statewise share in per cent, 2009-10</small></p> <p><small>Fig. 5.4: Production of Manganese showing statewise share in per cent, 2009-2010</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The judgment was on the basis of a PIL plea filed by NGO Common Cause about the rampant illegal mining of iron and manganese ore in Odisha. Of a total of 187 mining lease holders in Keonjhar, Sundergarh and Mayurbhanj districts, 102 were found to have had no environmental or forest clearance.</li> <li>Odisha and Karnataka are the states among the given options that are important producers of iron and</li> </ul>
---	--

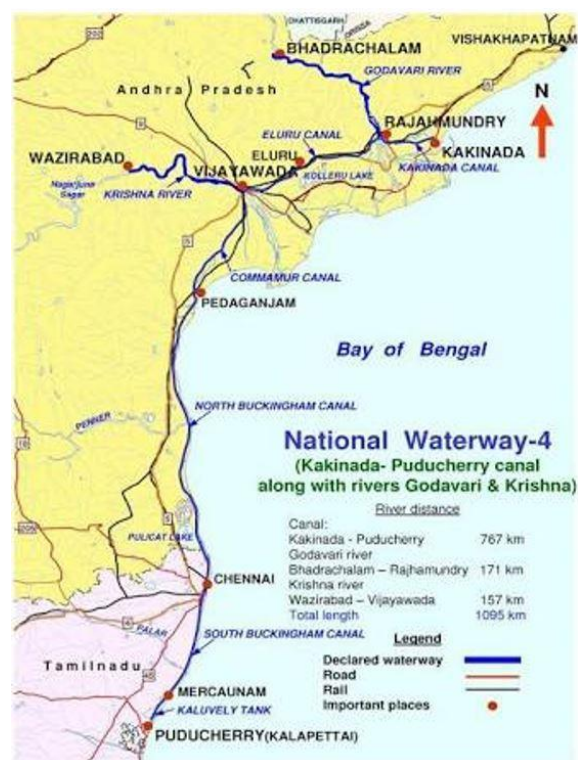
		<p>manganese ores (as of 2009-2010; pie charts from Class 10 NCERT Contemporary India).</p> <p><a href="#">TH: Illegal miners must pay back in full;</a></p> <p><a href="#">TH: Price of rapacity;</a></p>
2.	<p>'<i>Arnesh Kumar vs. State of Bihar</i>' is a case in which the Supreme Court</p> <p>(a) Recognised that the failure of the executive to place an ordinance before the legislature constitutes abuse of power and fraud on the Constitution</p> <p>(b) Mandated a nine-point checklist before any arrests could be made under the dowry harassment law</p> <p>(c) Ordered that a 'Family Welfare Committee' shall be constituted in each district by the District Legal Services authority, which shall look into complaints under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)</p> <p>(d) Recognised the inherent injustice in Section 377 of the IPC, that its operation was patently opposed to the Constitution's essential promise</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The apex court had in July 2014 directed that the police must satisfy itself of the necessity of an arrest and the magistrate to record its satisfaction before authorising detention. The SC, in the case titled <i>Arnesh Kumar vs. State of Bihar</i>, had expressed serious concern over its abuse and hence laid down the conditions under which the accused could be arrested with checklist they extended to other cases with punishment less than seven years.</li> <li>Option 'c' refers to the recent case – <i>Rajesh Sharma &amp; Ors. Vs State of UP</i> – in which the court mandated that a 'Family Welfare Committee' shall be constituted in each district by the District Legal Services authority, which shall look into complaints under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">From July 2014: TH;</a></p> <p><a href="#">From Aug 2014: TH;</a></p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="#">TH Punishing the victims;</a></p>
3.	<p>'Zinc Fingers' and 'TALENs' are terms that sometimes appear in the news in the context of</p> <p>(a) Energy Innovation</p> <p>(b) Geoengineering technologies</p> <p>(c) Gene-editing technologies</p> <p>(d) Cyber security</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>Zinc fingers, Talens and Crispr all share the same general concept – they act as a type of satnav (satellite navigation) that finds its way to specific sites in our DNA and a pair of molecular scissors that can edit the DNA.</p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="#">TH: On genes and ethics;</a></p> <p>From 2015: <a href="#">BBC: Dawn of gene-editing medicine?;</a></p>
4.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 38A of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 mandates that any rule made by the concerned ministry ought to be laid before the Parliament</li> <li>The Finance Act, 2017, passed as a Money Bill, modifies the terms of appointment and functioning in various tribunals</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>Both statements are correct.</p> <p><a href="#">TH1;</a> <a href="#">TH2;</a></p>

5. A portion of what is known as the 'Buckingham Canal' is included in which one of the following National Waterways (NW)?

- Allahabad-Haldia stretch of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly rivers
- Sadiya-Dhubri stretch of Brahmaputra River
- East Coast Canal integrated with Brahmani and Mahanadi delta river system
- Kakinada-Puducherry canal along with rivers Godavari and Krishna

Solution: d.

"After decades of neglect, revival of the Buckingham Canal came into focus after it was declared as National Waterway 4 (option 'd'; see image) in 2008. This itself came about after studies showed that the canal acted as a buffer and had saved many lives and properties when a tsunami hit the Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh coast in December 2004. Taking a leaf out of the Britishers' vision for the canal, ambitious plans were drawn, but work on the ground has remained slow and tardy." national waterways 4



TH: [Long live the canal](#); Page 4: [National Waterways Act, 2016](#);

AUGUST 7, 2017

1. Which one of the following city's Heat Action Plan – to cope with heatwaves – was the first of its kind to be formulated in India?

- Guntur
- Ahmedabad
- Hyderabad
- Cuttack

Solution: b.

The same question was posted here earlier.

- The unprecedented number of deaths (2,040) in 2015 forced the authorities to think of response measures.
- Ahmedabad, the first city to develop a heat wave response system in 2013 following its dreadful experience with heat in 2010, offered a model. This response system was created with support from public health institutions. Preparing the health system to identify symptoms of heat stress and providing treatment through urban health centres is one intervention it decided upon. The plan involved other relatively simple and straightforward measures like reviewing school timetables, rescheduling work timings to cooler hours, making water widely available and reserving religious sites and libraries as cooling centres.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thanks to prodding by NDMA, nine state governments prepared and implemented heat action plans in the last two years. A targeted awareness campaign, including temperature alerts and instructions to avoid heat, too helped bring down deaths.</li> </ul> <p>IE: Remarkable success in reduction of heat-related deaths; From last year: TH: How Ahmedabad beat the heat;</p>
2.	<p>A vast majority of heat-related deaths in 2015 were reported from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha. Why is it that this pattern persists two years later, despite substantial reduction in number of heat-related deaths across the country?</p> <p>(a) A trough over these states in the months of April and May attracts dry and warm northwesterly winds, raising the temperatures unusually higher than normal, increasing these states' share in the number of heat-related deaths</p> <p>(b) These states were, and continue to be, the only states where the problem of underreporting has been addressed</p> <p>(c) These states are the only ones to not have adopted the NDMA-mandated preventive and response measures for heatwaves</p> <p>(d) The population of these states is the highest among all states in India that experience heatwaves, which concomitantly increases its share in the number of heat-related deaths</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>There are climatological reasons for Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha being the epicentre of heat related deaths. In April and May, the dynamics of the wind systems coming from the southwestern parts of India, and those flowing in from the northwestern parts work in such a manner (this is due to the presence of a trough – a low-pressure region – over these states) that the heat over the northern plains and central India is pushed over these three states, raising temperatures unusually higher than normal.</p> <p>IE: Remarkable success in reduction of heat-related deaths;</p>
3.	<p>Bone ornaments that date to about 4,000 years ago have recently been discovered in a hamlet of Narmetta, an agricultural village on the outskirts of a city in the state of?</p> <p>(a) Rajasthan</p> <p>(b) Jammu and Kashmir</p> <p>(c) Meghalaya</p> <p>(d) Telangana</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>In a find that has excited archaeologists, 50 pieces of bone ornaments that date to 4,000 years ago have been found in a hamlet of Narmetta, an agricultural village on the outskirts of Hyderabad in Telangana. According to Historian Prof. K.P. Rao, who led the 2005 Gachibowli megalithic excavation that dated the earliest megalithic site to 2200 BC, "Bone ornaments have not been found till date in India. We had perforated teeth but this I am hearing for the first time."</p> <p><a href="#">TH: Revealed: 4,000-year-old bone jewels;</a></p>

<p>4.</p>	<p>“..people patted each other on the back because they thought they were being benevolent – they gave their domestic “help” paid leave each month. This was their refusal to confront the ethical consequences of the advantages they were accruing from domestic labour..” This statement reflects which one of the following functions of attitude serving the people in the aforementioned extract?</p> <p>(a) Adoptive function (b) Knowledge function (c) Value-expressive function (d) Ego-defence function</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>An ethics-based question, mains-oriented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ego-defence function of attitude: Some attitudes serve to protect the person that holds them from psychologically damaging events or information by allowing them to be recast in less damaging or threatening ways. This inevitably may involve a degree of bias or distortion in the way the world is interpreted but people will readily do this in order to preserve a particular (usually favourable) view of themselves or the world.</li> </ul> <p>Attitude -&gt; Source-3 (Functions): Insights – How to prepare GS-4; Improvisation: IE: An immoral subsidy;</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>North Korea shares its land boundaries with which of the following countries?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>China</li> <li>South Korea</li> <li>Russia</li> <li>Japan</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1, 2 and 3 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 3 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Korea occupies the northern portion of the Korean peninsula, which juts out from the Asian mainland between the East Sea (Sea of Japan) and the Yellow Sea</li> <li>The country is bordered by China and Russia to the north and by the Republic of Korea (South Korea) to the south.</li> </ul> <p>Improvisation: TH: China urges NK to stop missile tests; Britannica: North Korea;</p>

## AUGUST 8, 2017

<p>1.</p>	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GST has been extended to the state of Jammu &amp; Kashmir (J&amp;K) through an executive order by the President of India</li> <li>Article 35A of the Indian Constitution was added by a Presidential Order</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Goods and Services Tax (GST) was extended to Jammu &amp; Kashmir a week after it was implemented in the rest of the country through an executive Order by the President under Article 370.</li> <li>Article 35A of the Indian Constitution empowers the J&amp;K legislature to define “permanent residents” of the state. It was added to Article 35 through a Presidential Order called The Constitution (Application to J&amp;K) Order, 1954, issued under Article 370.</li> <li>Additional Information regarding the PIL: A petition was filed by Delhi-based NGO ‘We the Citizens’ demanding that Article 35A be repealed because of its ‘unconstitutional’ character. Their argument is that a) Article 35A was not added to the constitution by a constitutional amendment under Article 368 and b) the J&amp;K government has been discriminating against non-residents who are debarred from buying properties, getting a government job or voting in the</li> </ul>
-----------	---	---



		<p>local elections “under the guise of Article 35A”. Historians on the other hand say that the NGO’s arguments are “specious”, as the article is part of a much larger system put in place in Jammu and Kashmir after independence and the state’s accession. Additionally, the J&amp;K government has said that Article 35A does not infringe any fundamental right of citizens, and pointed out that Article 370 has elucidated that provisions of the Indian Constitution will not be a limitation on the laws of this state.</p> <p>IE Explained: GST, 35A and special status;</p> <p>Improvisation: Th: Farooq warns centre over Article 35A;</p>
2.	<p>Which one of the following is <b>not</b> an objective embodied in the Preamble to the Constitution of India?</p> <p>(a) To constitute India as a secular democratic republic</p> <p>(b) Economic justice</p> <p>(c) To promote among all citizens fraternity</p> <p>(d) Liberty of faith</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>“To constitute India into a sovereign socialist secular democratic republic” is the part which defines the nature (not objective) of the Indian State. The objectives of the Constitution refer to the part of the Preamble which begins with, “to secure to all its citizens...”</p> <p>Improvisation: PIB: Why Pluralism and Secularism are essential for our Democracy;</p> <p>Preamble; Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth;</p>
3.	<p>The location of Presidential Retreats uniquely symbolise</p> <p>(a) The fundamental right to move freely throughout the territory of India</p> <p>(b) The role of the President of India</p> <p>(c) The Constitution’s federal form and unitary spirit</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to the Rashtrapati Bhavan Website, “The location of ‘The Retreat Building’ in Shimla and the ‘Rashtrapati Nilayam’ in Hyderabad are indicative of the integrative role of the Office of the President of India in our country. These locations, one in north and another in south, symbolise unity of our country and unity of our diverse cultures and people.”</li> <li>The President is the first citizen of India, and acts as the symbol of unity, integrity and solidarity of the nation.</li> </ul> <p>Improvisation: TH: A new retreat for President Kovind;</p> <p>Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth;</p>
4.	<p>Recent amendments to the Indian Penal Code proposed by the Union Home Ministry involve Sections 153A and 509A. These proposed amendments are based on recommendations made by</p> <p>(a) Sachar Committee</p> <p>(b) Nanavati-Mehta Commission</p> <p>(c) Ranganath Mishra Commission</p> <p>(d) Bezbaruah Committee</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The Home Ministry has proposed to amend two provisions in the IPC, that is, Section 153A and Section 509A” to deal with racially motivated crimes. “These are proposed to be inserted into the IPC sections...since this matter comes under the Concurrent List, we have to obtain the opinion of the State Governments,” said Mr. Rijju.</li> <li>Another official said that the amendments were based on the recommendations of the Bezbaruah Committee, constituted by the Centre in February 2014 in the wake of a series of racial attacks on persons belonging to the northeast.</li> </ul> <p><b>In the news:</b> The Home Ministry’s proposal to amend the law to insert two stricter anti-racial discrimination</p>

		provisions in the Indian Penal Code has got a lukewarm response from the States. Only four states have given their assent to the proposed law.
5.	<p>'Herd Immunity' or 'Herd Protection' in the context of vaccine-preventable diseases refers to</p> <p>(a) Achievement of 99% vaccine immunisation in the target group</p> <p>(b) The point at which transmission of the disease among unimmunised individuals reduces through indirect effects of a certain level of immunisation of individuals in the same region</p> <p>(c) The isolated nature of some groups of people, usually tribals, which prevents them in the first place from acquiring any vaccine-preventable disease</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>The Government's mass immunisation drives are meant to achieve the phenomenon called herd immunity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efficacious vaccines not only protect the immunized, but can also reduce disease among unimmunized individuals in the community through "indirect effects" or "herd protection".</li> <li>• "Herd protection" of the unvaccinated occurs when a sufficient proportion of the group is immune. The decline of disease incidence is greater than the proportion of individuals immunized because vaccination reduces the spread of an infectious agent by reducing the amount and/or duration of pathogen shedding by vaccinees, retarding transmission.</li> <li>• The coverage rate necessary to stop transmission depends on the basic reproduction number of a disease (<math>R_0</math>). Diseases with high <math>R_0</math> (e.g. measles) require higher coverage to attain herd protection than a disease with a lower <math>R_0</math> (e.g. rubella, polio and Hib). Because of herd protection, some diseases can be eliminated without 100% immunization coverage.</li> </ul> <p>Improvisation: PIB;</p> <p>Source: WHO; From earlier this year: Scroll;</p>
AUGUST 9, 2017		
1.	<p>Sections 14, 15 and 16 of the National Food Security Act, 2013 fall under which one of the following chapters of the said act?</p> <p>(a) Identification of Eligible Households</p> <p>(b) Reforms in Targeted Public Distribution System</p> <p>(c) Women Empowerment</p> <p>(d) Grievance Redressal Mechanism</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>"The directives in the Swaraj Abhiyan case underscore the depressing reality that several State governments have not met key requirements in the legislation which empower the common person in securing subsidised food. Sections 14, 15 and 16, which require the setting up of a grievance redress mechanism and a State Food Commission with responsibility to monitor the implementation of the law, have been heeded only in name, as in Haryana, or not at all."</p> <p>NFSA, 2013;</p> <p>TH: Food for action;</p>
2.	<p>A member of the Parliament of India can raise a point of order</p> <p>(a) To draw the attention of the House or the government to matters of general public interest</p> <p>(b) For discussing a matter of sufficient public importance, which has been subjected to a lot of debate and the</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>TH: One denomination, two dimensions: Congress leader Kapil Sibal raised the issue through a point of order, as soon as the House sat at 11 a.m. He said different sizes of the new notes were printed — "one for the ruling party and one for the others"... Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said the Congress had been raising "frivolous" issues, without giving notices, to stall the zero hour proceedings. Mr. Jaitley said there was no provision in the rules that anyone could "flash</p>

	<p>answer to which needs elucidation on a matter of fact</p> <p>(c) When the proceedings of the House do not follow the normal rules of procedure</p> <p>(d) To call to the attention of a administer to a matter of urgent public importance</p>	<p>any paper and say it is point of order". "There is a misuse of zero hour," he said.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Parliament', Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth: A member of the Parliament can raise a point of order when the proceedings of the House do not follow the normal rules of procedure. It should relate to the interpretation or enforcement of the Rules of the House or such articles of the Constitution that regulate business of the House and should raise a question that is within the cognisance of the speaker. It is usually raised by an opposition member in order to control the government. It is an extraordinary device as it suspends the proceedings before the House. No debate is allowed on a point of order.</li> </ul>
3.	<p>The Logistics Data Bank project to bring efficiency in the current logistics and supply chain environment through use of information technology has hitherto been implemented by</p> <p>(a) Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation and NEC Corporation (Japan)</p> <p>(b) Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor and the World Bank</p> <p>(c) State government of Gujarat and Asian Development Bank</p> <p>(d) Ministry of Railways</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Logistics Data Bank (LDB) project, unveiled in July 2016 to make India's logistics sector more efficient through the use of Information Technology, will soon expand operations to the country's southern region. So far, it had covered only the western logistics corridor.</li> <li>The facility — where every container is attached to a Radio Frequency Identification Tag (RFID) tag and then tracked through RFID readers — aids importers and exporters in tracking their goods in transit. This has, in turn, cut the overall lead time of container movement as well as reduced transaction costs that consignees and shippers incur. It is billed as a major 'ease of doing business' initiative aimed at boosting India's foreign trade and ensuring greater transparency.</li> <li>The LDB is being implemented through a Special Purpose Vehicle called Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Logistics Data Services Ltd. (DLDSL) — that is jointly (50:50) owned by the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) Trust and Japanese IT services major NEC Corporation.</li> </ul> <p>TH: Logistics Data Bank project;</p>
4.	<p>According to the findings of the study concerned with Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) conducted by Annual Status of Education Report, UNICEF and Ambedkar University Delhi,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents showed a clear preference for private preschools because they often call themselves "English Medium"</li> <li>Boys stand a better chance of being sent to a private preschool than girls</li> <li>Most parents are unaware that the RTE Act makes ECCE a justiciable right of every child</li> </ol>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regarding Statement 1: Although anganwadis formed the bulk (7 out of every 10) of preschools, parents showed a clear preference for private preschools, the study found. This was because of the emphasis the private institutions placed on reading and writing, and also because they often called themselves "English medium".</li> <li>Regarding Statement 2: While gender has always played a key role in deciding access to school, with larger proportions of boys than girls attending private institutions, the report shows that discrimination begins early, with boys standing a better chance of being sent to a private preschool than girls — 48.6% of</li> </ul>

	<p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(b) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 1 and 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>3,305 boys surveyed were in private preschools at the age of 5; only 39% of 3,184 girls of the same age were in private preschools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regarding Statement 3: The report ends with a few key recommendations — among them, including preschool education as part of the Right to Education Act. The Act currently covers children aged 6-14, excluding children below age 6 from its ambit. Section 11 of the RTE Act asks state governments “to endeavour to provide preschool education... so as to prepare them for primary education”. But it does not make Early Childhood Care and Education a justiciable right of every child.</li> </ul> <p>IE: Does preschool ing prepare kids for school?;</p>
5.	<p>‘Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital’ is a programme launched in India by</p> <p>(a) NITI Aayog</p> <p>(b) Ministry of Human Resource Development in collaboration with IIMs</p> <p>(c) UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>(d) The World Economic Forum</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Furthering the agenda for cooperative federalism, NITI Aayog launched SATH, a program providing ‘Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital’ with the State Governments. The vision of the program is to initiate transformation in the education and health sectors.</li> <li>NITI Aayog has selected Uttar Pradesh, Assam, and Karnataka to improve healthcare delivery and key outcomes in these States. In Education, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Jharkhand have been selected for support to better learning outcomes. The six States have been chosen after a rigorous competitive process based on comprehensive metrics to determine potential for impact and likelihood of success.</li> </ul> <p>PIB;</p>
AUGUST 10, 2017		
1.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 defines a ‘child’ as any person below the age of sixteen years</li> <li>The Indian Penal Code exempts a man from being accused and convicted of rape if his wife is a girl aged between fifteen and eighteen years of age</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>A two-judge SC bench is hearing a petition by NGO Independent Thought challenging the Exception 2 to Section 375 (rape) of the IPC, which permits “intrusive sexual intercourse with a girl aged between 15 and 18 only on the ground that she is married.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NGO submitted that this statutory exception to rape was violative of right to life, liberty, equality and was discriminatory.</li> <li>POCSO defines a ‘child’ as any person below the age of eighteen years, but once a girl below the age of eighteen is married (but above the age of 15), she is no more a child under the Exception 2 to Section 375 of the IPC.</li> <li>A flip side if the court quashed this exception: Let’s say a 17-year-old boy gets married to a 16-year-old girl. If a complaint is filed, the boy stands the chance of getting convicted for seven years. But the parents, the</li> </ul>

		<p>real culprits, may get off with a few months' imprisonment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also, because a girl is less than 18 does not mean that she does not understand the consequences of her actions. Under the new Juvenile Justice Act for instance, a girl between the age of 16 and 18, if she commits murder, can be tried by an adult court.</li> </ul> <p>TH: Plea against IPC clause on age of sexual consent;</p>
2.	<p>Over three lakh members of the Maratha community took to Mumbai's streets for what they refer to as their 'last silent revolution march'. Which of the following is/are some of their demands?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quotas in educational institutions and jobs</li> <li>Implementing Minimum Support Price for all crops</li> <li>Implementation of the Swaminathan Commission recommendations</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 1 and 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>A mains-oriented question.</p> <p>"In almost identical speeches, all girls raised the issues of Maratha reservation, harshest punishment to an accused in Kopardi gang rape case, implementation of Swaminathan Commission and minimum support price for all crops. The girls questioned state government's delay in pronouncing judgment in Kopardi case after one year, despite the CM's assurance of hanging the culprits within six months."</p> <p>Highlights of Swaminathan Commission recommendations with regard to MSP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvement in implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP). Arrangements for MSP need to be put in place for crops other than paddy and wheat. Also, millets and other nutritious cereals should be permanently included in the PDS.</li> <li>MSP should be at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production.</li> </ul> <p>TH: Marathas show of strength in Mumbai; IE;</p>
3.	<p>A 'hyperspectral imager', if successfully placed in earth orbit, will enable ISRO to do which one of the following for the first time?</p> <p>(a) 'See' through clouds and the dark</p> <p>(b) Differentiate objects, materials or processes on earth</p> <p>(c) Provide the military with 'hack-proof' communication systems</p> <p>(d) Detect exo-moons</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hyperspectral or hyspex imaging is said to be an EO trend that is being experimented globally.</li> <li>Adding a new dimension to plain-vanilla optical imagers, it can be used for a range of activities from monitoring the environment, crops, looking for oil and minerals all the way up to military surveillance — all of which need images that show a high level of differentiation of the object or scene.</li> <li>Hyspex' imaging is said to enable distinct identification of objects, materials or processes on Earth by reading the spectrum for each pixel of a scene from space.</li> </ul> <p>Th: ISRO to develop full-fledged Earth Observation Satellite;</p>
4.	<p>Which one of the following tiger reserves is <b>not</b> correctly matched to the state in which it is located?</p> <p>(a) Corbett tiger reserve – Uttarakhand</p> <p>(b) Tadoba tiger reserve – Maharashtra</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>So what went wrong in Tadoba (Maharashtra) and Pilibhit (UP), the two reserves that saw the bulk of the recent deadly attacks? Traditionally, tigers have killed more people in the Sunderbans than anywhere else. Areas in and around the Tadoba and Pilibhit tiger reserves are more</p>

	<p>(c) Pilibhit tiger reserve – Assam</p> <p>(d) Buxa tiger reserve – West Bengal</p>	<p>recent examples of chronic conflict. Corbett in Uttarakhand also sees tiger attacks fairly frequently. Certain factors are common to all these conflict zones. And in places such as Pilibhit, there are additional site-specific triggers.</p> <p>IE: how not to share space with tigers;</p>
5.	<p>Which one of the following biosphere reserves has <b>not</b> been included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO?</p> <p>(a) Manas</p> <p>(b) Nilgiri</p> <p>(c) Gulf of Mannar</p> <p>(d) Pachmarhi</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>Refer MOEF link provided below.</p> <p>MOEF: List of BRs;</p> <p>Improvisation: PIB;</p>
6.	<p>With reference to 'Quality Council of India (QCI)', consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QCI was set up jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry</li> <li>Chairman of QCI is appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendations of the industry to the Government</li> </ol> <p>Which of the above statements is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statement 1: The Quality Council of India (QCI) is a pioneering experiment of the Government of India in setting up organizations in partnership with the Indian industry.</li> <li>Statement 2: QCI is governed by a Council comprising of 38 members including the Chairman and Secretary General where the Chairman is nominated by Prime Minister of India.</li> </ul> <p>About QCI; QCI: Members;</p> <p>CS(P) 2017, Q39;</p> <p>Improvisation: PIB;</p>

## AUGUST 11, 2017

1.	<p>The National Museum in New Delhi is hosting an exhibition "Indian Historical Monuments in Company Painting School". Which one of the following is a feature of the paintings that will be on display?</p> <p>(a) Each of these paintings showcases one or more traditional headgear of India</p> <p>(b) These paintings have been made with photo realistic approach</p> <p>(c) The eyes of human figures in all paintings are elongated, like their Ajanta counterparts</p> <p>(d) All such genre of paintings are made using water colours</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This exhibition "Indian Historical monuments in Company Painting School" will present illustrated paintings on Indo-Islamic Monuments with scenes of Mughal Architectures made with photo realistic approach.</li> <li>In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries India witnessed a new genre of painting popularly known as 'Company School' as it emerged primarily under the patronage of the British East India Company.</li> <li>The British officers trained Indian artists in British water color style for documenting Indian daily life scene, monuments, art and culture in the form of Paintings for carrying out as souvenir to their homes while returning to the England (please note: paintings were not restricted to the usage of water colours. According to NCERTs, "the British brought with them the oil painting technique, which is considered to have enabled artists to produce images that looked real").</li> <li>Some of these Company Paintings are illustrated with scenes of Mughal Architectures.</li> </ul>
----	---	---



		PIB (Release ID: 169929)
<b>2.</b>	<p>Sustainable Development Goal seven (SDG 7) is to</p> <p>(a) Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</p> <p>(b) Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning</p> <p>(c) Conserve and sustainably use the world's oceans, seas and marine resources</p> <p>(d) Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>Option 'a' refers to SDG 3;</p> <p>Option 'b' refers to SDG 4;</p> <p>Option 'c' refers to SDG 14;</p> <p>PIB: (Release ID 169876);</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p>Which of the following statements correctly differentiate the outcome of key indicators in the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-4 from NFHS-3?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The national average of children under 5 years who are underweight for their age has reduced</li> <li>2. Under-five mortality rate has reduced</li> <li>3. The national average of institutional births has almost doubled</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(b) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>All three statements are correct.</p> <p>PIB (Release ID: 168991);</p> <p>Improvisation: PIB (Release ID: 169905);</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p>Why was the 'Mattala airport' of Sri Lanka recently in the news?</p> <p>(a) The Hambantota deal between China and Sri Lanka also included transfer of stake in this airport lying close to the deep sea port</p> <p>(b) India is building the airport in North Eastern Province of Sri Lanka as part of the latter's post-war reconstruction efforts</p> <p>(c) Built by China in the waters off the southern coast of Sri Lanka, it consists of two runways, one of which is believed to have been constructed to serve the Chinese Air Force in the near future</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India has expressed interest to operate Sri Lanka's second international airport situated in Mattala, about 40 km from the southern town of Hambantota, where China has majority stake in a strategic port it built.</li> <li>• The development comes less than a fortnight after Sri Lanka signed a \$1.1 billion deal with China, giving the state-run China Merchants Port Holdings a 70% stake in a joint venture to run the port. Additionally, Colombo also roped in China to help develop an industrial zone in the adjoining land, spanning some 15,000 acres.</li> <li>• With India expressing interest to run the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport (MRIA) nearby, Hambantota appears poised to become a hub of rival strategic interests in the Indian Ocean region.</li> </ul> <p>TH: India keen to run SL airport;</p>

<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The railway station in this town, 'Karmatar' – it has emerged as one of the biggest hubs of cybercrime in the country, is named after him/her</li> <li>2. His/her suggestions were adopted by British officials who passed a law in 1856 permitting widow remarriage</li> </ol> <p>The statements given above refer to which one of the following social reformers?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Veerasalingam Pantulu</li> <li>(b) Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar</li> <li>(c) Pandita Ramabai</li> <li>(d) Tarabai Shinde</li> </ol>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>One of the most famous reformers, Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, used the ancient texts to suggest that widows could remarry. His suggestion was adopted by British officials, and a law was passed in 1856 permitting widow remarriage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The quiet railway station in the heart of Karmatar draws its name from one of the country's greatest social reformers, but today hardly anyone seems to be aware of the connection of this place to Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.</li> <li>• Instead, this nondescript little town in Jharkhand's Jamtara district is often frequented by police from different States: it has emerged as one of the biggest hubs of cybercrime in the country.</li> </ul> <p>Our Past – II, Class 8 NCERT;</p> <p>Source and Improvisation: TH: The cyber con artists of Jamtara;</p>
------------------	--	---

## AUGUST 14, 2017

<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p>The 'Chennai Declaration', sometimes seen in the news, is associated with the issue of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Granting all officially declared state languages the status of official languages of the union</li> <li>(b) Wetland conservation</li> <li>(c) Adapting to climate change in coastal communities</li> <li>(d) Tackling the challenge of antimicrobial resistance</li> </ol>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The WHO's advice to patients with respect to antibiotics is to "always complete the full prescription, even if you feel better, because stopping treatment early promotes the growth of drug-resistant bacteria".</li> <li>• "The WHO statement is oversimplified and partially incorrect. Stopping antibiotics early will not promote resistance in the case of common bacterial infections though stopping them halfway when the patient feels better may not guarantee cure," says Dr. Abdul Ghafur, co-ordinator of the Chennai declaration on antibiotic resistance.</li> <li>• About the Chennai Declaration:</li> <li>• "A roadmap to tackle the challenge of antimicrobial resistance", was the first ever joint meeting of medical societies in India addressing antibiotic resistance, held in Chennai in August 2012. The high antimicrobial resistance rate in the country and the inspiration received from the on-going international efforts prompted Indian doctors to organise the Chennai meeting.</li> <li>• It witnessed participation of all major medical societies, as well as representatives from of governmental bodies such as the office of Drugs Controller General of India, Medical Council of India, National Accreditation Board of Hospitals, Indian Council of Medical Research.</li> </ul> <p>Improvisation: TH: A full anti-biotics course;</p>
------------------	---	---



<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Universal Immunisation Programme provides immunisation to children to protect them against Japanese Encephalitis (JE) in endemic districts</li> <li>2. The Annual Financial Statement, 2017 announced an action plan to eliminate JE by 2020</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFS, 2017: Government has prepared an action plan to eliminate Kala-Azar and Filariasis by 2017, Leprosy by 2018, Measles by 2020 and Tuberculosis by 2025 is also targeted.</li> <li>• UIP: JE vaccine vaccine has now been incorporated under the Routine Immunisation Programme, and is available in districts where JE is endemic.</li> </ul> <p>Source and Improvisation: TH editorial and several other articles from TH newspaper dated 14th August, 2017.</p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p>'Proactive disclosure provisions' are provided for under which one of the following sections of the Right to Information Act, 2005?</p> <p>(a) Section 4 (b) Section 8 (c) Section 12 (d) Section 24</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>Section 4 deals with voluntary disclosure by public authorities. In April this year (2017), the Commission directed the Environment Ministry that all biosafety data pertaining to GM Mustard and all other GMOs in pipeline be released as that is part of voluntary disclosure under Section 4 of the Right to Information Act. The other sections mentioned in the options deal with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exceptions to disclosure (Section 8)</li> <li>• Constitution of CIC (Section 12)</li> <li>• Authorities exempted from the act to be listed in second schedule of the act (Section 24)</li> </ul> <p>Improvisation: TH: Editing ourselves (a passing reference to the CIC order on the GM Mustard issue);</p> <p>RTI Act;</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p>'Social determinants' of health refer to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The circumstances in which people are born</li> <li>2. The circumstances in people grow up</li> <li>3. The systems put in place to deal with illness</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>The social determinants of health are the circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work and age, and the systems put in place to deal with illness. These circumstances are in turn shaped by a wider set of forces: economics, social policies, and politics.</p> <p>WHO: Social Determinants – Key Concepts;</p> <p>Improvisation: Th: Wages of neglect;</p>

<p>5.</p>	<p>Which one of the following countries is <b>not</b> a member, but an observer, of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)?</p> <p>(a) France</p> <p>(b) China</p> <p>(c) Saudi Arabia</p> <p>(d) United Kingdom</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, commonly known as IONS, is a forum to increase maritime cooperation among the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region. The forum helps to preserve peaceful relations between nations, and thus is critical to building an effective maritime security architecture in the Indian Ocean Region and is also fundamental to our collective prosperity.</p> <p>Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Asian Littorals: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and United Kingdom (British Indian Ocean Territory)</li> <li>• West Asian Littorals: Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates</li> <li>• East African Littorals: France (Reunion), Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, and Tanzania.</li> <li>• South East Asian and Australian Littorals: Australia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Timor-Leste.</li> </ul> <p>Observers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• China, Germany, Japan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Russia and Spain.</li> </ul> <p>Navy.gov.au: IONS;</p> <p>Improvisation: TH: India, China to join Indian Ocean exercise;</p>
AUGUST 15, 2017		
<p>1.</p>	<p>In which one of the following regions were salt agitations <b>not</b> an effective tool during the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930-31?</p> <p>(a) Karnataka</p> <p>(b) Bengal</p> <p>(c) Bihar</p> <p>(d) Andhra Pradesh</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>Eastern India became the scene of a new kind of no-tax campaign – refusal to pay the <i>chowkidara</i> tax. <i>Chowkidars</i>, paid out of the tax levied specially on the villages, were guards who supplemented the small police force in the rural areas in this region. They were particularly hated as they acted as spies for the Government and often also as retainers for the local landlords. This movement first started in Bihar in May itself, as the salt agitation had not much scope due to the land-locked nature of the province.</p> <p>India's struggle for Independence by Bipan Chandra</p> <p>Improvisation: TH: AP historic site cries for attention;</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>SEBI recently issued a circular naming many listed firms as suspected “shell companies”. What are shell companies?</p> <p>(a) A company whose stocks are not made available for active trading by its board of directors for reasons not disclosed</p> <p>(b) As defined by the Companies Act 2013, it is an entity that is set up illegally in order to manipulate share prices</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no clear definition of shell companies in India. The term is not defined under the Companies Act, 2013.</li> <li>• In the US, however, the Securities Act defines a shell firm as one that has no or nominal operations and assets. The assets must consist mainly of cash and cash equivalents with very little other assets. In other</li> </ul>

	<p>(c) It is a non-operational company, that is, it does not have active business operations or assets</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>words, a shell company should not have active business operations or assets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Centre may be coming down hard on shell companies, but interestingly not all shell companies are illegal. Some were formed to raise funds to promote startups. But as they say, even one bad apple can spoil the bunch.</li> <li>Given the umpteen instances of individuals and corporates abusing shell companies, either to avoid tax or use them as conduit for money laundering, these are generally viewed as dubious and questionable enterprises.</li> </ul> <p>THBL: What are shell companies?;</p> <p>TH: A hasty order;</p>
3.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nagaland is yet to elect a woman to its legislative assembly</li> <li>Haryana has the highest percentage of women representatives among all states of India</li> <li>According to the 2011 census, female literacy and sex ratio indicators in Nagaland are better as against Haryana's</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(b) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>All three statements are correct (Nagaland, since it became a state, has elected only one woman MP, and no MLA till date).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Haryana has the interesting distinction of electing the highest percentage of women representatives among all States, namely 14.44% or 13 out of the 90 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs). On the other hand, there is no woman MLA in Nagaland.</li> <li>Yet, in terms of sex ratio and female literacy, Nagaland scores over Haryana. According to the 2011 census, female literacy in Nagaland was 76.69% as against 66.77% in Haryana. The sex ratio in Nagaland was 931 women per 1,000 men as against 879 women per 1,000 men in Haryana, which is the second lowest in the country.</li> <li>Clearly, there is a disconnect between the low social status of women in Haryana and the comparatively higher political presence that they enjoy in representative bodies.</li> </ul> <p>From February: IE;</p> <p>TH: A great divide;</p>
4.	<p>Section 42A of the POCSO Act ( Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012)</p> <p>(a) Provides that in case of inconsistency with provisions of any other law, the POCSO Act will override</p> <p>(b) Grants exception to invoking the provisions of the act if the wife's age is not under 15 years</p> <p>(c) Regards consensual sexual conduct of adolescents between 12 and 18 years as their right to physical integrity and freedom of expression</p> <p>(d) Defines "child" as a person below 18 years</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>Recently, a two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court heard a petition on the constitutionality of the marital rape exception in the IPC (Exception 2 to Section 375).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The petitioners pointed to the contradictions between the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO Act), which defines "child" as a person below 18 years, and the marital rape exception in the IPC, which states that sexual intercourse between a man and his wife (who is not under 15 years) is not rape.</li> <li>The Bench apparently inquired whether the court must intervene to provide protection to married girls</li> </ul>

		<p>between 15 and 18 years from sexual exploitation by their spouse, given the legislative intention to exempt marital rape from prosecution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The technicality is easily answered because the POCSO Act does not carve out any exception in favour of marriage. The legislative intention is also evident from Section 42A of the POCSO Act, which provides that in case of inconsistency with the provisions of any other law, the POCSO Act will override.</li> </ul> <p>TH: The child's right to dignity;</p>
5.	<p>'Section 6' and 'Article 35A', recently in the news, are related to the issues of</p> <p>(a) Immunity accorded to the Armed Forces personnel for their actions of maintaining peace and order in 'disturbed' areas</p> <p>(b) Prevention of cruelty to animals</p> <p>(c) Internal party democracy</p> <p>(d) Special status of Jammu and Kashmir</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>The indication that the constitutionality of Article 35A will be under scrutiny came from a two-judge bench while hearing a petition which has challenged the Article as well as Section 6 of the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution, which deal with the permanent residents' status in J&amp;K.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The petition said Article 35A protects certain provisions of the J&amp;K Constitution which denies property rights to native women who marry from outside the State. The denial of these rights extend to her children also. "This should ideally go before a Constitution Bench," Justice Misra said.</li> <li>Article 35A also empowers the State's legislature to frame any law without attracting a challenge on grounds of violating the Right to Equality of people from other States or any other right under the Constitution.</li> <li>"Section 6 of the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution restricts the basic right of women to marry a man of their choice by not giving the heirs any right to property if the woman marries a man not holding the Permanent Resident Certificate. Her children are denied a permanent resident certificate thereby considering them illegitimate — not given any right to such a woman's property even if she is a permanent resident of Jammu and Kashmir," the petition said.</li> </ul> <p>TH: Plea against Article 35A may be heard by Constitution Bench;</p>
AUGUST 16, 2017		
1.	<p>Implementation of 'Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana' will help promote/achieve which of the following?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unity and integrity of the nation</li> <li>Economic justice</li> <li>Equality of opportunity</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>The Government of India has decided to launch a new sub-scheme named "Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)" as part of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Self Help Groups under DAY-NRLM will operate road transport services in backward areas.</li> <li>This will help to provide safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services to connect remote villages with key services and amenities (such as access to markets, education and</li> </ul>

	<p>(b) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 1, 2 and 3</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>health) for the overall economic development of backward rural areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This will also provide an additional avenue of livelihood for SHGs.</li> </ul> <p>PIB: AGEY;</p>
2.	<p>The Parliament can create an All-India Judicial Service if</p> <p>(a) The Constitution is to be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and also with the consent of half of the state legislatures by simple majority</p> <p>(b) The Rajya Sabha passes a resolution supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting</p> <p>(c) Two or more states request the Union Government</p> <p>(d) A special 'Constitutional Convention', constituted for the purpose of amending the basic structure of the constitution, passes a resolution by a special majority</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>Though the 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 made the provision for the creation of all-India judicial service, no such law has been made so far. Article 312 includes the following provisions in respect of all-India services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Parliament can create new all-India services (including an all-India judicial service), if the Rajya Sabha passes a resolution declaring that it is necessary or expedient in the national interest to do so. Such a resolution in the Rajya Sabha should be supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting. This power of recommendation is given to the Rajya Sabha to protect the interests of states in the Indian federal system.</li> <li>A law providing for the creation of this service is not to be deemed as an amendment of the Constitution for the purposes of Article 368.</li> </ul> <p>Improvisation: TH: No case for AIJS;</p> <p>Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth;</p>
3.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India will receive its first ever shipment of crude and natural gas from this country in a few weeks</li> <li>A 2-by-2 ministerial dialogue, involving defence and foreign ministers of India and this country, was announced recently</li> <li>India and this country will co-host the Global Entrepreneurship Summit at Hyderabad this year</li> </ol> <p>Which country do the statements given above refer to?</p> <p>(a) Poland</p> <p>(b) Netherlands</p> <p>(c) Indonesia</p> <p>(d) United States of America</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crude and natural gas imports to India from the U.S is a new thrust area of bilateral cooperation, and the first shipment of American crude for India will leave from Texas this week.</li> <li>The leaders resolved to enhance peace and stability across the Indo-Pacific region by establishing a new 2-by-2 ministerial dialogue that will elevate their strategic consultations. The 2-by-2 ministerial dialogue, involving defence and foreign ministers was announced during Mr. Modi's visits.</li> <li>India and US will co-host the Global Entrepreneurship Summit at Hyderabad from 28-30 November 2017.</li> </ul> <p>TH: Trump, Modi review progress of June initiatives;</p> <p>PIB;</p>
4.	<p>Which of the following regions of India fall within the 'Tsutsugamushi Triangle'?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dandakaranya</li> <li>Assam Valley</li> <li>Tamil Nadu</li> <li>Himachal Pradesh</li> </ol>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrub typhus, also known as bush typhus because the mites that cause it reside in vegetation predominantly comprising small shrubs, is an infectious disease with symptoms similar to any viral fever.</li> <li>However, it is not caused by a virus, but by a parasite called "Orientia tsutsugamushi", which is transmitted</li> </ul>

	<p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1, 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(b) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(c) 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4</p>	<p>by the bite of infected mite larvae in soil containing scrub vegetation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The disease is more common during the wet season when the mites lay eggs.</li> <li>Scrub typhus is endemic to a part of the world known as the “tsutsugamushi triangle”, which extends from northern Japan and far-eastern Russia in the north, to northern Australia in the south, and to Pakistan in the west.</li> </ul> <p>About Scrub Typhus: FAQ, WHO (the map provided in this document is slightly wrong, because scrub typhus outbreaks occur in Jammu, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland too);</p> <p>Improvisation: TH1; TH2; TH3;</p>
5.	<p>‘Galkynysh gasfields’ sometimes appears in the news in the context of the affairs of</p> <p>(a) India’s natural gas imports from USA</p> <p>(b) TAPI gas pipeline</p> <p>(c) ONGC’s investments in Iran</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>“...the pipeline, that had its ground-breaking ceremony in December 2015, has seen flagging interest since then for a number of reasons. India’s effort is to tap Turkmenistan’s Galkynysh gasfields, which are the fourth largest in the world.”</p> <p>TH: India moves to revive TAPI gas pipeline;</p>
6.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to reduce short-lived climate pollutants is an initiative of the G20 group of countries</li> <li>The CCAC focuses on methane, black carbon and hydrofluorocarbons</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statement 1: The Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) was launched by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and six countries—Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, Mexico, Sweden, and the United States—in 2012.</li> <li>Statement 2: The Coalition’s initial focus is on methane, black carbon, and HFCs.</li> </ul> <p>About CCACoalition;</p> <p>Q65, CS(P) 2017;</p>
AUGUST 17, 2017		
1.	<p>Which of the following species of flora are likely to be found in the Palamau Tiger Reserve?</p> <p>(a) Sal, mahua and amla</p> <p>(b) Rosewood, mahagony and ebony</p> <p>(c) Babool, neem and khejri</p> <p>(d) Deodar, chir pine and walnut</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>The Palamau Tiger Reserve (<a href="https://www.palamautigerreserve.in/?page_id=4">https://www.palamautigerreserve.in/?page_id=4</a>) is located in the western side of Latehar district on the Chhotanagpur plateau in Jharkhand. It is constituted mainly of Sal forests, mixed deciduous forests and bamboo groves.</p> <p>Improvisation and In the news (<a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170026">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170026</a>): The Union Cabinet recently gave its approval to the proposal to complete the balance works of the North Koel Reservoir Project (North Koel is a tributary of river Sone which joins the Ganga) in Jharkhand and Bihar. It also</p>

		approved storage of water in dam restricted at lower level than envisaged earlier to reduce the submergence and to protect Betla National Park and Palamau Tiger Reserve.
2.	<p>Upon the non-commitment by states of which (one) of the following conditions, can the central government refuse to approve and aid metro rail projects?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Last-mile connectivity</li> <li>2. Private participation</li> <li>3. Resource mobilisation through Value Capture Financing</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 1 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 2 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>Options 'a', 'b' and 'c' are all correct. But the most appropriate option is 'd' (because, of the given list of conditions, the government can refuse to aid/approve metro rail projects upon non-commitment by states of either or all of the conditions).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The central government will approve and aid metro rail projects only if they have private participation and ensure last-mile connectivity for users, under a new metro rail policy cleared by the Union cabinet.</li> <li>• <b>Last-mile connectivity:</b> States must commit to building last-mile connectivity through feeder services, non-motorised transport infrastructure like walking and cycling pathways and para-transport facilities.</li> <li>• <b>Private participation:</b> Either for complete provision of metro rail or for some unbundled components (like automatic fare collection, operation and maintenance of services, etc), private participation will form an essential requirement for all metro rail projects seeking central financial assistance.</li> <li>• <b>Innovative financing mechanisms:</b> States need to adopt innovative mechanisms like value capture financing (VCF) tools to mobilize resources for financing metro projects by capturing a share of increase in the asset values.</li> <li>• Under the new metro rail policy, states will get powers to make rules and regulations and set up permanent fare fixation authorities.</li> <li>• In line with global best practices, and noting that they should stop turning into white elephants, metro projects will be approved on the basis of 'Economic Internal Rate of Return of 14%', a change from the existing 'Financial Internal Rate of Return of 8%'.</li> <li>• Different instruments of VCF include: Land Value Tax, Fee for changing land use, Betterment levy, Development charges, Transfer of Development Rights, Premium on relaxation of Floor Space Index and Floor Area Ratio, Vacant Land Tax, Tax Increment Financing, Zoning relaxation for land acquisition and Land Pooling System.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/union-cabinet-approves-new-metro-rail-policy/article19503930.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/union-cabinet-approves-new-metro-rail-policy/article19503930.ece</a> ;</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170009">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170009</a> ;</p>



<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p>With reference to the Ramsar Convention, consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It was signed in Iran</li> <li>2. Under the convention, human-made sites such as rice paddies too can be designated as wetlands</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>Inspite of notification of The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules (amended in 2016) in 2010, not a single wetland in India has been notified by the government under the rules as yet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Convention on Wetlands was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975. Since then, almost 90% of UN member states, from all the world's geographic regions, have acceded to become "Contracting Parties".</li> <li>• The Convention uses a broad definition of wetlands. It includes all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, mangroves and other coastal areas, coral reefs, and all human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs and salt pans.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/introducing_ramsar_web_eng.pdf">http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/introducing_ramsar_web_eng.pdf</a> ;</p> <p>Improvisation:</p> <p><a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/problem-in-protecting-indias-wetlands-technically-there-arent-any-to-protect-art-of-living-sri-sri-ravi-shankar-ngt-4799954/">http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/problem-in-protecting-indias-wetlands-technically-there-arent-any-to-protect-art-of-living-sri-sri-ravi-shankar-ngt-4799954/</a> ;</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p>The 'Pink Whale Challenge', recently in the news, is</p> <p>(a) An online game which has been blamed for the deaths of more than a hundred lives all over the world</p> <p>(b) An online challenge which "proves that the internet can be used to viralize the good"</p> <p>(c) The International Whaling Commission's initiative which enables anyone with an internet connection to keep a tab on activities in the oceans in near real-time, to check illegal whale hunting activities</p> <p>(d) A worldwide hands-on, school-based science and education programme focusing on the environment</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>A main-examination oriented question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This challenge is diametrically opposite to the Blue Whale Challenge which has been linked to many deaths. The Pink Whale Challenge (AKA 'Baleia Rosa') "encourages positive and generous acts and attempts to bring happiness in the participant's daily life."</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/what-is/pink-whale-challenge-emerges-as-option-to-counter-blue-whale-suicide-challenge-4799435/">http://indianexpress.com/article/what-is/pink-whale-challenge-emerges-as-option-to-counter-blue-whale-suicide-challenge-4799435/</a></p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p>After cardiac stents, the Union Government recently fixed a price range for a product belonging to which one of the following class of implants?</p> <p>(a) Cardiovascular</p> <p>(b) Orthopaedic</p> <p>(c) Contraceptive</p> <p>(d) Sensory and neurological</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>After cardiac stents, the government on Wednesday fixed a price range for knee implants from Rs. 54,000 to Rs. 1.14 lakh, nearly 70% lower than most surgeries currently cost. With private hospitals charging exorbitant rates, the government capped the maximum retail price of the knee implants, a move that will save patients an estimated Rs. 1,500 crore annually.</p>



		<a href="http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/price-range-fixed-for-knee-implants/article19505870.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/price-range-fixed-for-knee-implants/article19505870.ece</a> <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170040">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170040</a>
6.	<p>The 'Asian premium' is often in the news in the context of which one of the following issues?</p> <p>(a) SAARC satellite</p> <p>(b) Ashgabat Agreement</p> <p>(c) BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement</p> <p>(d) India's oil imports</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian Oil Corporation placed India's first ever shale oil order two days ago with the U.S. The prices from the U.S. are very competitive even when compared with those from Gulf nations.</li> <li>Diversification of oil imports, including from countries like the U.S., as it would put pressure on the OPEC countries to do away with the Asian premium, something India has been arguing for.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/india-aims-to-widen-oil-import-sources/article19505800.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/india-aims-to-widen-oil-import-sources/article19505800.ece</a> ;</p>
AUGUST 18, 2017		
1.	<p>'FASTag', sometimes in the news, is</p> <p>(a) A component of the ports modernisation programme to reduce the turnaround time of cargo ships</p> <p>(b) A project being jointly implemented by Ministry of Shipping and the Asian Development Bank to bring efficiency in the current logistics and supply chain environment through use of Information Technology</p> <p>(c) The proposal to set up electric vehicle charging stations at regular intervals on national highways</p> <p>(d) An electronic toll collection programme on toll plazas of national highways</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>What is FASTag?</p> <p>FASTag is a device that employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making toll payments directly from the prepaid account linked to it. It is affixed on the windscreen of your vehicle and enables you to drive through toll plazas. FASTag has a validity of 5 years and after purchasing it, you only need to recharge/ top up the FASTag as per your requirement.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nhai.org/Frequently Asked Questions.pdf">http://www.nhai.org/Frequently Asked Questions.pdf</a> ;  <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170048">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170048</a> ;</p>
2.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>1. 'NewSpace' refers to the private space-flight industry</p> <p>2. 'TeamIndus' is a NewSpace enterprise</p> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>Both statements are correct and self-explanatory. For more information, refer to links provided below.</p> <p><b>In the news:</b> Lone Indian Moon-landing-contestant TeamIndus and its four global competitors recently got a three-month extension from contest organisers to complete their space feat.</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/teamindus-and-competitors-get-three-month-extension-to-land-on-moon/article19507586.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/teamindus-and-competitors-get-three-month-extension-to-land-on-moon/article19507586.ece</a> ;  <a href="http://www.teamindus.in">http://www.teamindus.in</a> ;  <a href="https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/NewSpace#Organizations">https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/NewSpace#Organizations</a></p>

<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p>The Association for Democratic Reforms concentrates its efforts in strengthening democracy by focusing its efforts in which of the following areas?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Securing greater accountability of political parties</li> <li>2. Deepening and broadening the legislative process by providing MPs with necessary data and analysis for debates in the Parliament</li> <li>3. Promoting inner party democracy and transparency in party-functioning</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) was established in 1999 by a group of professors from the IIM Ahmedabad. In 1999, a PIL was filed by them with Delhi HC requesting for the disclosure of the criminal, financial and educational background of the candidates contesting elections. Based on this, the SC in 2002, and subsequently in 2003, made it mandatory for all candidates contesting elections to disclose criminal, financial and educational background prior to the polls by filing an affidavit with the EC.</p> <p>ADR has chosen to concentrate its efforts in the following areas (apart from statements 1 and 3 mentioned above) pertaining to the political system of the country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corruption and criminalization in the political process.</li> <li>• Empowerment of the electorate through greater dissemination of information relating to the candidates and the parties, for a better and informed choice.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://adrindia.org/about-adr/mission-and-vision">https://adrindia.org/about-adr/mission-and-vision</a> ;</p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/at-706-crore-bjp-gets-lions-share-of-corporate-donations-says-report/article19512423.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/at-706-crore-bjp-gets-lions-share-of-corporate-donations-says-report/article19512423.ece</a> ;</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p>Which of the following statements is/are changes/provisions made by the bill that amends the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It prohibits construction in 'prohibited areas' even if the construction is for 'public purposes'</li> <li>2. The National Monuments Authority will be dissolved upon passage of this bill</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>If you have been following the news for the past month or two, you would be able to guess the answer to this question. You need not know the specific provisions of the bill to answer this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Construction in 'prohibited areas':</b> The Act (1958 Act) defines a 'prohibited area' as an area of 100 meters around a protected monument or area. The central government can extend the prohibited area beyond 100 meters. The Act does not permit construction in such prohibited areas, except under certain conditions. The Act also prohibits construction in 'prohibited areas' even if it is for public purposes. The Bill amends this provision to permit construction of public works in 'prohibited areas' for public purposes.</li> <li>• Under the bill, if there is any question related to whether a construction project qualifies as 'public works', it will be referred to the National Monuments Authority. This Authority, will make its recommendations, with written reasons, to the central government. The decision of the central government will be final.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Ancient%20Monuments%20and%20Archaeological%20Sites/Bill%20Summ">http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Ancient%20Monuments%20and%20Archaeological%20Sites/Bill%20Summ</a></p>

		<a href="#">ary%20-%20Ancient%20Monuments%20%28Amendment%29%20Bill,%202017.pdf</a> ; <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/monumental-legislation/article19511452.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/monumental-legislation/article19511452.ece</a> ;
5.	<p>'Carbon Imperialism' or 'Coal Imperialism' is a term that is closely related to which one of the following issues/principles?</p> <p>(a) Common but differentiated responsibilities</p> <p>(b) The leverage that developing countries now have over developed countries due to their increasing dependence on fossil fuel energy</p> <p>(c) China's growth story over the past three decades</p> <p>(d) It has been identified as the primary cause of Global Warming in the 20th Century</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>A mains-oriented question.</p> <p>CEA Arvind Subramanian said that India should not be influenced by 'coal imperialism', where developed countries try to influence developing countries to reduce their fossil fuel consumption at a rate not in keeping with historical factors and equity. This, thus, refers to the efforts of developed countries to dilute the CBDR (Common-But-Differentiated-Responsibilities) principle.</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/business/use-coal-while-economical-says-cea/article19511244.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/business/use-coal-while-economical-says-cea/article19511244.ece</a> ;</p>
AUGUST 19, 2017		
1.	<p>Which one of the following organisations is celebrating World Honey Bee Day to create awareness about beekeeping and uses of its products?</p> <p>(a) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, Ministry of Commerce and Industry</p> <p>(b) Spices Board India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry</p> <p>(c) Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Ministry of Commerce and Industry</p> <p>(d) Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, Ministry of Tribal Affairs</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>Honey, being an important Minor Forest Produce, TRIFED is playing a lead role in protecting, promoting and multiplication of Honey Bees by Scientific, Non-destructive collection practices, thereby increasing the livelihood of tribal people living in various forest areas of the country, contributing to the growth of Honey Bees population and reducing the mortality rate of Honey Bees drastically. About 90% of the Scheduled Tribes of the country live in and around forest areas and the forests provide 60% of the food &amp; medicinal needs of tribals and 40% of their income from Minor Forest Produce (MFP) mostly of which come from Honey.</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170081">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170081</a>;</p>
2.	<p>Consider the following pairs:</p> <p><b>UN Sustainable : Subject/Issue Development Goal (SDG)</b></p> <p>1. SDG 5 : Affordable and Clean Energy</p> <p>2. SDG 7 : Gender Inequality</p> <p>3. SDG 12 : Responsible (Sustainable) Consumption and Production</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>1 and 2 (SDG 5 and 7) must be interchanged.</p> <p><a href="http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/">http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/</a> ;</p> <p>PIB, SDG 12:</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=168846">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=168846</a>;</p> <p>PIB, SDG 7:</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=169876">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=169876</a>;</p> <p>PIB, SDG 5:</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170085">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170085</a>;</p>

	<p>Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(b) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	
3.	<p>Which one of the following is <b>not</b> one of the subjects on which subgroups of Chief Ministers have been set up under the aegis of NITI Aayog?</p> <p>(a) Doubling farmers' income</p> <p>(b) Skill Development</p> <p>(c) Swachh Bharat Mission</p> <p>(d) Centrally Sponsored Schemes</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>An over-arching theme of the NITI Aayog was the change in focus from central planning to cooperative federalism. The Prime Minister said that "Through the NITI Aayog, India will move away from the one size fits all approach and forge a better match between schemes and needs of States".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Governing Council of NITI Aayog met very often, and 3 sub-groups of Chief Ministers were worked on a) centrally sponsored schemes (CSS), b) skill development and c) Swach Bharat Mission.</li> <li>Based on their recommendations, the new CSS sharing system was notified and a transparent formula based allocation of resources was reached.</li> <li>The Swach Bharat cess was levied on all services.</li> <li>To promote skill development initiatives, the involvement of States in the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana was ensured. The Atal Innovation Mission was launched to seed innovations to teach young minds new skills.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://niti.gov.in/content/sub-group-chief-ministers">http://niti.gov.in/content/sub-group-chief-ministers</a> ;</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=170000">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=170000</a> ;</p>
4.	<p>With reference to the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The need for such a set of principles was felt at the end of 1980s with centrally-planned economies in Europe transforming into market-oriented democracies</li> <li>India recently adopted these principles</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>The adoption of the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics will bring professional independence, impartiality, accountability and transparency in methods of collection, compilation and dissemination of official statistics, besides adopting international standards. The adoption will also pave way for devising a National Policy on Official Statistics for improving systems, procedures and institutions consistent with these principles.</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=169931">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=169931</a>;</p> <p>From May:</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=144847">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=144847</a>;</p> <p>About:</p> <p><a href="https://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/fundprinciples.aspx">https://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/fundprinciples.aspx</a> ;</p>

<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p>Under the provisions of which one of the following legislations did the state of Haryana recently ban the use of liquid nitrogen in food and drink items?</p> <p>(a) Chemicals (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction) Act, 2006</p> <p>(b) Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006</p> <p>(c) Insecticides Act, 1968</p> <p>(d) Essential Commodities Act, 1955</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>The ban has been imposed under Section 34 of the Food Safety and Security Act, 2006, titled "Emergency prohibition notices and orders".</p> <p><a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/no-more-liquid-nitrogen-in-haryanas-drinks-4772197/">http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/no-more-liquid-nitrogen-in-haryanas-drinks-4772197/</a> ;</p> <p><a href="http://vikaspedia.in/education/current-affairs/July_2017_National_Ca.pdf">http://vikaspedia.in/education/current-affairs/July_2017_National_Ca.pdf</a> ;</p>
AUGUST 21, 2017		
<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Superconductor-based products are relatively more environmentally friendly compared to their conventional counterparts</li> <li>2. Superconductor-based products are smaller and lighter than equivalent conventional units</li> <li>3. Magnetic Resonance Imaging is one of the major commercial applications of superconductivity</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(b) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 1 and 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>Superconductivity is widely regarded as one of the great scientific discoveries of the 20th Century. This miraculous property causes certain materials, at low temperatures, to lose all resistance to the flow of electricity. This state of "losslessness" enables a range of innovative technology applications. At the dawn of the 21st century, superconductivity forms the basis for new commercial products that are transforming our economy and daily life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Commercial Applications include: MRI, Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, High-energy physics accelerators, Plasma fusion reactors, etc.</li> <li>• Superconductor-based products are extremely environmentally friendly compared to their conventional counterparts. They generate no greenhouse gases and are cooled by non-flammable liquid nitrogen (nitrogen comprises 80% of our atmosphere) as opposed to conventional oil coolants that are both flammable and toxic. They are also typically at least 50% smaller and lighter than equivalent conventional units which translates into economic incentives.</li> <li>• These benefits have given rise to the ongoing development of many new applications (emerging applications) in the following sectors – Electric power, Transportation, Medicine, Industry, Communications and Scientific Research.</li> </ul> <p>Source:</p> <p><a href="http://www.ccas-web.org/pdf/ccas_brochure_web.pdf">http://www.ccas-web.org/pdf/ccas_brochure_web.pdf</a> ;</p> <p>Improvisation:</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/new-state-of-matter-discovered/article19529824.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/new-state-of-matter-discovered/article19529824.ece</a> ;</p>

<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p>Consider the following statements with reference to 'FASTag', which enables vehicles to be driven through National Highway toll plazas without stopping:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is a mobile application that links a vehicle's registration number and the owner's JAM trinity</li> <li>2. Number plates of FASTagged vehicles must be fitted with Radio Frequency Identification Technology chips to enable reading of a vehicle's registration number by sensors at toll plazas</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>What is FASTag?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a device that uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making toll payments directly from the prepaid account linked to it.</li> <li>• It is affixed on the windscreen of your vehicle and enables you to drive through toll plazas without waiting as you would for a cash transaction.</li> <li>• 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. The tag can be linked to the MyFastTag mobile app. Purchase and top ups can be done through the app. If your car manufacturer has prefixed an RFID sensor, the same can be linked to the app for use at toll plazas.</li> </ul> <p>How is it beneficial?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It helps quicken your 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.</li> <li>• It can 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.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/zip-past-toll-barriers/article19529846.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/zip-past-toll-barriers/article19529846.ece</a> ;</p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p>Which (one) of the following institutes aim to explore/study the Sun's activity, hunt for gravitational waves and make predictions of space weather?</p> <p>(a) Indian Meteorological Department (b) Centre for Excellence in Space Sciences India, Kolkata (c) Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru (d) All of the above</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CESSI aims to explore the Sun's activity, generate the understanding necessary for space weather forecasting, hunt for gravitational waves, support national space science initiatives, participate in international capacity building activities and pursue public-private partnerships in space science research.</li> <li>• CESSI faculty are drawn from IISER Kolkata, IISER Pune, Indian Institute of Astrophysics (Bangalore), Udaipur Solar Observatory-Physical Research Laboratory (Udaipur) and the Indian Space Research Organization (Bangalore), have wide-ranging interests in the astrophysical space sciences, and have the experience of handling international and national space science projects.</li> </ul> <p>About CESSI: <a href="http://www.cessi.in/home.html">http://www.cessi.in/home.html</a> ;</p>



		<p>In the news:</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/great-american-solar-eclipse-studying-the-suns-corona/article19529746.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/great-american-solar-eclipse-studying-the-suns-corona/article19529746.ece</a> ;</p>
4.	<p>Consider the following statements with reference to studies conducted by solar physicists during solar eclipses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The element Helium – the second most abundant element in the entire universe – was discovered during a solar eclipse</li> <li>2. Einstein's theory of general relativity was proven during a solar eclipse</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>A basic understanding a) of why solar eclipses are important for solar physicists and b) of Einstein's theory of general relativity (GR) will help you figure whether statement 2 is correct or wrong. Recent developments in studies of Gravitational Waves by scientists necessitates one to be aware of the basics of GR. Statement 1 is a plain fact, which though has a small India-connection. Finally, the issue of solar eclipses is relevant because of the importance being accorded to the total solar eclipse set to take place today (August 21) across the United States.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To this day, many aspects of the sun remain a mystery: What causes solar flares, when massive amounts of energy and plasma are ejected from the sun? Why is the corona, the solar atmosphere, actually hotter than the surface? Solar eclipses provide a natural experiment to test some of these questions. Knowing more about our own star helps us understand all the other stars in the universe just a bit better. But we also need to understand the sun because of the dangers it poses to our civilization. One solar storm pointed toward Earth could take out or disrupt much of our communication infrastructure.</li> <li>• Statement 1: In 1868, a total eclipse was passing over southern India, and scientists had what was cutting-edge technology at the time: a spectroscope. The spectroscope is basically a prism — a device to separate light into its different wavelength components. When you point a spectroscope at burning gases, you can determine which element is burning in the flames by looking at the pattern of light that comes out of the prism. Pierre Janssen used a spectroscope to analyze the composition of the sun's atmosphere during the 1868 total eclipse, and he found a strange spectral pattern. Further analysis revealed the element burning in the corona was like nothing else on record. The element was named "helium" (for helios, the Greek word for "sun.") Helium is the only element that was ever discovered somewhere else rather than on Earth first.</li> <li>• Statement 2: One of the most famous scientific theories of all time was also proven (for the first time) during a solar eclipse: Einstein's theory of general relativity. The theory, first published in 1915, said that gravity literally warps the space and time surrounding massive objects. The sun, the most massive object in the solar system, in this sense should act like a lens,</li> </ul>

bending light around it. In 1919, during an eclipse in South America, astronomers took photographs of the stars surrounding the sun during totality. And they found the evidence: Stars that should have appeared near the sun were shifted ever so slightly in the sky, proving spacetime warps around our star.

Primary Source:

<https://www.vox.com/science-and-health/2017/8/18/16156760/solar-eclipse-2017-science-experiments>

Secondary Source: <https://www.space.com/37018-solar-eclipse-proved-einstein-relativity-right.html> ;

5. Consider the following statements:
1. The Ajanta Caves represent a Buddhist site
  2. Apart from the Mahaparinibbana sculpture of Buddha, no other sculpture of Buddha is visible in the Ajanta caves
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: a.

“The chaitya Cave Nos. 19 and 26 (of Ajanta) are elaborately carved. Their facade is decorated with Buddha and, **Bodhisattva** images. They are of the apsidal-vault-roof variety. Cave No. 26 is very big and the entire interior hall is carved with a variety of Buddha images, the biggest one being the **Mahaparinibbana** image.”

Improvisation:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Vijayawada/70-ft-budha-statue-to-adorn-tourist-project-in-ghantasala/article19530530.ece>

Page 37, Class 11: Fine Arts, NCERT

6. Which one of the following individuals is popularly known as the ‘Waterman of India’ and is a recipient of the ‘Stockholm Water Prize’?
- (a) Rajendra Singh
  - (b) Chewang Norphel
  - (c) Jadav Payeng
  - (d) Salim Ali

Solution: a.

A mains-oriented question.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/rajeendra-singh-criticises-yettinahole-project/article19530639.ece> ;

From June: <http://www.thehindu.com/society/water-is-my-life-my-happiness-my-teacher/article18921839.ece> ;

#### AUGUST 22, 2017

1. ‘Linke Hofmann Busch’, a term often seen in the news, is related to
- (a) Helio-studies
  - (b) Digital Payments Ecosystem
  - (c) Railways
  - (d) Renewable Energy Sector

Solution: c.

“The induction of coaches with anti-climbing features”, such as the Linke Hofmann Busch coaches, “that could minimise fatalities in incidents like Khatauli, remains far too sluggish.”

- They are considered to be “anti-telescopic”, which means they do not get turned over or flip in case of a collision (chiefly head-on).
- These coaches are made of stainless steel and the interiors are made of aluminium which make them lighter as compared to conventional rakes.
- Each coach also has an “advanced pneumatic disc brake system” for efficient braking at higher speeds.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The improved suspension system of LHB coaches ensures more riding comfort for the passengers compared to conventional rakes.</li> <li>They are relatively quieter as each coach produces a maximum noise level of 60 decibels while conventional coaches can produce 100 decibels.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/LHB_Coaches">https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/LHB_Coaches</a> ;</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/derailed-priorities/article19535618.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/derailed-priorities/article19535618.ece</a> ;</p> <p>From January:</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/Keeping-safety-on-the-rails/article17113226.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/Keeping-safety-on-the-rails/article17113226.ece</a> ;</p>
2.	<p>Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative is</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A global South-based Nongovernmental Organisation</li> <li>2. Headquartered in India</li> <li>3. Accredited to The Commonwealth</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(b) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Our vision is to establish ourselves as a global South-based NGO, which is international in its work and this vision has over the years come to fruition. The difficulty in achieving this recognition cannot be taken lightly; it has required twice the purposefulness of any NGO based in the North to establish credibility and overcome the perception that if based in India, an NGO can only be capable of being a regional body, not truly an international human rights organisation.”</li> <li>CHRI’s charter objectives are to achieve the practical realisation of human rights in the Commonwealth. CHRI has its Headquarters in New Delhi, and offices in London and Accra; they are accredited (officially recognised) to the Commonwealth.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/content/who-we-are">http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/content/who-we-are</a> ;</p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/diversity-in-delhi-police/article19535446.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/diversity-in-delhi-police/article19535446.ece</a></p> <p>(as mentioned at the end, the author of this article works at the CHRI);</p>
3.	<p>Article 13 of the Indian Constitution declares that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All laws that are inconsistent with or in derogation of any of the fundamental rights shall be void</li> <li>2. The doctrine of judicial review shall not be applicable to personal laws</li> <li>3. A constitutional amendment is not a law</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 1 and 3 only</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 13 declares that all laws that are inconsistent with or in derogation of any of the fundamental rights shall be void. In other words, it expressly provides for the doctrine of judicial review. This power has been conferred on the Supreme Court (Article 32) and the high courts (Article 226) that can declare a law unconstitutional and invalid on the ground of contravention of any of the Fundamental Rights.</li> <li>Further, Article 13 declares that a constitutional amendment is not a law and hence cannot be challenged. However, the Supreme Court held in the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973) that a Constitutional amendment can be challenged on the ground that it violates a fundamental right that forms a part of the</li> </ul>

	(d) 1, 2 and 3	<p>'basic structure' of the Constitution and hence, can be declared as void.</p> <p>Fundamental Rights, Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/will-sc-verdict-end-personal-laws-immunity/article19535387.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/will-sc-verdict-end-personal-laws-immunity/article19535387.ece</a> ;</p>
4.	<p>Of the following list of metals, which one is the largest constituent of Polymetallic Nodules?</p> <p>(a) Manganese</p> <p>(b) Nickel</p> <p>(c) Copper</p> <p>(d) Cobalt</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's exclusive rights to explore polymetallic nodules from seabed in Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB) have been extended by five years. In this context, India is the first country to have received the status of a pioneer investor in 1987.</li> <li>These rights are over 75000 sq. km of area in international waters allocated by International Seabed Authority for developmental activities for polymetallic nodules.</li> <li>The estimated polymetallic nodule resource potential is 380 million tonnes, containing 4.7 million tonnes of nickel, 4.29 million tonnes of copper and 0.55 million tonnes of cobalt and 92.59 million tonnes of manganese.</li> <li>India is one among the top 8-countries/contractors and is implementing a long-term programme on exploration and utilization of Polymetallic Nodules through Ministry of Earth Sciences.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170138">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170138</a>;</p>
5.	<p>Where is the International Seabed Authority headquartered?</p> <p>(a) New York, USA</p> <p>(b) Kingston, Jamaica</p> <p>(c) Hamburg, Germany</p> <p>(d) Cape Town, South Africa</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>The ISA has its headquarters in Kingston, Jamaica.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is an autonomous international organization established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.</li> <li>The Authority is the organization through which States Parties to the Convention shall, in accordance with the regime for the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (the Area) established in Part XI and the Agreement, organize and control activities in the Area, particularly with a view to administering the resources of the Area.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.isa.org.jm/authority">https://www.isa.org.jm/authority</a> ;</p> <p>Improvisation:</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170138">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170138</a>;</p>
6.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>1. A 'class action suit' allows a number of claimants, who have a common grouse, to</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>Both statements are correct.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Such an option for company law cases is a well-established principle in foreign jurisdictions,</li> </ul>

	<p>be represented by an individual in a lawsuit against a company</p> <p>2. The Companies Act, 2013 provides such an option – filing class action suits – for Indian investors</p> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>especially in the U.S. The Satyam episode forced company law formulators to incorporate a rule providing for such action in India.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 245 of the Companies Act, 2013 provides for such an option for Indian investors. Such a suit can be filed before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).</li> <li>Sec. 245 also gives the option to claim damages or compensation or demand any other suitable action against “the company or its directors for any fraudulent, unlawful or wrongful act or omission or conduct or any likely act or omission or conduct on its or their part.”</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/will-infosys-face-class-action-law-suits-in-india/article19535471.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/will-infosys-face-class-action-law-suits-in-india/article19535471.ece</a></p>
AUGUST 23, 2017		
1.	<p>Consider the following statements with reference to the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:</p> <p>1. It provides for the protection of some plants, apart from wild animals and birds</p> <p>2. Trade in body parts of some species such as the the mongoose involves similar punishment as is laid down for tigers</p> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>Both statements are correct. Plants listed in Schedule VI are prohibited from cultivation and planting. Mongoose is a protected species under Schedule II and part II of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and any trade of its body parts involves similar punishment as is laid down for tigers and rhinoceros. Those convicted face a minimum three years in jail.</p> <p>In the news:</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/huge-haul-of-painting-brushes-made-of-mongoose-hair/article19541089.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/huge-haul-of-painting-brushes-made-of-mongoose-hair/article19541089.ece</a> ;</p> <p>The Act:</p> <p><a href="http://nbaindia.org/uploaded/Biodiversityindia/Legal/15.%20Wildlife%20%28Protection%29%20Act,%201972.pdf">http://nbaindia.org/uploaded/Biodiversityindia/Legal/15.%20Wildlife%20%28Protection%29%20Act,%201972.pdf</a> ;</p>
2.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>1. At various times in India’s past, some kingdoms included parts of both India and Uzbekistan</p> <p>2. The founder of the Mughal Empire was born in the region today referred to as Central Asia</p> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>Statement 2 is mains-oriented. It can be used in answer-writing should a question on India-Uzbekistan or India-Central Asia relations appear.</p> <p>You don’t have to mug up the following information, we are just providing it for those who are curious to read:</p> <p><b>India-Uzbekistan relations:</b> There are frequent references to Kamboja in Sanskrit and Pali literature, which is stated to include parts of present day Uzbekistan. Ancient trade route Uttarpatha passed through Uzbekistan. At various times the Saka / Scythian, Macedonian, Greco-Bactrian, Kushan Kingdoms included parts of both India and present day Uzbekistan, and at other times they were part of neighbouring empires. Babur came from Fergana in Uzbekistan. Interactions over thousands of years contributed to close cultural linkages in architecture,</p>

		<p>dance, music and cuisine. Mirza Ghalib and Amir Khusro are notable Indians of Uzbek parentage.</p> <p>Improvisation:  <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170160">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170160</a>;  <a href="http://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/Uzbekistan_Jan_2017.pdf">http://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/Uzbekistan_Jan_2017.pdf</a> ;</p> <p>From 2015: <a href="https://scroll.in/article/739064/babur-timur-and-shastri-as-modi-visits-tashkent-a-short-history-of-indo-uzbek-ties">https://scroll.in/article/739064/babur-timur-and-shastri-as-modi-visits-tashkent-a-short-history-of-indo-uzbek-ties</a> ;</p>
3.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the Digital India initiative, one Common Service Centre (CSC) is envisaged in every panchayat</li> <li>CSCs are a one-stop solution for various government-to-citizen and business-to-citizen services</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only  (b) 2 only  (c) Both 1 and 2  (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>Both statements are correct. CSCs offer both, G2C and B2C services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSC programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics &amp; IT (MeitY), Government of India. CSCs are the access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages in India, thereby contributing to a digitally and financially inclusive society.</li> <li>CSCs are more than service delivery points in rural India. They are positioned as change agents, promoting rural entrepreneurship and building rural capacities and livelihoods. They are enablers of community participation and collective action for engendering social change through a bottom-up approach with key focus on the rural citizen.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://vikaspedia.in/e-governance/resources-for-villes/common-service-centres-programme">http://vikaspedia.in/e-governance/resources-for-villes/common-service-centres-programme</a> ;</p> <p>About CSCs:  <a href="https://csc.gov.in/images/CSC_New_brochure_2015.pdf">https://csc.gov.in/images/CSC_New_brochure_2015.pdf</a> ;</p> <p>In the news:  <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170157">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170157</a>;</p>
4.	<p>With reference to the judgment delivered by the 5-judge Constitution Bench on the practice of instant talaq, which one of the following statements is <b>not</b> correct?</p> <p>(a) Gender justice was not the basis of the majority judgment  (b) The minority view included a justification for the practice, by way of it having been in vogue for over 1,400 years  (c) The majority view held that triple divorce is not an essential part of Muslim Personal Law  (d) The majority of judges concurred that triple divorce was recognised and regulated by the Shariat Act, 1937</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>Statement 'a' is correct, that is, gender justice was not the basis of the majority judgment. Apart from the extracts provided below, read the full article (<a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/3-judgments-3-takeaways-triple-talaq-4809039/">http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/3-judgments-3-takeaways-triple-talaq-4809039/</a>) to understand the intricacies of the three different judgments under this one case.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Justice Nariman (with whom Justice Uday U. Lalit concurred) has held that instant irrevocable triple talaq not preceded by the efforts at reconciliation is unconstitutional, as it is contrary to the right to equality, which includes the right against arbitrariness. The basis of his decision is the recognition of triple divorce by the Shariat Act, 1937. The Act laid down that in matters of talaq, gift, will,</li> </ul>

inheritance etc., “the rule of decision where parties are Muslims shall be Muslim Personal Law”. He quoted the 1932 decision of the Privy Council in which triple divorce was held as valid under Sharia to conclude that since instant triple divorce is “manifestly arbitrary”, the Shariat Act, to the extent it recognised triple divorce, is ultra vires the Constitution.

- Justice Khehar’s judgment (with whom Justice S. Abdul Naseer concurred) is the most detailed — 272 pages — and a major milestone in the history of freedom of religion in India. For the first time in Indian judicial history, freedom of religion subject to restrictions given in Articles 25 and 26 has been held to be “absolute”. After quoting Constituent Assembly debates on Articles 25 and 44, the CJI held that personal law is part of the freedom of religion, which courts are duty-bound to protect. He also said courts are not supposed to find fault with provisions of personal law, which are based on beliefs, not logic. Personal law, he said, is beyond judicial scrutiny.
- Justice Kurian Joseph agreed with Justice Khehar on some points, and with Nariman on others. He fully endorsed the CJI’s opinion on freedom of religion, thereby ensuring its majority. He agreed with Justice Nariman on triple divorce not being an essential part of Muslim Personal Law (thus enabling the practice of instant talaq to be struck down). But he disagreed with Justice Nariman on the interpretation of the Shariat Act — concurring, rather, with Justice Khehar’s opinion that the Shariat Act is not a legislation regulating triple divorce.

Additional sources:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/supreme-court-sets-aside-instant-triple-talaq/article19538599.ece> ; Also, several other articles from today’s newspapers will serve the purpose of understanding this judgment.

5. The ‘Chushul approach’, is sometimes seen in the news with reference to which one of the following geographical features/regions?

- (a) Finger Area, Sikkim
- (b) Pangong Tso lake, Jammu and Kashmir
- (c) Namcha Barwa, Tibet
- (d) Siachen Glacier, Jammu and Kashmir

Solution: b.

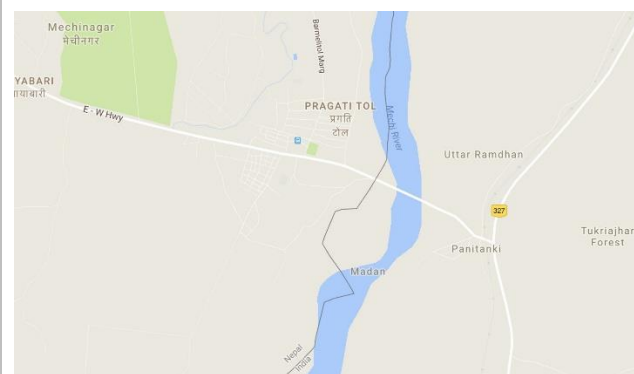
By itself, the lake (Pangong Tso) does not have major tactical significance. But it lies in the path of the **Chushul approach**, one of the main approaches that China can use for an offensive into Indian-held territory. Indian assessments show that a major Chinese offensive, if it comes, will flow across both the north and south of the lake. During the 1962 war, this was where China launched its main offensive — the Indian Army fought heroically at **Rezang La**, the mountain pass on the southeastern approach to **Chushul valley**, where the Ahir Company of 13 Kumaon led by Maj. Shaitan Singh made its last stand.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/ladakh-scuffle-india-china-clash-beauty-strategy-the-importance-of-pangong-tso-doklam-sikkim-stand-off-4807716/>

AUGUST 24, 2017

<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p>Consider the following statements about the Asian Highway Network project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Since its inception, it has received financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank</li> <li>2. One of its components is The Silk Road Economic Belt</li> <li>3. India is not a participant</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 3 only (d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Asian Highway network is a network of 141,000kms of standardized roadways crisscrossing 32 Asian countries with linkages to Europe.</li> <li>• The Asian Highway project was initiated in 1959 (ADB started functioning in 1966, so statement 1 is incorrect) with the aim of promoting the development of international road transport in the region. During the first phase of the project (1960-1970) considerable progress was achieved, however, progress slowed down when financial assistance was suspended in 1975.</li> <li>• Entering into the 1980s and 1990s, regional political and economic changes spurred new momentum for the project.</li> <li>• It became one of the three pillars of Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project, endorsed by the UNESCAP Commission in 1992, comprising Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway and facilitation of land transport projects.</li> </ul> <p>AH Route Map: <a href="http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/AH%20map_1Nov2016.pdf">http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/AH%20map_1Nov2016.pdf</a> ;</p> <p>About: <a href="http://www.unescap.org/resources/asian-highway-route-map">http://www.unescap.org/resources/asian-highway-route-map</a> ;</p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170177">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170177</a>;</p>
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p>Construction of the new bridge across River Mechi will improve regional connectivity and strengthen cross border trade. This bridge will link Nepal and which state of India?</p> <p>(a) Sikkim (b) West Bengal (c) Bihar (d) Uttar Pradesh</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asian Highway 2 enters Nepal from Banbasa (Uttarakhand), then exits Nepal at Kakarvitta to enter Panitanki (West Bengal).</li> <li>• River Mechi is a tributary of River Mahananda (which in turn is a tributary of River Ganga).</li> <li>• <b>In the news</b> (<a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170177">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170177</a>): Mechi Bridge is the ending point of Asian Highway 02 in India leading to Nepal and provides critical connectivity to Nepal. Construction of the new bridge will be funded by the Government of India through an ADB loan.</li> <li>• <b>AH Route Map:</b> <a href="http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/AH%20map_1Nov2016.pdf">http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/AH%20map_1Nov2016.pdf</a> ;</li> </ul>





**3.** The 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana' is most closely associated with/related to

- (a) Creation of modern farm infrastructure
- (b) NITI Aayog's model land leasing law
- (c) Sustainable farming practices in line with SDG 12
- (d) E-Nam

Solution: a.

The objective of PMKSY is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease Agri-Waste. The implementation of PMKSY will

- result in creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.
- provide a big boost to the growth of food processing sector in the country.
- help in providing better prices to farmers and is a big step towards doubling of farmers' income.
- create huge employment opportunities especially in the rural area
- help in reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing the processing level, availability of safe and convenient processed foods at affordable price to consumers and enhancing the export of the processed foods.

In the news

(<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170174>): The Cabinet has approved the renaming of the new Central Sector Scheme – SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) as "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)". This Central Sector Scheme was earlier known as SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) and approved in May 2017 with the same allocation and period. Additionally, sustainable agriculture is dealt with by SDG 2, not SDG 12.

**4.** Consider the following statements:

1. The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was set up under Article 340 of the Indian Constitution
2. The NCBC was set up with the objective to examine the extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation among communities included in the OBC category

Solution: d.

About the NCBC

([http://ncbc.nic.in/User\\_Panel/UserView.aspx?TypeID=1025](http://ncbc.nic.in/User_Panel/UserView.aspx?TypeID=1025)):

- The SC had in the Indra Sawhney case directed the Govt. of India, State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to constitute a permanent body in the nature of a Commission or Tribunal for entertaining, examining and recommending upon

	<p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>requests for inclusion and complaints of over-inclusion and under-inclusion in the list of OBCs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursuant to the direction of the Supreme Court, the Government of India enacted the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 for setting up a Commission at National Level viz. "National Commission for Backward Classes" as a permanent body.</li> </ul> <p>About the new Commission to examine the issue of sub-categorisation of OBCs</p> <p>(<a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170173">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170173</a>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Cabinet approved a proposal for setting up of a Commission under article 340 of the Constitution to examine the issue of sub-categorisation of OBCs.</li> <li>The committee has a three-point mandate. One, it has to examine the "extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation" among various castes and communities that come under the Central OBC list.</li> <li>The committee also has to work out the mechanism, criteria and parameters for the actual sub-categorisation. This will be tricky. The actual reservation will continue to be 27% and within this the committee will have to do the re-arranging. For example, if the committee comes to the conclusion that in the last many years Yadavs have benefited far more than Khatiks or Sainis then the amount of reservation for them will be increased vis-à-vis the Yadavs.</li> <li>The third task is bringing order to the Central list of OBCs by removing any repetitions.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/obc-list-to-be-sub-categorised/article19547916.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/obc-list-to-be-sub-categorised/article19547916.ece</a> ;</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>The greatest threat to public health from the chemical Arsenic, in its inorganic form, originates from</p> <p>(a) Contaminated groundwater</p> <p>(b) Seafood</p> <p>(c) Dairy products</p> <p>(d) River contamination by industrial effluents</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>In the news (<a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-41002005">http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-41002005</a>): "Up to 60 million people in Pakistan are at risk from the deadly chemical arsenic.." .. The problem of Arsenic contamination of groundwater is a problem that is prevalent in the Ganga and Brahmaputra river basin as well. Articles on this issue appears regularly in the newspapers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The greatest threat to public health from arsenic originates from contaminated groundwater. Inorganic arsenic (which is the highly toxic form of arsenic) is naturally present at high levels in the groundwater of a number of countries, including, among others, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Argentina and USA. Drinking-water, crops irrigated with contaminated water and food prepared with contaminated water are the sources of exposure.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish, shellfish, meat, poultry, dairy products and cereals can also be dietary sources of arsenic, although exposure from these foods is generally much lower compared to exposure through contaminated groundwater.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs372/en/">http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs372/en/</a> ;</p>
6.	<p>The Justice B.N. Srikrishna committee was set up with a mandate to</p> <p>(a) Identify the reasons for the huge pendency of cases in the judiciary and suggest ways to address this issue</p> <p>(b) Review and recommend changes to Bilateral Investment Treaty arbitration mechanisms only</p> <p>(c) Examine the nature of evolution of prison reforms in developed countries and recommend suitable prison reform measures modified to suit Indian context</p> <p>(d) Examine specific issues in India's arbitration ecosystem and present a roadmap required to make India a robust centre for international and domestic arbitration</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Justice Dispensing System in India has come under great stress for various reasons including huge pendency of cases in various courts. The injustice is particularly egregious in commercial disputes, where cases remain pending for years. Accordingly, arbitration provides an effective and efficient alternative window for dispute resolution.</li> <li>The Government of India has laid emphasis on making Arbitration a preferred mode for settlement of commercial disputes. We have been taking legislative and administrative initiatives on arbitration which aim at minimizing court intervention, bring down costs, fix timelines for expeditious disposal, and ensure neutrality of arbitrator and enforcement of awards. The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015 envisages quick enforcement of contracts, easy recovery of monetary claims, reduce the pendency of cases in courts and hasten the process of dispute resolution through arbitration, so as to encourage foreign investment by projecting India as an investor friendly country having a sound legal framework and ease of doing business in India.</li> <li>In order to ensure speedy resolution of commercial disputes and to facilitate effective conduct of international and domestic arbitrations raised under various agreements, it has been considered necessary to go into various factors to accelerate arbitration mechanism and strengthen the arbitration ecosystem in the country. It is also important to examine specific issues and roadmap required to make India a robust centre for international and domestic arbitration.</li> <li>With the above end in view, the Government had decided to constitute a High Level Committee (HLC) in the Ministry of Law and Justice, comprising of the following:</li> </ul> <p>From Dec 2016:</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155959">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155959</a>;</p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/a-bit-of-critique/article19547578.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/a-bit-of-critique/article19547578.ece</a></p>

AUGUST 25, 2017

<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. China prohibits the import of certain Indian pharmaceutical products that have the approval of American and European drug regulators</li> <li>2. Anti-dumping duty on Indian imports from China have been in force in the recent past only on some of China's steel products</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>Many Indian products, including from agricultural and pharmaceutical sectors, face difficulties in getting access to the Chinese market. India's goods trade deficit with China has widened at a rapid pace — from just \$1.1 billion in 2003-04 to a whopping \$51.1 billion in the last fiscal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• China's 'Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures' hurt Indian farm products exports to that country.</li> <li>• Chinese authorities have also decided to look into India's request to remove the 'curbs' on Indian pharmaceutical companies/products — especially those having the approval of American, European and Japanese regulators.</li> <li>• Beijing would also soon take a call on removing the difficulties faced by the Indian IT sector in getting greater market access in China.</li> <li>• Commerce Minister told the Rajya Sabha on August 9 that: "Anti-dumping duty (ADD) is in force on 93 products concerning imports from China," covering many broad product groups. The decision to impose ADD on the 93 products "were taken over a course of previous five years".</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/china-to-tackle-trade-deficit-with-india/article19554292.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/china-to-tackle-trade-deficit-with-india/article19554292.ece</a> ;</p>
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p>A commercial LNG tanker recently sailed across the NSR or Northern Sea Route without the protection of an ice-breaker for the first time. The NSR runs along</p> <p>(a) The Russian Arctic Coast from Barents Sea to Bering Strait (b) The North American Arctic Coast via the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, connecting the northern Atlantic and Pacific Oceans (c) Coastal Europe from Strait of Dover up to Novaya Zemalya (d) The Eurasian Arctic Coast from Norwegian Sea to Bering Strait</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>The specially-built ship completed the NSR crossing in just six-and-a-half days setting a new record. It took just 19 days for the entire voyage (from Norway to South Korea), around 30% faster than going by Suez. Rising Arctic temperatures are boosting commercial shipping across this route.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NSR or Northern Sea Route (<a href="http://www.barentsinfo.org/Contents/Transport-and-communications/Northern-Sea-Route">http://www.barentsinfo.org/Contents/Transport-and-communications/Northern-Sea-Route</a> ) is a shipping lane officially defined by Russian legislation from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean specifically running along the Russian Arctic coast from Murmansk on the Barents Sea, along Siberia, to the Bering Strait and Far East.</li> <li>• Statement 'b' refers to the Northwest Passage; Statement 'c' is not associated with Arctic shipping routes; Statement 'd' refers to the Northeast Passage (this includes the NSR; see image for better understanding);</li> <li>• Environmentalists are worried that increased traffic in this inhospitable region could have potentially significant effects. As well as the risk of accident or spillage, there are worries that some of the ships that will sail along this route will be powering their engines</li> </ul>

		<p>with heavier, dirtier marine fuels. The black carbon that they produce could be very damaging to snow and ice in the region, increasing the melting.</p> <p><a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-41037071">http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-41037071</a> ;</p>
3.	<p>Which one of the following is the essence of what is known as the 'Koushal judgment' of the Supreme Court?</p> <p>(a) Privacy as a value connotes a right to be left alone</p> <p>(b) Majoritarian concepts can in some cases apply to constitutional rights</p> <p>(c) Personal laws can come within the ambit of the definition of 'law' under Article 13 of the Indian Constitution</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>Section 377 of Indian Penal Code was struck down by the Delhi High Court in July 2009 (popularly known as the 'Naz Foundation case'). However, overruling this judgment, the Supreme Court in 2014 upheld Section 377 IPC in what is popularly referred to as the Kaushal judgment. Now, the Constitution Bench which gave its verdict recently on the right to privacy also dealt with the issue of Section 377:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2014 judgment's view that "a miniscule fraction of the country's population constitutes lesbians, gays, bisexuals or transgenders" was not a sustainable basis to deny the right to privacy, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud observed in his judgment.</li> <li>• "The test of popular acceptance does not furnish a valid basis to disregard rights which are conferred with the sanctity of constitutional protection. Discrete and insular minorities face grave dangers of discrimination for the simple reason that their views, beliefs or way of life does not accord with the 'mainstream'. Yet in a democratic Constitution founded on the rule of law, their rights are as sacred as those conferred on other citizens to protect their freedoms and liberties," he observed.</li> <li>• Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, in his separate judgment, seconded Justice Chandrachud, while observing that the "majoritarian concept" does not apply to constitutional rights. "Courts are often called upon to take what may be categorised as a non-majoritarian view... One's sexual orientation is undoubtedly an attribute of privacy," Justice Kaul added.</li> <li>• The judgment stopped short of overruling the SC's previous (2014) order. It is for a five-judge bench, which is looking at the curative petition, to take a final call.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/sc-rips-apart-its-2014-ruling-on-section-377/article19556613.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/sc-rips-apart-its-2014-ruling-on-section-377/article19556613.ece</a> ;</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/lgbt-community-cheerful-after-right-to-privacy-ruling/article19555773.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/lgbt-community-cheerful-after-right-to-privacy-ruling/article19555773.ece</a></p>

<p>4.</p>	<p>Which one of the following is the essence of the majority judgment in what is known as the 'ADM Jabalpur case' of the Supreme Court?</p> <p>(a) The right to life and personal liberty are inalienable to human existence</p> <p>(b) Fundamental rights are not in distinct water-tight compartments but do overlap</p> <p>(c) Directive principles of state policy gain precedence and fundamental rights are placed on an equal footing</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>Over 40 years after the Supreme Court's darkest hour when it said citizens have no right to life and liberty during the Emergency period, a nine-judge Bench condemned the decision in the infamous ADM Jabalpur case, or better known as the habeas corpus case, as "seriously flawed."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The habeas corpus judgment in 1976 upheld the Congress government's move to unlawfully detain citizens, including political rivals, during the Emergency years.</li> <li>• Of the five judges on that Bench, only Justice H.R. Khanna dissented with the majority opinion of then Chief Justice of India A.N. Ray, Justices M.H. Beg, Y.V. Chandrachud and P.N. Bhagwati. Justice Khanna's dissent cost him the chief justiceship. He was superseded by Justice Beg, following which Justice Khanna resigned.</li> <li>• On Thursday, for the first time in Supreme Court's history, a nine-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar, officially condemned the Supreme Court's majority opinion in the habeas corpus case.</li> <li>• The judgment, authored by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, who, incidentally, is the son of Justice Y.V. Chandrachud, "expressly overruled" the 1976 majority judgment and removed a long-pending taint on the court's history as a people's champion.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/sc-overrules-emergency-era-habeas-corpus-verdict/article19555894.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/sc-overrules-emergency-era-habeas-corpus-verdict/article19555894.ece</a> ;</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>The LIMB System initiated by the Central Government recently, will</p> <p>(a) Enhance participatory governance by increasing citizen engagement in policy-making</p> <p>(b) Help reduce government litigation</p> <p>(c) Promote India as a centre for international arbitration</p> <p>(d) Enable state governments to build capacity of, and devolve powers to, constitutional local bodies</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government's proclivity to litigate crowds private citizens out from accessing justice. At least two of the PM's speeches mentioned this undesirable trait. In the first, he referred to the government as a litigant. In the second, he mentioned the phenomenon of two government departments litigating against each other.</li> <li>• There was a National Litigation Policy (NLP) in 2010. Its aim is to transform Government into an Efficient and Responsible litigant. There were platitudes in plenty, but nothing to pin down. A specific LIMBS (Legal Information Management &amp; Briefing System) is better than a vague Litigation Policy.</li> <li>• As part of the e-Governance initiative, the government has started working on putting in place this online system of managing and monitoring all court cases in which Government of India is a party. This means that once fed, information relating to all court/tribunal cases being handled by the various Ministries/Departments and other organs of the Government of India will be available on a single web-</li> </ul>



based online application. Also, this application caters to a wide range of requirements for various departments and administrative authorities for effective monitoring of court matters.

- This will not only help to introduce transparency but also a sense of ownership among various stakeholders during the life cycle of a court case. Among others, it will help authorities to take 'data driven decision making' and to evaluate performance of various stakeholders and to conduct legal audit.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/out-on-several-limbs-4810603/> ;

From 2016:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=146572;>

#### Clarifications:

**Quiz, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017** : Q4, statement 'c' should be corrected – “Directive principles of state policy and FRs are placed on an equal footing”. But it does not really matter as the answer will not change.

**Quiz, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017**: Please read the explanations provided in the solution; if confusion persists, then read the articles whose links have been provided. Additionally, answers to Q2 and Q4 are correct (Q2 is related to the bridge across Mechi river and Q4 was a trick question – a new commission has been set up under Art. 340 which is distinct from the statutory NCBC).

#### AUGUST 26, 2017

<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p>The programme BGREI or “Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India” was launched in 2010-11 in eastern India comprising the states of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assam</li> <li>2. Tripura</li> <li>3. Meghalaya</li> <li>4. Sikkim</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 3 only</p> <p>(c) 1, 2, 3 and</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>The programme of “Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI)” was launched in 2010-11 to address the constraints limiting the productivity of “rice based cropping systems” in eastern India comprising seven states namely: Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Eastern Uttar Pradesh (Purvanchal) and West Bengal.</p> <p>About BGREI: <a href="http://vikaspedia.in/agriculture/policies-and-schemes/crops-related/rashtriya-krishi-vikas-yojana-1/bringing-green-revolution-to-eastern-india">http://vikaspedia.in/agriculture/policies-and-schemes/crops-related/rashtriya-krishi-vikas-yojana-1/bringing-green-revolution-to-eastern-india</a> ;</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=170143">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=170143</a> ;</p>
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At Independence, India established an economic system in which the government would plan for the economy, with the private sector being encouraged to be part of the effort</li> <li>2. The Directive Principles of State Policy of the Indian Constitution reflected the nature of India's economic system in newly independent India</li> </ol>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>Nehru, and many other leaders and thinkers of the newly independent India, sought an alternative to the extreme versions of capitalism and socialism. Basically sympathising with the socialist outlook, they found the answer in an economic system which, in their view, combined the best features of socialism without its drawbacks. In this view, India would be a socialist society with a strong public sector but also with private property and democracy; the government would plan for the economy with the private sector being encouraged to be part of the plan effort. The</p>

	<p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>'Industrial Policy Resolution' of 1948 and the Directive Principles of the Indian Constitution reflected this outlook.</p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=170166">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=170166</a> ; Class 11, Indian Economic Development, NCERT;</p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Strategic Partnership Agreement was signed between India and Afghanistan in 2016</li> <li>2. India has a trade surplus with the USA in goods and services trade</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Strategic Partnership Agreement was signed between India and Afghanistan in 2011.</li> <li>• U.S. goods and services trade with India totaled an estimated \$114.8 billion in 2016. Exports were \$42.0 billion; imports were \$72.8 billion. The U.S. goods and services trade deficit with India was \$30.8 billion in 2016.</li> </ul> <p>Source for Statement 1: <a href="https://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/Afghanistan_17_02_2016.pdf">https://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/Afghanistan_17_02_2016.pdf</a> ;</p> <p>Source for Statement 2: <a href="https://ustr.gov/countries-regions/south-central-asia/india">https://ustr.gov/countries-regions/south-central-asia/india</a> ;</p> <p>See heading of this article: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/trump-links-indias-afghan-role-to-trade-surplus/article19542559.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/trump-links-indias-afghan-role-to-trade-surplus/article19542559.ece</a> ;</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p>The Task Force on Artificial Intelligence for Economic Transformation was recently set up by</p> <p>(a) Ministry of Human Resource Development (b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry (c) NITI Aayog (d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has constituted a Task Force chaired by V. Kamakoti of IIT Madras to explore possibilities to leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) for development across various fields. The 'task force on AI for India's Economic Transformation' will submit concrete and implementable recommendations for government, industry and research institutions, an official statement said.</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170231">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170231</a>; <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/business/commerce-ministry-sets-up-task-force-on-artificial-intelligence/article19561597.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/business/commerce-ministry-sets-up-task-force-on-artificial-intelligence/article19561597.ece</a> ;</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The 'California strain' and 'Michigan strain', terms that sometimes appear in the news, are associated with Swine Flu</li> <li>2. Cooler temperatures imply drier air, offering favourable conditions for influenza viruses to flourish</li> </ol>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>The same question was posted here earlier.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Regarding Statement 1:</b> The virus has undergone point mutations, which is normal and reflects its evolution, but this has no correlation with virulence whatsoever. For instance, the California strain had been circulating around the world since the 2009 H1N1 pandemic. But as a result of point mutations, a new strain — the Michigan strain — emerged last</li> </ul>

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

year. India witnessed the circulation of both the California and Michigan strains in 2016. This year, surveillance revealed that the H1N1 virus found in India is only the Michigan strain.

- **Regarding Statement 2:** Cold air can carry less water vapour before it reaches the “dew point” and falls as rain. So while the weather outside may seem wetter, the air itself is drier as it loses the moisture. Any time we splutter with a cold, we expel a mist of particles from our nose and mouths. In moist air, these particles may remain relatively large, and drop to the floor. But in dry air, they break up into smaller pieces – eventually becoming so small that they can stay aloft for hours or days. (It’s a bit like the mist you get when you turn a hose pipe to its finest spray.) The result is that in winter, you are breathing a cocktail of dead cells, mucus and viruses from anyone and everyone.
- Note: Since the 2009 pandemic, H1N1 has become a seasonal flu virus strain in India even during the peak of summer. The only way, then, to reduce the number of cases and deaths is by framing a national policy for influenza immunisation. The first step in that direction is to have qualitative and quantitative data on the vulnerable population. Meanwhile, vaccinating health-care workers who come in contact with high-risk patients should be a priority.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20151016-the-real-reason-germs-spread-in-the-winter> ;

From July:

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/h1n1-returns/article19326728.ece> ;

Source and Improvisation:

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/lessons-not-learn/article19562567.ece> ;

#### AUGUST 28, 2017

1. ‘Fixed Term Employment’ was recently introduced in the Apparel industry. Which one of the following statements in this context is **not** correct?

- (a) It refers to a workman who is employed on a contract basis for a fixed period
- (b) Fixed term workers employed for short periods will get better working and service conditions as compared to a contract workers
- (c) Natural termination of fixed term employment of the workman requires a notice to be served a month preceding the date of termination

Solution: c.

“Natural termination” of the fixed term employment contract requires “no notice or pay in lieu thereof.”

- This step would ultimately benefit the workers as their working conditions would be at par with the regular employees including social security and other benefits.
- It would, on the one hand provide flexibility to the employers and on the other hand improve the working conditions of the workers already working for some fixed tenure only by way of contracts.
- The measures assume significance due also to its potential for social transformation through women empowerment; since 70% of the workforce in the

	<p>(d) The working conditions in terms of all statutory benefits of a fixed term employee would be at par with permanent workmen</p>	<p>garment industry are women, majority of the new jobs created are likely to go to women.</p> <p>From October 2016:</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=151537;">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=151537;</a></p> <p>In the news</p> <p>(<a href="http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/india-facing-problem-of-severe-under-employment-says-niti/article19570289.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/india-facing-problem-of-severe-under-employment-says-niti/article19570289.ece</a>): Making a case for reforming labour laws, the Niti Aayog noted that recently fixed-term employment has been introduced in the textiles and apparel industry. This option may be extended to all sectors. The change will encourage employers to rely on regular fixed-term employment instead of contract workers, especially when hiring workers for specific projects or for meeting seasonal demand.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>‘Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav’ became a symbol of India’s struggle for freedom. The tradition of community celebrations of the Ganesh festival was established by</p> <p>(a) The Indian Home Rule League</p> <p>(b) A.O. Hume</p> <p>(c) Gopal Krishna Gokhale</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>Tilak sought to widen the popularity of the nationalist movement (which during the late 19th century was largely confined to the upper classes) by introducing Hindu religious symbolism and by invoking popular traditions of the Maratha struggle against Muslim rule. He thus organized two important festivals, Ganesh in 1893 and Shivaji in 1895.</p> <p>When we speak of Ganesh Chaturthi, it is but natural to talk about Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav, that is, community celebrations of the Ganesh Festival. This tradition was established by Bal Gangadhar Tilak 125 years ago, and it was 125 years ago that Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav became a symbol of India’s struggle for freedom.</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170253;">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170253;</a></p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Which one of the following statements expresses the essence of what economists call the “environmental Kuznets curve”?</p> <p>(a) Efforts to mainstream indigenous people yields tangible benefits in the short-term but in the long run the intangible losses far outweigh it</p> <p>(b) If you’re poor, you prioritise material gains; as your income grows, you may choose to spend some of it on a nicer, safer environment</p> <p>(c) If you become wealthy, you prevent others from becoming rich until a point when you realise your intentions are only harming the natural environment around you</p> <p>(d) In their infancy, all countries predominantly have a centralised decision-making framework; the</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>Many societies still grapple with the general question: how much pollution is a price worth paying for progress? There’s some evidence that as countries get richer, they tend initially to get dirtier and later clean up. Economists call this the “environmental Kuznets curve”, and it makes intuitive sense. If you’re poor, you prioritise material gains. As your income grows, you may choose to spend some of it on a nicer, safer environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kuznets Curve demonstrates the hypothesis that economic growth initially leads to greater inequality, followed later by the reduction of inequality.</li> <li>• On the other hand, the environmental Kuznets curve is a hypothesized relationship between environmental quality and economic development: Economic development initially leads to a deterioration in the environment, but when the average income reaches a certain point, a society begins to improve its relationship with the</li> </ul>

	destruction of the natural environment subsequently forces them to devolve functions and powers to local institutions	environment and levels of environmental degradation reduces. Statement 'b' reflects this definition.  Source: <a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/business-40593353">http://www.bbc.com/news/business-40593353</a> ;
4.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) was a comprehensive door-to-door enumeration exercise carried out for rural India only</li> <li>2. The SECC was conducted by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>In the news</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/centre-wants-to-replicate-ujjwala-success-in-all-schemes/article19571186.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/centre-wants-to-replicate-ujjwala-success-in-all-schemes/article19571186.ece</a>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PM Ujjwala Yojana owes much of its success to the data provided by the Socio Economic Caste Census 2011 or SECC that helped the Petroleum Ministry, along with the State governments, accurately identify the households in need of an LPG connection.</li> <li>• The SECC data identifies nearly 9 crore households as "deprived" as per the different deprivation indicators used for the Census.</li> <li>• The Rural Development Ministry wants to make these households the focus of all their welfare schemes. The Ministry has already started using the SECC data to give direct financial assistance to build low-cost houses to the poor under the PM Awas Yojana, electricity connection under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Power Scheme, build toilets under the Swachh Bharat Mission and prepare Labour Budgets under the Rural Employment Guarantee Act.</li> <li>• About the SECC (<a href="http://secc.gov.in/aboutusReport">http://secc.gov.in/aboutusReport</a>):</li> <li>• The Ministry of Rural Development Government of India, commenced the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011, in June 2011 through a comprehensive door to door enumeration across the country. This is the first time such a comprehensive exercise has been carried out for both rural and urban India.</li> <li>• The SECC, 2011 will be conducted through a comprehensive programme involving the Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India and the State Governments.</li> </ul>
5.	<p>There are demands being made for reduction of the 'Mobile Termination Charge (MTC)' from some quarters. MTC is</p> <p>(a) The expenses incurred on government fees by a network operator in setting up telecommunication network terminals in rural areas (b) A charge paid by the network from where a call originates to one where it terminates</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>In the news</p> <p><a href="http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/reduce-interest-on-spectrum-payment-not-mobile-termination-charges-vodafone/articleshow/60244824.cms">http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/reduce-interest-on-spectrum-payment-not-mobile-termination-charges-vodafone/articleshow/60244824.cms</a>): Making a rare intervention in a local issue, Vodafone Group CEO Vittorio Colao has written to telecom minister Manoj Sinha cautioning against any reduction in interconnect usage</p>

- (c) The costs that a customer has to bear while availing benefits of the Mobile Number Portability services
- (d) None of the above

charge (IUC) from the existing 14 paise per minute. He also sought relief for the debt-laden sector by way of an extended spectrum payment period and lower interest rates. Colao warned that any move to cut IUC — a charge paid by the network from where a call originates to the one where it terminates — would impact the industry and rural telecom expansion. IUC is also referred to as mobile termination charge (MTC).

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/cut-in-mobile-termination-charges-will-hit-sector/article19571006.ece> ;

### AUGUST 29, 2017

**1.** Which of the following is/are fundamental rights provided in our Constitution?

1. All minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice
2. No citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the State or receiving aid out of State funds on grounds only of religion, race, caste, or language

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: c.

Article 30(1) [Statement 1] could seem to be in contradiction to Article 29(2) [Statement 2]. While the Constitution goes well beyond just a formal notion of equality, the question does often arise whether Article 30(1) is an absolute right or one which is somewhat circumscribed.

- The 11-judge constitution Bench judgment in TMA Pai Foundation & Ors vs State Of Karnataka & Ors (2002) — which was about reading the right to establish and administer minority institutions versus Article 29(2) — made several points.
- The six-judge majority judgment, with another judge concurring through a separate judgment, laid down that minority status must be decided with reference to the state, and not nationally.
- The question of whether a group could claim minority status in a state even if they were the majority in that state, was not answered.
- The judgment seemed to suggest that while the right of minorities to set up and establish institutions should be enjoyed fully, it would be subject to some regulation, especially if they were state-aided to any degree. In case of unaided institutions too, it sought to invoke larger principles which minority institutions ought to go by.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/jamia-millia-islamia-jmi-aligarh-muslim-university-amu-simply-put-over-the-years-major-questions-on-institutions-of-minority-education-4818207/>;

Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth;

**2.** The 'Border Defence Cooperation Agreement' was signed in 2013 between India and

- (a) Pakistan
- (b) China
- (c) Bhutan
- (d) Myanmar

Solution: b.

"..India and China must revert to the spirit of the Border Defence Cooperation Agreement of 2013, which laid down specific guidelines on tackling future developments along the 3,488-km boundary the two countries share. The past two and a half months are also a lesson that India cannot



		<p>be unprepared for “another Doklam”, as Chief of the Army Staff Bipin Rawat said on Sunday..”</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/agreeing-to-disagree/article19576684.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/agreeing-to-disagree/article19576684.ece</a></p> <p>From 2013:</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=100178;">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=100178;</a></p>
3.	<p>Which one of the following sections of the RTI Act has enabled the Government to refuse disclosure of information related to demonetisation?</p> <p>(a) 4</p> <p>(b) 8</p> <p>(c) 12</p> <p>(d) 22</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>Section 8 of the RTI Act lists the matters relating to which information can be exempted from being disclosed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/diary-of-an-unusual-year/article19578324.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/diary-of-an-unusual-year/article19578324.ece</a>: It is unclear what the RBI’s role in demonetisation was: of a bystander or a participant. All information related to demonetisation is being withheld on grounds of national security. The government has blocked all queries related to demonetisation, including from the press, RTIs and parliamentary committees.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://rti.gov.in/webactrti.htm">http://rti.gov.in/webactrti.htm</a>;</p>
4.	<p>Which one of the following refer to what palaeontologists refer to as the “museum of Indian Geology”?</p> <p>(a) Zaskar valley</p> <p>(b) Spiti Valley</p> <p>(c) Unakoti</p> <p>(d) Araku Valley</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fossils dating back a couple of hundred million years ago in remote villages of Lahaul and Spiti valley of Himachal Pradesh are being mined and sold as cheap tourist souvenirs, destroying key links in the ancient geological history of the Indian subcontinent. Rising tourism has contributed to the erosion in Spiti valley, which paleontologists say is the “museum of Indian Geology”.</li> <li>Additional Information: The stone production industry is unscientifically mined and managed, is generally outside the pale of public scrutiny, and remains unregulated. Weak environmental laws govern it. The area under stone mining operations exceeds more than 10% of the total area of India and if these activities are allowed to go on unchecked, especially in the context of current developmental interests, India’s topography and geological heritage stand to be lost forever. We need sustainable conservation approaches to safeguard our natural geological heritage as has been done in the area of biodiversity.</li> <li>Geological diversity includes rocks, minerals, fossils, and landscapes that have evolved over billions of years. India’s tumultuous geological past is recorded in its rocks and landscapes and should be considered as our non-cultural heritage. Unfortunately, geological conservation is an ignored subject in the country.</li> </ul>

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-stories-rocks-tell/article19576654.ece> ;

Improvisation:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/himalayas-losing-rare-fossils-to-souvenir-hunters/article19482098.ece?homepage=true> ;

5. A person appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court, before entering upon his office, has to make and subscribe an oath or affirmation before the

- (a) Prime Minister of India
- (b) President of India
- (c) The original copy of the Constitution of India
- (d) Speaker of the Lok Sabha

Solution: b.

A person appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court, before entering upon his Office, has to make and subscribe an oath or affirmation before the President, or some person appointed by him for this purpose. In his oath, a judge of the Supreme Court swears:

- to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India;
- to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India;
- to duly and faithfully and to the best of his ability, knowledge and judgement perform the duties of the Office without fear or favour, affection or ill-will; and
- to uphold the Constitution and the laws.

Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth;

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/justice-dipak-misra-sworn-in-as-cji/article19574485.ece>

### AUGUST 30, 2017

1. As the crow flies, which sea would the recently-launched North Korean ballistic missile have had to first cross in order for it to have flown over Japan?

- (a) Sea of Okhotsk
- (b) Yellow Sea
- (c) East Sea
- (d) East China Sea

Solution: c.

The Sea of Japan is also known as the East Sea.



<https://www.britannica.com/place/Sea-of-Japan> ;

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/north-korea-fires-missile-over-japan-in-aggressive-test/article19577734.ece>

<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Beijing is constructing a port at a Maldivian island which sits at the entrance to the so-called 'one-and-a-half degree channel'</li> <li>2. The 'China-Maldives friendship bridge' across the one-and-a-half degree channel will link Male with Hulhule island</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>The China-Maldives friendship bridge will link Male with Hulhule island, but it won't be "across the One and a Half Degree Channel". The One and a Half Degree Channel is well south of Male.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beijing will be building a port at one of the Maldivian islands (Gadhoo island), which sits at the entrance to the so-called One and a Half Degree Channel (Huvadhu Kandhu), a major international shipping passage (we earlier had posted a question on this).</li> <li>• "Mr. Nasheed said apart from the warships, it was China's growing influence in constructing major infrastructure projects including the \$200 million "China-Maldives friendship bridge" from Male to Hulhule island that should be viewed with some concern. 'Strategic infrastructure often does facilitate military use. So it is very possible that President Yameen is offering [China] more than just infrastructure projects,' he said."</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ex-president-flags-presence-of-chinese-warships-in-male/article19582196.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ex-president-flags-presence-of-chinese-warships-in-male/article19582196.ece</a> ;</p> <p>From July: <a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/in-fact-indian-ocean-churning-why-todays-maldives-no-trust-vote-is-crucial-4763916/">http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/in-fact-indian-ocean-churning-why-todays-maldives-no-trust-vote-is-crucial-4763916/</a> ;</p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p>"It is only by strengthening systems of individual and social justice that we can address the issues in post-conflict societies." Which one of the following Sustainable Development Goals will directly help address this concern?</p> <p>(a) 7 (b) 8 (c) 12 (d) 16</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals is dedicated to the "promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels". Some of the goal 16 targets (relevant for our question here) include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Promote rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all</li> <li>○ Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels</li> <li>○ Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels</li> <li>○ Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements</li> <li>○ Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Understanding "individual and social justice" through John Rawls' views/theory of justice: John Rawls, an American ethical philosopher, defends a conception of "justice as fairness". In his view, Soviet-style communism (linked purely to social justice) is</li> </ul>

considered unjust because it is incompatible with most basic liberties and because it does not provide everyone with a fair and equal opportunity to obtain desirable offices and positions. Pure laissez-faire capitalism is also unjust (linked purely to individual justice), because it tends to produce an unjust distribution of wealth and income (concentrated in the hands of a few), which in turn effectively deprives some (if not most) citizens of the basic means necessary to compete fairly for desirable offices and positions. Rawl's work is widely interpreted as providing a philosophical foundation for egalitarian liberalism as imperfectly manifested in the modern capitalist welfare state or in a market-oriented social democracy.

SDG 16:

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/> ;

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/dera-through-the-punjab-lens/article19582459.ece> ;

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Rawls> ;

4. Recently, which one of the following fundamental rights did the Supreme Court rely upon to set aside a High Court verdict asking a state government to grant compensation for restoration of all religious places damaged during communal riots?

- (a) Equality before the law and equal protection of laws
- (b) Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment
- (c) Freedom to manage religious affairs
- (d) Freedom from payment of taxes for promotion of any religion

Solution: d.

A mains-oriented question.

- The Supreme Court on Tuesday set aside a Gujarat High Court order directing the State to pay compensation to shrines destroyed in the 2002 communal riots (no limit was imposed on the compensation amount that was payable). The court agreed with the State government that taxpayers' money cannot be spent to promote a particular religion (Article 27).
- The SC expressed satisfaction with the Gujarat government's scheme to pay up to Rs. 50,000 as ex-gratia assistance to authorised religious places damaged, destroyed or desecrated during the riots. It said that the scheme placed the riot-affected religious structures "on par" with "houses destroyed or damaged" in the violence.

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/sc-quashes-hc-order-on-repair-of-shrines-damaged-in-2002-riots-117082900928\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/sc-quashes-hc-order-on-repair-of-shrines-damaged-in-2002-riots-117082900928_1.html) ;

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/top-court-sets-aside-hc-order-on-riot-recompense/article19584025.ece> ;

<p>5.</p>	<p>Which one of the following is the best description of 'INS Tarini', that was in the news recently?</p> <p>(a) A sailboat on which an all-woman crew of the Indian Navy will circumnavigate the globe</p> <p>(b) India's first amphibious warfare ship</p> <p>(c) India's first nuclear powered submarine</p> <p>(d) An electric plane built and inducted by the Indian Navy in collaboration with the Defense Research and Development Organisation</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/mbErel.aspx?relid=158551">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/mbErel.aspx?relid=158551</a> ;</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170253">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170253</a>;</p>
-----------	--	--

AUGUST 31, 2017

<p>1.</p>	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India has not ratified The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, 1980 despite the Law Commission recommending otherwise</li> <li>The Indian Penal Code makes an exception for marital rape</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>Regarding Statement 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 2016: (<a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/india-will-not-ink-hague-treaty-on-civil-aspects-of-child-abduction-4397236/">http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/india-will-not-ink-hague-treaty-on-civil-aspects-of-child-abduction-4397236/</a>): "We found that there are more cases of Indian women who return to the safety of their homes in India after escaping a bad marriage. Cases of women who are foreign citizens, married to Indian men, going away with their children are far fewer. Hence signing the Hague Convention would be to the disadvantage of Indian women. Also, a majority of such cases pertain to women instead of men running away," said a WCD official.</li> <li><a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/behind-indias-unease-with-a-global-child-abduction-law-4781318/">http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/behind-indias-unease-with-a-global-child-abduction-law-4781318/</a>: The Ministry of Women and Child Development, wary of Indian women being charged or prosecuted in foreign countries, declined to back the draft bill prepared by the Law Commission.</li> <li>Regarding Statement 2: Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code, which defines rapes, makes an exception for marital rape by stating, "Sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under fifteen years of age, is not rape." (<a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/marital-rape-a-crime-in-many-countries-an-exception-in-many-more-4821403/">http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/marital-rape-a-crime-in-many-countries-an-exception-in-many-more-4821403/</a>): The central government recently filed an affidavit in response to pleas seeking criminalising marital rape, arguing that marital rape should not be criminalised, on the ground that it may "destabilise the institution of marriage" and that it would be "and an easy tool for harassing the husbands". The Centre also cited the Supreme Court and various High Courts' observations of the growing misuse of section 498A (harassment caused to a married woman by her husband and in-laws) of the IPC.</li> </ul>
-----------	--	--

2. Which one of the following countries do **not** open out to the Caspian Sea?

- (a) Azerbaijan
- (b) Armenia
- (c) Russia
- (d) Iran

Solution: b.

While the overall water level in the Caspian has fluctuated for several hundred years, steepened changes in the last century suggest evaporation caused by warmer temperatures is the greatest influence on the body of water. Digging into the satellite data along with records of precipitation and drainage into the sea from rivers, the researchers found the effects of evaporation were greater than any other influences on water level.



<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-life/climate-change-causing-caspian-sea-to-evaporate-study/article19590609.ece>;

<https://www.sciencealert.com/the-caspian-sea-is-literally-evaporating-in-response-to-rising-temperatures>;

3. Consider the following statements about the International Organisation for Migration (IOM):

1. It was established as a 'Related Organisation of the UN'

2. India is a member state

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: b.

India is a member state of IOM (<https://www.iom.int/member-states>).

Why Statement 1 is incorrect: The IOM was established in 1951. In 2016, "Member States of the United Nations (UN), through the General Assembly, unanimously adopted a resolution approving the Agreement to make the International Organization for Migration (IOM) a Related Organization of the UN. The Agreement outlines a closer relationship between IOM and the UN to strengthen the cooperation and enhance their ability to fulfil their respective mandates in the interest of migrants and Member States." (<https://www.iom.int/news/iom-becomes-related-organization-un>);

About IOM (<https://www.iom.int/about-iom>):

- IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. It was founded in the wake of



		<p>the Second World War to resettle refugees from Europe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.</li> <li>• IOM has an observer status in the UN General Assembly (this is unrelated to it recently being recognised as a related organisation of the UN).</li> <li>• Several intergovernmental organisations including organs and organisations of the UN have observer status at the IOM.</li> </ul> <p>Improvisation:  <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/18500-rohingya-have-crossed-into-bangladesh/article19589116.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/18500-rohingya-have-crossed-into-bangladesh/article19589116.ece</a>;</p>
4.	<p>Which one of the following Commissions has/was <b>not</b> been constituted under Article 340 of the Indian Constitution?</p> <p>(a) Kothari Commission</p> <p>(b) Kaka Kalekar Commission</p> <p>(c) Mandal Commission</p> <p>(d) Commission to examine sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under Article 340 of the Indian Constitution, The President may appoint a commission to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes and to recommend the steps to improve their condition. The report of the commission is to be placed before the Parliament, along with action taken memorandum.</li> <li>• Under the above provision, the President has appointed two commissions so far. The first backward classes commission was appointed in 1953 under the chairmanship of Kaka Kalelkar. The second Backward Classes Commission was appointed in 1979 with B.P. Mandal as chairman. The decision to set up the third Commission (option 'd') was recently approved by the Cabinet.</li> <li>• Additional Information: It was based on the suggestions of the Kothari Commission that India's first National Education Policy was passed by the Parliament in 1968  <a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/smriti-irani-tsr-subramanian-new-national-education-policy-hrd-ministry-education-2869946/">(http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/smriti-irani-tsr-subramanian-new-national-education-policy-hrd-ministry-education-2869946/)</a>.  <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/congress-denied-justice-to-obcs/article19589215.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/congress-denied-justice-to-obcs/article19589215.ece</a>;</li> </ul> <p>Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth;</p>

5. Which one of the following articles of the constitution most appropriately reflects the fact that the Supreme Court is “the guarantor of the fundamental rights of citizens”?

- (a) Article 32
- (b) Article 39A
- (c) Article 136
- (d) Article 142

Solution: a.

A mere declaration of fundamental rights in the Constitution is meaningless, useless and worthless without providing an effective machinery for their enforcement, if and when they are violated. Hence, Article 32 confers the right to remedies for the enforcement of the fundamental rights of an aggrieved citizen. In other words, the right to get the Fundamental Rights protected is in itself a fundamental right. This makes the fundamental rights real. That is why Dr Ambedkar called Article 32 as the most important article of the Constitution—‘an Article without which this constitution would be a nullity. It is the very soul of the Constitution and the very heart of it’. The Supreme Court has ruled that Article 32 is a basic feature of the Constitution. Hence, it cannot be abridged or taken away even by way of an amendment to the Constitution.

Improvisation:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/religion-at-state-expense-gujarat-riots-shrines-compensation-supreme-court-4821353/>;

Fundamental Rights, Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth;

\*\*\*\*\*