

# INSIGHTSONINDIA



**INSIGHTSIAS**  
SIMPLIFYING  
IAS EXAM PREPARATION

## DAILY QUIZ NOVEMBER 2017

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Q. No.	Question	Solution
<b>NOVEMBER 1, 2017</b>		
1.	<p>Draft regulations on civil use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones) in India is released.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All drones are to be registered with Ministry of Home affairs.</li> <li>Drones less than 2 kg and operating under 200 feet of height, once registered, can be flown without regular permissions.</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements is/are correct about drone regulation?</p> <p>(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both (d) Neither</p>	<p>Solution: b</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b></p> <p>Drones are to be registered with Ministry of Civil Aviation.</p>
2.	<p>The Supreme Court asked the Central Government whether its March 10, 2014 order to complete the trial in all these cases within a year's time had been complied with or not. Supreme Court had given one year deadline for whose trial?</p> <p>(a) All serving Central Government Officials above Joint Secretary Level. (b) All retired Central Government Officials. (c) All politicians who have served as MLAs and/or MPs at least once. (d) All sitting MLAs and MPs</p>	<p>Solution: d</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b></p> <p>On March 10, 2014, a Supreme Court Bench of Justice (retired) R.M. Lodha and Justice Kurian Joseph had ordered the government to conclude criminal trials in which charges have been framed against sitting MPs and MLAs "speedily and expeditiously" within a year.</p>
3.	<p>The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), has approved the continuation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana- Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR) for three years i.e. 2017-18 to 2019-20. Grants under the same are based on which of the following.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infrastructure and assets.</li> <li>Value addition linked products.</li> </ol> <p>(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both (d) Neither</p>	<p>Solution: c</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Self-explanatory</p>

<p>4.</p>	<p>In 1998, in the Third Judges Case, the court clarified its position on the composition of collegium. Which of the statements is/are correct about the collegium.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It comprises, in the case of appointments to the Supreme Court, the CJI and his four senior-most colleagues while in the case of appointments to the high courts, the CJI and his two senior-most colleagues.</li> <li>2. For appointments to the high courts, the collegium must consult such other senior judges serving in the Supreme Court who had previously served as judges of the high court concerned.</li> </ol> <p>(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both (d) Neither</p>	<p>Solution: c</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Self-explanatory</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>As per India Meteorological Department, upper air cyclonic circulation is intensifying North East Monsoon. Which of the upper air circulation cells are related to India's rains.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hadley Cell</li> <li>2. Ferrel Cell</li> <li>3. Polar Cell</li> </ol> <p>(a) Only 1 and 2 (b) Only 1 (c) Only 2 (d) All</p>	<p>Solution: a</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hadley cell circulates between 0° and 30° latitudes.</li> <li>• Ferrel Cell circulates between 30° and 60° latitudes.</li> <li>• Polar Cell circulates between 60° and 90° latitudes.</li> </ul> <p>As India lies between 8°4'N and 37°6'N latitudes, only Hadley and Ferrel cells come into picture.</p>
<b>NOVEMBER 2, 2017</b>		
<p>1.</p>	<p>India slipped 21 places on Global Gender Gap index to a lowly 108. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the index?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The index is prepared by United Nations Development Program.</li> <li>2. India is ranked behind Bangladesh in the index.</li> </ol> <p>(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both (d) Neither</p>	<p>Solution: b</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b></p> <p>The index is prepared by <b>World economic Forum</b>.</p> <p><b>Global Inequality Index</b> is prepared by <b>UNDP</b>.</p>

<p>2.</p>	<p>Balfour declaration was issued exactly a hundred years ago on November 2, 1917. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Balfour declaration?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is related to end of World War I.</li> <li>2. It is related to Zionism.</li> </ol> <p>(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both (d) Neither</p>	<p>Solution: b</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b></p> <p>The <b>Balfour Declaration</b> was a public statement issued by the British government during World War I announcing support for the establishment of a “national home for the Jewish people” in Palestine, then an Ottoman region with a minority Jewish population.</p> <p>It greatly increased popular support for Zionism, the national movement of the Jewish people that supports the re-establishment of a Jewish homeland.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Many Indian companies are looking at raising funds through Initial Coin Offerings (ICO). Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding ICO?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is an issuance of digital tokens that can be converted into crypto currencies and are mostly used to raise funds by start-up firms.</li> <li>2. SEBI regulates ICO in India.</li> </ol> <p>(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both (d) Neither</p>	<p>Solution: a</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b></p> <p>An ICO, like an equity initial public offer (IPO), is an issuance of digital tokens that can be converted into crypto currencies and are mostly used to raise funds by start-up firms dealing in block chain technology and virtual currencies like bitcoins and ethereum.</p> <p>Unlike an IPO, which is governed by SEBI regulations, there is no regulatory body for ICOs in India.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>The NSCN (K) has threatened to drive out all non-Nagas from Nagaland if the National Investigation Agency (NIA), that is probing terror funding cases, continues to target family members of its members. Nagas relentlessly aspired for Greater Nagalim. Greater Nagalim includes Naga inhabited areas from which of the following?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assam</li> <li>2. Arunachal Pradesh</li> <li>3. Nagaland</li> <li>4. Manipur</li> <li>5. Myanmar</li> </ol> <p>(a) Only 2, 3 and 4 (b) Only 1, 2 and 3 (c) Only 3, 4 and 5 (d) All</p>	<p>Solution: d</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b></p> <p>Self-explanatory</p>

<p>5. The Ministry of Road Transport &amp; Highways has issued a Gazette Notification today according to which all four wheel motor vehicles sold on or after 1st December 2017 will have FASTags fitted on them by the manufacturer of the vehicle or its authorized dealer. Which of the following statements is/are correct about FASTag?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It enables automatic deduction of toll charges and lets one pass through the toll plaza without stopping for the cash transaction.</li> <li>2. The tag employs Radio-frequency Identification (RFID) technology and is affixed on the vehicle's windscreen after the tag account is active.</li> </ol> <p>(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both (d) Neither</p>	<p>Solution: c</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Self-explanatory</p>										
<b>NOVEMBER 3, 2017</b>											
<p>1. The Central Government has decided to phase out Haj subsidy, which was extended to pilgrims travelling to Saudi Arabia. Haj is one of the five pillars of Islam.</p> <p>Match the other pillars of Islam with their respective meanings.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i><b>Pillars of Islam</b></i></th><th style="text-align: left;"><i><b>Meanings</b></i></th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Shahada</td><td>A. Fasting</td></tr> <tr> <td>2. Salat</td><td>B. Faith</td></tr> <tr> <td>3. Zakat</td><td>C. Prayer</td></tr> <tr> <td>4. Sawm</td><td>D. Charity</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(a) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D (b) 1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-A (c) 1-C, 2-D, 3-A, 4-B (d) 1-D, 2-A, 3-B, 4-A</p>	<i><b>Pillars of Islam</b></i>	<i><b>Meanings</b></i>	1. Shahada	A. Fasting	2. Salat	B. Faith	3. Zakat	C. Prayer	4. Sawm	D. Charity	<p>Solution: b</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Self-explanatory</p>
<i><b>Pillars of Islam</b></i>	<i><b>Meanings</b></i>										
1. Shahada	A. Fasting										
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3. Zakat	C. Prayer										
4. Sawm	D. Charity										
<p>2. The Central Water Commission (CWC) has given its approval to Kaleshwaram Irrigation Project for inter-state clearance for it following the compliance of required aspects. Which of the statements is/are correct about Kaleshwaram Project.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is a project on River Krishna.</li> <li>2. It is an interstate project between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.</li> </ol> <p>(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2</p>	<p>Solution: d</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a project on River Godavari.</li> <li>• It is an interstate project between Telangana and Maharashtra.</li> </ul>										

	<p>(c) Both</p> <p>(d) None</p>	
3.	<p>Embarking on his first official tour of Asia, President Donald Trump visited Hawaii before he paid visit to Pearl Harbor, where thousands of service members paid the ultimate sacrifice following a surprise attack by Japan that plunged the U.S. into World War II. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Hawaiian Islands.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They are situated in Northern hemisphere.</li> <li>They lie to the east of International Date Line.</li> </ol> <p>(a) Only 1</p> <p>(b) Only 2</p> <p>(c) Both</p> <p>(d) None</p>	<p>Solution: c</p> <p>Explanation: Self-explanatory</p>
4.	<p>During world Food India-2017, nutraceuticals were emphasized. Which of the following is/are nutraceuticals?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dietary supplements.</li> <li>Farmaceuticals.</li> </ol> <p>(a) Only 1</p> <p>(b) Only 2</p> <p>(c) Both</p> <p>(d) None</p>	<p>Solution: c</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b></p> <p><b>Nutraceuticals</b> is a broad umbrella term that is used to describe any product derived from food sources with extra health benefits in addition to the basic nutritional value found in foods.</p> <p>Most often they are grouped in the following categories: dietary supplements, functional food, medicinal food, pharmaceuticals.</p> <p>A dietary supplement represents a product that contains nutrients derived from food products, and is often concentrated in liquid, capsule, powder or pill form. Although dietary supplements are regulated by the FDA as foods, their regulation differs from drugs and other foods.</p> <p><b>Farmaceuticals</b> are medically valuable components produced from modified agricultural crops or animals. The term is a combining of the words “farm” and “pharmaceuticals”. Proponents of this concept are convinced that using crops (and possibly even animals) as pharmaceutical factories is much more cost effective than conventional methods, with higher revenue for agricultural producers.</p>
5.	<p>The price of the new series of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs), opening for purchase has been fixed by the government. What are the minimum investment and maximum investment limits respectively per person in SGBs?</p> <p>(a) One gram and 500 grams</p> <p>(b) One gram and 200 grams</p> <p>(c) Two grams and 500 grams</p>	<p>Solution: a</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b></p> <p>Under the <b>Sovereign Gold Bonds scheme</b>, the bonds are <b>denominated</b> in units of <b>one gram of gold</b> and <b>multiples</b> thereof. Minimum investment in the bonds is one gram, with a maximum limit of <b>500 grams per person, per fiscal year</b> (April to March).</p>

(d) Two grams and 200 grams

**NOVEMBER 6, 2017**

1. Consider the following statements in the context of applications of Raman Spectroscopy:

1. It can be used to determine the chemical composition of a sample – both qualitative and quantitative
2. Chemical analysis only of solid and liquid particles can be carried out using Raman Spectroscopy

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.

**Raman Spectroscopy** is used in many varied fields – in fact, any application where non-destructive, microscopic, chemical analysis and imaging is required. Whether the goal is qualitative or quantitative data, **Raman analysis** can provide key information easily and quickly. It can be used to rapidly characterise the chemical composition and structure of a sample, whether solid, liquid, gas, gel, slurry or powder. Some key areas where the use of Raman Spectroscopy is well-established include: Raw material verification in pharmaceuticals industry, gemstone and minerals identification, alloy composition, defect analysis in semiconductors etc.

Address by President, WFI 2017: “I would like to congratulate the winners of today’s start-up Awards and Hackathon Awards... I understand that one of the start-ups selected has adapted Raman Spectroscopy, the discovery of India’s very own Nobel Prize winning scientist Dr C.V. Raman, into a low-cost hand-held device that can instantly detect food adulteration. This technology can save billions in food fraud.”

[Horiba: Common applications of RS;](#)

2. Which state of India was the first to enact a ‘Food and Nutrition Security’ law?

- (a) Bihar
- (b) Chattisgarh
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

Solution: b.

**Chhattisgarh is the first state in the country to enact a ‘Food and Nutrition Security Act’.** Its food security law has been praised for reducing the amount of grain lost to pilferage and through corrupt practices.

Some steps taken by the state to improve delivery of food grains through the PDS:


- Ration shops were de-privatised by shifting the management of the public distribution system outlets from private licensees to community-based organizations such as gram panchayats (village councils,) female self-help groups and co-operative societies.
- A ‘Chawal Utsav’ (Rice Festival) is organised at each ration shop during the first week of every month, which helps to ensure that all food items are adequately stocked in each shop by the last day of the previous month.
- Food items are delivered direct to the doorstep of ration shops by yellow government and private trucks to help curtail diversion and ensure timely stocking of food items in shops.
- To make the ration shops financially viable, and reduce the chance of leakage, the commission paid to shop owners and gram panchayats was increased.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interest-free loan of 75,000 rupees to all shops allocated to female self-help groups and gram panchayats.</li> <li>The PDS was computerized in 2007 to ensure strict monitoring of movement of stocks and inventory levels at all warehouses and shops in the state.</li> <li>Ration cards have also been computerised and only centrally printed ration cards are distributed to the beneficiaries.</li> <li>The state government started a toll-free public distribution telephone helpline and also took various transparency measures to involve the community in the process of monitoring.</li> </ul> <p>President addresses the Chattisgarh Rajyotsava;</p> <p>From 2013: WSJ: How Chattisgarh's Food Security Law Works;</p>
3.	<p>Consider the following statements with reference to mental health in India:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to the National Mental Health Survey 2016, one in twenty Indians has depression</li> <li>One of the obstacles that mental health patients face is that of scarcity of human resources (in the field of mental health)</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 mains-oriented question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 in 20 Indians is grappling with depression</li> <li>There are 3 psychiatrists for every 1 lakh people in the country, on an average, says the World Health Organization.</li> </ul> <p>"The <b>World Congress of Mental Health</b> is taking place in India and in fact in South Asia for the first time. This is a matter of pride for all of us. Frankly, it has come here at an appropriate moment. Mental health issues are acquiring a serious magnitude in our country... those living in metropolitan cities and those who are young – whether in the productive age group, or children and teenagers – are most vulnerable to mental illnesses. In India, both these factors are cause for concern. We have a young population, with 65 per cent of our people below the age of 35. And our society is rapidly urbanising. This leaves us staring at a possible mental health epidemic... The biggest obstacle that mental health patients have to encounter is stigma and denial.."</p> <p>President's address at the World Congress of Mental Health;</p> <p><a href="#">TH: Mind Matters;</a></p>
4.	<p>The 'Ponseti method', recently in the news, is</p> <p>(a) A Gravitational Wave detection method</p> <p>(b) A teaching method used by schools in Singapore, regarded widely as the reason why Singapore consistently tops rankings on international assessment of student math</p> <p>(c) A form of management of forests in which one type of tree is planted in straight rows in place of natural forests</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>This is relevant only because the <b>Global Clubfoot Conference</b> was recently held in India for the first time.</p> <p><b>Clubfoot</b> is one of the most common <b>orthopaedic birth defects</b>. It can cause permanent disability if not treated early. This affects the child's mobility and confidence. Inevitably, education and schooling suffer – and the child cannot fulfil his or her potential. The irony is clubfoot is curable. Till recently most children who suffered from clubfoot needed to be treated surgically. A relatively recent</p>

	(d) A non-invasive technique for treatment of congenital clubfoot	method – the Ponseti method (developed in USA) – has been developed to treat and correct clubfoot without surgery.  President's speech at the Global Clubfoot Conference;
5.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's latest ranking on the World Bank Ease of Doing Business has slipped by around 30 places</li> <li>India has improved by around 20 places on the World Economic Forum's latest Global Gender Gap Index</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India has jumped 30 positions to 100th place among 190 countries in the latest edition of the Ease of Doing Business rankings released by the World Bank.</li> <li>India slipped 21 places on the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Gender Gap index to 108, behind neighbours China and Bangladesh, primarily due to less participation of women in the economy and low wages. Moreover, India's latest ranking is 10 notches lower than its reading in 2006 when the WEF started measuring the gender gap.</li> </ul> <p>Improvisation: PM's address at the EoDB event; TH: India slips 21 slots on WEF GGGI; Livemint: EoDB;</p>
<b>NOVEMBER 7, 2017</b>		
1.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</li> <li>India has ratified the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol</li> <li>India is not a part of the Like-Minded Developing Countries Group on Climate Change</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 2 only (d) 2 and 3 only</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>The Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol refers to the <b>second commitment period (2013-2020)</b>. India ratified the Doha amendment in August this year (2017). India is a part of the <b>LMDC Group</b> on Climate Change.</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/india-ratifies-2nd-commitment-period-of-kyoto-protocol/article9808455.ece">http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/india-ratifies-2nd-commitment-period-of-kyoto-protocol/article9808455.ece</a></p> <p>About the Kyoto Protocol: <a href="http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php">http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php</a></p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://pibregional.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1508428">http://pibregional.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1508428</a></p>
2.	<p>Why did Lord Lytton's administration enact the Vernacular Press Act of 1878, directed only against Indian language newspapers?</p> <p>(a) Newspapers were by now widely disseminating Dadabhai Naoroji's drain theory (b) Sharp and radical comments were being made with regard to the British administration's interference in Indians' social and religious life (c) The first Delhi Darbaar of 1877 was viewed by the newspapers as an attempt by the British</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p><b>Improvisation</b> (<a href="http://pibregional.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1508360">http://pibregional.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1508360</a>): "Many of the newspapers that shaped the discourse for freedom, were vernacular newspapers. In fact, the then British Government was fearful of the Indian Vernacular Press. It was to muzzle vernacular newspapers, that the Vernacular Press Act was enacted in 1878." ..</p> <p>Indian newspapers became highly critical of Lord Lytton's administration, especially regarding its inhuman approach towards the victims of the famine of 1876-77. As a result the government decided to make a sudden strike at the</p>

	<p>to drive a wedge between Indian Hindus and Muslims, which the administration regarded as seditious</p> <p>(d) Newspapers were highly critical of the Government for its inhuman approach towards the victims of the famine of 1876-77</p>	<p>Indian language newspapers, since they reached beyond the middle class readership.</p> <p>Chapter – The Fight to Secure Press Freedom, India's Struggle for Independence by Bipan Chandra;</p> <p>A brief history of Modern India, Spectrum;</p>
3.	<p>The multidimensional Gender Vulnerability Index, released by child development NGO 'Plan India', analyses which (one) of the following issues?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Safety/protection</li> <li>2. Health</li> <li>3. Education</li> <li>4. Poverty</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1, 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(b) 1 only</p> <p>(c) 2 and 4 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>Goa ranked top and Bihar featured at the lowest in <b>Gender Vulnerability Index (GVI)</b>.</p> <p>The GVI is aimed at comprehensively understanding the dimensions of various problems affecting children, particularly girls, in difficult circumstances.</p> <p>The multidimensional index, which provides a state wise ranking, has been calculated by analysing four issues pertinent to the situation of girls — child safety/protection, poverty, health and education (under these four broad headings, there are more than 170 specific indicators that have been analysed).</p> <p>Goa is followed by Kerala, Mizoram and Sikkim. Bihar ranked the lowest at 30, with Delhi faring only slightly better at 29 and Uttar Pradesh at 28. The highest ranking north Indian state is Himachal Pradesh at the sixth position.</p> <p>The organisation plans to present a further breakdown in the form of a district-level quantitative index, based on the same indicators. Karnataka is an example of a state that is overall doing well [rank 7], yet there is a considerable divide between the north and the south of the state.</p> <p><b>Improvisation:</b>  <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173273">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173273</a>  <a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/india/goa-ranks-top-bihar-at-bottom-of-gender-vulnerability-index-4917863/">http://indianexpress.com/article/india/goa-ranks-top-bihar-at-bottom-of-gender-vulnerability-index-4917863/</a></p>
4.	<p>Which (one) of the following features of our Constitution is/are borrowed from the USSR (now Russia) Constitution?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Directive Principles of State Policy</li> <li>2. Fundamental Duties</li> <li>3. Ideals of justice in the Preamble</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 and 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>DPSPs are borrowed from the <b>Irish Constitution</b>.</p> <p><b>Soviet Constitution (USSR, now Russia):</b> Fundamental Duties and the ideal of justice (Social, Economic and Political) in the Preamble.</p> <p>Source/improvisation:  <a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/russia-socialist-revolution-bolshevik-revolution-anniversary-karl-marx-communist-manifesto-4925789/">http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/russia-socialist-revolution-bolshevik-revolution-anniversary-karl-marx-communist-manifesto-4925789/</a></p> <p>Salient Features of the Constitution, Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth;</p>

<p>5.</p>	<p>The term 'Hindu rate of growth' characterises which one of the following phases?</p> <p>(a) From the rise of Marathas to the Battle of Plassey</p> <p>(b) From the Battle of Plassey to Independence</p> <p>(c) From Independence to the 1980s</p> <p>(d) From the Economic Reforms to 2009</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>The same question was posted here earlier.</p> <p>Professor Rajkrishna, an Indian economist, coined the term 'Hindu rate of growth' in 1978 to characterise the <i>slow growth</i> and to explain it against the backdrop of <i>socialistic economic policies</i>. A 'Hindu rate of growth' characterises not a specific value of India's growth rate, but a phase which was characterised by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A low rate of growth</li> <li>• The attitude of policy makers and citizens towards economic growth (Indian fatalism, viz. India was 'content' with the low growth rate, post Independence)</li> <li>• Prolonged low growth rate, albeit not an economic contraction</li> <li>• Low per-capita GDP</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/portfolio/technically/whats-a-hindu-rate-of-growth/article4795173.ece">http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/portfolio/technically/whats-a-hindu-rate-of-growth/article4795173.ece</a></p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/plotting-social-progress/article19993692.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/plotting-social-progress/article19993692.ece</a></p>
<b>NOVEMBER 8, 2017</b>		
<p>1.</p>	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>1. Belgium, like India, is a democratic polity wherein the head of the state is indirectly elected</p> <p>2. Belgium opens out to the Baltic Sea</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: d.</p> <p>A democratic polity can be classified into two categories – monarchy (hereditary head of state, ex: Belgium, UK) and republic (directly or indirectly elected head of state, ex: USA and India).</p> <p>Belgium opens out to the North Sea, not the Baltic.</p>  <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://pibregional.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1508577">http://pibregional.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1508577</a></p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>The "Quad" grouping, recently in the news in the context of maritime security in the Indian Ocean, consists of which of the following countries/groupings?</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>"India is working with "like-minded" countries on preserving security of the oceans where India has a particular responsibility," Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar has said. "As the Indian Ocean takes centre stage in the</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)</li> <li>2. USA</li> <li>3. Japan</li> <li>4. IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association)</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 1, 2 and 3 only</li> <li>(b) 2 and 3 only</li> <li>(c) 1 and 4 only</li> <li>(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4</li> </ol>	<p>21st century, the onus is on us, as equal stakeholders, to collectively secure and nurture our oceanic states. The Indian government has been working with like-minded countries to preserve the integrity, inviolability and security of the maritime domain,” he said. The words of India’s top diplomat are significant ahead of the ASEAN and East Asia summits in Manila next week, where Japan has reportedly suggested an official meeting of the “Quad” grouping of U.S.-Japan-Australia-India.</p> <p>While India is not a military alliance partner, as the other three countries are, the MEA spokesperson had said India is “open” to the idea of the quadrilateral.</p> <p>“China on Tuesday dismissed the proposed Indo-Pacific security arrangement among the U.S., Japan, India and Australia to contain China’s rise as “media speculation”.... the Indo-Pacific refers to an area in the Pacific and the Indian Ocean on either side of the Malacca straits”</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/india-vows-to-keep-oceans-free/article20000940.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/india-vows-to-keep-oceans-free/article20000940.ece</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/china-dismisses-indo-pacific-quad-plan-as-speculation/article20000860.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/china-dismisses-indo-pacific-quad-plan-as-speculation/article20000860.ece</a></p>
<p>3. What purpose would a Digital Geneva Convention specifically serve?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Guaranteeing netizens’ right to privacy</li> <li>(b) Enabling international cooperation and collaboration in combating online piracy</li> <li>(c) Setting and enforcing international minimum protection standards to prevent vulnerable individuals such as children from falling prey to online crooks</li> <li>(d) None of the above</li> </ol>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p><b>What are the Geneva Conventions?</b></p> <p>(<a href="https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/geneva_conventions">https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/geneva_conventions</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They are a series of treaties on the treatment of civilians, prisoners of war (POWs) and soldiers who are otherwise rendered hors de combat (French, literally “outside the fight”), or incapable of fighting. The first Convention was initiated by what is now the International Committee for the Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC). This convention produced a treaty designed to protect wounded and sick soldiers during wartime. In 1949, after World War II, two new Conventions were added, and all four were ratified by a number of countries. The 1949 versions of the Conventions, along with two additional Protocols (1977), are in force today.</li> </ul> <p><b>Microsoft’s proposal for a Digital Geneva Convention</b></p> <p>(<a href="https://blogs.microsoft.com/on-the-issues/2017/02/14/need-digital-geneva-convention/">https://blogs.microsoft.com/on-the-issues/2017/02/14/need-digital-geneva-convention/</a>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The past year has witnessed not just the growth of cybercrime, but a proliferation in cyberattacks that is both new and disconcerting. This has included not only cyber-attacks mounted for financial gain, but new nation-state attacks as well...no single step by itself will be sufficient to address this problem.. Companies needs to continue to do more to protect and defend</li> </ul>

customers around the world.. But in addition, the time has arrived to call on the world's governments to implement international rules to protect the civilian use of the internet.. Just as the Fourth Geneva Convention has long protected civilians in times of war, we now need a Digital Geneva Convention that will commit governments to protecting civilians from nation-state attacks in times of peace. And just as the Fourth Geneva Convention recognized that the protection of civilians required the active involvement of the Red Cross, protection against nation-state cyberattacks requires the active assistance of technology companies. The tech sector plays a unique role as the internet's first responders, and we therefore should commit ourselves to collective action that will make the internet a safer place.."

Source/Improvisation:

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/interview/one-ought-to-have-a-learn-it-all-culture/article19999288.ece>

4. Consider the following statements:
1. A supernova is the explosion of a star
  2. The Crab Nebula is the result of a supernova
  3. ISRO's AstroSat enables scientists to analyse the contents of the Crab Nebula
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 3 only
  - (c) 2 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution: d.

#### About Supernovas

(<https://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/5-8/features/nasa-knows/what-is-a-supernova.html>):

- A supernova is the explosion of a star. It is the largest explosion that takes place in space.

#### Why Do Scientists Study Supernovas?

A supernova burns for only a short period of time, but it can tell scientists a lot about the universe. That we live in an expanding universe, one that is growing at an ever increasing rate, was determined by scientists during a study of a supernova.

Scientists also have determined that supernovas play a key role in distributing elements throughout the universe. When the star explodes, it shoots elements and debris into space. Many of the elements we find here on Earth are made in the core of stars. These elements travel on to form new stars, planets and everything else in the universe.

#### About the Crab Nebula

- ([https://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/image\\_feature\\_1604.html](https://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/image_feature_1604.html)): It the result of a supernova noted by Earth-bound chroniclers in 1054 A.D., is filled with mysterious filaments that are not only tremendously complex, but appear to have less mass than expelled in the original supernova and a higher speed than expected from a free explosion. The Crab Nebula spans about 10 light-years.



**About the Crab Pulsar:**

- In the crab nebula's very centre lies a pulsar: a neutron star as massive as the Sun but with only the size of a small town (such objects are known as "compact objects"). The Crab Pulsar rotates about 30 times each second.

**About AstroSat's recent achievement**

- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173283>

**AstroSat**, India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space telescope, has successfully accomplished the extremely difficult task of measuring X-ray polarisation of the Crab Pulsar, which rotates about 30 times each second. This landmark measurement puts up a strong challenge to prevailing theories of high energy X-ray emission from pulsars.

**About ISRO's AstroSat**

- (<https://www.isro.gov.in/Spacecraft/astrosat/>): AstroSat is **India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space telescope**. This scientific satellite mission endeavours for a more detailed understanding of our universe. One of the unique features of ASTROSAT mission is that enables the simultaneous multi-wavelength observations of various astronomical objects with a single satellite. Most other scientific satellites are capable of observing a narrow range of wavelength band.

5. Section 126 of the Representation of People's Act currently prohibits publication of ads/displaying any election matter during the period of 48 hours before the hour fixed for conclusion of poll in a constituency by means of

1. Television
2. Social Media
3. Radio
4. Print Media

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: a.

The Election Commission of India draws the attention of all Print Media to guidelines issued by the Press Council of India (in 2010) to be followed for observance during elections. Print Media is currently not included in Section 126 of the RPA, 1951.

From August, 2016

(<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/election-commission-to-govt-need-permanent-powers-to-curb-political-ads-2960601/>): "The poll panel, under **Article 324** of the Constitution, had imposed an unprecedented restriction on political advertisements in print, a day ahead of Bihar elections last year after it deemed BJP's "cow ads" as communal and divisive. The ad, which appeared in four Hindi newspapers on November 4, 2015, had alleged that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's allies had "repeatedly insulted every Indian's venerable cow" and yet he had remained "silent"..."

"The ECI... requested that print media should also be included in Section 126 of the RP Act. The provision currently prohibits publication of ads by political parties in

		<p>electronic media — TV, radio and, more recently, social media — 48 hours before voting ends. This proposal was first mooted by the EC on April 13, 2012, and it has been endorsed by the Law Commission, but the government hasn't acted on it..”</p> <p>Source/Improvisation:  <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173297">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173297</a>;</p>
6.	<p>Today's Google Doodle pays homage to Sitara Devi, the legendary Kathak dancer who was described as <i>Nritya Samragini</i> (“Empress of Dance”).</p> <p>‘Kathak’ has been derived from a word which means</p> <p>(a) A story</p> <p>(b) Devotion</p> <p>(c) Love and passion</p> <p>(d) Dance of the celestials</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p><b>About Kathak</b> (<a href="http://ccrtindia.gov.in/kathak.php">http://ccrtindia.gov.in/kathak.php</a>): The word Kathak has been derived from the word Katha which means a story. Kathakars or story-tellers, are people who narrate stories largely based on episodes from the epics, myths and legends. It probably started as an oral tradition. Mime and gestures were perhaps added later on to make the recitation more effective. Thus evolved a simple form of expressional dance, providing the origins of what later developed into Kathak as we see it today.</p> <p>Improvisation – today's Google Doodle:  <a href="http://www.google.com/doodles/sitara-devis-97th-birthday">http://www.google.com/doodles/sitara-devis-97th-birthday</a>;</p>

### NOVEMBER 9, 2017


1.	<p>The Islands Development Agency (IDA) was set up for the purpose of development of islands in a holistic manner. The first phase of development includes the islands of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lakshadweep</li> <li>2. Andaman and Nicobar</li> <li>3. Assam</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) 1 and 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>The IDA was set up on June 01, 2017 following the Prime Minister's review meeting for the development of islands.</p> <p>10 islands Andaman &amp; Nicobar and Lakshadweep have been identified for holistic development in the first phase.</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173317">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173317</a></p> <p>From July, 2017:  <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=168895">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=168895</a></p>
2.	<p>NITI Aayog's 'Darpan' portal will</p> <p>(a) Promote competitive federalism</p> <p>(b) Foster healthy partnerships between the Government and Non-Governmental Organisations</p> <p>(c) Enable civil society to keep track of the country's progress in achieving targets listed under UN Sustainable Development Goals</p> <p>(d) Serve as a compendium on good practices in governance thereby promoting cooperative federalism</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>The NGO-DARPAN platform was earlier maintained by erstwhile Planning Commission. It now is being maintained under the aegis of NITI Aayog.</p> <p>VOs (Voluntary Organisations)/NGOs play a major role in the development of the nation by supplementing the efforts of the Government. This portal enables VOs/NGOs to enrol centrally and thus facilitates creation of a repository of information about VOs/NGOs, Sector/State wise. The Portal facilitates VOs/NGOs to obtain a system generated Unique ID, as and when signed. The Unique ID is</p>



		<p>mandatory to apply for grants under various schemes of Ministries/Departments/Governments Bodies.</p> <p>It is a free facility offered by the NITI Aayog in association with National Informatics Centre to bring about greater partnership between government &amp; voluntary sector and foster better transparency, efficiency and accountability.</p> <p><a href="http://ngodarpan.gov.in">http://ngodarpan.gov.in</a></p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173327">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173327</a></p>
3.	<p>Chennai recently has been included in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network. What does this mean?</p> <p>(a) Chennai has identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable development</p> <p>(b) Chennai recognises the strength of inclusive development planning model involving the public and private sectors as well as civil society in transforming itself into a smart city</p> <p>(c) Chennai has built a citizen-centric city administration that has enabled it to become a city which is constantly developing in a sustainable manner</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>The <b>UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)</b> was created in 2004 to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for <i>sustainable urban development</i>.</p> <p>Cities which currently make up this network work together towards a common objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and</li> <li>• cooperating actively at the international level.</li> </ul> <p>The UNESCO Creative Cities Network is not only as a platform for reflection on the role of creativity as a lever for sustainable development but also as a breeding ground of action and innovation, notably for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173321">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173321</a> <a href="https://en.unesco.org/creative-cities/content/about-us">https://en.unesco.org/creative-cities/content/about-us</a></p>
4.	<p>The Organic World Congress is held once every three years. It is organised by</p> <p>(a) The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements</p> <p>(b) Food and Agriculture Organisation</p> <p>(c) International Food Policy Research Institute in conjunction with World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organisation and World Health Organisation</p> <p>(d) Ministry of Agriculture, India</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>The <b>Organic World Congress (OWC)</b> is organized once every three years in a different country and this time it is being organised in <b>India</b>. The last edition of the Organic World Congress took place in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2014. The <b>International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)</b> and <b>OAFI</b> are organizing the event.</p> <p>"Since 1972, <b>IFOAM – Organics International</b> has occupied an unchallenged position as the only international umbrella organization of the organic world, uniting an enormous diversity of stakeholders contributing to the organic vision."</p> <p>IFOAM – Organics International has 800 Affiliates in more than 100 countries. In order to unify, lead and assist this a broad-based constituency in a fair, inclusive and participatory manner, IFOAM – Organics International organizes a General Assembly every three years where a World Board is elected to chart IFOAM-Organics International's course and to appoint affiliates to official committees, working groups and task forces.</p>

		<a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173326">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173326</a> <a href="https://www.ifoam.bio/en/about-us">https://www.ifoam.bio/en/about-us</a> About the 19th OWC in India: <a href="https://owc.ifoam.bio/2017/about">https://owc.ifoam.bio/2017/about</a>
5.	The 'Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC)' programme has been initiated by (a) US Agency for International Development (b) The International Chamber of Commerce (c) The World Intellectual Property Organisation (d) NITI Aayog	Solution: c. <b>WIPO's</b> TISC program provides innovators in developing countries with access to locally based, high quality technology information and related services, helping them to exploit their innovative potential and to create, protect, and manage their intellectual property (IP) rights. The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) is designated as the National Focal point for the TISC network in India. As the national focal point, CIPAM shall identify potential host institutions, assess their capacities and support them in joining the TISC project. CIPAM will also act as the main intermediary between WIPO and TISC host institutions and coordinate all the activities of the national TISC network. Over 500 TISCs operate worldwide and establishing TISC in India will give the host institutions access to the Global network. Source/Improvisation: <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173318">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173318</a> <a href="http://www.wipo.int/tisc/en/">http://www.wipo.int/tisc/en/</a> From May, 2017: <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161624">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161624</a>

### NOVEMBER 10, 2017

1.	Consider the following list: 1. Chattisgarh 2. Jharkhand 3. Telangana Which of the states mentioned above share their borders with the state of Madhya Pradesh? (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3	Solution: a.  Improvisation: <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173350">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173350</a> ;
2.	'IndiaChain', recently in the news, refers to (a) A set of software applications that are stored on the cloud computing platform MeghRaj and that can be run on multiple systems simultaneously	Solution: d. As part of the series of Road to GES events (in the run up to the Global Entrepreneurship Summit or GES), NITI Aayog along with Proffer, a blockchain startup founded by graduates of MIT and Harvard, are organising a Blockchain summit and hackathon at IIT Delhi from Nov 10-13, 2017.

	<p>(b) An application for blockchain networks to avert a 51% Attack</p> <p>(c) A public digital ledger which duplicates records of ever confirmed Bitcoin transaction that originated in India</p> <p>(d) A distributed ledger technology-based infrastructure for the Indian government</p>	<p>NITI Aayog CEO Mr. Amitabh Kant will deliver a keynote, sharing his perspective on how blockchain technology can transform the Indian economy and presenting his vision for IndiaChain – a blockchain-enabled infrastructure for Indian enterprise and government.</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173334">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173334</a>;</p> <p>Additional reading – What is a ‘blockchain’: <a href="https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/blockchain.asp">https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/blockchain.asp</a>;</p>
3.	<p>The recently introduced Disaster Information Volunteers (DIV) Programme is most closely associated with which one of the following ?</p> <p>(a) Disaster preparedness and contingency planning</p> <p>(b) Women Self Help Groups</p> <p>(c) Risk coverage</p> <p>(d) Social Media</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju has said that India must prepare itself for moving towards Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) from an approach of traditional Disaster Management. Shri Rijiju was inaugurating the ‘<b>India Disaster Response Summit</b>’, organised jointly by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Facebook, on how best to leverage social media platforms to ‘prepare, respond and recover’ for, during and after a disaster.</p> <p>Shri Rijiju said that the partnership between the Indian Government and Facebook on disaster response is the first of its kind in the world.</p> <p>Introducing the <b>Disaster Information Volunteers (DIV)</b> programme, wherein a network of trained volunteers would provide supplementary information on disasters in their local communities to assist Government relief efforts through the Facebook Workplace platform, Facebook Head (Policy Programmes) for South Asia said they were aiming to empower communities by building products that connect people and create positive social impact. The programme will be piloted in two disaster prone states – Assam and Uttarakhand.</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173344">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173344</a>;</p> <p>Additional reading – PM’s ten-point action agenda for renewing efforts towards DRR: <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=153213">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=153213</a>;</p>
4.	<p>The ‘Graded Response Action Plan’ was notified earlier this year (2017) by the Environment Ministry. The plan is meant to tackle</p> <p>(a) Air pollution in all urban regions of India</p> <p>(b) Water pollution in river Ganga</p> <p>(c) Soil pollution in eastern regions of India</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>The ‘<b>Graded Response Action Plan</b>’ was notified earlier this year by the Environment Ministry against air pollution for Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR includes Rajasthan, Haryana and UP). The plan puts governments under the lens and holds out the promise of improvement in air quality, if followed properly.</p> <p><b>What does a ‘graded response’ to air pollution mean?</b></p> <p>A graded response lays down stratified actions that are required to be taken as and when the concentration of</p>

pollutants, in this case particulate matter, reaches a certain level. The response will change as pollutant levels increase.

At the level of 100 microgrammes per cubic metre ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) of PM 2.5, for example, mechanised sweeping and water-sprinkling along roads has to start. Other pollution control measures that are already in place (such as stopping landfill fires) will have to be strictly implemented. If pollution levels of  $300 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  or more persists for more than 48 hours, an emergency will be declared, which means a return of the odd-even road rationing scheme, ban on construction activity, and no entry of trucks in Delhi unless they are carrying essential commodities.

From January 2017:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/delhi-air-pollution-control-graded-response-action-plan-government-4479203/>;

Source/Improvisation:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173348>  
<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/capital-crisis/article20005352.ece>;

5. Consider the following statements:

1. The right to avoid self-incrimination is a fundamental right under our Constitution
2. India is not a signatory to the UN Convention Against Torture

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.

“Reports that the school’s bus driver was under pressure to identify the knife allegedly used in the murder to be part of the bus toolkit add to the suspicion that the police were trying to frame the conductor... Studies on police reforms have highlighted the need to make the investigation process more scientific and more rooted in forensic analysis, but custodial torture and extracted confessions continue to be reported.”

**Fundamental Rights chapter, Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth:** Article 20 (Protection in Respect of Conviction for Offences) grants protection against arbitrary and excessive punishment to an accused person, whether citizen or foreigner or legal person like a company or a corporation. It contains three provisions in that direction:

- No ex-post-facto law
- No double jeopardy
- **No self-incrimination:** No person accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself.

From April 2017

(<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/prevention-of-custodial-torture-matter-of-national-interest-frame-anti-torturer-law-sc-to-govt-4626673/>): Pointing out that there was no law on torture, the Supreme Court today said there was “extreme urgency” in national interest to frame of an effective law to prevent torture and inhuman treatment of individuals in custody. “We do not have a law on torture. This is a matter of national interest,” a bench said... despite

being a signatory to the United Nations' Convention Against Torture, 1997, India has not ratified the convention so far since ratification requires an enabling legislation to reflect the definition and punishment for 'torture'.

Improvisation:

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/under-pressure/article20055509.ece>;

### NOVEMBER 11, 2017

1. Consider the following list:

1. Economic participation and opportunity
2. Political empowerment
3. Health and Survival
4. Educational attainment

On which of the parameters listed above is India's ranking lower than its overall ranking (108/144) on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap index 2017?

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

Solution: d.

#### DOWN FROM 87 TO 108

Global Index		Economic Participation & Opportunity		Educational Attainment		Health and Survival		Political Empowerment	
2017*									
Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
108	0.669	139	0.376	112	0.952	141	0.942	15	0.407
2016*									
Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
87	0.683	136	0.408	113	0.950	142	0.942	9	0.433
*Total 144 countries; highest score 1, lowest 0.									

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-slips-21-places-in-gender-gap-ranking-bangladesh-ahead-4920129/>

2. Ranking of higher educational institutions as compiled under the National Institutional Ranking Framework is based upon certain parameters. The least weightage is assigned to which one of the following parameters?

- (a) Teaching, Learning and Resources
- (b) Outreach and Inclusivity
- (c) Graduation Outcomes
- (d) Research and Professional Practice

Solution: b.

Summary of Ranking Parameters and Weightages- 2017

Sr. No.	Parameter	Marks	Weightage
1	Teaching, Learning & Resources	100	0.30
2	Research and Professional Practice	100	0.30
3	Graduation Outcomes	100	0.20
4	Outreach and Inclusivity	100	0.10
5	Perception	100	0.10

Improvisation:

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-miscellaneous/tp-others/top-colleges-to-compete-for-national-ranking/article20007103.ece>;

[https://www.nirfindia.org/Docs/Ranking\\_Methodology\\_And\\_Metrics\\_2017.pdf](https://www.nirfindia.org/Docs/Ranking_Methodology_And_Metrics_2017.pdf);

3. To be classified as an 'XPRIZE', a competition must

1. Target a range of market failures
2. Have clear and simple rules
3. Be winnable within a reasonable time frame
4. Be winnable by a small team

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 3 and 4 only

Solution: d.

#### What is an XPRIZE?

An XPRIZE is a highly leveraged, incentivized prize competition that pushes the limits of what's possible to change the world for the better.

It captures the world's imagination and inspires others to reach for similar goals, spurring innovation and accelerating the rate of positive change.

<p>(b) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(c) 3 and 4 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4</p>	<p>An XPRIZE must (apart from those listed in the options above)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a bold and audacious goal</li> <li>• Be audacious but achievable</li> <li>• Have clear, objective and simple rules</li> <li>• Be telegenic and easy to convey</li> <li>• Be leverageable</li> <li>• Drive investment</li> <li>• Create “back end” business</li> <li>• Provide vision and hope</li> </ul> <p>Some examples of XPRIZE include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Google Lunar XPRIZE</li> <li>• Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE</li> <li>• Global Learning XPRIZE</li> <li>• Anu &amp; Naveen Jain Women’s Safety XPRIZE</li> </ul> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-41935521">http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-41935521</a></p> <p>To read about the XPRIZE in detail, refer: <a href="https://www.xprize.org/about/what-is-an-xprize?language=en">https://www.xprize.org/about/what-is-an-xprize?language=en</a>;</p>
<p>4. In which one of the following regions of India is it most likely that you will find a ‘nitrate time bomb’?</p> <p>(a) Punjab</p> <p>(b) Nagaland</p> <p>(c) Jammu and Kashmir</p> <p>(d) Chhattisgarh</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Of the given list of states, the highest (and excessive) utilisation of <i>fertilisers</i> for a long period (since green revolution and continuing to this day) has been in the state of <b>Punjab</b>. Read the following extract to understand what a ‘nitrate time bomb’ is:</li> <li>• A study by researchers at the British Geological Survey reveals that huge quantities of <b>nitrate chemicals</b> from farm fertilisers are polluting the <b>rocks beneath our feet</b>.</li> <li>• These researchers say it could have severe global-scale consequences for <b>rivers, water supplies, human health and the economy</b>. They say the nitrate will be released from the rocks into rivers via <b>springs</b>.</li> <li>• That will cause <b>toxic algal blooms</b> and <b>fish deaths</b>, and will cost industry and consumers billions of pounds a year in extra water treatment.</li> <li>• The scientists estimate that the quantity of nitrate stored in rocks worldwide is perhaps twice the amount stored in soils.</li> <li>• They say this is the first global estimate of the amount of nitrate trapped <b>between the soil layer and the water-bearing aquifers below</b>. They warn that over time the nitrate will inevitably slowly seep into the aquifers. Water quality will be impacted for decades, even where controls on fertiliser use have been put in place. This is what is known as a ‘<b>nitrate time bomb</b>’.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-41945650">http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-41945650</a></p>



<p>5.</p>	<p>Which one of the following statements about the pioneering feminist and activist Anasuya Sarabhai is <b>incorrect</b>?</p> <p>(a) Her work was inspired by the revolutionary doctrines of Marxism</p> <p>(b) She helped mill workers in her home town organise their first strike for higher wages</p> <p>(c) She was supported in her work – meant for the cause of labourers – by Mahatma Gandhi</p> <p>(d) The Self-Employed Women's Association of India (SEWA) grew out of India's oldest union of textile workers set up by her</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>Born on this day (11th November) in 1885, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, pioneering feminist and activist <b>Anasuya Sarabhai</b> was instrumental in altering the course of <b>India's labor history</b>.</p> <p>Briefly married as an adolescent, Sarabhai fought social convention and left in 1912 to study at the London School of Economics. There she was swept up in the suffragette movement and newly discovered ideas of social equality that laid the foundation for her life's work (she came in contact with Fabianists, who rejected the revolutionary doctrines of Marxism, recommending instead a gradual transition to a socialist society).</p> <p>Back home in Ahmedabad, Sarabhai started to work with disempowered women, particularly taking on the cause of local mill workers after learning of their 36-hour work shifts. In 1914 she helped Ahmedabad's weavers successfully organize their first strike for higher wages. In the years that followed, she went on to become their most vocal supporter, negotiating with mill owners (including her brother, Ambalal) for better working conditions. She was affectionately called "<b>Motaben</b>," Gujarati for "elder sister."</p> <p>✓ She was supported in her work by <b>Mahatma Gandhi</b> (example – 1918 <b>Ahmedabad mill-workers' Satyagraha</b>), with whom she <b>set up Gujarat's oldest labor union</b> and <b>India's oldest union of textile workers</b> (Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association [<b>Majoor Mahajan Sangh</b>]). It later paved the way for the founding of the Self-Employed Women's Association of India (<b>SEWA</b>).</p> <p>Google Doodle:</p> <p><a href="http://www.google.com/doodles/anasuya-sarabhais-132nd-birthday">http://www.google.com/doodles/anasuya-sarabhais-132nd-birthday</a></p> <p><a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/india/google-doodle-on-anasuya-sarabhai-throw-light-on-little-known-labour-movement-4932211/">http://indianexpress.com/article/india/google-doodle-on-anasuya-sarabhai-throw-light-on-little-known-labour-movement-4932211/</a></p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Around 20% of crop residue in India is burnt annually. Which of the following is/are some of the reasons for this, despite the practice being banned?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shortage of agricultural labour</li> <li>2. Short interval between crops</li> <li>3. Mechanisation of farming</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 and 3 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p><b>Justification for statement 3:</b> Farm mechanisation has killed the practice of using paddy stalk and straw as fodder, and burning is the only way out. "The cuttings left by the machines are too sharp. Not only do they injure us, even animals find it difficult to graze on," says a farmer.</p> <p>An excellent article to understand the issue of stubble burning (and a solution for the same) in north-west India:</p> <p><a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/delhi-air-pollution-smog-crop-stubble-burning-delhi-school-shut-odd-even-scheme-manish-sisodia-amarinder-singh-arvind-kejriwal-punjab-farmers-4930457/">http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/delhi-air-pollution-smog-crop-stubble-burning-delhi-school-shut-odd-even-scheme-manish-sisodia-amarinder-singh-arvind-kejriwal-punjab-farmers-4930457/</a>;</p>

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

Summary of a related report (wherefrom this question has been framed):

<http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Report%20Summary/SCR%20Summary-%20Agriculture%20Research.pdf>

For a additional reading:

<http://www.downtoearth.org.in/coverage/river-of-fire-57924>

### NOVEMBER 12, 2017

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Verses ascribed to him were compiled after his death
2. The Adi Granth Sahib includes many of his compositions
3. Ramananda was his disciple

Which of the statements given above is/are true about the poet-saint Kabir?

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

Solution: a.

Verses ascribed to Kabir have been compiled in three distinct but overlapping traditions. The **Kabir Bijak** is preserved by the **Kabirpanth** (the path or sect of Kabir) in Varanasi and elsewhere in Uttar Pradesh; the **Kabir Granthavali** is associated with the **Dadupanth** in Rajasthan, and many of his compositions are found in the **Adi Granth Sahib**. All these manuscript compilations were made long after the death of Kabir.

Some hagiographies suggest that he was initiated into bhakti by a guru, perhaps **Ramananda**. However, the verses attributed to Kabir use the words **guru** and **satguru**, but do not mention the name of any specific preceptor. Historians have pointed out that it is very difficult to establish that Ramananda and Kabir were contemporaries, without assigning improbably long lives to either or both.

Bhakti-Sufi traditions, Themes in Indian History Part 2 – NCERT Class 12;

Improvisation:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173376>

2. In the annals of 19th century India, Jhalkari Bai was associated with which one of the following events/developments?

- (a) Abolition of sati  
(b) The revolt of 1857  
(c) The great famine of 1876-78  
(d) Formation of the Indian National Congress

Solution: b.

Deemed the first war of independence, **Rani Laxmibai** was among the leaders who took on the British forces in the revolt of 1857.

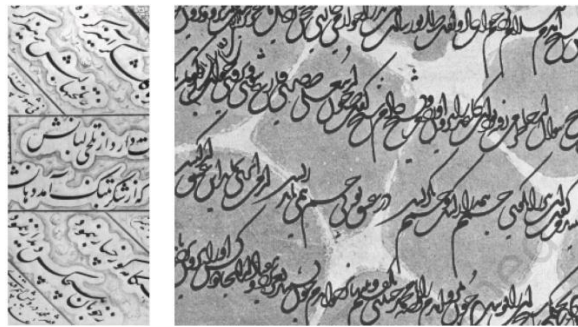
It was in 1858, when Field Marshal **Hugh Henry Rose** attacked **Jhansi** to put an end to the mutiny once and for all. As it has been well documented in history books since, the brave queen took on the British forces from her fort with just an army of 4,000. She could have held on to the fort for long but she was betrayed by one of her own commanders, thus making defeat imminent. Counselling by her generals to escape immediately, Laxmibai quietly slipped away from Jhansi on horseback.

Having borne an uncanny resemblance to Rani Laxmibai, **Jhalkari Bai** disguised herself as the queen and took command of the Jhansi army and walked right up to General Rose's camp. Upon reaching, she loudly yelled that she wanted a meeting with the General himself. This plan was both to keep the enemy forces at bay and also give the



		<p>queen more time to evade capture and get out of harm's way.</p> <p>Improvisation:  <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173376">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173376</a>  <a href="https://www.thebetterindia.com/97013/jhalkari-bai-laxmibai-jhansi-india-freedom/">https://www.thebetterindia.com/97013/jhalkari-bai-laxmibai-jhansi-india-freedom/</a></p>
3.	<p>Consider the following statements about the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of its objectives is to promote 'Custom Hiring Centres'</li> <li>The scheme's beneficiaries will only include small and marginal farmers</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>"Burning of crop residue in the states like Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan also contributes in increasing environmental pollution levels... The Agriculture Ministry issued an advisory to the state governments to create awareness among the farmers about the harmful effect of straw burning... State Governments have.. been directed funds available for demonstration of machines under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization shall be used for demonstration of straw management machinery at farmers' fields..."</p> <p><b>Introduction to SMAM:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Among the states, farm power availability in Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh and western part of Rajasthan is higher than the national average of 1.73kW/ha. In rest of the country, especially in Eastern and North-East Regions, it is significantly lower which necessitates promotion of farm mechanization as a special Mission.</li> <li>✓ The scheme will be implemented in all the states, to promote the usage of farm mechanization and increase the ratio of farm power to cultivable unit area up to 2 kW/ha.</li> </ul> <p><b>[Farm Power:</b> Humans, animals and machines are all used as sources of power in agriculture production. When undertaking different operations on a farm, a certain amount of work is required to complete the task. When this work is undertaken over time, it is then called power. Power or the rate of doing work can be expressed as horsepower or Kilowatt. One horsepower is equivalent to 0.75 Kilowatt.]</p> <p><b>The Mission objectives are as follows:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing the reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers and to the regions where availability of farm power is low;</li> <li>• Promoting 'Custom Hiring Centres' to offset the adverse economies of scale arising due to small landholding and high cost of individual ownership;</li> <li>• Creating hubs for hi-tech &amp; high value farm equipments;</li> <li>• Creating awareness among stakeholders through demonstration and</li> <li>• capacity building activities;</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring performance testing and certification at designated testing</li> <li>centers located all over the country.</li> </ul> <p>Improvisation:  <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173377">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173377</a>;  <a href="http://agricoop.nic.in/sites/default/files/Guidelines%20of%20SMAM1.pdf">http://agricoop.nic.in/sites/default/files/Guidelines%20of%20SMAM1.pdf</a>;</p>
4.	<p>‘Joint Interpretative Declaration’ and ‘Joint Interpretative Notes’, regarding agreements for the promotion and protection of investments, will be/have been signed respectively between India and</p> <p>(a) Colombia and Bangladesh</p> <p>(b) Sri Lanka and Bangladesh</p> <p>(c) Australia and France</p> <p>(d) Australia and UAE</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>Joint Interpretative Statements in general play an important supplementary role in strengthening the investment treaty regime. With increasing Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) disputes, issuance of such statements is likely to have strong persuasive value before tribunals. Such pro-active approach by States can foster a more predictable and coherent reading of treaty terms by arbitration tribunals.</p> <p>The Union Cabinet recently gave its nod for signing the <b>Joint Interpretative Declaration (JID)</b> between <b>India</b> and <b>Colombia</b>. Earlier, the Cabinet had given its approval for signing the <b>Joint Interpretative Notes</b> between <b>India</b> and <b>Bangladesh</b>.</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167345">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167345</a>;</p> <p>Source/Improvisation:  <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173390">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173390</a>;</p>
5.	<p>India’s first world-class Integrated Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre, similar to the ones in Shanghai, Singapore and Hannover, among others, will come up at</p> <p>(a) Delhi</p> <p>(b) Chennai</p> <p>(c) Nagpur</p> <p>(d) Amaravati</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is considered that the global <b>MICE</b> (non-leisure Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions) market is a significant economic driver for a large number of nations. Conferences and Exhibitions are vital links to connect local manufacturers with global buyers and to serve as a platform for exchange of business ideas. The Asian MICE market has demonstrated a growth of 38% since 2006. In the absence of world class exhibition and conference facilities, India has not benefited from the potential benefits of this development. In order to capitalize on this vast market and to drive India’s industry, commerce, trade and tourism, the Department of Industrial Policy &amp; Promotion has taken the initiative to develop a State-of-The-Art Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (ECC) at Delhi.</li> <li>The Union Cabinet recently approved the DIPP’s proposal to develop an ECC and allied infrastructure at Dwarka, Delhi. It is estimated that the proposed ECC facility, once fully operational, will infuse a demand for more than 100 major international and local exhibition events annually. The project is estimated to generate over five lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities. These jobs will be generated in core ECC</li> </ul>

		<p>facilities as well as in supporting ECC land uses like retail, office and hospitality.</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173386">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173386;</a></p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138299">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138299;</a></p>
6.	<p>'Nastaliq' and 'Shikhaste' refer to</p> <p>(a) Styles of dome architecture</p> <p>(b) Forms of pietra dura work</p> <p>(c) Decorative forms in Indo-Islamic architecture</p> <p>(d) Styles of handwriting</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>Different kinds of handwriting could make the reading of Persian and Arabic difficult. The <b>nastaliq</b> style is cursive and easy to read, the <b>shikaste</b> is denser and more difficult.</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173362">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173362;</a></p> 
7.	<p>The National Testing Agency (NTA), creation of which was recently approved by the Union Cabinet, will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions which are currently being conducted by CBSE</li> <li>2. Conduct entrance examinations online</li> <li>3. Undertake hands-on training for some rural students</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(b) 3 only</p> <p>(c) 1, 2 and 3</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>The Union Cabinet recently approved the creation of <b>National Testing Agency (NTA)</b> as a <b>Society</b> registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860, and as an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions.</p> <p><b>Features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NTA would initially conduct those entrance examinations which are currently being conducted by the CBSE.</li> <li>• Other examinations will be taken up gradually after NTA is fully geared up (statement 1 thus is correct; notice, the word 'only' has not been used in statement 1).</li> <li>• The entrance examinations will be conducted in online mode at least twice a year, thereby giving adequate opportunity to candidates to bring out their best.</li> <li>• In order to serve the requirements of the rural students, it would locate the centres at sub-district/district level and as far as possible would undertake hands-on training to the students.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173381">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173381;</a></p>
<b>NOVEMBER 13, 2017</b>		
1.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The UN Special Rapporteur on human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation (UNSR) is appointed by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights</li> </ol>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p><b>About the "Special Procedures" of the Human Rights Council:</b></p>

<p>2. The UNSR is not a staff member of the United Nations and receives no financial remuneration enabling him/her to act independently</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>They are independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advise on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective.</p> <p>The system of Special Procedures is a central element of the United Nations human rights machinery and covers all human rights: civil, cultural, economic, political, and social.</p> <p>Special procedures are either an individual (called “Special Rapporteur” or “Independent Expert”) or a working group composed of five members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Appointment:</b> The Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and members of the Working Groups are appointed by the Human Rights Council and serve in their personal capacities. They undertake to uphold independence, efficiency, competence and integrity through probity, impartiality, honesty and good faith.</li> <li>• <b>Independence and Impartiality:</b> They are not United Nations staff members and do not receive financial remuneration. The independent status of the mandate-holders is crucial for them to be able to fulfil their functions in all impartiality.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Introduction.aspx">http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Introduction.aspx</a>;</p> <p>Improvisation:</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/now-a-spat-over-gandhi-glasses/article20112981.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/now-a-spat-over-gandhi-glasses/article20112981.ece</a>;</p> <p><a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/india/un-experts-report-picks-holes-in-swachh-bharat-mission-4931999/">http://indianexpress.com/article/india/un-experts-report-picks-holes-in-swachh-bharat-mission-4931999/</a>;</p>
<p>2. ‘Neonicotoids’, seen in recent times in the news, are</p> <p>(a) A class of powerful antioxidants found in some fruits, now being utilised for cancer treatment</p> <p>(b) A new generation of pesticides that have contributed to a decline of pollinators such as wild bees</p> <p>(c) A synthetically developed group of chemicals which offer a low-cost alternative to the conventional reverse osmosis process for desalination of tap water</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>“Previous studies have found neonicotinoids can cause bees to become disorientated such that they cannot find their way back to the hive, and lower their resistance to disease... The European Union (EU) has placed a moratorium on the sale of neonicotinoids, though some European countries continue to use them under various exemptions.”</p> <p>“Anecdotal reports indicate all is not well with Indian bees. How badly are they affected? No study has yet assessed the true scale of decline. However, farmers in Odisha have reported a drastic decline in crop yields related to a lack of pollinators over the last couple of decades... In 2014, the Indian government considered a ban on the neonic pesticide called imidacloprid – but this has remained just a news report...”</p> <p>Source/Improvisation:</p> <p><a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-41931670">http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-41931670</a>;</p> <p>From August 2017: <a href="https://thewire.in/160360/neonics-bees-colony-collapse-clothianidin/">https://thewire.in/160360/neonics-bees-colony-collapse-clothianidin/</a>;</p>

		<p>From 2016: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/Neonic-insecticides-bad-news-for-bees-study/article14574394.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/Neonic-insecticides-bad-news-for-bees-study/article14574394.ece</a>;</p>
3.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the eleventh schedule of our constitution, drinking water and sanitation are included in the list of subjects to be devolved to Panchayats</li> <li>Under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme, a “fully covered” habitation must be supplied with a minimum of four litres of drinking water per capita per day</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: a.</p> <p>The NRDWP was started in 2009, with a major emphasis on ensuring sustainability (source) of water availability in terms of potability, adequacy, convenience, affordability and equity. NRDWP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 50.50 fund sharing between the Centre and the States.</p> <p>40 LPCD of drinking water is the minimum or lifeline supply that has to be provided to a habitation for considering it as “Fully Covered” under the NRDWP.</p> <p>The Union Cabinet recently accorded its approval for continuation and restructuring of NRDWP to make it outcome-based and better monitored with increased focus on sustainability (functionality) of schemes. Details of restructuring include:</p> <p>There will be 2% earmarking of funds for Japanese Encephalitis (JE) /Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) affected areas.</p> <p>A new Sub-programme under NRDWP viz. National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM) which has been started by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in February 2017 will address the urgent need for providing clean drinking water in already identified Arsenic &amp; Fluoride affected habitations.</p> <p>Thrust also has been given on coverage of Open Defecation Free or ODF-declared villages.</p> <p>States have been given more flexibility in utilisation of NRDWP funds, by reducing the number the programme’s components.</p> <p>Pre-financing for the agreed schemes (by states and reimbursed later by central government) is (not wholly) linked to functionality status of completed piped water supply schemes.</p> <p>Improvisation:  <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173383">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173383</a>;  <a href="http://indiawater.gov.in/IMISReports/Menultems/AboutSite.aspx">http://indiawater.gov.in/IMISReports/Menultems/AboutSite.aspx</a>;</p>
4.	<p>Consider the following statements about the ‘Bonn Challenge’:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is an implementation platform for several existing international commitments such as the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Aichi Targets</li> </ol>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>The Bonn challenge seeks to bring 150 million hectares of the world’s deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.</p> <p>Underlying it is the forest landscape restoration (FLR) approach, which aims to restore ecological integrity at the same time as improving human well-being through multifunctional landscapes (in simple words, it is a model</p>

	<p>2. Underlying it is an economic-developmental approach which focuses on large-scale plantation drives</p> <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>aimed at improving the ecology of a landscape as a whole in order to benefit local livelihoods and conserve biodiversity).</p> <p>The <b>Bonn Challenge</b> is not a new global commitment but rather a practical means of realizing many existing international commitments, including the <b>CBD Aichi Target 15</b>, the UNFCCC REDD+ goal, and the Rio+20 land degradation neutrality goal. It is an implementation vehicle for national priorities such as water and food security and rural development while contributing to the achievement of international climate change, biodiversity and land degradation commitments.</p> <p><a href="http://www.bonnchallenge.org/content/challenge;">http://www.bonnchallenge.org/content/challenge;</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/for-a-wider-cover/article20055859.ece;">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/for-a-wider-cover/article20055859.ece;</a></p>
5.	<p>If the tool called “Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology” is utilised by all states of India, substantial progress can be made by India in achieving which one of the following sustainable development goals?</p> <p>(a) SDG 9 (To build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation)</p> <p>(b) SDG 11 (To make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable)</p> <p>(c) SDG 14 (To conserve and sustainably use the world’s oceans, seas and marine resources)</p> <p>(d) SDG 15 (Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss)</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>“.... it is also critical to use scientific evidence-based methodology with a participatory approach to determine the right type of tree-based interventions most suitable to a certain land use. A tool called the <b>Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM)</b> is being used in 40 countries to find the best methods for landscape restoration. The tool includes rigorous analysis of spatial, legal and socio-economic data and draws on consultations with key stakeholders to determine the right type of interventions. In India, this tool is being piloted in Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh.”</p> <p><a href="http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/biodiversity/">http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/biodiversity/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/for-a-wider-cover/article20055859.ece;">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/for-a-wider-cover/article20055859.ece;</a></p>
<b>NOVEMBER 14, 2017</b>		
1.	<p>In which (one) of the following global indices has India’s overall ranking improved over the past year or two?</p> <p>1. World Economic Forum’s Global Competitiveness Index</p> <p>2. WIPO’s Global Innovation Index</p> <p>3. World Bank’s Logistics Performance Index</p> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) 1 and 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have moved up 32 places in the last two years in the Global Competitiveness Index of the World Economic Forum;</li> <li>• We have also moved up 21 places on the Global Innovation Index of WIPO in two years.</li> <li>• We have moved 19 places on the Logistics Performance Index of 2016 of World Bank;</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173445;">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173445;</a></p>



<p>2.</p>	<p>Consider the following statements about the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. More than half of the rice area in Asia is planted to IRRI-bred varieties or their progenies</li> <li>2. Its mission is directly related to UN Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2</li> <li>3. It is headquartered in India</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(c) 2 only</p> <p>(d) 2 and 3 only</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>UN SDG 1:</b> End poverty in all its forms everywhere;</li> <li>• <b>UN SDG 2:</b> End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;</li> <li>• <b>IRRI's Mission:</b> IRRI is a premier research organisation dedicated to reducing poverty and hunger through rice science; improving the health and welfare of rice farmers and consumers; and protecting the rice growing environment for future generations.</li> </ul> <p>IRRI is an independent, nonprofit, research and educational institute, founded in 1960 by the Ford and Rockefeller foundations with support from the Philippine government. The institute, headquartered in Los Baños, Philippines, has offices in 17 rice-growing countries in Asia and Africa.</p> <p>Working with in-country partners, IRRI develops advanced rice varieties that yield more grain and better withstand pests and disease as well as flooding, drought, and other harmful effects of climate change. More than half of the rice area in Asia is planted to IRRI-bred varieties or their progenies.</p> <p><b>Additional Information:</b> CGIAR (formerly the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research, headquartered in France) is a global partnership that unites organizations engaged in research for a food-secured future. IRRI is a member of the CGIAR consortium; it also is the lead centre on the CGIAR research program on rice.</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173455">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173455;</a></p> <p><a href="http://irri.org/about-us/our-organization">http://irri.org/about-us/our-organization;</a></p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>India's first ever 'Air Dispensary' services similar to the 'Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia' is an initiative by which the</p> <p>(a) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region</p> <p>(b) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways</p> <p>(c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs</p> <p>(d) Ministry of Defence</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>Northeast is all set to get India's first-ever "Air Dispensary" based in a helicopter and the Union Ministry of Development of Northeast (DONER) has already contributed Rs. 25 crore as part of the initial funding for this initiative.</p> <p>As per the envisaged plan, Dr Jitendra Singh said, to begin with, helicopter will be based at two locations, namely Imphal in Manipur and Meghalaya in Shillong. Both of these cities have premier postgraduate medical institutes from where specialist doctors, along with the necessary equipment and paramedical staff, would be able to move into the helicopter and hold a dispensary/OPD in different locations across the eight States of North Eastern Region. On its way back, he said, the same helicopter can also transport a sick patient, requiring admission, to a city hospital. The experiment being introduced in the Northeast, at the behest of the Ministry of Northeast/DoNER, can also be emulated in other hill states</p>

		<p>having difficult topography like Jammu &amp; Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, the Minister added.</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173438">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173438</a>;</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=151915">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=151915</a>;</p>
4.	<p>Consider the following statements about 'Bharat Net Project':</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It will provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats</li> <li>2. The project is being funded through the Universal Service Obligation Fund</li> <li>3. Bharat Broadband Network Limited will be solely responsible for offering data services using the optic fibre network</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 1 only</li> <li>(b) 1 and 2 only</li> <li>(c) 1, 2 and 3</li> <li>(d) None of the above</li> </ol>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p><b>Bharat Net Project</b> is the new brand name of <b>National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)</b> which was launched in October, 2011.</p> <p>Telecom Service Providers recently signed up with the operator (BBNL) of the government's optic fibre network — BharatNet — to take their high speed data services to thousands of villages in India as the Centre on Monday announced the launch of the second phase of the initiative designed to digitally connect 2.5 lakh gram panchayats by March 2019.</p> <p><b>Bharat Net</b> is being funded through <b>Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)</b>. The <b>Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)</b> was established with the fundamental objective of providing access to 'Basic' telegraph services to people in the rural and remote areas at affordable and reasonable prices. Subsequently the scope was widened to provide subsidy support for enabling access to all types of telegraph services including mobile services, broadband connectivity and creation of infrastructure like Optical Fibre Connectivity in rural and remote areas.</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173447">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173447</a>;</p> <p><a href="https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/internet/reliance-jio-airtel-vodafone-idea-take-first-dive-into-bharatnet/articleshow/61626019.cms">https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/internet/reliance-jio-airtel-vodafone-idea-take-first-dive-into-bharatnet/articleshow/61626019.cms</a>;</p> <p><a href="https://www.gktoday.in/gk/bharat-net-project/">https://www.gktoday.in/gk/bharat-net-project/</a>;</p>
5.	<p>The 'Global Youth Development Index' has been developed and is compiled by the</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)</li> <li>(b) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India</li> <li>(c) Alliance for International Youth Development (AIYA)</li> <li>(d) Commonwealth Secretariat</li> </ol>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>The <b>Youth Development Index (YDI)</b>, developed by the <b>Commonwealth Secretariat</b>, measures the status of young people in 183 countries around the world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The index is a comprehensive measure across five domains that are critical to youth development – education, health, employment, and civic and political participation – and builds on an earlier version created by the Commonwealth in 2013.</li> <li>• In the latest available report (2016), India ranked 133rd, below neighbouring countries like Nepal (77), Bhutan (69) and Sri Lanka (31) and trailing behind the South Asian average.</li> <li>• The Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports recently released the India Youth Development Index and Report 2017.</li> <li>• The Index enables recognizing the high and low performing states, identifies the weak domains and</li> </ul>



informs the policy makers the priority areas of intervention for youth development in the states.

- The Index was constructed using the latest definition of youth as used in National Youth Policy – 2014 (India) and World Youth Development Report of Commonwealth (15 – 29 years) as well as using the Commonwealth Indicators in order to facilitate Global comparison.
- YDI for India adds a sixth domain, 'social inclusion', to assess the inclusiveness of societal progress as structural inequalities persist in Indian society.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=173434;>

From 2016: [http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/india-ranks-poorly-at-133-in-global-youth-development-index-compiled-by-commonwealth-secretariat-3727154/;](http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/india-ranks-poorly-at-133-in-global-youth-development-index-compiled-by-commonwealth-secretariat-3727154/)

6. Which one of the following statements about Sardar Patel's economic ideas in the context of independent India is **not** correct?

- Self-reliance was among the chief tenets of his economic philosophy
- He wholly approved of the profit motive
- He rejected the idea that the government's role must be that of a welfare state, given the shortage of financial resources
- He advocated Mahatma Gandhi's concept of trusteeship to establish harmony between the labour and capitalist class

Solution: c.

- *The role he envisaged for the government was that of a welfare state*, but realised that other countries had taken up the task at more advanced stages of development. *He was unimpressed with the slogans raised for socialism, and spoke often of the need for India to create wealth before debating over what to do with it, how to share it.*
- *Nationalisation he rejected completely*; clear that industry ought to be the sole preserve of the business community. Nor was he a great believer in planning, especially of the kind practised in the developed and industrialised countries.
- *He was not for controls.* The indifference was, in part, because there simply wasn't enough staff to implement them. He was working with an administration capacity depleted owing to the departure of a disproportionate number of officers that had opted to go to Pakistan and the posting of senior civil servants in the newly-established embassies across the world.
- To him, *the profit motive was a great stimulant to exertion, not a stigma.* He wholly approved of it, and advocated it for even the non-capitalist classes, the middle classes, the labour and even the agriculturists. That does not mean he did not recognise concentration of wealth as a social problem and unethical. He did, and in fact, *appealed for a higher sense of civic consciousness and national duty to transcend all motives.* His argument was that it was not merely ethical and patriotic, but even economically pragmatic, to channelise hoarded wealth in economic undertakings, where the returns were certain to be richer. *He championed investment-led growth and*

said, "Spend less, save more, and invest as much as possible should be the motto of every citizen."

- To the labour, he said, participate in creating wealth before claiming a just share, and *advocated Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy on labour- employer relationships*. The Mahatma's methods, he said, could bring labour its legitimate reward through constitutional means.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=171911>;

### NOVEMBER 15, 2017

1. Consider the following statements:

1. For every dollar invested in enabling a mother to breastfeed, thirty five is generated in economic returns
2. Breastfeeding prevents childhood illnesses and also decreases mothers' risk for breast cancer
3. India has already achieved the World Health Assembly target (of increasing the percentage of children under 6 months of age who are exclusively breastfed to at least 50 percent)

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: d.

All statements are correct. Explanation for statement 3 is given below:

**The World Health Assembly target:** In 2012, the 194 countries of the World Health Assembly (WHA) committed to a target of increasing the global prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months of life from the then baseline of 37 percent to at least 50 percent by 2025. But ensuring that at least half of the world's children are exclusively breastfed for the first six months of their lives should be a starting point, not an endgame. Rapid progress is possible with investments in policies and programs that better support women to breastfeed, and that ensure that more of the world's children have the opportunity to thrive. The Global Breastfeeding Collective estimates that in order to meet the World Health Assembly target, an additional \$5.7 billion is required. This investment translates to just \$4.70 per newborn.

**Cost of inaction on investment in enabling mothers to breastfeed in India:** Despite a reported 55 percent exclusive breastfeeding rate in children below the age of six months, the large population in India and high under five mortality means that an estimated 99,499 children die each year as a result of cases of diarrhoea and pneumonia that could have been prevented through early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, and continued breastfeeding (to put it in perspective, it is estimated that over 820,000 children under age five and 20,000 women each year die as a result of not breastfeeding and suboptimal breastfeeding practices). The high level of child mortality and growing number of deaths in women from cancers and type II diabetes attributable to inadequate breastfeeding is estimated to drain the Indian economy of \$7 billion. Together with another \$7 billion in costs related to cognitive losses, India is poised to lose an estimated \$14 billion in its economy, or 0.70 percent of its GNI (per year).

[https://www.unicef.org/nutrition/index\\_98470.html](https://www.unicef.org/nutrition/index_98470.html);

<http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/global-bf-collective-investmentcase.pdf>;

		<p>Improvisation: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/on-maternity-benefits/article20393885.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/on-maternity-benefits/article20393885.ece</a>;</p>
2.	<p>Which one of the following statements in the context of agriculture credit in India is correct?</p> <p>(a) The share of institutional credit to agricultural gross domestic product stands at around 80% per cent in 2015-16</p> <p>(b) 80 per cent of agricultural households do not avail loans from any source</p> <p>(c) Compared to non-institutional borrowers, institutional borrowers earn a much higher return from farming</p> <p>(d) Majority of all indebted farm households possess more than ten hectares of land</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>Using the 2012-13 <b>National Sample Survey</b>-Situation Assessment Survey (schedule 33), it has been found that compared to non-institutional borrowers, institutional borrowers earn a much higher return from farming (17%).</p> <p>The corrected statements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The share of institutional credit to agricultural gross domestic product has increased from 10% in 1999-2000 to nearly 41% in 2015-16.</li> <li>• A recent study by the International Food Policy Research Institute reveals that at the national level, 48% of agricultural households do not avail a loan from any source. Among the borrowing households, 36% take credit from informal sources, especially from moneylenders who charge exorbitant rates of interest</li> <li>• Statistics show that nearly 82% of all indebted farm households (384 lakh) possess less than two hectares of land compared to other land holders numbering 84 lakh households</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/loan-waiver-is-not-the-solution/article20394319.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/loan-waiver-is-not-the-solution/article20394319.ece</a>;</p>
3.	<p>Consider the following statements in the context of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation:</p> <p>1. Its member economies are not subject to any binding commitments or treaty obligations</p> <p>2. A formal membership request was made by India recently in order for it to become a full member</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> <p>“Trump administration’s strategy toward Asia has a heavy emphasis on a ‘free and open Indo-Pacific region.’ Trump should start by supporting Indian membership in APEC. Asia’s third-largest economy remains on the outside of this vital grouping despite a membership request dating back more than twenty years. India in APEC would help offset the now-overwhelming influence of the Chinese economy, while also embedding India in a forum that would nudge it toward further economic reform. It would also send a strong message to the region about increasing free and open trade at a time such a signal from the Trump administration is sorely needed..”</p> <p><b><i>APEC is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific.</i></b></p> <p><b><u>What does APEC do?</u></b></p> <p>It ensures that goods, services, investment and people move easily across borders. Members facilitate this trade through faster customs procedures at borders; more favorable business climates behind the border; and aligning regulations and standards across the region.</p> <p><b><u>Sustainable and Inclusive Pacific-Asia:</u></b> It works to help all residents of the Asia-Pacific participate in the growing economy. For example, APEC projects provide digital skills</p>

training for rural communities and help indigenous women export their products abroad.

**Cooperation and Consensus:** It operates as a cooperative, multilateral economic and trade forum. Member economies participate on the basis of open dialogue and respect for views of all participants. In APEC, all economies have an equal say and decision-making is reached by consensus. There are no binding commitments or treaty obligations. Commitments are undertaken on a voluntary basis and capacity building projects help members implement APEC initiatives.

Source/Improvisation: <https://www.cfr.org/blog/want-free-and-open-indo-pacific-get-india-apec>  
<https://www.apec.org/About-Us/About-APEC>;

4. Which of the following countries shares its borders with Lebanon?

1. Syria
2. Saudi Arabia
3. Israel
4. Jordan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b.



Improvisation:

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-hariri-mystery/article20445798.ece>;

5. Apart from India, which (one) of the following countries are members of both, the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN+6 (RCEP negotiating countries)?

1. China
2. Australia
3. Russia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: a.

Members negotiating the RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) include ten ASEAN member states and India, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan and China. Members of EAS include the same countries and two more – Russia and USA.

**About the East Asia Summit:**

- It is a unique leaders-led forum of 18 countries of the Asia-Pacific region formed to further the objectives of regional peace, security and prosperity. It has evolved as a forum for strategic dialogue and cooperation on political, security and economic issues of common regional concern and plays an important role in the regional architecture.

	<p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established in 2005, EAS allows the principal players in the Asia-Pacific region to discuss issues of common interest and concern, in an open and transparent manner, at the highest level. EAS is an initiative of ASEAN and is based on the premise of the centrality of ASEAN.</li> <li>There are <b>six priority areas</b> of regional cooperation within the framework of the EAS. These are – Environment and Energy, Education, Finance, Global Health Issues and Pandemic Diseases, Natural Disaster Management, and ASEAN Connectivity. India endorses regional collaboration in all six priority areas.</li> </ul> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/eastern-promise/article20417729.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/eastern-promise/article20417729.ece</a>; <a href="http://www.mea.gov.in/aseanindia/about-eas.htm">http://www.mea.gov.in/aseanindia/about-eas.htm</a>;</p>
6.	<p>What does the relatively recent concept – being used and promoted by the US administration of late – of ‘Indo-Pacific’ in place of ‘Asia-Pacific’ imply?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The regions of South Asia and East Asia are to not be thought about in silos</li> <li>It captures the importance of India’s rise</li> <li>In a geopolitical sense, the phrase blurs the division between the two oceans – Indian and Pacific</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 and 2 only</li> <li>2 and 3 only</li> <li>1 and 3 only</li> <li>1, 2 and 3 only</li> </ol>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>A mains-oriented question.</p> <p>The term treats India as a regional power, and not just a big, isolated country. “We talk about Indo-Pacific in part because that phrase captures the importance of India’s rise,” an unnamed White House official explicitly told PTI. It (Indo-Pacific) captures the importance of the maritime free commons that allow our security and our prosperity to continue,” said the official.</p> <p>The term has been on the rise in diplomatic and academic circles since the early 2010s. Indo-Pacific” in its geopolitical sense is relatively new to the world. The main theoretical reasoning behind a switch from “Asia-Pacific” is that it is no longer correct to think about South Asia and East Asia separately. While “<b>Asia-Pacific</b>” conventionally focuses on the area from North Korea to the southern tip of China, “Indo-Pacific” includes countries with coasts on the Indian Ocean, southeast Asia, and Australia, Indonesia, and New Zealand. At the heart of that area are two oceans: the Indian and Pacific. “<b>Indo-Pacific</b>” blurs the division between those bodies of water—in this sense the “<b>Indo</b>” could mean more “<b>Indian Ocean</b>” and less “India.”</p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-asia-41912990/why-trump-keeps-saying-indo-pacific">http://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-asia-41912990/why-trump-keeps-saying-indo-pacific</a>;</p> <p>Primary Source: <a href="https://qz.com/1121336/trump-in-asia-all-about-indo-pacific-the-new-term-trump-is-using-to-refer-to-asia/">https://qz.com/1121336/trump-in-asia-all-about-indo-pacific-the-new-term-trump-is-using-to-refer-to-asia/</a>; <a href="http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/indo-pacific-over-asia-pacific-reflects-indias-rise-us/1/1082993.html">http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/indo-pacific-over-asia-pacific-reflects-indias-rise-us/1/1082993.html</a>;</p>

## NOVEMBER 16, 2017

1.	<p>'Shared Values, Common Destiny' is the theme for the</p> <p>(a) Twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations of India-ASEAN dialogue partnership</p> <p>(b) 'Ek Bharath Shreshtha Bharat' initiative</p> <p>(c) Asia-Africa Growth Corridor</p> <p>(d) Coalition of Democracies</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>"India's Act East Policy is shaped around the ASEAN, and its centrality in the regional security architecture of the Indo-Pacific region is evident. Our wide-ranging agenda of cooperation under the 3rd ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2016-2020) has progressed well covering the three crucial pillars of politico-security, economic and cultural partnership... The befitting theme of 'Shared Values, Common Destiny' for our 25th anniversary celebrations has been jointly celebrated with a number of commemorative activities. I look forward to a befitting culmination of the commemorative year and receiving you at the India-ASEAN Special Commemorative Summit on 25 January 2018 in New Delhi."</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173489">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173489</a></p>
2.	<p>The movement led by Birsa towards the end of the 20th century was a/an</p> <p>(a) Agrarian movement</p> <p>(b) Lower caste movement</p> <p>(c) Trade union movement</p> <p>(d) Tribal movement</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p><b>Birsa's movement</b> was aimed at reforming tribal society. He urged the Mundas to give up drinking liquor, clean their village, and stop believing in witchcraft and sorcery... Birsa also turned against missionaries and Hindu landlords. He saw them as outside forces that were ruining the Munda way of life... He talked of a golden age in the past – a Satyug – when Mundas lived a good life... In 1897, Birsa began touring the villages to gather support for his movement. He used traditional symbols and language to rouse people, urging them to destroy "Ravana" (dikus and the Europeans) and establish a kingdom under his leadership. In 1900 Birsa died of cholera and the movement faded out.</p> <p>Page 48-49, Our Past III Part 1 – NCERT Class 8;</p> <p>Improvisation:</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173528">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173528</a>;</p>
3.	<p>Consider the following list:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Highveld and Middleveld</li> <li>2. Victoria Falls</li> <li>3. Matapo Hills</li> <li>4. Mozambique shares its borders with this country</li> </ol> <p>In which one of the following countries will you find the above-mentioned physical/political features?</p> <p>(a) Zambia</p> <p>(b) South Africa</p> <p>(c) Zimbabwe</p> <p>(d) Malawi</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p><b>Victoria Falls</b> is a transboundary property – both Zimbabwe and Zambia are responsible for its protection, and they do so in a participatory manner.</p> <p>Improvisation:</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/army-seizes-control-in-zimbabwe-says-mugabe-safe/article20448577.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/army-seizes-control-in-zimbabwe-says-mugabe-safe/article20448577.ece</a>;</p> <p>Zimbabwe is a landlocked country. It shares its borders on the south with the Republic of South Africa and is bounded on the southwest and west by Botswana, on the north by Zambia, and on the northeast and east by Mozambique. It does NOT share a border with Namibia.</p>





4. In which of the following ways does the International Solar Alliance seek to bring down the costs of producing solar power?

1. Promotion of research and development, particularly in areas of efficient storage systems
2. Members will be legally bound to increase solar energy generation capacity in their overall energy basket to 25% by 2030 thereby boosting global demand
3. Promoting standardisation in the use of equipment and processes for generating electricity

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: c.

The ISA seeks to do three things to bring down the costs of technology as well as of finance needed for a solar project:

- It seeks to boost global demand, which will result in further reduction in the prices of solar energy deployment (not by a legally binding commitment, not as yet at least).
- It seeks to promote standardisation in the use of equipment and processes for generating electricity. Standardisation will make the manufacturing of equipment and other hardware cheaper.
- Finally, it seeks to boost research and development, particularly in areas of efficient storage systems.

From earlier:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/paris-climate-agreement-global-warming-us-elections-marrakesh-4379496/>

Improvisation:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173468;>

5. 'Purdahnashins' refers to

- (a) A form of protest in which youth boycotted universities if it was mandatory for women to wear a face veil within university premises
- (b) A tradition in which veiled women were forbidden by social custom from communicating with males from the outside world
- (c) The superstitious practice wherein widowed women were to never remove their face veils as any unmarried individual who saw their face would forever remain unmarried

Solution: b.

**Cornelia Sorabji** was the first woman permitted to attend Bombay University, where she excelled. She then went on to become the first Indian woman to study law at Oxford University in 1892. However, women were not awarded degrees by Oxford in those days (a rule that would eventually change 30 years later in 1922), making her unable to practice law in England.

**Sorabji** returned to India in 1894 where she was again barred from practicing her profession. However, this didn't deter her. She eventually became legal advisor to the government for the **purdahnashins** — veiled women forbidden by social custom from communicating with

(d) None of the above

males from the outside world. When widowed, these women were often entitled to their husbands' estates, but their isolation prevented them from seeking legal help to enforce their rights (all lawyers being male). Sorabji tirelessly fought for the rights of the purdahnashins and even earned them the right to be trained in nursing, which gave them the opportunity to work outside their homes.

<https://www.google.com/doodles/cornelia-sorabjis-151st-birthday>;

### NOVEMBER 17, 2017

1. Widespread application of Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) technology will

1. Substantially reduce the exposure of public to PM2.5 pollution
2. Speed up ozone layer recovery
3. Reduce the formation of photochemical smog

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: c.

When pollution is high, nitrogen oxides and dust particles interact with sunlight to form ground-level ozone, leading to the building up of haze. This is smog, a result of a photochemical reaction of sunlight with pollutants that have been released into the atmosphere. See the image text to be able to differentiate between SCR and Diesel Particulate Filter technology.

Source/Improvisation:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/delhi-air-pollution-smog-health-tips-schools-shut-stubble-burning-haryana-punjab-4928852/>;

Source/Improvisation:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/environmentalists-welcome-early-rollout-of-bs-vi/article20460741.ece>

2. Consider the following statements:

1. During winter in Delhi, two winds collide – one blowing from Punjab and another from Uttar Pradesh
2. Temperature inversion can contribute to prolonged periods of photochemical smog

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.

**Smog** a result of a *photochemical reaction* of sunlight with pollutants that have been released into the atmosphere. Various other factors influence its formation: geography of the place, calmness of winds, post-harvest crop burning, firing of brick kilns, pollution emitted by vehicles and industrial activity. In Delhi, there are two winds — one carrying pollutants from stubble burning in Punjab and the other bringing in moisture from Uttar Pradesh — that are colliding above the national capital. This, combined with the near-still wind conditions near the ground level, have effectively trapped the pollutants, leading to the smog.

**In the context of air pollution situation currently in NCT:**

- For air to get this polluted, in addition to needing a good amount of human help from the combustion of fuels and burning of crops and garbage, there needs to be specific atmospheric conditions that let the air remain still enough for pollution accumulate, NOAA said.
- "This stagnation occurs when there is an inversion layer in the atmosphere ... An inversion layer refers to instances where the air does not cool as one moves up in the atmosphere," it explained. "Instead, warmer air sits on top of denser, colder air near the ground. Since



		<p>that cold air has no place to go thanks to the warm lid placed atop it, it just sits there gathering pollution like a hazy snow-globe,” NOAA said.</p> <p><a href="http://www.livemint.com/Politics/bxtJTc057ugsi8B4FB5ahN/India-Pakistan-just-entering-smog-season-pollution-to-cont.html">http://www.livemint.com/Politics/bxtJTc057ugsi8B4FB5ahN/India-Pakistan-just-entering-smog-season-pollution-to-cont.html</a>;</p> <p><a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/delhi-air-pollution-smog-health-tips-schools-shut-stubble-burning-haryana-punjab-4928852/">http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/delhi-air-pollution-smog-health-tips-schools-shut-stubble-burning-haryana-punjab-4928852/</a>;</p>
3.	<p>Along with the <i>Banglar Rasogolla</i>, which one of the following was accorded a Geographical Indication tag?</p> <p>(a) Chakshesang Shawl (Nagaland)</p> <p>(b) Tulapanji Rice (West Bengal)</p> <p>(c) Etikoppaka toys (Andhra Pradesh)</p> <p>(d) Mahabalipuram Stone Sculpture (Tamil Nadu)</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>The <b>GI Registry</b> and <b>Intellectual Property India</b> recently presented the GI tag status to <i>Banglar Rasogolla</i> of West Bengal and Mamallapuram stone sculptures of Tamil Nadu. The other three options above too have been accorded GI tags, all in recent times.</p> <p>The <b>GI tag</b> conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness which is essentially attributable to the fact of its origin in a defined geographical locality, region or country. Under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, geographical indications are covered as an element of IPRs. They are also covered under the <b>Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)</b> Agreement, which was part of the agreements concluded at the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations. India, as member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), enacted the <b>Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration &amp; Protection) Act, 1999</b> that came into force in 2003.</p> <p>Latest available GI registry (not updated as yet): <a href="http://www.ipindia.nic.in/writereaddata/Portal/Images/pdf/Registered_GI.pdf">http://www.ipindia.nic.in/writereaddata/Portal/Images/pdf/Registered_GI.pdf</a>;</p> <p>Source: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/banglar-rasogolla-mamallapuram-stone-sculptures-get-gi-tag/article20444856.ece?homepage=true">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/banglar-rasogolla-mamallapuram-stone-sculptures-get-gi-tag/article20444856.ece?homepage=true</a>;</p>
4.	<p>The ‘Henderson-Brooks Report’, sometimes mentioned in the news, is related to which one of the following events?</p> <p>(a) Gulf War of 1991</p> <p>(b) Financial Crisis of 2008</p> <p>(c) 1962 India-China War</p> <p>(d) India’s Economic Reforms of 1991</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>“The younger generation in India, that is those born after 1980, may not even recall the border war with China except in a hazy manner. However, it merits recall that those responsible for national security at the highest level in government proved to be inept, ignorant and arrogant in the defence management of the country. Nehru was broken by this episode, unable to come to terms with what had transpired. This is evidenced in the manner that the Henderson-Brooks report undertaken by the Army was not tabled in Parliament — in fact, it has still not been declassified.”</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/strangely-forgotten/article20461145.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/strangely-forgotten/article20461145.ece</a>;</p>

5.	<p>The U.S. President Eisenhower’s “Atoms for Peace” address to the General Assembly of the United Nations on 8 December 1953 led to the formation of the</p> <p>(a) Nuclear Suppliers Group</p> <p>(b) International Atomic Energy Agency</p> <p>(c) Multilateral Export Control Regime</p> <p>(d) a, b and c</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>The <b>IAEA</b> was created in 1957 in response to the deep fears and expectations generated by the discoveries and diverse uses of nuclear technology. The Agency’s genesis was U.S. President Eisenhower’s “<b>Atoms for Peace</b>” address to the General Assembly of the United Nations on 8 December 1953.</p> <p><a href="https://www.iaea.org/about/overview/history">https://www.iaea.org/about/overview/history</a>;</p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/an-unsafe-world/article20492698.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/an-unsafe-world/article20492698.ece</a>;</p>
6.	<p>Which one of the following cities is part of the Rockefeller Foundation’s 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) network?</p> <p>(a) Surat</p> <p>(b) Thiruvananthapuram</p> <p>(c) Raipur</p> <p>(d) Jorhat</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p><b>About the 100RC Initiative</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.100resilientcities.org/about-us/#section-2">http://www.100resilientcities.org/about-us/#section-2</a>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation (100RC) is dedicated to helping cities around the world become more resilient to the physical, social and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century.</li> <li>• 100RC supports the adoption and incorporation of a view of resilience that includes not just the shocks—earthquakes, fires, floods, etc.—but also the stresses that weaken the fabric of a city on a day to day or cyclical basis.</li> <li>• Examples of these stresses include high unemployment; an overtaxed or inefficient public transportation system; endemic violence; or chronic food and water shortages. By addressing both the shocks and the stresses, a city becomes more able to respond to adverse events, and is overall better able to deliver basic functions in both good times and bad, to all populations.</li> <li>• The other Indian cities in the network apart from Surat include Pune, Chennai and Jaipur.</li> </ul> <p>Improvisation:</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/diamond-producers-target-indian-market/article20492721.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/diamond-producers-target-indian-market/article20492721.ece</a>;</p> <p><a href="http://www.livemint.com/Industry/sBteoEWWKwSDmzuRgovmaJ/Surat-Indias-Diamond-City-finds-ways-to-keep-its-sparkle.html">http://www.livemint.com/Industry/sBteoEWWKwSDmzuRgovmaJ/Surat-Indias-Diamond-City-finds-ways-to-keep-its-sparkle.html</a>;</p>

### NOVEMBER 18, 2017

1.	<p>‘IndiaRAP’, recently in the news, is an initiative that will</p> <p>(a) Help assess safety levels of Indian roads</p> <p>(b) Engage leaders who can guide and mentor young entrepreneurs</p> <p>(c) Equip the Army with futuristic combat vehicles</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a bid to make Indian roads safer and curb fatalities, the global charity iRAP (<b>International Road Assistance Program</b>) recently unveiled an <b>India Road Assessment Programme (IndiaRAP)</b> that will rate highways’ safety levels, and seek to eliminate the most unsafe roads.</li> <li>• Since 2010, teams from the global organisation have already undertaken star rating assessments on more than 10,000 km of roads across several states in India.</li> </ul>
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- (d) Facilitate the creation of new and indigenous technologies in the field of cybersecurity

- The ratings are assigned on the basis of the level of safety which is 'built-in' to a road for vehicle occupants, motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians. Five-star roads are the safest while one-star roads are the least safe.

**About iRAP** (<https://www.irap.org/about-us/>): "iRAP the umbrella programme for Road Assessment Programmes (RAPs) worldwide that are working to save lives. Like many life-saving charities working in the public health arena, we use a robust, evidence-based approach to prevent unnecessary deaths and suffering."

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/highways-to-be-rated-on-safety-features/article20460978.ece;>

2. Yemen shares its borders with which of the following countries?

1. Saudi Arabia
2. UAE
3. Oman
4. Kuwait

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b.



Improvisation:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/in-yemen-saudi-blockade-ratchets-up-fears-of-famine/article20461062.ece;>

3. Core work of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) in India is across which of the following sectors?

1. Health
2. Education
3. Agricultural development
4. Financial services for the poor

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: c.

"At the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, all of our efforts are aligned with India's objectives – working closely with India's central and state governments, we partner with community groups, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, the private sector, and development organizations, to achieve our shared goals. With a particular focus on Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, we develop innovative solutions to improve the quality and coverage of key services. Our core work in the country is across four sectors: Health, Sanitation, Agricultural Development, and Financial Services for the Poor."

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rajnath-asks-gates-to-adopt-1000-maoist-hit-villages/article20493062.ece;>

For those interested:

		<a href="https://www.gatesfoundation.org/Where-We-Work/India-Office;">https://www.gatesfoundation.org/Where-We-Work/India-Office;</a>
4.	<p>The 270th report of the Law Commission of India is titled</p> <p>(a) Implementation of United Nations Convention against Torture</p> <p>(b) Assessment of Statutory Frameworks of Tribunals in India</p> <p>(c) Human DNA Profiling</p> <p>(d) Compulsory Registration of Marriages</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>In July 2017, the Law Commission of India suggested amendments in the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 to make registration of marriages compulsory, like births and deaths, as an effective antidote to social evils like child marriage, bigamy and gender violence.</p> <p>For details regarding the Commission's suggestions, refer: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/in-the-database/article20492680.ece;">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/in-the-database/article20492680.ece;</a></p> <p><a href="http://lawcommissionofindia.nic.in;">http://lawcommissionofindia.nic.in;</a></p>
5.	<p>In the '<i>K. Veeraswami v. Union of India</i>' case</p> <p>(a) The word 'consultation' in Article 124 of our Constitution was interpreted to mean 'concurrence'</p> <p>(b) The procedure to register an FIR against a judge of the Supreme Court was laid down</p> <p>(c) The Right to Privacy was declared a Fundamental Right</p> <p>(d) All liquor shops along state and national highways were banned</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can the police or any investigating agency file a first information report (FIR) against a sitting High Court or a Supreme Court judge and even the Chief Justice of India?</li> <li>The answer is found in the majority judgment delivered by a five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in the <i>K. Veeraswami</i> case. The majority held that no criminal case shall be registered under Section 154 of the Criminal Procedure Code (an FIR) against a judge of the High Court, Chief Justice of the High Court or a judge of the Supreme Court unless the government first "consults" the Chief Justice of India. The justification given was that the CJI's assent was imperative as he was a "participatory functionary" in the appointment of judges.</li> <li>The verdict held that if the the Chief Justice of India himself is the person against whom the allegations of criminal misconduct are received, the government shall consult any other judge or judges of the Supreme Court.</li> <li>If the CJI allows the FIR to be registered, the government shall, for the second time, consult him on the question of granting sanction for prosecution.</li> <li>Consultation with the CJI while registering a criminal case against a judge, whether of the High Court or the Supreme Court, was made mandatory to protect the independence of judiciary.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/is-the-supreme-court-facing-an-institutional-crisis/article20493352.ece;">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/is-the-supreme-court-facing-an-institutional-crisis/article20493352.ece;</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/can-an-fir-be-filed-against-a-sitting-judge/article20237853.ece;">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/can-an-fir-be-filed-against-a-sitting-judge/article20237853.ece;</a></p>

## NOVEMBER 20, 2017

1. Which (one) of the following countries is/are members of both, the CPTPP (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement on Trans-Pacific Partnership) and the RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership)?

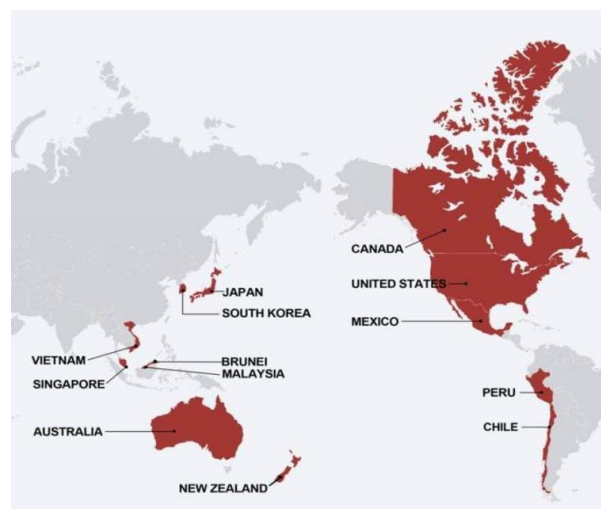
1. China
2. Japan
3. Vietnam
4. New Zealand

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b.

First image: Members originally of TPP; Omit USA and you have members of CPTPP.



Second image: RCEP member countries.



Improvisation:

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/pacific-oceans-11/article20556379.ece>;

2. Which among the following constitute what is known internationally as the 'Big Three' among Credit Rating Agencies?

1. Standard & Poor's
2. Moody's
3. CARE Ratings

Solution: b.

The 'Big Three' are

- Standard & Poor's
- Moody's
- Fitch Group

<p>4. ARC Ratings</p> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1, 2 and 3</p> <p>(b) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(c) 3 and 4 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 4</p>	<p>Improvisation:</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173640">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173640</a>;</p>
<p>3. Consider the following rivers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Barak</li> <li>2. Lohit</li> <li>3. Subansiri</li> </ol> <p>Which of the above flows / flow through Arunachal Pradesh?</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>The Barak is an important river in Manipur and Mizoram.</p> <p>River Tsangpo emerges from the foothills of the Central Himalayas near Namcha Barwa under the name of Siang or Dihang. Entering India and flowing southwest, it receives its main left bank tributaries, viz. Dibang or Sikang and Lohit; thereafter, it is known as the Brahmaputra.</p> <p>River Subansiri flows in Arunachal Pradesh; it is a right-bank tributary of River Brahmaputra.</p> <p>UPSC 2014: <a href="http://mrunal.org/2014/09/answerkey-csat-2014-geography.html#589">http://mrunal.org/2014/09/answerkey-csat-2014-geography.html#589</a>;</p> <p>Improvisation:</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173649">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173649</a>;</p>
<p>4. The 'Marginalist Revolution' can be most closely identified as being</p> <p>(a) The dividing line between classical and modern economics</p> <p>(b) The earliest instance in documented history of the revolt of an oppressed class of people</p> <p>(c) The forerunner of economic reforms in developing countries of the 20th century</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p><b>"Marginalism"</b> describes both a method of analysis and a theory of value in economics. According to this theory, individuals make economic decisions on the margin; value is determined by how much additional utility an extra unit of a good or service provides. The development of marginal theory is commonly referred to as the <b>'Marginalist Revolution'</b> and is seen as the dividing line between classical and modern economics.</p> <p>To understand it better, read Investopedia's explanation: <a href="https://www.investopedia.com/ask/answers/032515/what-marginalism-microeconomics-and-why-it-important.asp">https://www.investopedia.com/ask/answers/032515/what-marginalism-microeconomics-and-why-it-important.asp</a>;</p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/gst-cuts-havent-mattered/article20556108.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/gst-cuts-havent-mattered/article20556108.ece</a>;</p>
<p>5. Which of the following targets is/are listed under the UN Sustainable Development Goal Three (SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents</li> <li>2. Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation</p> <p>(<a href="http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/">http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/</a>);</p> <p>SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being</p> <p>(See targets: <a href="http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/#tab-3f22056b0e91266e8b2">http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/#tab-3f22056b0e91266e8b2</a>);</p>



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

Improvisation:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/highways-to-be-rated-on-safety-features/article20460978.ece>;  
<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/more-than-just-a-counting-game/article20557856.ece>;

### NOVEMBER 21, 2017

1. Which of the following international events were recently/are being hosted in India for the first time?

1. Organic World Congress
2. Global Clubfoot Conference
3. International Congress of Military Medicine
4. World Food Convention

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: d.

All four events were recently hosted by India for the first time (all in the past month or so).

Additional Information: The 'focus state' in World Food India – 2017 was Odisha.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/chandigarh/organic-world-congress-from-november-9-11-3000-expected-large-contingent-from-punjab-haryana-to-attend-4914669/>;

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173127>;

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173659>;

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173216>;

2. The 'Rovuma gas field', to be developed in collaboration with OVL (ONGC Videsh Limited), belongs to

- (a) Russia  
(b) Mozambique  
(c) Somalia  
(d) Venezuela

Solution: b.

It is an offshore block; it is one of the largest natural gas discoveries in offshore **East Africa** and has the potential to become one of the world's largest LNG producing hubs.

[http://vikaspedia.in/education/current-affairs/October\\_2017\\_National\\_Ca.pdf](http://vikaspedia.in/education/current-affairs/October_2017_National_Ca.pdf);

3. The 'India Green Building Council' is a/an

- (a) Statutory body  
(b) Executive body  
(c) Not-for-profit body  
(d) None of the above

Solution: c.

The **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)**, part of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) (The CII itself is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, playing a proactive role in India's development process) was formed in the year 2001. The vision of the council is, "To enable a sustainable built environment for all and facilitate India to be one of the global leaders in the sustainable built environment by 2025".

The council offers a wide array of services which include developing new green building rating programmes, certification services and green building training programmes. The council also organises Green Building Congress, its annual flagship event on green buildings.

**Additional Information:** The Govardhan Eco Village, set up by the ISKCON in Palghar district of Maharashtra recently won the 'Green Platinum Award' instituted by Indian Green Building Council.



		<a href="http://vikaspedia.in/education/current-affairs/October_2017_National_Ca.pdf">http://vikaspedia.in/education/current-affairs/October_2017_National_Ca.pdf</a> ;
4.	<p>The Logistics Sector was recently granted Infrastructure status. This will cause</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. India's ranking in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index to improve</li> <li>2. India's ranking in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index to improve</li> <li>3. Job creation to receive an impetus</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 1 only</li> <li>(b) 2 and 3 only</li> <li>(c) 1 and 3 only</li> <li>(d) 1, 2 and 3</li> </ol>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>The need for integrated Logistics sector development has been felt for quite some time in view of the fact that the logistics cost in India is very high compared to developed countries. High logistics cost reduces the competitiveness of Indian goods both in domestic as well as export market. Development of logistics would give a boost to both domestic and external demand thereby encouraging manufacturing and 'job creation'. This will in turn be instrumental in improving country's GDP.</p> <p>The decision to grant the logistics sector 'infrastructure status' will enable the Logistics Sector to avail infrastructure lending at easier terms with enhanced limits, access to larger amounts of funds as External Commercial Borrowings (ECB), access to longer tenor funds from insurance companies and pension funds and be eligible to borrow from India Infrastructure Financing Company Limited (IIFCL).</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173674">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173674</a>;</p>
5.	<p>Of the following principal organs (among the six) of the United Nations, which is the only one <i>not</i> located in New York, USA?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) General Assembly</li> <li>(b) Trusteeship Council</li> <li>(c) International Court of Justice</li> <li>(d) Economic and Social Council</li> </ol>	<p>Solution: c</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>International Court of Justice (ICJ)</b> is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations.</li> <li>• The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York (United States of America).</li> <li>• The Court's role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.</li> <li>• The International Court of Justice is composed of 15 judges elected to nine-year terms of office by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. These organs vote simultaneously but separately. In order to be elected, a candidate must receive an absolute majority of the votes in both bodies. This sometimes makes it necessary for a number of rounds of voting to be carried out. For instance, the re-election of Justice Dalveer Bhandari required 12 rounds of voting.</li> </ul> <p>Improvisation:</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/faced-with-defeat-uk-withdraws-india-wins-international-court-of-justice-seat/article20609566.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/faced-with-defeat-uk-withdraws-india-wins-international-court-of-justice-seat/article20609566.ece</a>;</p>

<http://www.icj-cij.org/en/court;>

### NOVEMBER 22, 2017

<p>1.</p>	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By the end of the nineteenth century, women in colonial India were themselves were actively working for social reform</li> <li>2. Following the Revolt of 1857, liberal socioreligious reform by legislative means came to a halt until India gained independence</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>Born on this day in Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1864, Rukhmabai Raut was one of the first women to practice medicine in colonial India. Backed by the British director of Bombay's Cama Hospital, suffrage activists, and other supporters, Raut set off in 1889 for the the London School of Medicine for Women and obtained her qualifications at Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Brussels. She then joined a hospital in Surat, serving as chief medical officer the next 35 years.</p> <p>As an activist, Raut fought to stamp out child marriage. Married at age 11 to a 19-year-old groom chosen by her mother, Raut refused to live with her husband, winding up at the center of one of India's most famous 19th-century court cases. Her bravery in defying contemporary Indian social customs attracted scrutiny in the British press and led to the passage of the Age of Consent Act in 1891 (thus, following the 1857 revolt, british policy of nonintervention in socio-religious matters came to a halt until 1891).</p> <p><b>Additional Information:</b> “.. The new policy of religious nonintervention was born equally out of fear of recurring mutiny, which many Britons believed had been triggered by orthodox Hindu and Muslim reaction against the secularizing inroads of utilitarian positivism and the proselytizing of Christian missionaries. British liberal socioreligious reform therefore came to a halt for more than three decades—essentially from the East India Company's Hindu Widow's Remarriage Act of 1856 to the crown's timid Age of Consent Act of 1891, which merely raised the age of statutory rape for “consenting” Indian brides from 10 years to 12.”</p> <p>Improvisation:  <a href="https://www.google.com/doodles/rukhmabai-rauts-153rd-birthday;">https://www.google.com/doodles/rukhmabai-rauts-153rd-birthday;</a></p> <p>Source: <a href="https://www.thebetterindia.com/65696/india-first-practising-lady-doctor-rukhmabai/">https://www.thebetterindia.com/65696/india-first-practising-lady-doctor-rukhmabai/;</a>  <a href="https://www.britannica.com/place/India/Government-of-India-Act-of-1858#ref486261;">https://www.britannica.com/place/India/Government-of-India-Act-of-1858#ref486261;</a></p> <p>Women, Caste and Reform – Our Pasts-III Part 2, Class 8 NCERT;</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Which one of the following statements about seagrasses is <b>incorrect</b>?</p> <p>(a) These are flowering plants</p> <p>(b) They grow in near-shore waters, and are found around every continent</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These flowering plants, which grow in near-shore waters, are under intense pressure – some estimates suggest global losses are running at 7% a year.</li> <li>• The grasses provide shelter and food for many sea creatures. Fishers actively target seagrasses because</li> </ul>

	<p>(c) Seagrass habitats are commercially important due to their great productivity</p> <p>(d) They are a main diet for dugongs</p>	<p>they recognise the habitats' great productivity. This is true from small-scale recreational activity all the way through to large-scale commercial practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seagrass meadows are found around every continent except Antarctica.</li> <li>The plants cycle nutrients, stabilise sediments, and – as photosynthesisers – act as a “sink” for carbon dioxide.</li> <li>They also provide nursery habitat for juvenile fish, which hide from predators among the stems.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-42028699">http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-42028699</a></p>
3.	<p>‘1I/2017 U1’, classified so by the International Astronomical Union – which is responsible for granting official names to bodies in the solar system and beyond – refers to</p> <p>(a) The first documented celestial object in our solar system that originated from another solar system</p> <p>(b) The 9th planet of the Milky Way galaxy</p> <p>(c) This planet from one among our neighbour galaxies has lava flows on its surface, and it likely has an atmosphere whose ingredients could support life</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>The discovery of interstellar object 1I/2017 U1 is the first detection of a celestial object in our solar system that originated from another solar system, and the shape of the object itself looks very different than any asteroid or comet we've seen in our own solar system. The most elongated asteroids we see in our own solar system have aspect ratios of no more than 3:1. This interstellar asteroid has an aspect ratio of around 10:1.</p> <p>The object was discovered by the NASA-funded <b>Pan-STARRS1 telescope</b> which surveys the sky searching for asteroids that could pose an impact hazard to Earth. (Funding under NASA's Near-Earth Object Observations (NEOO) Program, which finds and tracks asteroids and comets in Earth's neighbourhood).</p> <p>The team from the Pan-STARRS observatory that was the first to detect the interstellar visitor has chosen the name 'Oumuamua' for their discovery. The name is of Hawaiian origin and means “a messenger from afar arriving first.”</p> <p>To read more about this discovery, refer to the following links: <a href="https://www.nasa.gov/feature/solar-system-s-first-interstellar-visitor-dazzles-scientists">https://www.nasa.gov/feature/solar-system-s-first-interstellar-visitor-dazzles-scientists</a>; <a href="https://www.nasa.gov/planetarydefense/faq/interstellar">https://www.nasa.gov/planetarydefense/faq/interstellar</a>;</p> <p>Source/Improvisation: <a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-42053634">http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-42053634</a>;</p>
4.	<p>In the context of the recent reelection of the Indian nominee to the International Court of Justice, consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is the first time that a judge of the nationality of one of the permanent members of the Security Council will not be included in the court</li> <li>The elections were held in The Hague</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>This is the first time in over seven decades of the United Nations, that the U.K. will not be represented in the ICJ (Although there is no entitlement to membership on the part of any country, the Court has always included judges of the nationality of the permanent members of the Security Council, until the recent round of elections); and this is the first time that one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council lost out to an ordinary member in a race. This is also the first time that one sitting member of the ICJ lost out to another sitting member.</p>

	<p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The International Court of Justice is composed of 15 judges elected to nine-year terms of office by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. These organs vote simultaneously but separately.</li> <li>In order to be elected, a candidate must receive an absolute majority of the votes in both bodies. This sometimes makes it necessary for a number of rounds of voting to be carried out.</li> <li>Elections are held in New York (United States of America) on the occasion of the annual autumn session of the General Assembly.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.icj-cij.org/en/members">http://www.icj-cij.org/en/members</a>;</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/faced-with-defeat-uk-withdraws-india-wins-international-court-of-justice-seat/article20609566.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/faced-with-defeat-uk-withdraws-india-wins-international-court-of-justice-seat/article20609566.ece</a>;</p>
5.	<p>‘Feed-in Tariff’ is an economic policy which</p> <p>(a) Promotes active investment in and production of renewable energy sources</p> <p>(b) Promotes the use of coal in an efficient manner in power production</p> <p>(c) Shelters exporters from some of the inherent risks associated with exchange rate volatility</p> <p>(d) Both a and b</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p><b>‘Feed-In Tariff’</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/feed-in-tariff.asp">https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/feed-in-tariff.asp</a>) is an economic policy created to promote active investment in and production of renewable energy sources. Feed-in tariffs typically make use of long-term agreements and pricing tied to costs of production for renewable energy producers. By offering long-term contracts and guaranteed pricing, producers are sheltered from some of the inherent risks in renewable energy production, thus allowing for more diversity in energy technologies.</p> <p>Improvisation/In the news</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/low-tariffs-slows-new-bids-for-wind-solar-energy-projects-icra/article20628651.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/low-tariffs-slows-new-bids-for-wind-solar-energy-projects-icra/article20628651.ece</a>): Capacity addition in the renewable energy sector in the near term remains adversely impacted due to migration from feed-in tariff to bid tariff route. The wind energy sector is now following a bid based regime since February 2017, given the success of a reverse auction under two rounds of 1GW each by Ministry of New &amp; Renewable Energy (MNRE) with a bid tariff discovery at ₹3.46/kwh in February 2017 &amp; ₹2.64/kwh in October 2017.</p> <p>This option is being preferred by the State utilities since the bid tariff level is significantly lower than the approved feed-in tariffs by State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) for wind power projects. The recent increase by about 15% (i.e. 6-7 cents/watt) in imported PV module prices, if sustained, could have an adverse impact on the viability of solar power projects with tariffs lower than ₹3.5 per unit.</p>

**Clarifications**

(<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2017/11/22/quiz-2017-insights-current-affairs-quiz-22-november-2017/>):

**Q1** – Typo; Solution must be option ‘a’, as is clear from the explanation.

**Q4** – The statement on the ICJ website was misinterpreted by us (“Although there is no entitlement to membership on the part of any country, the Court has always included judges of the nationality of the permanent members of the Security Council, until the recent round of election”).

China was not a member for 18 years between 1967 and 1985 (<http://www.icj-cij.org/en/all-members>) only because they did not field a candidate during this period. The solution to this question must be option ‘d’.

**NOVEMBER 23, 2017**

<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p>Consider the following pairs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A ‘model practice’ – Country : Pakistan that India can learn from Allowing a significant minority of members to call for a session of the Parliament</li> <li>2. Providing a national : USA legislative framework for activities such as space mining</li> <li>3. Methods to reverse the : Australia trends of multi-resistance to bugs growing to dangerous levels</li> </ol> <p>Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 3 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 2 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>A mains-oriented question.</p> <p>“...A different approach would be to allow a significant minority of members to call for a session. Pakistan’s Constitution requires a session of Parliament within 14 days if one-fourth of its membership demands one. It also states that Parliament should meet at least 130 days every year and there should be at least three sessions...”</p> <p>“.. Space entrepreneur and space law expert Narayan Prasad described it as ‘a great start in the right direction’ for a legislative framework for commercial space in India. However, the draft seems to focus more on taking a stand towards India’s international obligations and keeping control over the activities of non-governmental and private sector actors rather than catalysing commercial space. The U.S. and Luxembourg, for example, provide a national legislative framework [even] for activities such as space mining and ownership...”</p> <p>“...Multi-resistance in some tertiary-care hospitals to bugs like <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> has grown to dangerous levels. But the experience of countries like Australia shows that cutting down on antibiotics can reverse such trends...”</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/pill-talk/article20665648.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/pill-talk/article20665648.ece</a>;</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/time-to-change-the-house-rules/article20665652.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/time-to-change-the-house-rules/article20665652.ece</a>;</p>
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p>A recent study has revealed that artificial lights is growing brighter and more extensive every year. In this context, which of the following is/are the associated effects/consequences?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It poses a threat to crop pollination</li> <li>2. More number of people cannot see the Milky Way</li> <li>3. It contributes to climate change</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>Light pollution occurs when streetlights and other artificial light sources brighten up the night sky, disrupting ecosystems and obscuring stars. Some consequences of light pollution include:</p> <p>99 percent of people living in the United States and Europe can’t see the Milky Way because of light pollution (for those who are unaware, the Milky Way is visible to the naked eye usually from any place where there’s a clear sky and there’s little or no light/air pollution).</p>

<p>(b) 1 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>A recent study published in the journal <a href="#">Nature</a> revealed that artificial light was a threat to crop pollination – reducing the pollinating activity of nocturnal insects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light pollution contributes to climate change, too, by adding excess heat into the air.</li> <li>• Urban light installations “dramatically alter” the behaviour of nocturnally migrating birds.</li> <li>• Scientists in the UK recently found that on average, artificial light may cause trees to bud more than seven days earlier than their naturally occurring counterparts. Light pollution may be tricking plants into thinking that spring is happening earlier.</li> <li>• When moths are attracted to the light, their predators are, too. Then the moths get eaten and can’t serve their other natural purposes in the ecosystem.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-42059551">http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-42059551</a>;</p> <p><a href="https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/06/light-pollution-early-spring-budbursts/">https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/06/light-pollution-early-spring-budbursts/</a>;</p>
<p>3. Which one of the following drug schedules was included under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 to check the indiscriminate use of antibiotics?</p> <p>(a) Schedule H</p> <p>(b) Schedule H1</p> <p>(c) Schedule X</p> <p>(d) Schedule X1</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p><b>Schedule H1 Drug:</b> This schedule was included in 2013 to check the indiscriminate use of antibiotics, anti-TB and some other drugs in the country. These drugs cannot be sold without a valid prescription. The package of the drugs will have a mandatory warning printed in a box with red colour border. The chemist should maintain the list of the customer names and details of the doctor who prescribed it. The list should be maintained with 3 years of data.</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/pill-talk/article20665648.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/pill-talk/article20665648.ece</a>;</p> <p><a href="https://academy.gktoday.in/current-affairs/schedule-h-schedule-x-and-schedule-h1-drugs/">https://academy.gktoday.in/current-affairs/schedule-h-schedule-x-and-schedule-h1-drugs/</a>;</p>
<p>4. Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Parliamentary form of government, when compared with a Presidential form of government, stifles the promotion of individual liberty</li> <li>2. In the USA, the President and his secretaries are not responsible to the legislature for their acts</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>In the parliamentary system, the legislature and the executive are together and inseparable. The cabinet acts as the leader of legislature as well as the executive. As Bagehot points out, ‘the cabinet is a hyphen that joins the buckle that binds the executive and legislative departments together.’ Hence, the whole system of government goes against the letter and spirit of the theory of separation of powers. In fact, there is a fusion of powers.</p> <p>The theory of Separation of Powers was propounded by Montesquieu, a French political thinker, in his book ‘The Spirit of Laws’ (1748) to promote individual liberty. He stated that concentration of powers in one person or a body of persons would result in despotism and negate individual liberty.</p>



		<p>Improvisation: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/time-to-change-the-house-rules/article20665652.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/time-to-change-the-house-rules/article20665652.ece</a>;</p> <p>Parliamentary System, Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth;</p>
5.	<p>Which one of the following statements about the Finance Commission is <b>incorrect</b>?</p> <p>(a) It is a quasi-judicial body</p> <p>(b) The Constitution authorises the Parliament to determining the qualifications of members of the Commission</p> <p>(c) The Commission is required to make recommendations to the Parliament on the distribution of the net proceeds of taxes to be shared between the centre and the states</p> <p>(d) Recommendations made by the Commission are only of advisory nature and hence, not binding on the government</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>The Commission is required to make recommendations to the President of India. The report prepared by the commission is submitted to the President. The President then lays it before both Houses of the Parliament along with an explanatory memorandum as to the action taken on its recommendations.</p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/business/cabinet-approves-new-finance-panel/article20663935.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/business/cabinet-approves-new-finance-panel/article20663935.ece</a>;</p>
<b>NOVEMBER 24, 2017</b>		
1.	<p>Consider the following statements about the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The insolvency resolution process applies to public sector banks, companies and individuals</li> <li>2. It enables the government to authorise the RBI to create a Public Credit Registry Information System</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: d.</p> <p>Both statements are incorrect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the IBC, 2016 the insolvency resolution process applies to companies and individuals.</li> <li>• The Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017 on the other hand seeks to create a framework for resolving bankruptcy in financial firms (such as banks and insurance companies).</li> <li>• A High-Level Task Force on Public Credit Registry for India was recently set up under the chairmanship of Mr. Y. M. Deosthalee. This is a separate but related development; it is not sanctioned by the IBC, 2016.</li> </ul> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/president-nod-to-ordinance-to-amend-bankruptcy-code/article20700553.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/president-nod-to-ordinance-to-amend-bankruptcy-code/article20700553.ece</a>;</p>
2.	<p>As per Article 371-F of the Indian Constitution, which one of the following statements is <b>incorrect</b>?</p> <p>(a) The Sikkim Legislative Assembly is to consist of not less than 30 members</p> <p>(b) One seat is allotted to Sikkim in the Lok Sabha</p> <p>(c) The Home Ministry is empowered to provide for the number of seats in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly</p> <p>(d) The Governor shall have special responsibility for an equitable arrangement for ensuring the socio-economic advancement of different sections of the Sikkim population</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>The <b>Parliament</b> is empowered to provide for the number of seats in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly which may be filled by candidates belonging to such sections; and delimitation of the Assembly constituencies from which candidates belonging to such sections lone may stand for election to Assembly.</p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/more-seats-for-sikkim-assembly/article20724838.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/more-seats-for-sikkim-assembly/article20724838.ece</a>;</p> <p>'Special Provisions for Some States', Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth;</p>



<p>3.</p>	<p>The 'IceCube' Observatory, sometimes in the news, is most closely associated with</p> <p>(a) Ghost particles</p> <p>(b) Interstellar Asteroids</p> <p>(c) NASA's mission to 'touch the sun'</p> <p>(d) Black holes</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p><b>Neutrinos</b> are known as "ghost particles", because they are known to travel through solid objects with ease. But a new study demonstrates that some of these sub-atomic particles are stopped in their tracks when they encounter our planet.</p> <p>Neutrinos interact so weakly with matter that a single one can pass through a light-year (10 trillion km) of lead without hitting an atom. The results come from the IceCube experiment, located in Antarctica. It's an important measurement that's consistent with the Standard Model – the theory that describes the behaviour of fundamental forces and particles, such as neutrinos.</p> <p>The neutrinos seen by the <b>IceCube detector</b> had very high energies. This was a critical factor since the higher the energy, the more likely the neutrinos are to interact with matter and therefore be absorbed by the Earth.</p> <p><a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-42083258">http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-42083258</a>;</p> <p>CS(P) 2015, Q80:</p> <p><a href="http://www.insightsonindia.com/2015/08/27/answer-key-upsc-civil-services-preliminary-exam-2015-general-studies-paper-1/">http://www.insightsonindia.com/2015/08/27/answer-key-upsc-civil-services-preliminary-exam-2015-general-studies-paper-1/</a>;</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>With reference to the 'DUNE' collaboration, consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Some Indian institutions are participants in this multi-country science collaboration</li> <li>2. The site of the DUNE experiment is located in Rajasthan</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: a.</p> <p>A global neutrino physics community is developing a leading-edge, dual-site experiment for <i>neutrino science and proton decay studies</i>, the <b>Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (DUNE)</b>, hosted at Fermilab in Batavia, Illinois (USA). The facility required for this experiment, the <b>Long-Baseline Neutrino Facility (LBNF)</b>, is an internationally designed, coordinated and funded program.</p> <p>The DUNE Science Collaboration is currently made up of over 1020 scientists from 174 institutions in 30 countries (several Indian institutions are among them). The collaboration works closely with the LBNF Project to ensure the coordinated development of facilities and detectors that will enable the ambitious physics program.</p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-42083258">http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-42083258</a>;</p> <p><a href="http://www.dunescience.org/about-the-collaboration/">http://www.dunescience.org/about-the-collaboration/</a>;</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Consider the following pairs in the context of some of the content of the separate statements issued by countries of the 'Quad' grouping after their recent secretary-level meet in Manila:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Australia : upholding 'maritime security' as an objective, keeping a 'free and open</li> </ol>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>A mains-oriented question.</p> <p>"More than 10 days after the Quadrilateral meeting, or 'Quad', involving secretary-level officials of India, Japan, Australia and the U.S., the dust is yet to settle on just what was decided among them. To begin with, the four participants issued not one but four separate statements</p>

	<p>Indo-Pacific' and enhancing 'connectivity' as an aim</p> <p>2. India : Keeping a 'free and open Indo-Pacific' and enhancing 'connectivity' as an aim</p> <p>3. Japan : Upholding 'maritime security' as an objective</p> <p>Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(c) 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>after their meeting in Manila. A cursory look at these statements reveals the basic differences in intent: while all four referred to keeping a "free and open Indo-Pacific", the Ministry of External Affairs statement did not mention upholding "maritime security" as an objective, while the statements of the U.S., Australia and Japan did. Similarly, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs made no mention of enhancing "connectivity" as an aim, which the other three did... The import of these omissions is clear. The Quad is yet to decide what its real aim is: maritime security, connectivity, countering China's moves in the Indo-Pacific and on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), or a combination of all three. Adding to the confusion were U.S. President Donald Trump's own moves in Beijing. He lavished praise on Chinese President Xi Jinping and the two signed a slew of agreements..."</p> <p>Not mentioning 'free and open Indo-Pacific' along with Japan (#3 in the list above) does not render it wrong.</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/quad-confusion/article20723202.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/quad-confusion/article20723202.ece</a>;</p>
6.	<p>Implementing the recommendations made by the law commission of India in its 268th report will help India make progress towards achieving which one of the following UN Sustainable Development Goals?</p> <p>(a) SDG 5</p> <p>(b) SDG 8</p> <p>(c) SDG 13</p> <p>(d) SDG 16</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LCI Report #268 is on <b>Bail Law Reforms</b>.</li> <li><b>Goal 16</b> 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.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/">http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/</a>;</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/fair-and-evidence-based-bail/article20744279.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/fair-and-evidence-based-bail/article20744279.ece</a>;</p>
<b>NOVEMBER 25, 2017</b>		
1.	<p>The 'London Conference' of 2011 was recently in the news. This conference dealt with which one of the following issues?</p> <p>(a) Antimicrobial resistance</p> <p>(b) Key themes in cyberspace</p> <p>(c) Poverty eradication</p> <p>(d) Infrastructure development in developing countries</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>Starting with the <b>London Process</b> in 2011 which initiated a broad dialogue on the opportunities and challenges in an increasingly networked world and to create a platform to address key themes in cyberspace, the delegates to the <b>Fifth Global Conference on Cyberspace (GCCS) 2017</b>, met in New Delhi from November 23-24, 2017 to promote an inclusive, sustainable, open, secure, stable and accessible cyberspace.</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173839">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173839</a>;</p>
2.	<p>Consider the following statements in the context of the Supreme Court of India:</p> <p>1. Salaries, allowances and pension of the judges are determined by the Parliament</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>Both statements are correct. The second statement has been framed in the context of the Chief Justice of India being the 'master of the roster'.</p>


<p>2. The Chief Justice has certain exclusive administrative responsibilities that no other judge can shoulder</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>Improvisation:</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/the-mandates-of-natural-justice/article20798341.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/the-mandates-of-natural-justice/article20798341.ece</a>;</p> <p>Supreme Court, Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth;</p>
<p>3. The Constitution as adopted – by the Constituent Assembly – on November 26, 1949, contained</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Preamble</li> <li>2. Fundamental Duties</li> <li>3. The Ninth Schedule to protect such laws included in it from judicial review</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) 1, 2 and 3</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Constitution as adopted on November 26, 1949, contained a Preamble, 395 Articles and 8 schedules.</li> <li>• The ninth schedule was added by the first amendment.</li> <li>• Fundamental Duties were added by the 42nd</li> </ul> <p>Improvisation:</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/the-mandates-of-natural-justice/article20798341.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/the-mandates-of-natural-justice/article20798341.ece</a>;</p> <p>Making of the Constitution, Indian Polity;</p>
<p>4. The deal recently signed by Bangladesh with Myanmar, to return hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims who fled a recent army crackdown, was brokered by</p> <p>(a) U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees</p> <p>(b) India</p> <p>(c) China</p> <p>(d) Amnesty International</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>“Earlier this month, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi travelled to Bangladesh and Myanmar with China’s three-point proposal; Beijing later claimed both countries had accepted it. Under the plan, Myanmar and Bangladesh were to hold bilateral talks and reach a repatriation agreement – which has been achieved. However, the first step in Beijing’s approach – which involved a declaration of ceasefire in Rakhine to halt further displacement and bringing immediate relief to the state’s devastated Rohingya – has not taken effect. If this were to happen, the third part of the proposal will presumably take effect, with China providing economic assistance for the development of the Rakhine region as part of a long-term solution..”</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-china-plan/article20798339.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-china-plan/article20798339.ece</a>;</p>
<p>5. Of the following list of bodies, which one is best-placed to discuss the Punchhi Commission Report?</p> <p>(a) National Commission for Scheduled Castes</p> <p>(b) Reserve Bank of India</p> <p>(c) Wildlife Institute of India</p> <p>(d) Inter-State Council</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>Punchhi Commission was the second commission on inter-state relations set up by the GoI.</p> <p>“Home Minister Rajnath Singh will chair a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Inter State Council (ISC) on Saturday to discuss the recommendations made by the Puncchi Commission on Centre-State relations..”</p>

		<a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rajnath-to-chair-meet-on-centre-state-relations/article20789442.ece;">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rajnath-to-chair-meet-on-centre-state-relations/article20789442.ece;</a>
6.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India is one of the world's richest countries in bamboo resources</li> <li>Felling of bamboo, grown in non-forest areas, for economic use requires a permit which is issued under the Indian Forest Act of 1927</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>Following the approval by the Union Cabinet, the President of India yesterday promulgated the Indian Forest (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 to exempt bamboo grown in non-forest areas from the definition "Tree", thereby dispensing with the requirement of obtaining a permit for felling of bamboo for economic use. The decision has been hailed as historic because the bamboo was legally defined as a "Tree" under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 which proved to be a major impediment for bamboo cultivation by non-farmers on non-forest land.</p> <p>Hailing the decision, the DoNER Minister said India is one of the major producers of bamboo in the world, found abundantly in the NER. He said, bamboo can be utilized for manufacture of furniture, handicrafts, house construction and several other diverse applications including paper industry, cottage industry, fabric making units, wood substitutes like flooring, roofing, panels etc.</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173837;">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173837;</a> <a href="http://www.fao.org/docrep/007/ad871e/ad871e10.htm">http://www.fao.org/docrep/007/ad871e/ad871e10.htm;</a></p>
<b>NOVEMBER 26, 2017</b>		
1.	<p>Drawing a comparison between the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-3 and NFHS-4 data, we can conclude that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most significant reductions in underweight prevalence in children under 5 years are seen in the states of South India</li> <li>Stunting in children under 5 years has reduced in all the States</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><b>Underweight prevalence in children:</b> Overall, there has been a 16% decrease in the underweight prevalence among children below 5 years. Underweight prevalence in children under 5 years has declined in all the States and UTs (except Delhi), although absolute levels are still high. Remarkable reductions are seen in Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Manipur (all, by around 40%); whereas Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan show near stagnation.</li> <li><b>Stunting in children:</b> Stunting in children under 5 years has reduced in all the States, although absolute levels are still high in some States.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/document_publication/Nutrition_Strategy_Booklet.pdf">http://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/document_publication/Nutrition_Strategy_Booklet.pdf;</a></p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173841;">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173841;</a></p> <p>Associated news from earlier: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-100th-on-global-hunger-index-trails-north-korea-bangladesh/article19846437.ece;">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-100th-on-global-hunger-index-trails-north-korea-bangladesh/article19846437.ece;</a></p>

2.	<p>Which state recently announced its decision to ban packaged bottled water in public areas from March 2018?</p> <p>(a) Maharashtra</p> <p>(b) Himachal Pradesh</p> <p>(c) Mizoram</p> <p>(d) Odisha</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>Environmental experts have opposed the Maharashtra government's decision to ban plastic water bottles citing the lack of viable alternatives as a critical roadblock in the move. They have claimed that glass is a potentially harmful alternative owing to the difficulty in recycling it, and the higher amounts of energy and water required in the manufacturing process, adding that Maharashtra as a drought-prone state should look at methods to minimise water usage. Experts have also claimed that glass is a health and safety hazard, when compared to plastic.</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-sundaymagazine/plastic-bottle-ban-may-not-help/article20942823.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-sundaymagazine/plastic-bottle-ban-may-not-help/article20942823.ece</a>;</p> <p><a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/ban-not-workable-plastic-water-bottles-given-at-cms-home-too/articleshow/61696516.cms">https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/ban-not-workable-plastic-water-bottles-given-at-cms-home-too/articleshow/61696516.cms</a>;</p>
3.	<p>The Committee on Corporate Governance recently submitted its report to SEBI. In this context, SEBI regulations currently do <b>not</b> specify</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The minimum number of directors that a listed company should have on its board</li> <li>2. A minimum attendance for directors of a listed company in their board meetings</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> <p><b>Directors:</b> Currently, SEBI regulations do not specify the minimum number of directors that a listed company should have on its board. The Committee noted that a company needs sufficient number of directors, with diverse skills, to effectively carry out its functions. It recommended that these companies should be required to have at least six directors on their board.</p> <p><b>Attendance:</b> Currently, SEBI regulations do not specify a minimum attendance for directors of a listed company in their board meetings. The Committee noted that it is important for directors to attend these meetings for them to contribute towards the interests of the shareholders. The Committee recommended that if directors do not attend at least half of the board meetings over two financial years, their continuance on the board should be ratified by shareholders.</p> <p><a href="http://www.prindia.org/policy-review/monthly-policy-review/mpr-october-2017-4975/">http://www.prindia.org/policy-review/monthly-policy-review/mpr-october-2017-4975/</a>;</p>
4.	<p>Which one of the following High Level Task Forces was Dr. Y. M. Deosthalee made the chairman of ?</p> <p>(a) On Artificial Intelligence</p> <p>(b) On Employment and Exports</p> <p>(c) On Public Credit Registry</p> <p>(d) On New Direct Tax Legislation</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>A GK question.</p> <p>The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set up a High-Level Task Force on <b>Public Credit Registry for India</b>. This registry will be a database of credit information accessible by all stakeholders. The Task Force will be chaired by <b>Mr. Y. M. Deosthalee</b> (former CMD, L&amp;T Finance Holdings Limited) and have representatives from the State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, and the RBI, among others.</p> <p>The terms of reference of the Task Force include: (i) reviewing the current availability of credit information in India, (ii) assessing gaps that could be filled by a public</p>

		<p>credit registry, (iii) studying international practices on public credit registry, and (iv) deciding on the structure for the new information system. The Task Force is expected to submit its report by April 2018.</p> <p>Task forces on the other issue too were recently set up:</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173742">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173742</a>;</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170578">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170578</a>;</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170231">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170231</a>;</p> <p><a href="http://www.prindia.org/policy-review/monthly-policy-review/mpr-october-2017-4975/">http://www.prindia.org/policy-review/monthly-policy-review/mpr-october-2017-4975/</a>;</p>
5.	<p>Which of the following is/are observations made by the Law Commission of India in its report on framework of tribunals in India?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The objective of setting them up has not been achieved</li> <li>2. The involvement of government agencies in selection of tribunal members should be minimal</li> <li>3. Appeals against a tribunal's order should lie before the Supreme Court only</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: a.</p> <p>Key observations and recommendation of the Law Commission of India in its report on '<b>Assessment of Statutory Frameworks of Tribunals in India</b>' (Report 272) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pendency:</b> The Commission observed that the high pendency of cases in some tribunals indicates that the objective of setting them up has not been achieved.</li> <li>• <b>Selection of members:</b> The Commission stated that the selection of members should be impartial. It suggested that the involvement of government agencies should be minimal, since the government is typically a party in every litigation.</li> <li>• <b>Appeal:</b> The Commission observed that tribunals were established to reduce the burden on courts. It recommended that appeals against a tribunal's order should lie before a High Court only where the law establishing such a tribunal does not establish an appellate tribunal. Further, orders of an appellate tribunal may be challenged before the division bench of the High Court having jurisdiction over the appellate tribunal.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.prindia.org/policy-review/monthly-policy-review/mpr-october-2017-4975/">http://www.prindia.org/policy-review/monthly-policy-review/mpr-october-2017-4975/</a>;</p>
<b>NOVEMBER 27, 2017</b>		
1.	<p>Which of the following provisions found in our constitution safeguard and ensure the independent and impartial functioning of the Supreme Court?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President in consultation with the members of the judiciary itself</li> <li>2. The Constitution directs the state to take steps to separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p><b>Mode of Appointment:</b> The judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President (which means the cabinet) in consultation with the members of the judiciary itself (ie, judges of the Supreme Court and the high courts). This provision curtails the absolute discretion of the executive as well as ensures that the judicial appointments are not based on any political or practical considerations.</p> <p><b>Separation from Executive (Article 50, DPSP):</b> The Constitution directs the State to take steps to separate the Judiciary from the Executive in the public services. This means that the executive authorities should not possess the judicial powers. Consequently, upon its</p>



	<p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>implementation (, the role of executive authorities in judicial administration came to an end.</p> <p>Improvisation:  <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/why-dont-you-trust-pm-law-minister-asks-judiciary/article20945761.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/why-dont-you-trust-pm-law-minister-asks-judiciary/article20945761.ece</a>;</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>The first modern formulation of the doctrine of ‘separation of powers’ was that of</p> <p>(a) Voltaire</p> <p>(b) Montesquieu</p> <p>(c) Thomas Jefferson</p> <p>(d) Peter Singer</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>A mains-oriented question.</p> <p>The doctrine may be traced to ancient and medieval theories of mixed government, which argued that the processes of government should involve the different elements in society such as monarchic, aristocratic, and democratic interests. The first modern formulation of the doctrine was that of the French writer Montesquieu in <i>De l’esprit des lois</i> (1748), although the English philosopher John Locke had earlier argued that legislative power should be divided between king and Parliament.</p> <p><a href="https://www.britannica.com/topic/separation-of-powers">https://www.britannica.com/topic/separation-of-powers</a>;</p> <p>Improvisation: :  <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/why-dont-you-trust-pm-law-minister-asks-judiciary/article20945761.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/why-dont-you-trust-pm-law-minister-asks-judiciary/article20945761.ece</a>;</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>The Gulf of Aqaba separates</p> <p>(a) Yemen and Djibouti</p> <p>(b) Jakarta and Sumatra</p> <p>(c) Madagascar and Mozambique</p> <p>(d) Sinai Peninsula and Saudi Arabia</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p>  <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/desert-storm-the-chaos-in-egypt/article20944918.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/desert-storm-the-chaos-in-egypt/article20944918.ece</a>;</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One Disability-Adjusted Life Year (DALY) can be thought of as one lost year of “healthy” life</li> <li>The sum of DALYs across the population can be thought of as a measurement of the gap between current health status and an ideal health situation</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>One <b>DALY</b> can be thought of as one lost year of “healthy” life. The sum of these DALYs across the population, or the burden of disease, can be thought of as a measurement of the gap between current health status and an ideal health situation where the entire population lives to an advanced age, free of disease and disability.</p> <p><b>Additional Information:</b> To “establish regular tracking of Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALY) Index as a measure of</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>burden of disease and its trends by major categories by 2022" is one key target that the National Health Policy 2017 (NHP) seeks to achieve.</p> <p><a href="http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/metrics_daly/en/">http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/metrics_daly/en/</a>;</p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/a-toolkit-to-think-local/article20944947.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/a-toolkit-to-think-local/article20944947.ece</a>;</p>
5.	<p>The India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative is one of the most comprehensive assessment of diseases causing the most premature deaths and ill health in each state, till date. According to this assessment, in the year 2016, the single largest risk factor for disease burden in India was</p> <p>(a) Under nutrition</p> <p>(b) Poor sanitation</p> <p>(c) Air pollution</p> <p>(d) Unhealthy diets</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>Disease burden can be reduced by addressing the risk factors for major diseases. The findings of the study reveal that three types of risks – undernutrition, air pollution, and a group of risks causing cardiovascular disease and diabetes – are akin to national emergencies as these have the potential to significantly blunt the rapid social and economic progress to which India aspires.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First, it is remarkable that even though there is a declining trend in child and maternal undernutrition, this is still the single largest risk factor in India, responsible for 15% of the total disease burden in 2016.</li> <li>Second, air pollution levels in India are among the highest in the world, making it the second leading risk factor in 2016, responsible for 10% of the total disease burden in the country.</li> <li>Third, a group of risks that include unhealthy diet, high blood pressure, high blood sugar, high cholesterol and overweight, which increase the risk of ischaemic heart disease, stroke and diabetes, contributed a tenth of the total disease burden in India in 1990, but increased to a quarter of the total burden in 2016.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/a-toolkit-to-think-local/article20944947.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/a-toolkit-to-think-local/article20944947.ece</a>;</p>
<b>NOVEMBER 28, 2017</b>		
1.	<p>Consider the following events:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sikkim's merger with India</li> <li>The beginning of Mizos' movement for secession</li> <li>The beginning of the Nagas' movement for secession</li> </ol> <p>Arrange the events listed above in their chronological order:</p> <p>(a) 1-2-3</p> <p>(b) 1-3-2</p> <p>(c) 2-3-1</p> <p>(d) 3-2-1</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sikkim's merger with India: 1975;</li> <li>The beginning of Mizos' movement for secession: 1960s (armed campaign for independence began in 1966);</li> <li>The beginning of the Nagas' movement for secession: 1951;</li> </ul> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/naga-talks-still-on-panel-told/article21011801.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/naga-talks-still-on-panel-told/article21011801.ece</a>;</p> <p>Ch-8, Regional Aspirations, Politics in India Since Independence, Class XII NCERT;</p>

<p>2.</p>	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of the targets under the Sustainable Development Goals is to eradicate child labour in all its forms by 2025</li> <li>Worldwide, child labour is concentrated primarily in the industrial sector</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>Statement 1 is correct (target 7 under SDG 8).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child labour is concentrated primarily in agriculture (71%), which includes fishing, forestry, livestock herding and aquaculture, and comprises both subsistence and commercial farming; 17% in Services; and 12% in the Industrial sector, including mining.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/child-labour/lang-en/index.htm">http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/child-labour/lang-en/index.htm</a>;</p> <p><a href="http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/economic-growth/">http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/economic-growth/</a>;</p> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/childhood-foregone/article21011313.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/childhood-foregone/article21011313.ece</a>;</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India is yet to sign the U.N. Convention Against Torture</li> <li>The Law Commission of India has recommended that India frame a standalone anti-torture law</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> <p>Though India signed the convention in 1997, it is yet to ratify it. Efforts to bring in a standalone law have failed.</p> <p>In its 273rd report handed over to the Law Ministry on October 30, The Law Commission has recommended that the Centre ratify the United Nations Convention against Torture and frame a standalone anti-torture law, making the state responsible for any injury inflicted by its agents on citizens. The Commission has proposed the Prevention of Torture Bill, 2017, which gives a wide definition to torture, not limited to physical pain but also including “inflicting injury, either intentionally or involuntarily, or even an attempt to cause such an injury, which will include physical, mental or psychological in nature”.</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/cant-force-govt-to-frame-a-law-sc/article21013049.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/cant-force-govt-to-frame-a-law-sc/article21013049.ece</a>;</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>In defining a data protection framework for India, the Justice BN Srikrishna Committee report focuses especially on the regulatory framework of which of the following countries/jurisdictions?</p> <p>(a) China and USA (b) ASEAN (c) USA and European Union (d) Australia and Israel</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>Finding a balance between the rights-based model of privacy (EU model) and protecting the individual from State interference (USA), listing out seven principles of a good data protection law, and setting up of a data protection authority, these are some of the key findings of a white paper published by a committee of experts on data protection recently.</p> <p>The nearly 250-page report published by the nine-member committee has compared data protection laws and regulations from a number of countries, specially focusing on the regulatory framework in the European Union and in the United States, as two ends of the spectrum and seeks to find the Indian framework somewhere in between.</p> <p><a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/india/data-protection-framework-srikrishna-committee-suggests-7-key-principles-setting-up-of-authority-4957720/">http://indianexpress.com/article/india/data-protection-framework-srikrishna-committee-suggests-7-key-principles-setting-up-of-authority-4957720/</a>;</p>

		<a href="http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/views-sought-on-data-protection-law/article21013121.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/views-sought-on-data-protection-law/article21013121.ece</a> ;
5.	<p>An 'Advance Pricing Agreement', signed by the Central Board of Direct Taxes, relates to</p> <p>(a) Retrospective Taxation</p> <p>(b) Transfer Pricing</p> <p>(c) Personal Income Tax</p> <p>(d) Initial Public Offerings</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transfer pricing litigation is a major concern of MNCs operating in India with their subsidiaries or group companies. A transfer price is the price at which divisions of a company transact with each other, such as the trade of supplies or labor between departments. Transfer prices are used when individual entities of a larger multi-entity firm are treated and measured as separately run entities. A transfer price can also be known as a transfer cost.</li> <li>Regulations on transfer pricing ensure the fairness and accuracy of transfer pricing among related entities. Regulations enforce an arm's-length rule that states that companies must establish pricing based on similar transactions done between parties not of the same related company but at arm's length.</li> <li>The Advance Pricing Agreement Scheme was introduced in the Income-tax Act in 2012 and the "Rollback" provisions were introduced in 2014. The scheme endeavours to provide certainty to taxpayers in the domain of transfer pricing by specifying the methods of pricing and setting the prices of international transactions in advance. A rollback enables taxpayers to retrospectively apply the APA agreed upon for a period of past four years.</li> <li>The progress of the APA Scheme strengthens the Government's mission of fostering a non-adversarial tax regime.</li> </ul> <p>Improvisation: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/business/india-eases-bilateral-transfer-pricing-norms/article21011357.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/business/india-eases-bilateral-transfer-pricing-norms/article21011357.ece</a>;</p>

### NOVEMBER 29, 2017

1.	<p>Commonly referred to as the 'Delors Report', this publication is associated with</p> <p>(a) Study of Communication Problems in Modern Societies</p> <p>(b) Creating an integrated vision for education</p> <p>(c) Understanding the essential role of culture in response to the challenges facing our contemporary societies</p> <p>(d) Developing mechanisms to channel scientific and technological progress of mankind into creating a better world for all</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>UNESCO has long promoted a humanistic vision of learning based on principles of respect for life, human dignity, and cultural diversity, as well as social justice and international solidarity. This vision has been outlined in the two landmark publications, <i>Learning to Be</i> (1972) and <i>Learning: The Treasure Within</i> (1996). UNESCO is now building on these reports to rethink education in the current context of change, complexity, and uncertainty.</p> <p><b>Learning: The Treasure Within</b>, commonly referred to as the 'Delors Report', proposes a holistic and integrated vision of education based on the paradigms of lifelong learning, and the four pillars of learning to be, to know, to do, and to live together.</p>
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		<a href="http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/rethinking-education/resources/">http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/rethinking-education/resources/;</a> Improvisation: <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173927;">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173927;</a>
2.	<p>The 2017 Global Entrepreneurship Summit, being held in South Asia for the first time, is being hosted by India in partnership with</p> <p>(a) Israel</p> <p>(b) Singapore</p> <p>(c) Australia</p> <p>(d) USA</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Summit is being held in South Asia for the first time. It brings together leading investors, entrepreneurs, academicians, think-tanks and other stakeholders to propel the global entrepreneurship ecosystem.</li> <li>The theme for this edition of the GES is “Women First, Prosperity for All”.</li> </ul> <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173932;">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173932;</a>
3.	<p>In addition to the National Anti-profiteering Authority, the institutional mechanisms for effective implementation of the “anti-profiteering” measures enshrined in the GST rules consist of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State level Screening Committees</li> <li>Directorate General of Safeguards in the Central Board of Excise and Customs</li> <li>A Standing Committee at the Centre</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 and 3 only</p> <p>(b) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 1, 2 and 3</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>In addition to the Authority, the institutional mechanism for effective implementation of the “anti-profiteering” measures enshrined in the GST rules consists of a Standing Committee, State level Screening Committees and the Directorate General of Safeguards in the Central Board of Excise &amp; Customs (CBEC).</p> <p>Consumers who are aggrieved that there has been no commensurate reduction in prices may apply for relief to the Screening Committee in the State. After forming a prima facie view on the substance of the application, the matter would be referred to a Standing Committee at the Centre. The Standing Committee shall, in turn, ask the Director General of Safeguards, CBEC to carry out detailed investigation. The Director General of Safeguards shall report its findings to the Authority. The Screening Committee is expected to look into complaints of local nature while the Standing Committee would ordinarily enquire into cases of mass impact with All India ramification.</p> <p>Once the Authority confirms there is justification to apply anti-profiteering measures, it has the authority to order the business concerned to reduce its prices or return the undue benefit availed along with interest @18% to the consumers of the goods or services. If the undue benefit cannot be passed on to the consumers, it can be ordered to be deposited in the Consumer Welfare Fund. The Authority also has the power to impose penalty on the defaulting business or even order the cancellation of its registration under GST.</p> <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173919;">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173919;</a>

4.	<p>The nodal agency for coordinating the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya) is</p> <p>(a) Rural Electrification Corporation</p> <p>(b) Energy Efficiency Services Limited</p> <p>(c) Power Grid Corporation of India</p> <p>(d) Solar Energy Corporation of India</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p><b>Saubhagya</b> is a scheme launched to achieve universal household electrification in all parts of the country. Keeping in view the role of electricity in human and socio-economic development, Government of India has formulated the scheme to ensure last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all remaining un-electrified urban and rural households in the country. All States and Union Territories of the country are required to complete household electrification in their respective jurisdiction by 31st March, 2019.</p> <p><b>Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC)</b>, a Navaratna CPSE under the Ministry of Power has been appointed as the nodal agency for coordinating the implementation of the scheme. The prospective beneficiary households for free electricity connections under the scheme will be identified using Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011 data.</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173922;">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173922;</a></p>
5.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India is one of the founder members of the International Maritime Organisation</li> <li>India is a co-chair of the Working Group on Maritime Situational Awareness under the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia</li> <li>India is a member state of the Arctic Council</li> </ol> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(c) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>"... India has benefitted immensely from the free and frank deliberations and exchange of ideas in IMO. As we expand our maritime activities, the guidance of IMO will become even more valuable. India has been one of the founder members of IMO and has been part of the IMO Council since then, except in 1983-84. In Category B of the Council, India represents the developing world and the nations with the largest share in international sea borne trade... India remains an <i>observer member</i> of the Arctic Council... India continues to participate in all global forum to eradicate piracy in the Somalia region. India has been elected as a Co-chair for Working Group 1 of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS)."</p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173933;">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173933;</a></p> <p><a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=145976;">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=145976;</a></p>
<b>NOVEMBER 30, 2017</b>		
1.	<p>Between India and East Asia, the navigation-time and distance can be greatly reduced by which of the following?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deepening the Malacca straits between Malaysia and Indonesia</li> <li>Opening a new canal across the kra isthmus between the gulf of Siam and Andaman sea</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>Solution: b.</p> <p>Opening a new canal in Kra Isthmus CAN reduce the navigation time and distance.</p>

(d) Neither 1 nor 2



The **Malacca strait** is the main shipping channel between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean and links the India, China, Japan and South Korea. The issue of deepening of the Malacca strait is linked to its economic importance rather than “time of navigation and distance”. The issue is that most of the ships cannot pass through it and the size of the biggest ships which can enter through it is called Malaccamax. Now the deepening of the strait would certainly help in “Increasing the volume of the business” because ships of larger sizes can pass thru it, there is no significance of distance and navigation. So statement 1 is incorrect.

<http://www.gktoday.in/solution-of-the-upsc-prelims-2011-general-studies-paper/>;

Improvisation:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/singapore-offers-india-logistical-base/article21135091.ece>;

2. New evidence now indicates the water course which originally was believed to have been the source of sustenance of the Indus society had actually changed its path and disappeared before the Indus people had even settled in the region. This relict valley is considered to be the former trace of today's River

- (a) Yamuna
- (b) Indus
- (c) Chambal
- (d) Satluj

Solution: d.

- The new research was led from the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur and from Imperial College London.
- It reveals that initial abandonment of the valley by the Sutlej River commenced after about 15,000 years ago, with complete “avulsion” to its present course shortly after 8,000 years ago.
- The group's scientists do not disagree that the Bronze Age settlements would have needed a good water supply, but argue that this requirement could have been met instead by seasonal monsoon rains that still collected and ran through the valley abandoned by the old river.
- Much of the archaeology of Indus cities, such as Kalibangan and Banawali, is scattered along this old river course. The team shows the relict valley to be the former trace of today's big Sutlej River, which must have abruptly changed course – as many Himalayan rivers are prone to do.
- Some of their sites were actually built in the palaeo-channel itself and that makes no sense if there was a big raging Himalayan river there at the time because these people would have been wiped out

		<a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-42157402">http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-42157402;</a> <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/indus-civilisation-developed-around-extinct-river-study/article21111749.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/indus-civilisation-developed-around-extinct-river-study/article21111749.ece;</a>
3.	<p>The US Federal Communications Commission recently revealed their plans to roll back the net neutrality rules enshrined in law under President Barack Obama. Which one of the following reasons was cited by the US FCC for this plan of theirs?</p> <p>(a) The rules depressed investment in building and expanding broadband networks and deterred innovation</p> <p>(b) Net neutrality was an antithetical concept in pursuit of creating an internet that offered equal access to all</p> <p>(c) It hindered the ability of Telecom Service Providers to collaborate with like-minded companies in providing access to select internet services at low costs to consumer</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>US regulators plan to roll back the net neutrality rules enshrined in law under President Barack Obama.</li> <li>The change would be a major victory for the telecoms industry but a blow to those who favour an internet that offers equal access to all.</li> <li>It could pave the way for net providers to offer “fast lanes” – where only wealthy companies can afford the best connections to consumers.</li> <li>In a statement, chairman Ajit Pai said the Federal Communications Commission’s proposals would stop federal government “micro-managing the internet.. For almost 20 years, the internet thrived under the light-touch regulatory approach established by President Clinton and a Republican congress.. This bipartisan framework led the private sector to invest \$1.5tn [£1.1tn] building communications networks throughout the United States. And it gave us an internet economy that became the envy of the world.”</li> <li>The Obama-era changes, which followed a massive public campaign in favour of net neutrality, reclassified telecoms companies as “common carriers” – or neutral gateways to content, which could neither speed up or slow down content on its networks. They also gave the FCC much more oversight and regulatory control over how they operated.</li> <li>But Mr Pai described these changes, which took effect in 2015, as “heavy-handed, utility-style regulations... That decision was a mistake.. It has depressed investment in building and expanding broadband networks and deterred innovation.” Telecoms companies such as Comcast, Verizon and AT&amp;T agree.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-42065649">http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-42065649;</a>  Improvisation:  <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-neutral-internet/article21123852.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-neutral-internet/article21123852.ece</a></p>
4.	<p>Upon the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, a bill that was</p> <p>1. Passed by the Lok Sabha (LS) but pending in the Rajya Sabha (RS) does not lapse</p> <p>2. Pending in the LS lapses, whether it originated in the LS or was transmitted to it by the RS</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>“The Prevention of Torture Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha in 2010 to address the problem, but it lapsed after it was referred to a Select Committee in the Rajya Sabha.”..</p> <p>The position with respect to lapsing of bills (upon dissolution of the LS) is as follows:</p>



<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses (whether originating in the Lok Sabha or transmitted to it by the Rajya Sabha).</li> <li>• A bill passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses.</li> <li>• A bill not passed by the two Houses due to disagreement and if the president has notified the holding of a joint sitting before the dissolution of Lok Sabha, does not lapse.</li> <li>• A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha does not lapse.</li> <li>• A bill passed by both Houses but pending assent of the president does not lapse.</li> <li>• A bill passed by both Houses but returned by the president for reconsideration of Houses does not lapse.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information:</b> The Union government has informed the Supreme Court that it is seriously considering the 273rd Report of the Law Commission, which has recommended that India ratify the United Nations Convention against Torture and pass a law to prevent torture and punish its perpetrators.</p> <p>Parliament, Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth;</p> <p>Source/Improvisation:  <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/eliminate-torture/article21119466.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/eliminate-torture/article21119466.ece</a></p>
<p>5. Which one of the following is <b>not</b> a national mission under the NAPCC or the National Action Plan on Climate Change?</p> <p>(a) National Wind Power Mission</p> <p>(b) National Mission for a Green India</p> <p>(c) National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem</p> <p>(d) National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>The NAPCC (launched in 2008) identifies measures that promote development objectives while also yielding co-benefits for addressing climate change effectively. There are eight “National Missions” which form the core of the National Action Plan. They focus on promoting understanding of climate change, adaptation and mitigation, energy efficiency and natural resource conservation.</p> <p>The eight missions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Solar Mission</li> <li>• National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency</li> <li>• National Mission on Sustainable Habitat</li> <li>• National Water Mission</li> <li>• National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem</li> <li>• National Mission for a Green India</li> <li>• National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture</li> <li>• National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://vikaspedia.in/energy/policy-support/environment-1/climate-change;">http://vikaspedia.in/energy/policy-support/environment-1/climate-change;</a></p>

Improvisation:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173954;>

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