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DAILY QUIZ OCTOBER 2017

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DATE	PAGE NO.
OCTOBER 2, 2017	3
OCTOBER 3, 2017	5
OCTOBER 4, 2017	8
OCTOBER 5, 2017	11
OCTOBER 6, 2017	14
OCTOBER 7, 2017	17
OCTOBER 9, 2017	19
OCTOBER 10, 2017	22
OCTOBER 11, 2017	25
OCTOBER 12, 2017	28
OCTOBER 13, 2017	30
OCTOBER 14, 2017	33
OCTOBER 19, 2017	36
OCTOBER 20, 2017	37
OCTOBER 21, 2017	39
OCTOBER 23, 2017	40
OCTOBER 24, 2017	42
OCTOBER 25, 2017	43
OCTOBER 26, 2017	45
OCTOBER 27, 2017	46
OCTOBER 29, 2017	47
OCTOBER 30, 2017	49
OCTOBER 31, 2017	50

Q. No.	Question	Solution
OCTOBER 2, 2017		
1.	<p>The doctrine of 'Vishishtadvaita' is associated with</p> <p>(a) Nimbarkacharya</p> <p>(b) Madhavacharya</p> <p>(c) Ramanujacharya</p> <p>(d) Shankaracharya</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>In the twelfth century, Ramanuja preached <i>Visishtadvaita</i>. According to him God is <i>Sagunabrahman</i> (God with attributes). The creative process and all the objects in creation are real but not illusory as was held by Sankaracharya. Therefore, God, soul, matter are real. But God is inner substance and the rest are his attributes.</p> <p>Pg 137, TN Class 11 History</p> <p>Improvisation: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171303 </p>
2.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Telemedicine is the remote delivery of healthcare services, directly to patients, over telecommunications infrastructure 2. Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes or ECHO is a telemedicine project recently launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare <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 mains-oriented question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is a concept of weekly or fortnightly virtual clinics that use teleconferencing to bridge the gap in healthcare resources by using the best specialists to reach out to underserved areas. But unlike telemedicine, ECHO clinics do not provide care directly to patients. Instead, they equip primary healthcare clinicians — doctors, nurses and other health workers — in remote areas with the knowledge and support to manage complex cases. Essentially, it brings specialist care and knowledge to areas where there is none. • Project ECHO began in 2003 in New Mexico when Dr Sanjeev Arora, a liver disease specialist in Albuquerque, US, realised that there were thousands of people in the state of New Mexico with Hepatitis C but with no access to treatment because there were no specialists where they lived. It's then that Dr Arora began ECHO, bringing together local clinicians and specialists through weekly virtual clinics. • India's first ECHO clinic began in 2008 as a collaboration between the National Aids Control Organisation (NACO) and Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC) on managing HIV AIDS patients. Since then, ECHO clinics in the country have tackled addiction and substance use disorders, mental health, tuberculosis, hepatitis C, liver diseases, cancer screening and prevention, among others. <p>http://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/change-agents-echo-travels-taking-specialist-doctors-to-places-where-there-are-none-4870265/</p>

<p>3. There are five Border Personnel Meeting (BPM) points along the Line of Actual Control. In this context, consider the following pairs:</p> <table><thead><tr><th>BPM points</th><th>State in which they are found</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1. Bum La</td><td>: Arunachal Pradesh</td></tr><tr><td>2. Kibithu</td><td>: Sikkim</td></tr><tr><td>3. Daulat Beg Oldi</td><td>: Ladakh</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	BPM points	State in which they are found	1. Bum La	: Arunachal Pradesh	2. Kibithu	: Sikkim	3. Daulat Beg Oldi	: Ladakh	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>There are five BPM points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at Bum La and Kibithu in Arunachal Pradesh, Daulat Beg Oldi and Chushul in Ladakh, and Nathu La in Sikkim.</p> <p>http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/no-bpm-between-india-china/article19781548.ece</p>
BPM points	State in which they are found								
1. Bum La	: Arunachal Pradesh								
2. Kibithu	: Sikkim								
3. Daulat Beg Oldi	: Ladakh								
<p>4. Consider the following statements about Gypsum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It is a naturally-occurring substance2. It is used as a soil amendment for agricultural purposes3. Plaster of Paris is made by heating it to high temperatures <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>Gypsum is used as a fertiliser; it is a moderately soluble source of the essential plant nutrients, calcium and sulphur, and can improve overall plant growth. Gypsum amendments can also improve the physical and chemical properties of soils, thus reducing erosion losses of soils and nutrient concentrations (especially phosphorus) in surface water runoffs. Gypsum is the most commonly used amendment for sodic soil reclamation and can be included as a component in synthetic soils used in nursery, greenhouse, and landscape applications. These multiple uses of gypsum represent potential benefits to agricultural and horticultural users.</p> <p>PoP is made by heating gypsum at temperatures in the range of 300°F. When it comes in contact with water, the material regains the form of gypsum. Since gypsum is a naturally occurring substance, and is used as a soil-conditioner to reclaim saline-sodic soils, it has been argued by idol-makers' associations that it is harmless to the environment. This argument, however, is trashed by activists who argue that PoP idols are non-biodegradable. A test carried out at the Centre for Environmental Science and Engineering at IIT-Mumbai, showed that these idols remain intact for several months in still water, as compared to clay idols which dissolve within 45 minutes.</p> <p>http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/how-harmful-is-pop-to-the-environment-42241</p> <p>Improvisation: http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/yamuna-in-distress-after-immersions/article19781685.ece</p>								

5. The European Union and European Space Agency's 'Copernicus' programme is associated with which one of the following?

- (a) An Earth Observation programme, it will provide information to improve the management of the environment
- (b) A series of flyby missions similar to NASA's Voyager missions, but dedicated to the study of a region called the Oort Cloud, in interstellar space
- (c) Similar to ISRO's EDUSAT, this programme will launch satellites to provide tele-education access to children in remote regions of Sahel-Saharan countries
- (d) None of the above

Solution: a.

Copernicus

- Is an EU project that is being procured with European Space Agency help
- Pulls together all Earth-monitoring data, from space and the ground
- Will use data from a range of spacecraft – some already up there, others yet to fly
- Expected to be invaluable to scientists studying climate change
- Important for disaster response – earthquakes, floods, fires etc
- Data will also help design and enforce EU policies: fishing quotas etc
- It will also help ensure civil security (ex: border and maritime surveillance)

ESA coordinates the delivery of data from upwards of 30 satellites. ESA is also developing a new family of satellites, called Sentinels, specifically for the operational needs of the Copernicus programme. We earlier had posted a question here on one of the applications of one of the Sentinel satellites.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-41435223>

http://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Observing_the_Earth/Copernicus/Overview3

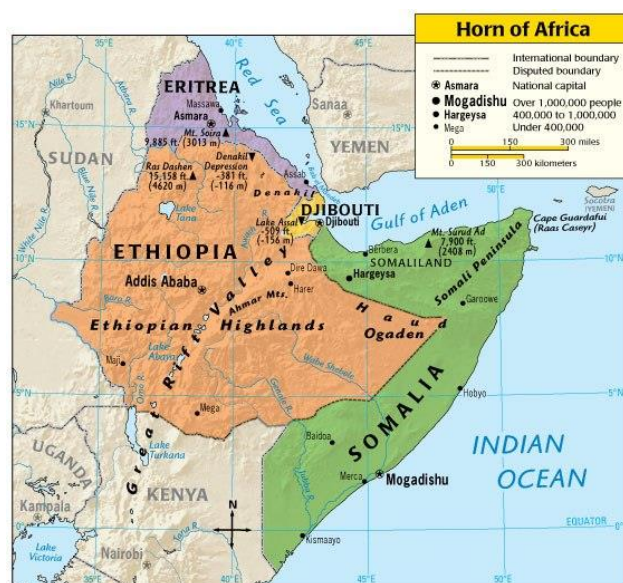
OCTOBER 3, 2017

1. Which country in the Horn of Africa is land-locked?

- (a) Eritrea
- (b) Djibouti
- (c) South Sudan
- (d) Ethiopia

Solution: d.

South Sudan too is a land-locked country. But it isn't a country that constitutes the Horn of Africa (see image).



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Improvisation:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/raja->

		mandala-india-and-djiboutis-geopolitical-scrum-ram-nath-kovind-abroad-visit-4871697/
2.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A tectonic plate is generally composed of both continental and oceanic lithosphere 2. Pangea was a result of converging of different continental masses that were parts of one or the other plates <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 tectonic plate (also called lithospheric plate) is a massive, irregularly-shaped slab of solid rock, generally composed of both continental and oceanic lithosphere. Plates move horizontally over the asthenosphere as rigid units. The lithosphere includes the crust and top mantle with its thickness range varying between 5-100 km in oceanic parts and about 200 km in the continental areas. A plate may be referred to as the continental plate or oceanic plate depending on which of the two occupy a larger portion of the plate. Pacific plate is largely an oceanic plate whereas the Eurasian plate may be called a continental plate.</p> <p>Alfred Wegener had thought of all the continents to have initially existed as a super continent in the form of Pangaea. However, later discoveries reveal that the continental masses, resting on the plates, have been wandering all through the geological period, and Pangaea was a result of converging of different continental masses that were parts of one or the other plates.</p> <p>Plate tectonics states that Earth's outer shell, or lithosphere, consists of large rigid plates that move apart at oceanic ridges, come together at subduction zones, or slip past one another along fault lines.</p> <p>During Earth's long history, there probably have been several Pangea-like supercontinents. The oldest of those supercontinents is called Rodinia and was formed some one billion years ago. Another Pangea-like supercontinent, Pannotia, was assembled 600 million years ago. Present-day plate motions are bringing the continents together once again. Africa has begun to collide with southern Europe, and the Australian Plate is now colliding with Southeast Asia. Within the next 250 million years, Africa and the Americas will merge with Eurasia to form a supercontinent that approaches Pangean proportions.</p> <p>https://www.britannica.com/place/Pangea</p> <p>Pg 35 (Distribution of oceans and continents) Fundamentals of Physical Geography Class 11, NCERT;</p> <p>Improvisation:</p> <p>http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-41472281</p>
3.	<p>China's first foreign military base has come up at</p> <p>(a) Djibouti</p> <p>(b) Somalia</p> <p>(c) Maldives</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>A mains-oriented question.</p> <p>China says the support base at Djibouti will be used for peacekeeping and humanitarian aid in Africa and West Asia. The US, Japan and France also have military bases in Djibouti.</p>

	(d) Pakistan	<p>Djibouti, a tiny country at the Horn of Africa, is favoured for its location as it sits near a busy shipping route. It is also seen as a stable country in an otherwise volatile region.</p> <p>Like in so many areas, China's strategic advances in the Horn have helped put Djibouti back on India's political radar. President Kovind will be India's first president or prime minister to visit Djibouti.</p> <p>Beijing's infrastructure development in the Horn preceded the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative by President Xi Jinping. But it has acquired an unprecedented momentum in recent years. One of the more visible infrastructure projects in the region has been the 750 km-long rail link between landlocked Ethiopia and Djibouti.</p> <p>China's geopolitical interest in the Horn has come into sharp focus over the last decade with the regular deployment of naval units to combat piracy in the Gulf of Aden. Although piracy has now come down significantly, China is raising its strategic profile in the region. Under an accord signed last year, Beijing has secured the rights to a base in Djibouti that can host up to 10,000 soldiers until 2026.</p> <p>http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/raja-mandala-india-and-djiboutis-geopolitical-scrum-ram-nath-kovind-abroad-visit-4871697/</p> <p>From July:</p> <p>http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-40578106</p>
4.	<p>In discovering the molecular mechanisms controlling the circadian rhythm in living organisms – the internal biological clock, this year's Nobel laureates in Physiology/Medicine had studied a particular gene belonging to which one of the following organisms?</p> <p>(a) Rats</p> <p>(b) Fruit flies</p> <p>(c) Mimosa plant (Touch-me-not)</p> <p>(d) Humans</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>A GK question.</p> <p>The trio's (Jeffrey Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael Young) breakthroughs were on fruit flies, but their findings explain how the molecular clock works to keep time in all animals.</p> <p>https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/medicine/laureates/2017/press.html</p> <p>http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/i-am-very-pleased-for-the-fruit-fly-nobel-winner-michael-rosbash/article19786482.ece</p>
5.	<p>According to the concept of the “Keynesian multiplier”,</p> <p>(a) Market forces help efficiently allocate resources, raising the productivity of an economy</p> <p>(b) Greater savings rate translates into greater economic activity</p> <p>(c) Any form of government spending increases employment and prosperity</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>The Keynesian multiplier showed that any government spending brought about cycles of spending that increased employment and prosperity regardless of the form of the spending. For example, a \$100 million government project, whether to build a dam or dig and refill a giant hole, might pay \$50 million in pure labor costs. The workers then take that \$50 million and, minus the average saving rate, spend it at various businesses. These businesses now have more money to hire more people to make more products,</p>

	(d) None of the above	<p>leading to another round of spending. This idea was at the core of the growth of the welfare state.</p> <p>Taken further, if people didn't save anything, the economy would be an unstoppable engine running at full employment. Keynesians wanted to counteract saving by taxing savings to force people to spend more. However, unless someone holds his or her savings entirely in cash – and true hoarding like this is rare – it's invested either by the individual or by the bank holding the capital.</p> <p>http://www.investopedia.com/ask/answers/09/keynesian-multiplier.asp</p> <p>http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-fiscal-myth/article19786445.ece</p>
OCTOBER 4, 2017		
1.	<p>In the Indian system, the source of Individual Rights is</p> <p>(a) The Constitution</p> <p>(b) The courts of law</p> <p>(c) The Parliament</p> <p>(d) The President</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>Senior advocate Fali Nariman, appearing for the Rohingya community, rubbished the government's claims that the Rohingya refugees will eat into the resources meant for citizens. "Our Constitution is not made up of group rights but individual rights," he said.</p> <p>The concept of 'equality before law' is an element of the concept of 'Rule of Law', propounded by A.V. Dicey, the British jurist. This concept has the following three elements or aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of arbitrary power, that is, no man can be punished except for a breach of law. Equality before the law, that is, equal subjection of all citizens (rich or poor, high or low, official or non-official) to the ordinary law of the land administered by the ordinary law courts. The primacy of the rights of the individual, that is, the constitution is the result of the rights of the individual as defined and enforced by the courts of law rather than the constitution being the source of the individual rights. <p>The first and the second elements are applicable to the Indian System and not the third one. In the Indian System, the constitution is the source of the individual rights.</p> <p>Improvisation: http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/can-india-protect-rohingya-women-and-children-sc-asks-govt/article19791035.ece</p> <p>Fundamental Rights, Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth;</p>
2.	<p>After a prolonged decline, in 2016 the number of chronically undernourished people in the world is estimated to have increased from 2015. In this context, consider the following statements:</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After a prolonged decline, world hunger appears to be on the rise again. The estimated number of undernourished people increased to 815 million in 2016, up from 777 million in 2015.

1. Much of the recent increase in food insecurity can be traced to climate-related shocks exacerbated by economic slowdowns
2. There has been a decrease in the prevalence of undernourishment in the Indian population over the past decade

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

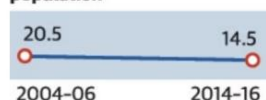
- Much of the recent increase in food insecurity can be traced to the greater number of conflicts, often exacerbated by climate-related shocks. Even in some peaceful settings, food security has deteriorated as economic slowdowns challenge access to food for the poor.
- Multiple forms of malnutrition coexist, with countries experiencing simultaneously high rates of child undernutrition, anaemia among women, and adult obesity. Rising rates of overweight and obesity add to these concerns. Childhood overweight and obesity are increasing in most regions, and in all regions for adults.
- Addressing food insecurity and malnutrition in conflict-affected situations cannot be “business as usual”. It requires a conflict-sensitive approach that aligns actions for immediate humanitarian assistance, long-term development and sustaining peace.

The report: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7695e.pdf>

Food for thought

The number of undernourished people in the world increased from 777 million in 2015 to an estimated 815 million in 2016, says a recent report on the state of global food security and nutrition. The report, brought out by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, has published the following figures (%) in India

Prevalence of under-nourishment in the total population



Prevalence of stunting in children (under 5 years)



Prevalence of obesity in the adult population (18 years and older)



Prevalence of anaemia among women of reproductive age (15 to 49)



Source: The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017; Building resilience for peace and food security. FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, 2017.

Source and Improvisation: Data Point, The Hindu (Oped page);

3. She is a globally recognised researcher on tuberculosis and HIV, and has earlier served as Coordinator of the WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases. She was recently appointed as one of two deputy directors general at the World Health Organisation. She is?

- (a) Soumya Swaminathan
- (b) Royana Singh
- (c) Rukmini Devi Arundale
- (d) Kusum Shastri

Solution: a.

A GK-question; mains-oriented.

Additional Information: “The team represents 14 countries, including all WHO regions, and is more than 60% women, reflecting my deep-held belief that we need top talent, gender equity and a geographically diverse set of perspectives to fulfil our mission to keep the world safe,” said Dr Tedros, Director-General of the WHO.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/icmr-chief-soumya-swaminathan-appointed-who-deputy-director-general/article19792489.ece>

<p>4.</p>	<p>The LIGO-India project is being led by</p> <p>(a) Indian Institute of Science</p> <p>(b) Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics</p> <p>(c) Indian Space Research Organisation</p> <p>(d) Geological Survey of India</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>The Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave (GW) Observatory (LIGO) project operates three gravitational-wave (GW) detectors. Two are at Hanford in the state of Washington, north-western USA, and one is at Livingston in Louisiana, south-eastern USA. The proposed LIGO-India project aims to move one Advanced LIGO detector from Hanford to India.</p> <p>LIGO-India project is envisaged as an international collaboration between the LIGO project and three lead institutions in the IndIGO (Indian Initiative in GW Observations) consortium: Institute of Plasma Research (IPR) Gandhinagar, Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune and Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology (RRCAT), Indore. Among the three, IUCAA will be leading. Other Indian Universities will also participate in the project.</p> <p>Funding for the LIGO-India facilities will come from the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), with DAE acting as the lead agency.</p> <p>Source/Improvisation:</p> <p>http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/a-theory-is-validated-revelations-are-promised-indian-ligo-rolls-4873162/</p> <p>http://www.gw.iucaa.in/ligo-india/introduction/</p> <p>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=148770</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>'India's Million Death Study' is most appropriately associated with which one of the following issues?</p> <p>(a) Female foeticide</p> <p>(b) Vaccine-preventable deaths</p> <p>(c) Tobacco-use deaths</p> <p>(d) Death of children aged under five</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>India has avoided about 1 million (10 lakh) deaths of children under age five since 2005, owing to the significant reductions in mortality from pneumonia, diarrhoea, neonatal infections and birth asphyxia/trauma, measles and tetanus, according to a study published in the latest issue of The Lancet journal.</p> <p>The 'India's Million Death Study', implemented by the Registrar General of India, is the first study to directly quantify changes in cause-specific child deaths in India, nationally and sub-nationally, from 2000-15 among randomly selected homes. This is a direct study based on face-to-face interviews with families, and is not based on modelling or projections from small samples.</p> <p>The study illustrates that the conditions prioritised under the National Health Mission had the greatest declines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pneumonia and diarrhoea mortality fell by over 60% (most of the decline due to effective treatment), • mortality from birth-related breathing and trauma during delivery fell by 66% (most of the decline due to more births occurring in hospital), and

- measles and tetanus mortality fell by 90% (mostly due to special immunization campaigns against each).

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171341>

OCTOBER 5, 2017

1. Which one of the following organisations has **not** contributed to the preparation of the report, 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017'?

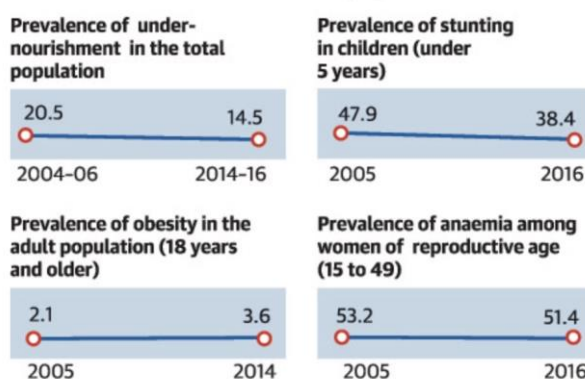
- (a) International Fund for Agricultural Development
(b) UNICEF
(c) International Food and Policy Research Institute
(d) World Food Programme

Solution: c.

Question based on yesterday's data point from the Hindu, on which we had framed a question. Reproducing the same image here:

Food for thought

The number of undernourished people in the world increased from 777 million in 2015 to an estimated 815 million in 2016, says a recent report on the state of global food security and nutrition. The report, brought out by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, has published the following figures (%) in India



Source: The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017; Building resilience for peace and food security. FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, 2017.

2. The High Level Committee for proper management of water resources in the North Eastern Region has been constituted under the Chairmanship of

- (a) The Prime Minister
(b) Minister of Development of North-East Region
(c) Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
(d) Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog

Solution: d.

The Government has constituted a high-level committee for proper management of the water resources in the North Eastern Region (NER) under the Chairmanship of Vice-Chairman, Niti Aayog.

The Committee would facilitate optimising benefits of appropriate water management in the form of hydro-electric power, agriculture, bio-diversity conservation, reduced flood damage erosion, inland water transport, forestry, fishery and eco-tourism. Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) will serve as the coordinating point.

The Committee includes Secretaries from the Ministries of Development of North Eastern Region, Department of Border Management, Department of Space, Power, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and National Disaster Management Authority and Chief Secretaries of all the 8 states in NER as Members. The Committee may co-opt or invite as special invitees Secretaries of other Ministries / Departments as well as experts who have domain knowledge in the matter.

For the ToR of the Committee, refer source:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171377>

<p>3. Consider the following statements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peer-to-peer lending an online marketplace that matches lenders with borrowers in order to provide unsecured loans 2. The Reserve Bank of India recently recognised P2P lenders as Non-Banking Financial Companies <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>Both statements are correct.</p> <p>Just like an online marketplace brings buyers and sellers on a single platform to transact, P2P lending marketplaces bring borrowers and lenders together. It is important to note that this is unsecured lending and hence carries high risk. P2P platforms look to attract those people who may not get a loan at a bank or a traditional non-banking finance company (NBFC).</p> <p>The RBI recently recognised P2P lenders, and announced that they would be treated as NBFCs henceforth. This does not alter their nature; the only difference now is that such lenders' activities will be regulated. On October 4, 2017, RBI issued specific directions (guidelines) for every Non-Banking Financial Company that carries on the business of a P2P Lending Platform. Going forward, no NBFC P2P shall commence or carry on the business of a P2P Lending Platform without obtaining a Certificate of Registration from the RBI.</p> <p>Some other guidelines are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBFC P2Ps shall NOT lend their own • They shall not cross-sell any product except for loan-specific insurance products • They shall not permit international flow of funds • They will be expected to undertake due diligence on the participants • They will be expected to render services for recovery of loans originated on the platform • They will be expected to undertake documentation of loan agreements and other related documents • The aggregate exposure of a lender to all borrowers (and the aggregate loans taken by a borrower) at any point of time, across all P2Ps, shall be subject to a cap of Rs 10,00,000. <p>http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/wealth/borrow/rbi-issues-directions-for-peer-to-peer-p2p-lending-platform/articleshow/60941846.cms</p> <p>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171381</p>
<p>4. Which one of the following is the habitat of the "susu"?</p> <p>(a) Nilgiris (b) Ganga river system (c) Khangchendzonga National Park (d) Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>The Ganges River dolphin, or susu, inhabits the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh.</p> <p>The Ganges River dolphin lives in one of the world's most densely populated areas, and is threatened by removal of river water and siltation arising from deforestation, pollution and entanglement in fisheries nets. In addition, alterations to the river due to barrages are also separating populations.</p>

		http://wwf.panda.org/what we do/endangered species/cetaceans/about/river dolphins/ganges river dolphin/ Improvisation: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171361
5.	<p>'Mobile Termination Charge' refers to</p> <p>(a) The expenses incurred on government fees by a network operator in setting up telecommunication network terminals in rural areas</p> <p>(b) A charge paid by the network from where a call originates to one where it terminates</p> <p>(c) The costs that a customer has to bear while availing benefits of the Mobile Number Portability services</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>The same question was posted here earlier.</p> <p>MTC is also referred to as 'Interconnect Usage Charge'. This is a charge paid by the network from where a call originates to the one where it terminates. IUCs directly impact the call tariff.</p> <p>Jio's rivals (Airtel, Vodafone and Idea) are of the view TRAI's reduction of MTC will negatively impact the industry and rural telecom expansion. They wanted IUCs to be doubled. Jio on the other hand wanted IUC to be reduced.</p> <p>TRAI says that the reduction in MTC is likely to yield consumer benefits. According to it, such charges work as a disincentive for deployment of new technologies such as VoLTE, or Voice over Long-Term Evolution, and migration to Internet Protocol networks by operators, wherein there are no interconnection charges. It points out that the cost of voice turns out to be fraction of a paisa/minute on over-the-top applications such as Skype or WhatsApp and it will be virtually impossible for a telecom service provider to compete against these if additional cost in the form of MTC is imposed.</p> <p>http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/cut-in-mobile-termination-charges-will-hit-sector/article19571006.ece</p>
6.	<p>The Walk Free Foundation's activities help achieve a target listed under which one of the following Sustainable Development Goals?</p> <p>(a) End poverty in all its forms everywhere (SDG 1)</p> <p>(b) Promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all (SDG 8)</p> <p>(c) Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (SDG 11)</p> <p>(d) Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies (SDG 16)</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>SDG Target 8.7: "Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms".</p> <p>About the Walk Free Foundation and the Global Slavery Index:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2012, Australian mining billionaire Andrew Forrest founded the Walk Free Foundation (WFF) with the aim of eliminating modern slavery. Its first Global Slavery Index in 2013 ranked countries based on the prevalence of modern slavery. Subsequent reports also evaluated government response to the challenge. The latest survey (released recently; Global Slavery Index 2016) ranked 167 countries based on the proportion of the population estimated to be in slavery. India came in fourth after North Korea, Uzbekistan and Cambodia.

- In terms of the absolute numbers of people in slavery, **India ranked first** — ahead of China, Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- In producing the report, the International **Labour Organisation**, a UN body, had joined hands with WFF.
- The methodology of the Slavery Survey has been a subject of criticism in the past, and more recently our own IB has raised a red flag for a few reasons.

Read the following source article for complete information:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/why-indian-intelligence-is-spooked-by-global-index-of-modern-slavery-4874701/>

OCTOBER 6, 2017

1. 'Embryo Transfer Technology' is a component of which one of the following schemes?

- Rashtriya Gokul Mission
- National Programme for Bovine Breeding
- National Mission on Bovine Productivity
- National Dairy Plan-I

Solution: c.

Embryo transfer technology (ETT) has revolutionized the breeding strategies in Bovines as a tool to optimize the genetic improvement in cattle. Through the use of ETT,

- (1) a farmer can get a 5-6 fold increase in number of offsprings,
- (2) the calves so born will be of high genetic merit and
- (3) the offsprings born will be free from diseases.

National Mission on Bovine Productivity has been launched with the aim of enhancing milk production and productivity and thereby making dairying more remunerative to the farmers. The scheme is being implemented with following components

- Pashu Sanjivni**- this component includes identification of animals in milk using UID;
- Advance reproductive Technique**- under the component sex sorted semen production facility is being created and 50 Embryo Transfer Technology Labs with IVF facilities are being created in the country;
- Creation of E Pashu Haat Portal**- linking farmers and breeders of indigenous breeds
- Establishment of National Bovine Genomic Centre for Indigenous Breeds(NBGC-IB)**: For enhancing milk production and productivity through genomic selection among indigenous breeds.

Improvisation:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171403>

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/a-revolution-in-cattle-breeding/article19787960.ece>

For details regarding the Union Government's initiatives on cattle breed improvement programmes:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=169383>

<p>2.</p>	<p>The nodal agency for implementing the Wind Auction Scheme is</p> <p>(a) Solar Energy Corporation of India</p> <p>(b) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd.</p> <p>(c) Central Pollution Control Board</p> <p>(d) Energy Efficiency Services Ltd.</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>The wind tariff in India touched lowest level of Rs.2.64 per kWh in the second wind auction conducted by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) on behalf of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India yesterday. The tariff discovered is much lower than first wind auction concluded at Rs. 3.46 per kWh in February this year.</p> <p>In 2015, the Cabinet approved the proposal to rename SECI as RECI (Renewable Energy Corporation of India), but this is yet to be done.</p> <p>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171394</p> <p>http://seci.co.in/other_page.php?mmid=1&page=about_us</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>‘Period’, ‘timeless’ and ‘doubletime’ are terms that recently appeared in the news in association with which one of the following phenomena?</p> <p>(a) Gravitational Waves</p> <p>(b) Circadian rhythm</p> <p>(c) Cryo-electron microscopy</p> <p>(d) DNA repair</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>The 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was won by a triumvirate of chronobiologists for their work in discovering the mechanisms controlling the internal clocks that keep time in all living organisms, including humans. Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young, three Americans born in the 1940s, made pioneering contributions in helping unravel the genetic coding and protein pathways that regulate the circadian rhythm — that rhythm which tells us when it is time to eat and sleep, or wake up even when we have no bedside alarm. Working with the humble fruit fly, the three scientists isolated a gene named ‘period’ that studies had shown disrupted the fly’s circadian clock. Dr. Hall and Dr. Rosbash then went on to discover that the protein ‘PER’, which acts as a functional communicator for this gene, accumulated at night and then diminished during the day. Independently, Dr. Young made a couple of seminal breakthroughs that helped complete the jigsaw puzzle — first by identifying a second gene ‘timeless’ that through its ‘TIM’ protein, working in conjunction with PER, helped engender the seesawing of cellular protein levels. He then spotted the third gene, ‘doubletime’, which through an encoded protein served as the regulator of the frequency of the oscillations.</p> <p>http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-rhythm-of-life/article19803292.ece</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>The latest ‘Global Slavery Index’</p> <p>(a) Ranks countries based on the prevalence of modern slavery</p> <p>(b) Evaluates the response of governments to the challenge of modern slavery</p> <p>(c) Both a and b</p> <p>(d) Neither a nor b</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>Question based on the solution-explanation provided in yesterday’s quiz.</p> <p>In 2012, Australian mining billionaire Andrew Forrest founded the Walk Free Foundation (WFF) with the aim of eliminating modern slavery. Its first Global Slavery Index in 2013 ranked countries based on the prevalence of modern slavery. Subsequent reports also evaluated government response to the challenge.</p>

		http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/why-indian-intelligence-is-spooked-by-global-index-of-modern-slavery-4874701/
5.	<p>Which of the following activities has the 'States Division' of the Ministry of External Affairs – which fosters the principle of cooperative federalism and aims to facilitate and deepen the external linkages of the states/union territories – engaged in the recent past?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sister City and Sister Province Agreements 2. Facilitation of visits of foreign dignitaries to India 3. Humanitarian Operations <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sister City and Sister Province Agreements; ex: Chennai – Chongqing; • Facilitation of visits of foreign dignitaries to India; ex: facilitating the visit of a Governor of one of Japan's provinces to the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan; • Humanitarian Operations; ex: Operation Rahat (Yemen) and Operation Maitri (Nepal) – the division acted as a bridge by way of facilitating evacuation of Indians from those countries and sending them to their respective states in a safe and secure manner; <p>Apart from the three listed above, following activities involved/were carried out by the States Division:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State and Provincial Leaders Forum (which will help deepen sub-national cooperation between India and associated countries) • Outreach Programmes (ex: facilitating visits of delegations from Indian states to other countries for specific matters – attracting FDI, for instance) • Facilitating foreign visits of dignitaries from State Governments <p>Improvisation:</p> <p>http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/states-in-indian-diplomacy/article19803262.ece</p> <p>Source: Refer to Annual Report, 2015-16 –</p> <p>http://www.mea.gov.in/annual-reports.htm?57/Annual_Reports</p>
6.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "India's Shinkansen" will cost around the same amount that has been allocated for the recently proposed Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh 2. France's and Taiwan's High Speed Rail services have required either bailouts or subsidies in course of their operation <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> <p>'Shinkansen' refers to the Japanese Bullet Train. The estimates have varied, but the cost of the HSR project at the moment is estimated to roughly be around the rupees 1 lakh crore mark. This year's budget announced the creation of a Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (National Railways Safety Fund) with a corpus of rupees 1 lakh crore over a period of five years.</p> <p>Japan's pioneering Shinkansen, which connects Tokyo to Osaka, passes through the biggest industrial and commercial centres, caters to almost 50% of Japan's population, and carries more than 150 million passengers annually. France's fabled Paris-Lyon HSR service has had to periodically receive substantial subsidies. Taiwan's \$14 billion HSR service between Taipei and Tainan virtually became bankrupt after losses of over \$1 billion. It realised only 50% of the projected ridership and required</p>

government bailout. Even the U.S. is tentatively initiating a San Francisco-Los Angeles corridor, and is still unsure about the densely populated industrial-commercial Philadelphia-Boston-New York-Washington DC corridor.

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/does-india-need-a-bullet-train/article19803252.ece>

OCTOBER 7, 2017

1.	<p>'Agenda for Action 2020' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of strengthening the strategic partnership between India and</p> <p>(a) European Union</p> <p>(b) United Arab Emirates</p> <p>(c) ASEAN</p> <p>(d) Afghanistan</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>India and EU in 2016 endorsed the EU-India Agenda for Action-2020 as a common roadmap to jointly guide and strengthen the India-EU Strategic Partnership in the next five years. Broadly, matters that it deals with include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign Policy and Security Cooperation • Trade and Investment, Business and Economy • Global Issues/Sector Policy Cooperation • People-to-people <p>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171462</p> <p>http://www.mea.gov.in/Images/attach/EU_India_Agenda_for_Action_post_VC.pdf</p>
2.	<p>In what way will the scheme 'PMGDISHA' empower citizens in rural areas?</p> <p>(a) It will make one person from every eligible rural household digitally literate</p> <p>(b) Village Level Entrepreneurs will be assisted in setting up Panchayat Banks at every Common Service Centre to provide improved access to financial services</p> <p>(c) Using Direct Benefit Transfer mechanism to serve the dual purpose of food security along with social security to households hitherto uncovered by existing schemes</p> <p>(d) It will cover villages that are not covered under existing water supply schemes</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>Making one person in every family digitally literate is one of the integral components of the Prime Minister's vision of "Digital India".</p> <p>Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan is the scheme to make six crore persons in rural areas, across States/UTs, digitally literate, reaching to around 40% of rural households by covering one member from every eligible household by 31st March, 2019.</p> <p>The Scheme would empower the citizens in rural areas by training them to operate computer or digital access devices (like tablets, smart phones etc.), send and receive e-mails, browse Internet, access Government services, search for information, undertake digital payment etc. and hence enable them to use the Information Technology and related applications especially Digital Payments to actively participate in the process of nation building.</p> <p>https://www.pmgdisha.in/aboutpmgdisha</p> <p>Improvisation:</p> <p>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171446</p>
3.	<p>Consider the following statements with reference to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN):</p> <p>1. It is a coalition of hundreds of NGOs from around a hundred countries across the world</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>The organization ICAN is receiving the Nobel Peace Prize for 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and

	<p>2. ICAN's formation was inspired by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines – a Nobel Peace Prize laureate</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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons. <p>The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a coalition of non-governmental organizations in one hundred countries promoting adherence to and implementation of the United Nations nuclear weapon ban treaty. This landmark global agreement was adopted in New York on 7 July 2017.</p> <p>ICAN's founders were inspired by the tremendous success of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which a decade earlier had played an instrumental role in the negotiation of the anti-personnel mine ban convention, or Ottawa treaty.</p> <p>http://www.icanw.org/campaign/campaign-overview/</p> <p>https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2017/press.html</p> <p>From 1997:</p> <p>https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1997/press.html</p>
4.	<p>Alfred Nobel's will specified certain criteria for awarding the Peace Prize. Which one of the following is not among them?</p> <p>(a) Promotion of planetary environmental harmony</p> <p>(b) Promotion of fraternity between nations</p> <p>(c) Advancement of disarmament and arms control</p> <p>(d) Holding and promotion of peace congresses</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>The decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2017 to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons has a solid grounding in Alfred Nobel's will. The will specifies three different criteria for awarding the Peace Prize: the promotion of fraternity between nations, the advancement of disarmament and arms control and the holding and promotion of peace congresses. ICAN works vigorously to achieve nuclear disarmament. ICAN and a majority of UN member states have contributed to fraternity between nations by supporting the Humanitarian Pledge. And through its inspiring and innovative support for the UN negotiations on a treaty banning nuclear weapons, ICAN has played a major part in bringing about what in our day and age is equivalent to an international peace congress.</p> <p>Note: Beginning with the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize (Wangari Maathai, a Kenyan woman who by then had planted over 30 million trees in Africa and campaigned for women's rights), the Nobel committee expanded the traditional boundaries of the peace prize that were laid out in 1896 in the will of Alfred Nobel. "It is clear that with this award, we have expanded the term peace to encompass environmental questions related to our beloved earth.. Peace on earth depends on our ability to secure our living environment", stated the Nobel Committee.</p> <p>https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2017/press.html</p>

<p>5.</p>	<p>The India Chapter of Geneva-based International Road Federation furthers the cause of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Road Safety 2. Transit Oriented Development 3. Road Finance 4. Intelligent Transport Systems <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1, 2 and 3</p> <p>(b) 2, 3 and 4</p> <p>(c) 1, 2 and 4</p> <p>(d) 1, 3 and 4</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>The Geneva-based International Road Federation (IRF) is a nongovernmental, not-for-profit organisation with the mission to encourage and promote development and maintenance of better, safer and more sustainable roads and road networks. It helps put in place technological solutions and management practices that provide maximum economic and social returns from national road investments.</p> <p>The India Chapter of Geneva-based IRF brings together its Indian members, from both private and public sectors, engaged in road infrastructure development and related business for furthering the cause of</p> <p>(i) Road Safety (ii) Environment (iii) Road Finance and (iv) Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS).</p> <p>Improvisation and In the news:</p> <p>http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/niti-aayog-irf-to-work-on-policy-for-transportation-systems/article9868700.ece</p> <p>NITI Aayog recently has signed an agreement with the Geneva-based International Road Federation for designing a policy framework for intelligent transportation systems (ITS) in the country.</p> <p>http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/aayog-foxrms-panel-for-intelligent-transport/article19813738.ece</p> <p>NITI Aayog has set up a national-level committee constituting officials from various ministries and States to develop a roadmap for the implementation of the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) policy.</p> <p>https://www.irfnet.ch/about/introduction/83</p>
OCTOBER 9, 2017		
<p>1.</p>	<p>With widespread usage of the mobile and web application 'ImTeCHO', India's position on which one of the following indices/rank lists is likely to improve in the near future?</p> <p>(a) World Bank's Ease of Doing Business</p> <p>(b) United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Index</p> <p>(c) Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Programme for International Student Assessment</p> <p>(d) Walk Free Foundation's Global Slavery Index</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and have a decent standard of living.</p> <p>ImTeCHO (Innovative Mobile-phone Technology for Community Health Operations) mobile and web application is a platform based on mobile phone technology to improve coverage of proven community based maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) services through improving performance of ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists) and PHC (Primary Health Care) staff by providing support, supervision and motivation.</p>

		<p>MNCH covers maternal and newborn health, child health, immunization, nutrition, and health promotion. Clearly, from the given list, option 'b' is most appropriate.</p> <p>In the news:</p> <p>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171499</p> <p>http://www.ctri.nic.in/Clinicaltrials/pdf_generate.php?trialid=11820&EncHid=&modid=&compid=',11820det</p>
2.	<p>Initiated by the National Geographic Society in 2013, the fourth in the series of the international "Dialogue of Civilisations" – which seeks to encourage scholarly and public discourse about the five ancient, literate civilisations of the world – is being hosted by India. Which one of the following countries is not likely to be a host/to have hosted such a dialogue?</p> <p>(a) USA</p> <p>(b) Turkey</p> <p>(c) Egypt</p> <p>(d) Guatemala</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>To answer this question, you must know which are the five ancient civilisations and their geographical locations. This information is relevant for 2018 preliminaries, as the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) (Ministry of Culture) in collaboration with National Geographic Society is hosting an international conference on "Dialogue of Civilizations – IV" from 8th – 15th October, 2017 at Delhi, Gandhinagar and Dholavira.</p> <p>This conference is fourth in this series of 'dialogues' initiated by National Geographic Society in 2013 with an objective to encourage scholarly and public discourse about the five ancient, literate civilizations of the world, i.e. Egypt, Mesopotamia (The name comes from a Greek word meaning "between rivers," referring to the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, but the region can be broadly defined to include the area that is now eastern Syria, southeastern Turkey, and most of Iraq), South Asia (Indus Valley), China and Mesoamerica (Mayan civilisation; Mayan region; about half of Mexico, all of Guatemala and Belize, and parts of Honduras and El Salvador) and how the study of the past can share our present and future towards the right direction.</p> <p>The first conference of this series was inaugurated in Guatemala in 2013 followed by Turkey in 2014 and China in 2015. The present conference is the fourth in this series, with the final dialogue planned in Egypt.</p> <p>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171505</p>
3.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) is affiliated to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights 2. The UN Paris Principles provide the international benchmarks against which National Human Rights Institutions can be accredited <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>From February, 2017</p> <p>(http://indianexpress.com/article/india/un-body-defers-nhrc-accreditation-4520132/): An organisation affiliated to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has deferred National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)'s re-accreditation until November 2017. GANHRI has cited appointment of political representatives as one of the reasons for it. It has referred to the NHRC's failure in ensuring gender balance and pluralism in its staff, among other reasons for the deferment. GANHRI also pointed out that the conditions requiring the NHRC chair to be a retired Supreme Court Chief Justice and majority members come</p>

<p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>from senior judiciary “severely restricts the potential pool of candidates, particularly as it relates to the representation of women in the governing body of the NHRC”.</p> <p>Accreditation confers international recognition and protection of the National Human Rights Institution besides its compliance with the Paris Principles. A-status accreditation (full compliance with Paris Principles) grants participation in the work and decision-making of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI)’s International Coordinating Committee (ICC) as well as the work of the Human Rights Council and other UN mechanisms. The UN Paris Principles provide the international benchmarks against which NHRIs can be accredited.</p> <p>In the news and Improvisation:</p> <p>http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ex-sc-judges-could-soon-be-appointed-nhrc-chiefs/article19824595.ece</p> <p>“The Home Ministry has moved the Cabinet to amend the recruitment process of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). A key change being contemplated is that a retired Supreme Court judge could also be considered for the Chairperson’s position, currently reserved for former Chief Justices of the Supreme Court.. ‘Complying with international norms, some changes are being made in the Act that will open the floor for recruitment from a wider pool’, said a senior government official..”</p>
<p>4. Mahatma Ayyankali, a prominent leader from Kerala, is well-known for his fight against</p> <p>(a) Untouchability</p> <p>(b) British occupation of India</p> <p>(c) Sati</p> <p>(d) Communalism</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>In brief, about Mahatma Ayyankali (1863-1941):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was a social reformer – his own experiences and the presence of “a virulent form of untouchability in Kerala motivated him to undertake the task of liberating his brethren from untouchability and casteism.” • First, he sought to gain for untouchables the right to walk along the public streets. • He founded the Sadhu Jana Paripalana Yogam, an organisation of the Dalits whose main objectives included, among others: to pray to God, but not to the idol; to educate children; to practise cleanliness; to settle disputes among themselves; • The king of Travancore was impressed with Ayyankali’s work and allowed untouchable students to enter schools; he also granted land to be distributed among untouchables. <p>Improvisation:</p> <p>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171502</p> <p>Refer pages 153-155:</p>

		https://books.google.co.in/books?id=DMUdof3ZQMC&pg=PA153&dq=ayyankali&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjzvk54eLWA
5.	<p>The National Investigation Agency investigates crimes that pertain to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fake Indian Currency Notes 2. Left Wing Extremism 3. Insurgency in North East India <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>The NIA is the Central Counter-Terrorism Investigation agency which came into the existence on December 31, 2008 in pursuance to enactment of the NIA Act, 2008, on 31.12.2008, with a mandate to investigate serious offences related to terrorist activities affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of the country.</p> <p>The NIA investigates crimes having national and international ramifications. It has all-India jurisdiction. By the end of July, 2017, a total 166 cases have been assigned to the NIA for investigation. These cases have involved investigative efforts in 26 States and UTs.</p> <p>63 cases pertain to 'jihadi' terrorism, 25 to terrorist acts by North East insurgents, 41 to cases of terror financing and fake currency, 13 to cases involving Left Wing Extremism while the remaining 24 cases relate to other miscellaneous terrorist acts/gangs.</p> <p>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171489</p>
6.	<p>The emergence of what came to be known as parallel governments in some parts of the country was a significant feature of which one of the following events?</p> <p>(a) Revolt of 1857 (b) Non-Cooperation Movement (c) Civil Disobedience Movement (d) Quit India Movement</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>The first one was proclaimed in Ballia, UP; there also emerged such parallel governments in Tamluk, Bengal and Satara, Maharashtra.</p> <p>Refer Page 466 (CH: QIM and the INA), India's Struggle for Independence, Bipan Chandra;</p> <p>Improvisation (article in local edition of the Hindu): http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/seeking-to-keep-memory-of-esur-struggle-alive-75-years-on/article19824751.ece</p>
OCTOBER 10, 2017		
1.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For around a decade in the recent past, Gujarat's agri-GDP registered a growth rate higher than that achieved by Punjab during the Green Revolution period 2. Agricultural productivity in India is low by international standards and even within different states of India the yields vary widely <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>Gujarat's agri-GDP registered an unprecedented growth of 8 per cent per annum during 2002-03 to 2013-14, way more than the all-India figure of 3.3 per cent per annum. Gujarat's agri-growth was even higher than that achieved by Punjab during the Green Revolution's heydays (5.7 per cent per annum during 1971-85).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government's bold decision to allow the commercial use of Bt cotton became a catalyst for change, from which Gujarat benefited the most. • Second, the Bt cotton seeds came from a global seed company — Monsanto — in association with an Indian partner Mahyco, and then multiplied by several licensees. Today, the Centre is creating

	(d) Neither 1 nor 2	<p>conditions that may force companies like Monsanto to quit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third, basic infrastructure to farmers — irrigation, power and roads – were provided to farmers. • Fourth, good marketing institutions propelled Gujarat agriculture, especially its dairy industry (AMUL). <p>Examples of maximum and minimum yield in 2013-14 of some major crops across states in India:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice: Punjab – 3952 kg/ha; MP – 1474 kg/ha; • Wheat: Punjab – 5017 kg/ha; Andhra – 500 kg/ha; • Tur: Bihar – 1667 kg/ha; Andhra – 542 kg/ha; <p>http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/narendra-modi-agriculture-sector-of-india-indian-farmers-gdp-4881016/</p> <p>Volume 2, Economic Survey 2014-15 (Previous ESS: http://indiabudget.nic.in/previouses.asp);</p>
2.	<p>The purpose of the 'Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award' is for recognition of outstanding work in</p> <p>(a) Social Work</p> <p>(b) Public Governance</p> <p>(c) Promoting International Peace</p> <p>(d) Science and Technology</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>Purpose of the award: Recognition of outstanding Indian work in science and technology.</p> <p>Only 16 women scientists have won the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award since its inception in 1958. The award is the highest research award given to a scientist, under 45 years of age, for research carried out in India. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research administers this award.</p> <p>http://ssbprize.gov.in</p> <p>Source/Improvisation: http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/scientific-research-in-india-women-scientists-women-of-science-4881037/</p>
3.	<p>The Indian Executive Director is at the IMF Executive Board represents a constituency which does not include which one of the following countries?</p> <p>(a) Bangladesh</p> <p>(b) Sri Lanka</p> <p>(c) Nepal</p> <p>(d) Bhutan</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>According to the IMF website (https://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/memdir/eds.aspx) India is represented at the IMF Executive Board by an Executive Director, currently Subir Vithal Gokarn, who also represents three other countries, viz. Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. (the PIB link below states indirectly that Nepal is a part of this constituency as well, but it must be a mistake as this has never been the case in the past and can be verified with the IMF link provided above).</p> <p>About the Executive Board: The IMF's 24-member Executive Board takes care of the daily business of the IMF. Together, these 24 board members represent all 189 countries. Large economies, such as the United States and China, have their own seat at the table but most countries are grouped in constituencies representing 4 or more countries (an example: India, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri</p>

		<p>Lanka form one constituency). The largest constituency includes 24 countries.</p> <p>About the IMF governance structure:</p> <p>https://www.imf.org/external/about/govstruct.htm</p> <p>Improvisation:</p> <p>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171497</p>
4.	<p>Potential benefits of 'Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)' include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lower energy consumption by households 2. Enabling faster service restoration after faults 3. Implementation of time-of-use tariffs thereby dissuading load shifting <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>Regarding Statement 1: With the use of web-portals, mobile apps, or in-home displays, customers can monitor and potentially lower their energy consumption.</p> <p>Regarding Statement 2: Traditionally utilities know about an outage when they receive complaints from affected customers. Service restoration requires utility crews to identify the area and rectify the fault a time consuming and expensive process. The Bureau of Indian Standards requires all smart meters to be capable of sending 'last gasp' and 'first breath' messages, which inform utilities when power has failed or resumed. This will reduce outage restoration times leading to financial savings and improved customer satisfaction.</p> <p>Regarding Statement 3: With meter data time stamped at 15 minute intervals, AMI enables near real-time estimation of customer demand. This improves utility load forecasting and enhances their ability to procure the right volumes of power. Utilities can also implement time-of-use (ToU) tariffs for different categories of customers and encourage load shifting with demand response programs. These measures could reduce utility exposure to expensive power during the peak hours.</p> <p>Additional Information: <i>India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF)</i> is a public private non-partisan initiative of the Ministry of Power (MoP), Government of India for accelerated development of smart grid technologies in the Indian power sector. ISGF was set up in 2010 to provide a mechanism through which academia, industry, utilities and other stakeholders could participate in the development of Indian smart grid systems and provide relevant inputs to the government's decision making.</p> <p>For a detailed understanding of AMI benefits and challenges, refer:</p> <p>http://www.indiasmartgrid.org/reports/AMI%20Roll-Out%20Strategy%20and%20Cost-Benefit%20Analysis%20for%20India_ISGW2017.pdf</p> <p>Improvisation:</p> <p>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171541</p>

<p>5.</p>	<p>The 'Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action' which often appears in the news is a deal that was reached between which of the following countries?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. USA 2. Russia 3. Germany 4. China <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1, 2 and 3 only (c) 3 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4 	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>On July 14, 2015, the P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States), the European Union (EU), and Iran reached a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to ensure that Iran's nuclear program will be exclusively peaceful.</p> <p>US Department of State: JCPOA;</p> <p>Improvisation: http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/fix-or-nix-iran-nuclear-deal-israel/article19829793.ece </p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>The emergence of what came to be known as parallel governments in some parts of the country was a significant feature of which one of the following events?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Revolt of 1857 (b) Non-Cooperation Movement (c) Civil Disobedience Movement (d) Quit India Movement 	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>The first one was proclaimed in Ballia, UP; there also emerged such parallel governments in Tamluk, Bengal and Satara, Maharashtra.</p> <p>Refer Page 466 (CH: QIM and the INA), India's Struggle for Independence, Bipan Chandra;</p> <p>Improvisation (article in local edition of the Hindu): http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/seeking-to-keep-memory-of-esur-struggle-alive-75-years-on/article19824751.ece </p>

OCTOBER 11, 2017

<p>1.</p>	<p>Consider the following statements about a method of election, the Plurality System:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seats in the legislature are divided on the basis of share of votes, in the process encouraging the establishment of a multi-party system 2. It has been adopted by Israel for its Parliamentary elections <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2 	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>The Plurality System is also known as the First-Past-The-Post system – the election method we have adopted for elections to the Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies.</p> <p>Israel and Netherlands employ the PR (Proportional Representation) election method.</p> <p>Refer Chapter 3 – Election and Representation; Indian Constitution at Work, Class 11 NCERT</p> <p>http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/elections-in-india-bjp-congress-election-commission-the-mandate-the-mirror-4882392/</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>The problem of 'double burden of malnutrition' can exist at the</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Individual level 2. Household level 	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>The double burden of malnutrition is characterised by the coexistence of undernutrition along with overweight and obesity, or diet-related noncommunicable diseases.</p>

	<p>3. Population level</p> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>It can exist at the individual level – for example obesity with deficiency of one or various vitamins and minerals, or overweight in an adult who was stunted during childhood – at the household level – when a girl child may be underweight or anaemic and her brother is overweight – and at the population level – where there is a prevalence of both undernutrition and overweight in the same community, nation or region.</p> <p>Improvisation:</p> <p>http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/who-releases-new-guidelines-to-manage-obesity-in-children/article19835091.ece</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>NASA's 'Black Marble' is</p> <p>(a) A global map of Earth at night</p> <p>(b) A moonshot project, to mine rare earth metals on the moon</p> <p>(c) A project in collaboration with the private spaceflight industry to explore the dark side of the moon</p> <p>(d) The proposed new space station to be placed in orbit around Earth by 2024</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>Improvisation –</p> <p>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171568:</p> <p>"Our energy revolution is also a geographic revolution. When I look at the NASA night map of India, I see an India that needs more light in the East. Development and energy have reached the West of our country more quickly and effectively than the East. Our government and my Ministry are changing this situation by focusing on the growth of energy infrastructure, through new pipelines, new LNG terminals, and new offshore gas development projects.."</p> <p>https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2017/new-night-lights-maps-open-up-possible-real-time-applications</p> <p>The image (size – 8MB):</p> <p>https://www.nasa.gov/specials/blackmarble/2016/global_maps/BlackMarble_2016_3km.jpg</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>14th of April, 2016 is recognised as 'Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak International Day' for his contribution towards</p> <p>(a) Ridding the practice of manual scavenging</p> <p>(b) Securing the rights of marginalised and poverty-stricken indigenous peoples</p> <p>(c) Promoting sustainable and yet profitable business models</p> <p>(d) Creating awareness among the international community of the ever-growing global problem of plastic debris in our oceans</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>A question on the organisation (Sulabh International [SI]) is more likely to be asked than on its founder, Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, in the preliminary examination.</p> <p>In the news: The President said that Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak was the most deserving person for an award named after Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri as he has contributed immensely in the direction of getting rid of the practice of manual scavenging.</p> <p>The Mayor of New York had declared April 14, 2016 as the 'Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak International Day' keeping in mind this contribution made by Dr. Pathak. He also received the Padma Bhushan in 1991, and the Stockholm Water Prize in 2009.</p> <p>SI is known for its innovative, environmentally-sound and cost-effective sanitation technologies. SI, which engages nearly 50,000 people, has constructed nearly 1.3 million household toilets and 54 million government toilets. Apart</p>

		<p>from construction of toilets, the organisation is leading a movement to discourage manual cleaning of human waste.</p> <p>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171576</p> <p>About Sulabh International:</p> <p>http://www.sulabhinternational.org/sulabh-story-in-brief/</p> <p>From 2016: http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/april-14-declared-as-bindeshwar-pathak-day-by-new-york-mayor-2756134/</p>
5.	<p>Consider the following statements about Fridtjof Nansen:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He was the first High Commissioner for Refugees at the League of Nations 2. The 'Nansen Passport' is recognised as the first legal instrument for the international protection of refugees 3. The Nansen Refugee Award was established by the International Organisation for Migration <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>CREDIT: Anshuman Mathur (Comments section, 10th October Quiz:</p> <p>http://www.insightsonindia.com/2017/10/10/quiz-2017-insights-current-affairs-quiz-10-october-2017/);</p> <p>Born in Norway in 1861, Fridtjof Nansen excelled as a scientist, polar explorer, diplomat and humanitarian.</p> <p>By age 27, Nansen had already written his doctoral thesis on the central nervous system and made the first crossing of Greenland's treacherous ice cap. Soon he would lead a 25-month expedition into the Arctic Ocean, coming nearer to the North Pole than anyone before.</p> <p>Yet Nansen is best known for his visionary work on behalf of refugees. As Europe struggled to rebuild after the first world war, he directed the League of Nations' first major humanitarian operation – the repatriation of 450,000 prisoners of war.</p> <p>Nansen served as the League's first High Commissioner for Refugees from 1920-1930, helping hundreds of thousands of refugees to return home. His efforts enabled many others to become legal residents and find work in the countries where they had found refuge.</p> <p>Nansen saw that one of the biggest problems facing refugees was the lack of internationally recognized identification papers. His solution, which came to be known as the 'Nansen passport', was the first legal instrument for the international protection of refugees.</p> <p>When famine broke out in Russia in 1921-1922, Nansen organized a relief programme for millions of its victims. For his crucial work, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1922.</p> <p>UNHCR established the Nansen Refugee Award in his honour in 1954.</p> <p>Google Doodle:</p> <p>https://www.google.com/doodles/fridtjof-nansens-156th-birthday</p> <p>http://www.unhcr.org/about-fridtjof-nansen.html</p>

OCTOBER 12, 2017

<p>1.</p>	<p>'Libertarian Paternalism', a term seen recently in the news, is associated with</p> <p>(a) Classical Economics</p> <p>(b) Keynesian Economics</p> <p>(c) The Contract theory</p> <p>(d) Behavioural economics</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>In a 2008 book 'Nudge', Prof. Richard H. Thaler and Cass Sunstein show how behavioural economics can be used in policy-making to influence behaviours. It is here that they introduce the concept of libertarian paternalism, where "choice architects" influence the behaviour of individuals to make their lives "longer, healthier and better" but in a way that gives individuals the freedom to not participate in arrangements that are not to their taste.</p> <p>Richard H. Thaler has incorporated psychologically realistic assumptions into analyses of economic decision-making. By exploring the consequences of limited rationality, social preferences, and lack of self-control, he has shown how these human traits systematically affect individual decisions as well as market outcomes.</p> <p>http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-architecture-of-choice/article19841036.ece</p> <p>http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/well-deserved-nudge/article19836087.ece</p> <p>https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/economic-sciences/laureates/2017/press.html</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Consider the following statements about the office of the Attorney General of India:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is a constitutional office 2. The Attorney General does not fall in the category of government servants <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>The Constitution (Article 76) has provided for the office of the AG of India. He is the highest law officer in the country.</p> <p>The Attorney General is not a full-time counsel for the Government. He does not fall in the category of government servants. Further, he is not debarred from private legal practice.</p> <p>Refer Chapter, 'Attorney General of India', Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth;</p> <p>Source/Improvisation:</p> <p>http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/law-officers-can-take-up-private-practice-prasad/article19834795.ece</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Which of the following can be regarded as 'nudge-type' policies?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To levy a sin tax on the basis of fat and sugar content in processed foods 2. A country's organ donation policy in which it is presumed that people wish to donate body parts unless they state otherwise 3. Prominently displaying graphic warnings on cigarette packs <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>Say the problem at hand is unhealthy eating habits, which lead to obesity. An extreme solution would be strictly-enforced bans and diktats on food that can be consumed and that which is prohibited. A less extreme public policy would be a sin tax on fat or sugar. Nudge-type policies, on the other hand, would tend to include things like displaying the healthier food options relatively more prominently.</p> <p>Nudging stems from the field of behavioural economics, examining how gut instincts can often overrule rational choices, in which Thaler is regarded as a pioneer.</p> <p>A nudge, "...is any aspect of the choice architecture that alters people's behaviour in a predictable way without</p>

	<p>(b) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>forbidding any options or significantly changing their economic incentives”.</p> <p>A nudge does not restrict choice; it implies the strategic use of some pattern of human irrationality (ex: cognitive biases) to influence decision-making in humans. (Typically, they prompt choices without motivating people to consider their options consciously, and therefore do not include openly persuasive interventions such as media campaigns and the provision of information.)</p> <p>Thaler’s branch of economics has influenced UK PM Theresa May’s announcement of an “opt out” policy for organ donations where it is presumed that people wish to donate body parts unless they state otherwise. This move has been credited with encouraging 100,000 extra organ donations a year. (Countries all around the world, starting with the UK, have started behavioural insight teams, often referred to as nudge units. There was news, last year, of NITI Aayog planning to set up one for India.)</p> <p>Behavioural economics is also used by retailers to increase sales. It is more likely that you will purchase a pair of jeans costing Rs.1,999 than you would a pair that costs Rs. 2,000.</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/09/nobel-prize-in-economics-richard-thaler</p> <p>http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-architecture-of-choice/article19841036.ece</p>
4.	<p>‘Advance Directive’, a phrase sometimes seen in the news in the context of healthcare, is</p> <p>(a) A fundamental right to choose one’s medical treatment</p> <p>(b) A legal document which outlines the risks involved in a proposed medical treatment that the patient must acknowledge</p> <p>(c) An organ donation declaration form</p> <p>(d) None of the above</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>An Advance Directive is NOT a fundamental right (not yet, at least).</p> <p>An Advance Healthcare Directive (or simply ‘Advance Directive’) also known as living will, is a legal document in which a person specifies what actions should be taken for their health if they are no longer able to make decisions for themselves because of illness or incapacity.</p> <p>“Should the law allow ‘living wills’? These are advance directives that people can lay down while being sound of mind, on whether they should continue to get life-sustaining treatment after they reach a stage of total incapacitation, that is, a vegetative state.”</p> <p>http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-will-to-die/article19840981.ece</p>
5.	<p>A phrase increasingly in use, the ‘gig’ economy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Has come to be predominantly associated with the phenomenon of ‘rurbanisation’ Has a flexible nature as employers tend to hire freelancers <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>BBC definition: According to one definition, a ‘gig’ economy is “a labour market characterised by the prevalence of short-term contracts or freelance work, as opposed to permanent jobs”.</p> <p>In the gig economy, instead of a regular wage, workers get paid for the “gigs” they do, such as a food delivery or a car journey.</p>

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

Proponents of the gig economy claim that people can benefit from flexible hours, with control over how much time they can work as they juggle other priorities in their lives.

In addition, the flexible nature often offers benefits to employers, as they only pay when the work is available, and don't incur staff costs when the demand is not there.

Workers in the gig economy are classed as independent contractors. That means they have no protection against unfair dismissal, no right to redundancy payments, and no right to receive the national minimum wage, paid holiday or sickness pay.

Due to the large numbers of people willing to work part-time or temporary positions, the result of a gig economy is cheaper, more efficient services (such as Uber or Airbnb) for those willing to use them.

Cities tend to have the most highly developed services and are the most entrenched in the gig economy.

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/regulating-the-gig-economy/article19841066.ece>

<http://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/gig-economy.asp>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-38930048>

OCTOBER 13, 2017

1. Recently launched by the Government, the schemes 'SANKALP' and 'STRIVE' are relevant, most appropriately, for which one of the following sections of our society?

- (a) The girl child
 (b) Manual scavengers
 (c) Job aspirants
 (d) Divyang (differently-abled) children

Solution: c.

The Cabinet has approved two new World Bank supported schemes – Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) and Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE).

There has been a long felt need for a national architecture for promoting convergence, ensuring effective governance and regulation of skill training and catalysing industry efforts in vocational training space. The two schemes shall address this need by setting up national bodies which shall regulate accreditation and certification in both long and short term Vocational Education and Training (VET). The architecture shall help, for the first time in the history of vocational education in India, to converge the efforts of various central, state and private sector institutions thereby avoiding duplication of activities and bringing about uniformity in vocational training thus, creating better impact.

The two schemes are outcome-focused schemes marking shift in government's implementation strategy in vocational education and training from inputs to results.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171608>

<p>2.</p>	<p>India's first Sewage Treatment Plant under Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) is set to come up in Haridwar and Varanasi. HAM-based Public Private Partnerships have hitherto been adopted successfully only by the</p> <p>(a) Ministry of Communications</p> <p>(b) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways</p> <p>(c) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy</p> <p>(d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>Under this model, the development, operation and maintenance of the sewage treatment STPs will be undertaken by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to be created by the winning bidder at the local level. As per this model, 40% of the Capital cost quoted would be paid on completion of construction while the remaining 60% of the cost will be paid over the life of the project as annuities along with operation and maintenance cost (O&M) expenses.</p> <p>One of the most important features of this model is that both the Annuity and O&M payments are linked to the performance of the STP. This will ensure continued performance of the assets created due to better accountability, ownership and optimal performance. Hybrid Annuity based PPP model has been adopted for the first time in the country in sewage management sector. Such a model has earlier been adopted successfully in highway sector only.</p> <p>In the news:</p> <p>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171600</p> <p>About HAM:</p> <p>Refer solution, Q1,</p> <p>http://www.insightsonindia.com/2017/09/01/quiz-2017-insights-current-affairs-quiz-1-september-2017/</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>The Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships is a subordinate office under the</p> <p>(a) Ministry of Shipping</p> <p>(b) Ministry of Tourism</p> <p>(c) Ministry of Culture</p> <p>(d) Ministry of Defence</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>The Union Cabinet has given its approval for International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) to change its status from Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO). It will bring IALA at par with International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO).</p> <p>The IALA, having headquarters at St. Germainen Laye (France) was established in 1957 under French law. It is governed by a General Assembly having 83 National members, with its Council as the executive body. The IALA council consists of 24 National Members and India is one of the council members represented through the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL), Ministry of Shipping. DGLL establishes and maintains Aids to Navigation in general waters along coast of India including A&N and Lakshadweep group of islands, as per Lighthouse Act 1927.</p> <p>http://www.dgll.nic.in/Content/64_1_Introduction.aspx</p> <p>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171614</p>

<p>4.</p>	<p>'IP Ratings' or the 'IP Code', usually accorded to a piece of electronic equipment or to its enclosure, consists of the letters 'IP' followed by two digits. These two digits refer to</p> <p>(a) WIPO's Intellectual Property Rights designation which refers to the category of rights protection being accorded</p> <p>(b) A certification that indicates conformity/non-conformity with health, safety and environmental protection standards</p> <p>(c) Degrees of protection provided against intrusion of solids and liquids</p> <p>(d) Degrees of electromagnetic interference caused by the electronic equipment/its enclosure</p>	<p>Solution: c.</p> <p>"The iconic North and South Block building flanking the Rajpath in the national capital began to shine with bright, shimmering reflected light combinations with the inauguration of new dynamic façade lighting tonight. The new light fittings are dust, vermin and moisture proof with outdoor weather protection of the highest order (IP-66) with robust design."</p> <p>The IP Code (Ingress Protection Rating or International Protection Rating) consists of the letters IP followed by two digits and an optional letter. The standard has been established by the International Electro Technical Commission. The code classifies the degrees of protection provided against the intrusion of solid objects (including body parts like hands and fingers), dust, accidental contact, and water in electrical enclosures.</p> <p>Example: IP-66</p> <p>The two digits represent different forms of environmental influence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first digit represents protection against ingress of solid foreign objects (including body parts like fingers) • The second digit represents protection against harmful ingress of water. <p>Larger the value of each digit, the greater the protection.</p> <p>The standard aims to provide users more detailed information than vague marketing terms such as waterproof.</p> <p>http://www.dsmt.com/resources/ip-rating-chart/</p> <p>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171628</p> <p>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171490</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Cooperatives in India have hitherto been concentrated in which (one) of the following sectors?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sugar 2. Bee-keeping 3. Dairy 4. Seaweed farming <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1, 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(b) 1 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 2 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>Last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged cooperatives to venture into areas like beekeeping and seaweed farming to help farmers double their income by 2022 and boost the rural economy. He noted that cooperatives were mainly present in the sugar and dairy sectors, and there was a need now to explore new avenues like beekeeping through which farmers could bring a "Sweet Revolution" to the cooperative movement.</p> <p>Khadi & Village Industries Commission took the task of development of the beekeeping Industry with a view to uplift the financial status of people living in extremely interior rural areas by introducing and popularising modern beekeeping. The bee-keeping industry was organised in 1953 by KVIC, which later set up an institute in Pune to start "beekeeping in a modern and scientific way throughout the country".</p>

Some problems plaguing the bee-keeping sector today (Issues):

- Use of pesticides: Pesticide residues in honeybees reduces/leads to a loss of their ability to smell, which means the bees are unable to return to their hives
- Fertiliser-intensive crop areas have witnessed a decline in bee population, subsequently leading to a pollination deficit
- The foreign bee: Out of four honeybee species that are cultivated in India, three are indigenous. One species introduced from abroad in the 1980s gives good yields of honey but is prone to lots of diseases
- Beekeepers say they are harassed by farmers who believe that bees sucking out nectar causes plants to fade
- Beekeepers have no support system; the few cooperatives that are there in this sector are controlled by “big business people”

You can link the content of this IE article

(<http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/narendra-modi-farmers-seaweed-farming-beekeeping-cooperative-movement-pms-beekeeping-push-sweet-dream-is-wrapped-in-buzz-of-disappointment-4887681/>) with this TH article

(<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/regulatory-upgrade/article19847478.ece>).

OCTOBER 14, 2017

1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Justice J.S. Verma committee recommended removal of exemptions in the Indian Penal Code granted to the offence of marital rape
2. All states of the USA have enacted laws against marital rape

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.

The IPC differentiates between rape within marriage and outside marriage. Under the IPC sexual intercourse without consent is prohibited. However, an exception to the offence of rape exists in relation to un-consented sexual intercourse by a husband upon a wife. The Committee recommended that the exception to marital rape should be removed. Marriage should not be considered as an irrevocable consent to sexual acts. Therefore, with regard to an inquiry about whether the complainant consented to the sexual activity, the relationship between the victim and the accused should not be relevant.

Although all 50 states of the USA had enacted laws against marital rape by 1993, almost half the States still treat it differently from rape outside of marriage. In some states, marital rape is a chargeable offence only if the perpetrator uses or threatens to use physical force. In others, proof of marriage is often an easy way to reduce or mitigate the consequences of the offence. These kinds of legal distinctions legitimise the perception among law-enforcement agencies that cases of marital rape should be treated as less serious than rape outside of marriage.

		http://www.prsindia.org/parliamenttrack/report-summaries/justice-verma-committee-report-summary-2628/ Source/Improvisation: http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-legal-message/article19856025.ece
2.	<p>Some women's rights activists oppose the inclusion of marital rape under the existing rape law in India. What is their objection?</p> <p>(a) It will be used as a tool to harass men</p> <p>(b) It will trivialise non-sexual violence within a marriage</p> <p>(c) It will affect the institution of marriage</p> <p>(d) Most victims who may otherwise have married the perpetrator will instead have to deal with harrowing judicial procedures</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>The Delhi High Court is hearing a petition seeking the inclusion of marital rape under the existing rape law. This inclusion is being rejected by the government. Counterintuitively, it is also being rejected by some women's rights activists, for completely different reasons.</p> <p>The government thinks it will be used as a tool to harass men, and that it will affect the institution of marriage — an argument that places greater significance on marriage than women's rights.</p> <p>Women's rights lawyer Flavia Agnes has other objections. She does not "believe in placing rape on a pedestal within the hierarchy of crimes within a marriage." Feminist researcher Sahla Aroussi similarly argues that a narrow focus on sexual violence ignores the multiplicity of suffering faced by women and can result in inadequate attention being paid to their other needs.</p> <p>http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-legal-message/article19856025.ece</p>
3.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The El Niño climate phenomenon boosts the amount of carbon dioxide in the air 2. Orbiting Carbon Observatory (OCO) can provide information of atmospheric composition, land and ocean properties all at the same time 3. The OCO has been built specifically for the operational needs of ESA's Copernicus programme <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>Statement 3 could have been eliminated if you had gone through the explanation for Q5 of the quiz uploaded on 2nd October http://www.insightsonindia.com/2017/10/02/quiz-2017-insights-current-affairs-quiz-02-october-2017/.</p> <p>To quote the relevant extract from that explanation, "ESA is also developing a new family of satellites, called Sentinels, specifically for the operational needs of the Copernicus programme."</p> <p>The OCO is a project by NASA. The observations made by this satellite in 2015-16 (year in which one of the strongest El Niño phenomenon was witnessed) is the first of its kind. "This is the first major climate variation where we've had satellite observations of atmospheric composition, and of land properties and of ocean properties — all at the same time," said an atmospheric scientist.</p> <p>CO₂ concentration increased by 50% in that year, the causes for which were determined with the help of observations made by the OCO.</p> <p>The OCO is described as a pathfinder for the types of carbon-monitoring satellites that will come later.</p>


		<p>Europe for instance is planning a constellation of satellites called Sentinel-7 that will map CO₂ over a much wider area, but still at very high precision. S7 will trace in much more detail the sources and sinks of carbon dioxide. This orbiting network would even make it possible to police individual countries' commitments to reduce carbon emissions under international agreements such as the Paris climate accord of 2015.</p> <p>Source/Improvisation: http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-41604760</p>
4.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Odisha and Karnataka are the leading manganese ore producing states 2. Manganese ores are mostly used for manufacturing dry cell batteries <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>Resources: State-wise, Odisha tops the total resources with 45% share followed by Karnataka 20%, Madhya Pradesh 11%, Maharashtra 8%, Goa 7%, Andhra Pradesh 4% and Jharkhand 3%. Rajasthan, Gujarat, Telangana and West Bengal together shared the remaining about 2% resources.</p> <p>Production: Madhya Pradesh being the leading manganese ore producing State accounted for 38% of the total production in 2014-15. Next in the order of production were Maharashtra (29%), Odisha (14%), Andhra Pradesh (11%) and Karnataka (8%). Jharkhand and Rajasthan contributed very nominal production during the year (Tables- 3 to 7).</p> <p>Uses: Manganese ore is an important material in iron and steel metallurgy, where it is used both in the ore form as such and as ferro-manganese. Manganese improves strength, toughness, hardness and workability of steel. About 90 to 95% world production of manganese ore is used in metallurgy of iron and steel. Apart from the iron and steel industry, it is used in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferro-manganese industry • Dry cell batteries manufacturing • Insecticides and paints manufacturing • Explosive and pyrotechnic industries <p>Improvisation: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171683</p> <p>Indian Minerals Yearbook 2015 Mineral Reviews http://ibm.nic.in/writereaddata/files/08092017100604Manganeseore2015(Final).pdf</p>
5.	<p>Implementation of 'Sampoorna Gram Bima Yojana' will be the responsibility of</p> <p>(a) Ministry of Communications (b) Ministry of Finance (c) Ministry of Rural Development (d) Ministry of Panchayati Raj</p>	<p>Solution: a.</p> <p>The Minister for Communications recently launched the Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana (SBGY) and an initiative for expansion of clientele base of Postal Life Insurance (PLI).</p> <p>The Minister said that the vision of the Prime Minister to provide banking services through the postal network needs</p>

		<p>to be taken forward to provide affordable life insurance services to people living in rural areas of the country.</p> <p>Under SBGY, at least one village (having a minimum of 100 households) will be identified in each of the revenue districts of the country, wherein endeavour will be made to cover all households of that identified village with a minimum of one RPLI (Rural Postal Life Insurance) policy each.</p> <p>Under the scheme expansion of clientele base of PLI, it has now been decided that benefits of PLI will no more be confined to Government and semi-Government employees, but will also be available to professionals such as Doctors, Engineers, Management Consultants, Chartered Accountants, Architects, Lawyers, Bankers etc. The decision has been taken to enlarge the cover of social security and bring maximum number of people under the protection of Postal Life Insurance (PLI). Low Premium and High Bonus is the unique feature of both, the PLI and RPLI schemes.</p> <p>Source: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171677 </p>
6.	<p>Which one of the following Indian states account for the largest share of gherkin production?</p> <p>(a) Andhra Pradesh</p> <p>(b) Karnataka</p> <p>(c) Odisha</p> <p>(d) Chattisgarh</p>	<p>Solution: b.</p> <p>Karnataka, where gherkin cultivation covers 20 out of the 30 districts, accounts for more than 60% of India's production, with the neighbouring States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu chipping in.</p> <p>http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/crimea-and-punishment/article19855988.ece</p>
OCTOBER 19, 2017		
1.	<p>The Airport Service Quality (ASQ) – the world's benchmark measure of airport excellence ranked which of the following Indian airport as the top airport for two times consecutively?</p> <p>(a) Srinagar</p> <p>(b) Jaipur</p> <p>(c) Delhi</p> <p>(d) Cochin</p>	<p>Solution: b</p> <p>The Jaipur and Srinagar Airport were ranked first and second respectively in ACI (Airports Council International)-ASQ (Airport Service Quality) Survey in the category of 2-5 million passengers.</p> <p>It was for second consecutive time Jaipur Airport was rated Best Airport in the World in the 2 to 5 million passengers per year traffic volume category. Earlier it was ranked best Airport in 2016 also.</p> <p>ACI-ASQ Survey is only worldwide programme to survey passengers at airports on their day of travel. Every year it measures passengers' views on 34 key performance indicators,</p>
2.	<p>INDRA – A bilateral exercise between India and Russia. It is</p> <p>(a) Army exercise</p> <p>(b) Navy exercise</p> <p>(c) Air force Exercise</p>	<p>Solution: d.</p> <p>INDRA-2017 is the first tri-service bilateral exercise between the India and Russia. Indian contingent flew in IL-76 aircraft of the Indian Air Force to Vladivostok comprising of Army and Air Force personnel.</p>

	(d) Tri-services exercise	
3.	Which is the first country to invest in National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)? (a) Saudi Arabia (b) Iran (c) UAE (d) Israel	Solution: c. National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) is a fund created by the Government of India for enhancing infrastructure financing in the country. The objective of NIIF would be to maximize economic impact mainly through infrastructure development in commercially viable projects, both greenfield and brownfield, including stalled projects.
4.	A species of Rock Geckos found in Kanger valley of Eastern Ghats. Kanger valley lies in (a) Chhattisgarh (b) Odisha (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Telangana	Solution: a A distinctly new species of rock dwelling gecko of the Hemidactylus genus has been identified by a group of scientists. The species named <i>Hemidactylus yajurvedi</i> (Kanker Rock Gecko) was discovered from the Kanker district of Chhattisgarh – is the 27th Hemidactylus species known from India.
5.	In a rare gesture, the Kaman Aman Setu (bridge of peace) was thrown open. On which river it is built? (a) Jhelum (b) Chenab (c) Ravi (d) Beas	Solution: a. The Aman Setu links Kashmir with PoK and was constructed to facilitate the launch of the historic bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarnagar. However, the bridge was completely destroyed in an earthquake. The 210-feet bridge, located 120 km north of Srinagar, was reconstructed.

OCTOBER 20, 2017


1.	Which of the following pollutants are considered for Air Quality Index in India? 1. Carbon Dioxide 2. Nitrogen Dioxide 3. Sulphur Dioxide 4. Carbon Monoxide 5. Ozone 6. Ammonia 7. Lead (a) 1,2,3,4,6 (b) 1,2,3,4,7 (c) 2,3,4,5,6,7 (d) All	Solution: c The pollutants considered are: PM10, PM2.5, NO ₂ , SO ₂ , CO, O ₃ , NH ₃ , and Pb.
2.	Consider the following statements 1. Kedarnath temple is situated on the shores of Alaknanda River. 2. Madhvacharya was believed to have revived Kedarnath temple.	Solution: d Explanation: The temple is situated on Mandakini River, a tributary of Ganga River. Shankaracharya was believed to have revived the temple.

<p>Which of the statements is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) Only 1</p> <p>(b) Only 2</p> <p>(c) Both</p> <p>(d) Neither</p>	
<p>3. Consider the following statements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indian Air Force Touchdown Drill will be held on Yamuna Expressway. 2. Yamuna Expressway is not the longest Expressway in India. <p>Which of the above statement is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) Only 1</p> <p>(b) Only 2</p> <p>(c) Both</p> <p>(d) None</p>	<p>Solution: b</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>The Lucknow-Agra Expressway will play host to the Indian Air Force (IAF) Touchdown Drill on October 24. It is also the longest (302 km) expressway in India. Yamuna Express way is the second longest (165 km) expressway.</p>
<p>4. Indian-origin Labour MP is urging British parliamentarians from across the political spectrum to come together to support his parliamentary motion pushing for a formal apology from the British government for</p> <p>(a) Jallianwala Bagh massacre.</p> <p>(b) INA trials.</p> <p>(c) Komagata maru incident.</p> <p>(d) Kohinoor Diamond issue.</p>	<p>Solution: a</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>Mr. Virendra Sharma, the Labour MP for Ealing Southall, tabled the Early Day Motion — a formal parliamentary means for MPs to draw attention to an issue — earlier this week, and has so far attracted 8 signatories from across the political spectrum, including Labour, the Conservatives, the Scottish National Party, the Democratic Unionist Party of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>“This event [the massacre] does not represent modern British values,” the motion says.</p> <p>Mr. Sharma said he expected to garner further political support.</p>
<p>5. Which of the following can accept the deposits under Small Savings Schemes?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Post Offices 2. State Bank of India 3. Axis Bank 4. ICICI Bank 	<p>Solution: c</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>In order to encourage savings, the government has allowed all Public Sector Banks and top three private sector lenders (ICICI, HDFC and Axis banks) to accept deposits under various small savings schemes like National Savings Certificate (NSC), recurring deposits and monthly income plan.</p>

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


OCTOBER 21, 2017

<p>1.</p>	<p>The Union Government has collected more than ₹5 Cr. so far this year as penalty from NGOs which have failed to file their annual returns under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act.</p> <p>Which Ministry has collected the fine?</p> <p>(a) Ministry of Finance (b) Ministry of External Affairs (c) Ministry of Home (d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment</p>	<p>Solution: c</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>The Union Home Ministry has collected more than ₹5 crore so far this year as penalty from NGOs which have failed to file their annual income and expenditure statements on time.</p> <p>Filing of annual returns by NGOs within the stipulated date is mandatory under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA).</p> <p>The NGOs had to pay the penalty after they were told that their registration under the FCRA would be cancelled if they do not file the annual returns with the fine.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>RO-RO ferry service carries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passengers 2. Wheeled Cargo <p>(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both (d) Neither</p>	<p>Solution: c</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>A first of its kind in India, RO-RO ferry will be able to carry up to 100 vehicles (cars, buses and trucks) and 250 passengers between the two ports. The ro-ro ferry services are vessels made to carry wheeled cargo that are driven on and off the ferry on their own wheels or using a platform vehicle. The wheeled cargo includes, cars, trucks, semi-trailer trucks, trailers, and railroad cars</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Recipients of the Prime Minister's Research fellowship are selected from</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. 2. The 23 Indian Institutes of Technology. 3. The National Institutes of Technology. <p>(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Only 1 and 2 (d) All</p>	<p>Solution: d</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>The Ministry of Human Resource Development is looking to tweak the criteria for selecting recipients of the Prime Minister's fellowship from among research students of the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, the 23 Indian Institutes of Technology and the National Institutes of Technology.</p> <p>The fellowships, which are supposed to promote research and innovation, will pay up about ₹75,000 a month.</p> <p>One crucial change that the MHRD is mulling over is to tweak the criteria regarding who can apply.</p> <p>While the earlier plan was to let anyone scoring a CGPA of 8 or above in BTech apply for the scholarship, now there is a plan to allow those students of these institutions who scored in the top 20 percentile to apply for it.</p>

<p>4.</p>	<p>The Multi Commodity Exchange has introduced gold option contracts for the first time in India.</p> <p>Which of the following statements is/are true about futures and options?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Futures are contracts that grant the right to buy or sell an underlying asset at a set price on or before a certain date 2. Options are contracts that grant the right, but not the obligation to buy or sell an underlying asset at a set price on or before a certain date. <p>(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both (d) Neither</p>	<p>Solution: c</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>The statements are self-explanatory.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Middle East and West Asia are often in news because of the turmoil in the regions. Which countries belong to either Middle East or West Asia but not to both regions?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Egypt 2. Azerbaijan 3. Georgia 4. Armenia <p>(a) Only 1 (b) 2 and 3 (c) 2, 3 and 4 (d) All</p>	<p>Solution: d</p> <p>Explanation: Map</p> <p>The Middle East is a transcontinental region centered on Western Asia and Egypt in North Africa.</p> <p>Western Asia significantly overlaps with the Middle East (or the Near East), the main difference usually being the exclusion of the majority of Egypt and the inclusion of the Caucasus.</p> 

OCTOBER 23, 2017

<p>1.</p>	<p>Mandatory raising up for National Anthem in cinema halls is provided in which of the following law/laws?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Flag Code. 2. Prevention of Insults to National Honor Act of 1971. <p>(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2</p>	<p>Solution: d</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>In a judgment, Supreme Court referred to the Flag Code to observe that there is no mandate that people should stand up when the National Anthem is sung in a cinema hall. Neither The Prevention of Insults to National Honor Act, 1971 mandate this gesture.</p>
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	<p>(c) Both</p> <p>(d) Neither</p>	<p>Now it is for the government to take the call on whether it wants the Flag Code to be amended to make it mandatory for cinema halls to play the anthem.</p>
2.	<p>The Rajasthan government has drawn flak for promulgating The Criminal Laws (Rajasthan Amendment) Ordinance, 2017, that seeks to protect serving and former judges, magistrates and public servants in the State from being investigated for on-duty action, without its prior sanction. Such a law is in place in which of the states already?</p> <p>(a) Karnataka</p> <p>(b) Maharashtra</p> <p>(c) Madhya Pradesh</p> <p>(d) Bihar</p>	<p>Solution: b</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>Two years ago Maharashtra had enacted a similar law without the two-year imprisonment clause and granting just 90 days to the government to grant sanction instead of the 180 conceived by Rajasthan. Interestingly, the President of India granted assent to the Maharashtra law and Rajasthan enacted the ordinance after receiving “instructions from the President of India”. The central government’s concurrence with such laws is in line with its proposed amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act.</p>
3.	<p>Catalonia is in news for its referendum for secession. It is situated in which part of Spain?</p> <p>(a) North West</p> <p>(b) South West</p> <p>(c) South East</p> <p>(d) North East</p>	<p>Solution: d</p> <p>Explanation:</p> 
4.	<p>Recently there is a growing demand for imposition of import duty on paper industry products. Import of which paper industry products has been steadily on the rise for the last six years?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paper 2. Paperboard 3. Newsprint <p>(a) Only 1</p> <p>(b) Only 1 and 2</p> <p>(c) Only 3</p> <p>(d) All</p>	<p>Solution: b</p> <p>Import of paper and paperboard [excluding newsprint] has been steadily on the rise for the last six years. Import of these items from ASEAN countries have grown almost 43% in volume in the last six years. Imports from South Korea alone have risen 58%.</p>
5.	<p>Mars has near ideal conditions for efficiently creating oxygen from atmospheric carbon dioxide in the future using plasma technology. The low temperature plasma decomposition method would provide</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A stable, reliable supply of oxygen 2. A source of fuel 	<p>Solution: c</p> <p>The low temperature plasma decomposition method offers a twofold solution for a manned mission to Mars. Not only would it provide a stable, reliable supply of oxygen, but as source of fuel as well, as carbon monoxide has been</p>

	<div><div>(a) Only 1</div><div>(b) Only 2</div><div>(c) Both</div><div>(d) Neither</div></div>	proposed as to be used as a propellant mixture in rocket vehicles																				
OCTOBER 24, 2017																						
1.	<div>The Government has announced capitalization of Public sector Banks. What are the modes of capitalization planned?</div> <div><div>1. Recapitalization Bonds</div><div>2. Budgetary Support</div></div> <div><div>(a) Only 1</div><div>(b) Only 2</div><div>(c) Both</div><div>(d) Neither</div></div>	<div>Solution: c</div> <div>Explanation:</div> <div>Rs. 1.35 lakh crore in capital infusion to be done through recapitalization bonds</div> <div>Rs. 76,000 crore in capital infusion to be drawn from budgetary support</div>																				
2.	<div>Which are types of roads are not covered under Bharatmala Project?</div> <div><div>1. Economic Corridors</div><div>2. Border & International connectivity roads</div><div>3. Coastal & port connectivity roads</div><div>4. Expressways</div></div> <div><div>(a) Only 2 and 3</div><div>(b) Only 1 and 4</div><div>(c) Only 1, 2 and 4</div><div>(d) All</div></div>	<div>Explanation: d</div> <div>The total length of road to be constructed under Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I is 24,800 Km new stretches along with 10,000 km remaining under NHDP.</div> <div>As of 2017, 30 km/day construction is going on in highway sector. So, Phase-I may complete by 2022, compared to 19 years it took to upgrade almost same length of National Highways under NHDP.</div> <table><thead><tr><th>Road Type</th><th>Kms</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Economic Corridors</td><td>9,000</td></tr><tr><td>Inter-corridor & feeder Routes</td><td>6,000</td></tr><tr><td>National Corridors Efficiency Programme</td><td>5,000</td></tr><tr><td>Border & International connectivity roads</td><td>2,000</td></tr><tr><td>Coastal & port connectivity roads</td><td>2,000</td></tr><tr><td>Expressways</td><td>800</td></tr><tr><td>Total Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I</td><td>24,800</td></tr><tr><td>Remaining National Highways under National Highways Development Project (NHDP)</td><td>10,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total Km to be upgraded at the end of Phase-I</td><td>34,800</td></tr></tbody></table>	Road Type	Kms	Economic Corridors	9,000	Inter-corridor & feeder Routes	6,000	National Corridors Efficiency Programme	5,000	Border & International connectivity roads	2,000	Coastal & port connectivity roads	2,000	Expressways	800	Total Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I	24,800	Remaining National Highways under National Highways Development Project (NHDP)	10,000	Total Km to be upgraded at the end of Phase-I	34,800
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3.	<div>Recently Paika Rebellion was proposed to be named as First war of Independence. Match the rebellions before 1857 and their years of occurrence.</div> <table><thead><tr><th>Rebellions</th><th>Years</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1. Paika Rebellion</td><td>A. 1806</td></tr></tbody></table>	Rebellions	Years	1. Paika Rebellion	A. 1806	<div>Solution: b</div> <div>Explanation:</div> <div>Self-explanatory</div>																
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	<p>2. Vellore Mutiny B. 1817</p> <p>3. Kittur Mutiny C. 1824</p> <p>(a) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C</p> <p>(b) 1-B, 2-A, 3-C</p> <p>(c) 1-A, 2-C, 3-B</p> <p>(d) 1-B, 2-C, 3-A</p>	
4.	<p>US President Donald Trump's worldwide ban on refugees ended on Tuesday. Which countries were banned ?</p> <p>1. Iran</p> <p>2. Palestine</p> <p>3. Libya</p> <p>4. Egypt</p> <p>5. Syria</p> <p>6. Tunisia</p> <p>(a) 1, 2, 3</p> <p>(b) 4, 5, 6</p> <p>(c) 2, 4, 6</p> <p>(d) 1, 3, 5</p>	<p>Solution: d</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>President Donald Trump had signed an executive order that banned travel into the United States for citizens from these seven countries for 90 days: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.</p>
5.	<p>SC bans use of pet coke in National Capital Region. Which of the statements is/are correct about pet coke ?</p> <p>1. A by-product of the oil refining process.</p> <p>2. A liquid carbon material.</p> <p>(a) Only 1</p> <p>(b) Only 2</p> <p>(c) Both</p> <p>(d) Neither</p>	<p>Solution: a</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>Petroleum coke or pet coke is a by-product of the oil refining process. As refineries worldwide seek to operate more efficiently and extract more gasoline and other high value fuels from each barrel of crude oil, a solid carbon material known as pet coke is produced.</p>

OCTOBER 25, 2017

1.	<p>The President of India mentioned Mysorean Rockets in his speech at Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Vidhanasoudha, Bengaluru. Which of the statements are correct about these rockets.</p> <p>1. There was a regular rocket corps in the Mysore Army.</p> <p>2. Technology of European Congreve Rockets was used in these rockets.</p> <p>(a) Only 1</p> <p>(b) Only 2</p> <p>(c) Both</p> <p>(d) Neither</p>	<p>Solution: a</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>Mysorean rockets were used by Hyder Ali and Tipu in Anglo Mysore wars. The technology of these rockets was used to advance European rocketry with the development of the Congreve rocket in 1805.</p>
2.	<p>Central Vigilance Commission CVC to develop Integrity Index based on bench-marking of</p>	<p>Solution: c</p>

<p>internal processes and controls within an organization as well as management of relationships and expectations of outside stakeholders. The Integrity Index will bring out annual scores/rankings of which of the following?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public Sector Undertakings 2. Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions 3. Departments/Ministries of Government of India 4. Departments/Ministries of State Governments <p>(a) Only 3 and 4 (b) Only 3 (c) Only 1, 2 and 3 (d) All</p>	<p>Explanation:</p> <p>In line with the broader strategy and emphasis on preventive vigilance, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) believes that the next level of systemic change can be through the tool of Integrity Index. The CVC has therefore decided to go in for development of the Integrity Index-based on bench-marking of internal processes and controls within an organization as well as management of relationships and expectations of outside stakeholders.</p> <p>The Integrity Index will bring out annual scores/rankings of Public Sector Undertakings/Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions/Departments/Ministries of Government of India by linking the essential drivers of vigilance with long term efficiency, profitability and sustainability of public organizations and create an internal and external ecosystem that promotes working with Integrity in public organizations.</p>
<p>3. India provided equipment and vehicles to a university in Sri Lanka as part of its development partnership with the country in the field of higher education. Where is this university situated?</p> <p>(a) Colombo (b) Hambantota (c) Candy (d) Jaffna</p>	<p>Solution: d</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>India provided equipment and vehicles worth USD 585,000 to a university at Jaffna in Sri Lanka's Tamil-dominated north as part of its development partnership with the country in the field of higher education.</p>
<p>4. US protectionist policies have brought US Visas into discussion. Which of the following statement/s are correct.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The H-1B visa facilitates the temporary transfer of foreign worker to continue employment with an office of the same employer, its parent, branch, subsidiary or affiliate. 2. The L-1 visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ graduate level workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. <p>(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both (d) Neither</p>	<p>Solution: d</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>Interchange L-1 and H1-B in the statements.</p>
<p>5. Active registered bank account holders in 2016 remained concentrated among male, urban and Above Poverty Line segments, according to Inter Media India FII tracker survey. A particular</p>	<p>Solution: a</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>Self explanatory.</p>

account is considered active when it has been used in last how many days?

- (a) 90 days
- (b) 180 days
- (c) 360 days
- (d) 720 days

OCTOBER 26, 2017

1. At International Conference on Consumer Protection, India's new Consumer Protection Bill 2016 was given a top priority. Which of the statements is /are correct about the bill?

- 1. The consumer can lodge a complaint at the same place from where she purchased the product.
- 2. The complainant need not be accompanied by a lawyer.
- 3. If the manufacturer and the complainant arrive at a compromise, the latter can withdraw the complaint.

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 2 and 3
- (c) Only 1 and 3
- (d) All

Solution: b

Explanation:

The consumer can lodge a complaint from anywhere unlike the existing law under which a consumer had to register the complaint at the same place from where she purchased the product. Further, unlike the 1986 law, the complainant need not be accompanied by a lawyer. At any point, if the manufacturer and the complainant arrive at a compromise, the latter can withdraw the complaint.

2. The corporate affairs ministry, has been deregistering companies. Which of the following statements is/are correct about deregistration?

- 1. For not carrying out business activities for a long period and defaulting on compulsory filings.
- 2. Directors associated with such non-compliant companies are disqualified.

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither

Solution: c

Explanation: Self explanatory

3. India Meteorological Department said conditions are favorable for the onset of North East monsoon. Which of the Statements is/are correct about North East monsoon.

- 1. Tamil Nadu had received excess North East monsoon last year.
- 2. In Southern Asia, the northeastern monsoons take place from December to early March when the surface high-pressure system is strongest.

Solution: b

Explanation:

Tamil Nadu had received deficit North East monsoon last year. In Southern Asia, the northeastern monsoons take place from December to early March when the surface high-pressure system is strongest.

	<p>(a) Only 1</p> <p>(b) Only 2</p> <p>(c) Both</p> <p>(d) Neither</p>	
4.	<p>Many people killed and in a blaze that tore through a fireworks factory outside Jakarta. In India, few chemicals have been banned from using them in firecrackers. Which chemicals are those?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Antimony 2. Lithium 3. Mercury 4. Arsenic 5. Lead <p>(a) 1, 2 and 3</p> <p>(b) 1, 2 and 4</p> <p>(c) 3 and 5</p> <p>(d) All</p>	<p>Solution: d</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>On 1st Aug, 2017 A Bench of Justices Madan B. Lokur and Deepak Gupta recorded in its short order that, "that no firecrackers manufactured by the respondents shall contain antimony, lithium, mercury, arsenic and lead in any form whatsoever.</p>
5.	<p>'Adopt a Heritage' Scheme is launched recently. Under this scheme who among the below mentioned is/are invited to adopt the sites?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Private Sector Companies 2. Public Sector Companies 3. Corporate individuals <p>(a) Only 1 and 2</p> <p>(b) Only 2 and 3</p> <p>(c) Only 1 and 3</p> <p>(d) All</p>	<p>Solution: d</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>The 'Adopt a Heritage Scheme' of Ministry of Tourism was launched on World Tourism Day i.e. 27th September, 2017 by the President of India. Thereafter, Ministry of Tourism invited Private Sector Companies, Public Sector Companies and Corporate individuals to adopt the sites and to take up the responsibility for making our heritage and tourism more sustainable through conservation and development.</p>

OCTOBER 27, 2017

1.	<p>In 2015, the NGT banned the burning of paddy straw in which States and/or Union Territories</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Punjab 2. Haryana 3. Rajasthan 4. Uttar Pradesh 5. Delhi <p>(a) 1 and 2</p> <p>(b) 1,2,3 and 4</p> <p>(c) 1,2 and 4</p> <p>(d) All</p>	<p>Solution: d</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>In 2015, the NGT was forced to stop the practice of stubble burning after thick smog enveloped the northern skies with the onset of autumn yet again, and acute respiratory problems were reported to be worsening in the national capital. The NGT banned the burning of paddy straw in four States — Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh — and Delhi.</p>
2.	<p>Declaring the Blue Whale online game a threat to life, the Supreme Court directed which of the broadcasters to conceive a cautionary and educational program about the dangers of the online game?</p>	<p>Solution: a</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>Declaring the Blue Whale online game a threat to life, the Supreme Court on Friday directed public broadcaster</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Doordarshan 2. All India radio 3. All accredited newspapers <p>(a) Only 1 (b) Only 1 and 2 (c) Only 2 and 3 (d) All</p>	Doordarshan to conceive a cautionary and educational program about the dangers of the online game which goads players, mostly students, to commit suicide.
3.	<p>Mission Electrification is the initiative of which Ministry?</p> <p>(a) Ministry of Power (b) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (c) Ministry of Railways (d) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy</p>	<p>Solution: c</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>Mission Electrification, a strategic shift for Railways is a bold initiative taken up by Indian Railway wherein it has been decided to undertake electrification of complete railway network at a rapid pace. This along with Decarbonization initiatives will propel increased use of Renewables in Railways.</p>
4.	<p>From 2019 onwards, measurement of SI base units like kilogram will be set by value of Planck constant. Which of the following are SI base units?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Second 2. Liter 3. Meter 4. Kelvin <p>(a) 2 and 3 (b) 1, 2 and 3 (c) 1, 2 and 4 (d) All</p>	<p>Solution: c</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>The International System of Units (SI) defines seven units of measure as a basic set from which all other SI units can be derived. The SI base units and their physical quantities are the meter for measurement of length, the kilogram for mass, the second for time, the ampere for electric current, the kelvin for temperature, the candela for luminous intensity, and the mole for amount of substance.</p> <p>Other units, such as the liter, are formally not part of the SI, but are accepted for use with SI.</p>
5.	<p>24 High Courts are there in India. Which of the North eastern states do not come under the jurisdiction of Guwahati High Court?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arunachal Pradesh 2. Sikkim 3. Nagaland 4. Manipur 5. Mizoram 6. Meghalaya 7. Tripura <p>(a) 2, 3, 5 and 7 (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 (d) 2, 4, 6 and 7</p>	<p>Solution: d</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>Sikkim (1975), Tripura (2013), Meghalaya (2013) and Manipur (2013) have got their own High Courts whereas Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram come under the jurisdiction of Guwahati High court.</p>
OCTOBER 29, 2017		
1.	<p>Ten Indians are still missing after a cargo ship, Emerald Star sank off the coast of Japan. There is a suspicion that the boat sank due to nickel</p>	Solution: a

	<p>cargo liquefaction. What causes this kind of liquefaction?</p> <p>(a) Moisture content in ores.</p> <p>(b) Reaction between different ores in a cargo.</p> <p>(c) Salinity of the Ocean water that comes in contact with ores</p> <p>(d) Impurities in ores.</p>	<p>Explanation:</p> <p>Under certain conditions [fine particle cargo, containing high levels of moisture], nickel ore may become like a semi-solid or liquid, in a process termed as liquefaction. Then it starts moving like liquid inside the hold [cargo area] of a ship. If the hold is partly filled in such a condition, the effect [free surface effect] on ship stability will be bad. In this context, it may be noted that liquid cargo in bulk is carried by tanker ships, which are specially designed, considering safety requirements.</p>
2.	<p>Unit 2 of Kudankulam nuclear reactor to be operational soon. Which type of reactor is this?</p> <p>(a) Boiled Water reactor</p> <p>(b) Heavy Water Reactor</p> <p>(c) Pressurized Water Reactor</p> <p>(d) Fast Breeder Reactor</p>	<p>Solution: c</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>The Kudankulam nuclear reactors are pressurized water reactors of Russian design, model VVER-1000/V-412 referred also as AES-92.</p>
3.	<p>As per the latest report of National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), oesophageal cancer is the highest in men. Which of the following is/are the causes for oesophageal cancer?</p> <p>1. Tobacco Consumption.</p> <p>2. Consumption of extremely hot beverages.</p> <p>(a) Only 1</p> <p>(b) Only 2</p> <p>(c) Both</p> <p>(d) Neither</p>	<p>Solution: c</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>The report says that as many as 57% of all cancers in males and 28% of all cancers in females are because of tobacco consumption. While these are linked to tobacco consumption, oesophageal cancer is also linked to consuming extremely hot beverages. A study by the Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai in 2009 showed that people who gulped down very hot tea (simmering temperature) were four times more prone to oesophageal cancer.</p>
4.	<p>President suggested that there should be a system in place for providing certified translated copies of High Court judgments in local or regional languages. Right now, High Courts give judgment in which language?</p> <p>1. English</p> <p>2. Hindi</p> <p>(a) Only 1</p> <p>(b) Only 2</p> <p>(c) Both</p> <p>(d) Neither</p>	<p>Solution: a</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>The President said that the High Courts delivered judgments in English, "but we are a country of diverse languages. The litigant may not be conversant with English and the finer points of the judgment may escape him or her. The litigating parties will thus be dependent on the lawyer or another person to translate the judgment. This can add to time and cost."</p>
5.	<p>Recently snap elections were held in Japan and Iceland. Which of the statements is/are correct about snap elections?</p> <p>1. It is initiated by opposition party.</p>	<p>Solution: b</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>A snap election is an election called earlier than expected. Generally it refers to an election in a parliamentary system called when not required (either by law or convention), usually to capitalize on a unique electoral opportunity or to</p>

<p>2. It is an election in a parliamentary system called when not required either by law or convention.</p> <p>(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both (d) Neither</p>	<p>decide a pressing issue. It differs from a recall election in that it is initiated by politicians (usually the head of government or ruling party) rather than voters, and from a by-election in that the winners will serve an entire term as opposed to the remainder of an already established term.</p>
OCTOBER 30, 2017	
<p>1. 1267 committee of the U.N. Security Council would discuss the status of individual terrorists and terrorist organizations. On which of the matters 1267 committee was formed?</p> <p>(a) On West Asia Situation. (b) On India – Pakistan Border situation. (c) On the situation in Afghanistan. (d) On South Asia's security.</p>	<p>Solution: c</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>United Nations Security Council resolution 1267 was adopted unanimously on 15 October 1999. After recalling resolutions 1189 (1998), 1193 (1998) and 1214 (1998) on the situation in Afghanistan, the Council designated Osama bin Laden and associates as terrorists and established a sanctions regime to cover individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida, Osama bin Laden and/or the Taliban wherever located.</p>
<p>2. In First Nehru Ministry, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel held which all portfolios?</p> <p>1. Home Affairs and states 2. Defence 3. Information and Broadcasting</p> <p>(a) Only 1 (b) Only 1 and 2 (c) Only 1 and 3 (d) All</p>	<p>Solution: c</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>In Nehru's First Ministry, Baldev Singh of Panthic Party was the Defence Minister.</p>
<p>3. India is embroiled in 22 arbitration proceedings against it in disputes with prominent global investors. Currently, which of the bodies deal or deals with the investment disputes between investors and the Governments?</p> <p>1. Investor-State Dispute Settlement 2. World Investment Court</p> <p>(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both (d) Neither</p>	<p>Solution: a</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>World Investment Court is a proposed settlement body to end the regime of body Investor-State Dispute Settlement or Investment Court system. Embroiled in 22 arbitration proceedings against it in disputes with prominent global investors, including Vodafone and Cairn Energy, India has cautiously welcomed a proposal to establish a 'World Investment Court' (WIC).</p>
<p>4. Article 35A is a provision incorporated in the Constitution giving the Jammu and Kashmir Legislature a carte blanche to decide who all are 'permanent residents' of the State and confer on them special rights and privileges. Which are those rights and privileges?</p> <p>1. Employment under the State Government</p>	<p>Solution: d</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>Self-explanatory</p>

	<p>2. Acquisition of immovable property in the State</p> <p>3. Settlement in the State</p> <p>4. Right to scholarships</p> <p>(a) Only 1 and 2</p> <p>(b) Only 1, 2 and 3</p> <p>(c) Only 1, 2 and 4</p> <p>(d) All</p>	
5.	<p>As per World Meteorological Organization, globally averaged concentrations of CO₂ in 2016 raised up from 2015 levels because of</p> <p>1. Human activities</p> <p>2. Weak El Nino event</p> <p>(a) Only 1</p> <p>(b) Only 2</p> <p>(c) Both</p> <p>(d) Neither</p>	<p>Solution: a</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>The concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere has hit a new high, the UN said on Monday, warning that drastic action is needed to achieve targets set by the Paris climate agreement.</p> <p>"Concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere surged at a record-breaking speed in 2016," the World Meteorological Organization said.</p> <p>"Globally averaged concentrations of CO₂ reached 403.3 parts per million in 2016, up from 400.00 ppm in 2015 because of a combination of human activities and a strong El Nino event," it said. The Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, the UN weather agency's annual flagship report, tracks the continent of dangerous gasses in atmosphere in the post-industrial era (since 1750).</p>
OCTOBER 31, 2017		
1.	<p>In Ease of Doing Business Ranking, India has scored better in Distance to Frontier. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Distance to Frontier score?</p> <p>1. It is an absolute measure of progress towards the best practice. India recorded the fifth highest change in DTF score and</p> <p>2. India has found a place for the first time in the top ten economies improving the most in a given year.</p> <p>(a) Only 1</p> <p>(b) Only 2</p> <p>(c) Both</p> <p>(d) Neither</p>	<p>Solution: c</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>Self-explanatory.</p>
2.	<p>The Law Commission has recommended the Government to frame a standalone anti-torture law directly making the State responsible for any injury inflicted by its agents on citizens. In its efforts towards anti torture which of the following statements is/are correct?</p>	<p>Solution: a</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>India has signed the convention in 1997 but not ratified it yet.</p> <p>The law commission has proposed the bill to cabinet for its consideration.</p>

	<p>1. India has signed the U.N. Convention against Torture.</p> <p>2. The Prevention of Torture Bill is pending in parliament.</p> <p>(a) Only 1</p> <p>(b) Only 2</p> <p>(c) Both</p> <p>(d) Neither</p>	
3.	<p>One Rank One Pension (OROP) is in discussion recently. Apart from retired army personnel, whose pension is linked to OROP issue?</p> <p>(a) Retired Central Armed Police Force personnel</p> <p>(b) Retired High Court judges</p> <p>(c) Retired Civil servants</p> <p>(d) Retired chairmen of Central Commissions</p>	<p>Solution: b</p> <p>The Supreme Court has asked the government to respond to a petition by a former Madras High Court judge for implementation of the One Rank, One Pension (OROP) norm for retired High Court judges, saying there is a disparity in the pension paid to judges appointed from the Bar and those promoted from the subordinate judiciary to the High Courts.</p>
4.	<p>The devolution of powers to the provinces of Sri Lanka was stated in India-Sri Lanka Accord which was implemented through 13th Constitutional Amendment. Now, Draft New Constitutional Proposals is in discussion which may undermine 13th Constitutional Amendment. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the amendment.</p> <p>1. Creation of Provincial Councils in Sri Lanka.</p> <p>2. This amendment also made Sinhala and Tamil as the official languages.</p> <p>(a) Only 1</p> <p>(b) Only 2</p> <p>(c) Both</p> <p>(d) Neither</p>	<p>Solution: c</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>The Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka (13A) is amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka which created Provincial Councils in Sri Lanka.</p> <p>This amendment also made Sinhala and Tamil as the official languages of the country and English as the link language</p>
5.	<p>Burundi became the first country to quit The International Criminal Court (ICC). Which of the following statements is/are correct about ICC?</p> <p>1. It is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal.</p> <p>2. The ICC has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.</p> <p>(a) Only 1</p> <p>(b) Only 2</p> <p>(c) Both</p> <p>(d) Neither</p>	<p>Solution: c</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that sits in The Hague in the Netherlands. The ICC has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. The ICC is intended to complement existing national judicial systems and it may therefore only exercise its jurisdiction when certain conditions are met, such as when national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute criminals or when the United Nations Security Council or individual states refer situations to the Court. The ICC</p>

		<p>began functioning on 1 July 2002, the date that the Rome Statute entered into force. The Rome Statute is a multilateral treaty which serves as the ICC's foundational and governing document. States which become party to the Rome Statute, for example by ratifying it, become member states of the ICC. Currently, there are 123 states which are party to the Rome Statute and therefore members of the ICC.</p>
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