

A Series

1. Project Brainwave is related to which of the following
 - A) Deep learning acceleration platform for real time artificial intelligence
 - B) The process of reverse brain drain project by infosys
 - C) To study cosmic waves impacting human body
 - D) None of the above

Solution: A

Software giant Microsoft in August 2017 launched its Project Brainwave, which is deep learning acceleration platform for real-time artificial intelligence (AI).

Microsoft has launched the project during the time when real-time artificial intelligence is becoming increasingly important as cloud infrastructures process live data streams, whether they be search queries, videos, sensor streams, or interactions with users.

Key highlights

- The Project Brainwave uses the massive Field-Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) infrastructure that Microsoft has been deploying over the past few years.
- By attaching high-performance FPGAs directly to the data centre network, DNNs can be served as hardware microservices, where a DNN can be mapped to a pool of remote FPGAs and called by a server with no software in the loop.
- The system architecture reduces latency, since the CPU does not need to process incoming requests, and allows very high throughput, with the FPGA processing requests as fast as the network can stream them.
- The system has been architected to yield high actual performance across a wide range of complex models, with batch-free execution.
- The system can handle complex, memory-intensive models such as Long Short Term Memories (LSTM), without using batching to juice throughput.
- Project Brainwave achieves unprecedented levels of demonstrated real-time AI performance on extremely challenging models.

2. Kyasanur forest disease is associated with
 - A) Virus
 - B) Bacteria
 - C) Protozoa
 - D) Parasite

A

Kyasanur Forest disease (KFD) is a tick-borne viral hemorrhagic fever endemic to South Asia.^[1] The disease is caused by a virus belonging to the family Flaviviridae, which also includes yellow fever and dengue fever.

The disease was first noted at Kyasanur village near Sagar in Shivamogga district of Karnataka. The virus has been detected in monkeys in parts of Bandipur National Park (Chamarajnagar) and parts of the Nilgiris. Human infection occurred in Bandipur through handling of dead monkeys that were infected. A human carrier was also detected in Wayanad (Kerala).

3. Which of the following is correctly matched

- 1) Osiris- Rex spacecraft – asteroid Bennu
- 2) Cassini mission- Saturn
- 3) Juno mission- Jupiter

Options

- A) 1 and 2
- B) 1 and 3
- C) 2 and 3
- D) All the above

D

The **Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx)** is a NASA asteroid study and sample return mission. Launched on 8 September 2016, its mission is to study asteroid 101955 Bennu, a carbonaceous asteroid, and return a sample to Earth.

The material returned is expected to enable scientists to learn more about the formation and evolution of the Solar System, its initial stages of planet formation, and the source of organic compound that led to the formation of life on Earth.^[10] If successful, OSIRIS-REx will be the first U.S. spacecraft to return to earth.

The Cassini–Huygens mission, commonly called Cassini, was a collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency, and the Italian Space Agency to send a probe to study the planet Saturn and its system, including its rings and natural satellites.

Juno is a NASA space probe orbiting the planet Jupiter.

Juno's mission is to measure Jupiter's composition, gravity field, magnetic field, and polar magnetosphere. It will also search for clues about how the planet formed,

including whether it has a rocky core, the amount of water present within the deep atmosphere, mass distribution, and its deep winds, which can reach speeds up to 618 kilometers per hour.

4. Jigyasa recently seen in news is associated with
- A) A student scientist connect programme done by CSIR
 - B) It is a cluster of galaxies
 - C) An asteroid recently discovered by India
 - D) A device to study pollution levels in air

A

The Union Government on 6 July 2017 launched JIGYASA programme, a student-scientist connect programme. In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Union Ministry of Science & Technology and Union Ministry of Human Resource Development.

For the implementation of the programme, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) tied-up with KendriyaVidyalayaSangathan (KVS).

Highlights of the JIGYASA Programme

- 'JIGYASA' would inculcate the culture of inquisitiveness on one hand and scientific temper on the other, amongst the school students and their teachers.
- The Programme is expected to connect 1151 KendriyaVidyalayas with 38 National Laboratories of CSIR targeting 100000 students and nearly 1000 teachers annually.
- The focus is on connecting school students and scientists to extend student's classroom learning with a well planned research laboratory based learning.
- It will also enable the students and teachers to practically live the theoretical concepts taught in science by visiting CSIR laboratories and by participating in mini-science projects.

5. The scheme 'creative India, innovative India' was launched to
- A) To create IPR awareness among citizens
 - B) To invest in alternative energy systems
 - C) To develop spirit of inquiry as in DPSP
 - D) None of the above

A

Taking forward the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy 2016, a 'Scheme for IPR Awareness – Creative India; Innovative India' has been launched by Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) under the aegis of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

The Scheme aims at raising IPR awareness amongst students, youth, authors, artists, budding inventors and professionals to inspire them to create, innovate and protect their creations and inventions across India including Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3 cities as well as rural areas in the next 3 years.

6. Which if the following is true regarding lithium ion battery ?

- 1) They are discharged 100% versus less than 80% for lead acid batteries
- 2) They are lesser in weight than lead acid ones

Options

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

C

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has approved commercial use of lithium-ion battery technology.

- The glitch is battery makers will be required to pay Rs 1 crore as a one-time technology transfer fee to ISRO.
- Commercialization of ISRO's technology could save 10-15 per cent of the cost of e-vehicles.
- It is a positive step towards the government's ambitious project - National Electric Mobility Mission Plan 2020.

Advantages of lithium-ion batteries over lead acid batteries

- Weight: Lithium-ion batteries are one-third the weight of lead acid batteries.
- Efficiency: Lithium-ion batteries are nearly 100% efficient in both charge and discharge while the lead batteries have the 70% efficiency.
- Discharge: Lithium-ion batteries are discharged 100% versus less than 80% for lead acid.

- Cycle Life: Rechargeable lithium-ion batteries cycle 5000 times or more compared to just 400-500 cycles in lead acid.
- Voltage: Lithium-ion batteries maintain their voltage throughout the entire discharge cycle. Lead acid voltage drops consistently throughout the discharge cycle.
- Cost: Despite the higher upfront cost of lithium-ion batteries, the true cost of ownership is far less than lead acid when considering life span and performance.
- Environmental Impact: Lithium-ion batteries are a much cleaner technology and are safer for the environment.

7. “Saraswati” recently seen in news is associated with

- A) an Indian navy submarine recently inducted
- B) A supercluster of galaxies
- C) A vaccine for dengue
- D) Lithium ion battery operated car

B

A team of Indian scientists has reported the discovery of a previously unknown ‘supercluster’ of galaxies, some four billion light years away from Earth, and named it Saraswati.

What are Superclusters?

- a. • Galaxies are like the building blocks of the universe, they contain a huge number of stars. Galaxy clusters have 3-100 galaxies, and super clusters are the clusters of clusters.
- b. • Within superclusters, clusters are connected by filaments and sheets of dark matter with galaxies embedded in them
- c. • Sarawati has 42 clusters. Significance of Saraswati supercluster lies in the fact that it is 4000 million light years from earth

8. Sagarvani recently in news is related to which of the following ?

- A) It is an integrated information dissemination system for the ocean information
- B) A new species of frog found in the western ghats
- C) An Indian observation station in arctic circle
- D) None of the above

A

Science and Technology and Earth Sciences ministry launched 'Sagar Vani' system.

- ESSO-Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) would provide the various facilities under the system.

What is Sagar Vani?

- It is an integrated information dissemination system for the ocean information system using single central server.
- It will use power of television and cable network for alert information dissemination through voice Call / Audio Advisory, Mobile Apps (User / Admin modules), Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), Email, GTS, Fax, Digital Display Boards, Radio / Television broadcast units, IVRS, Cloud Channels, etc.
- It will serve the coastal community with advisory in regional languages

9. The term SOHUM in news is linked to which of the following ?

- A) A new variety of indigenously developed crop by ICAR.
- B) A newborn hearing screening device
- C) An indigenously built helicopter by Indian army
- D) A magnetic debris found in space

B

SOHUM, an indigenously developed newborn hearing screening device has been launched by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology.

- It has been developed by School of International Biodesign (SIB)
 - It measures auditory brain waves via three electrodes placed on the baby's head. When stimulated, electrodes detect electrical responses generated by the brain's auditory system. If there is no response, it indicates child cannot hear.

10. MyFASTag recently in news is

- A) The fastest supercomputer developed by china
- B) A portal to facilitate toll collection in highways
- C) A hybrid vehicle designed by IIT Madras
- D) A bioindicator of pollution

B

Recently National Highways Authority of India launched two mobile apps MyFASTag and FASTag Partner to facilitate Electronic Toll Collection.

- NHAI launched the Electronic Toll Collection program to reduce human interventions and increase the seamless passage of vehicles on the highway. However, the biggest hurdle in the implementation of the program was the cumbersome method of purchase of FASTags and their recharge thereon.
- FASTag is a device which uses RFID technology for making a prepaid payment directly from the prepaid account.
- Therefore, NHAI in consultation with RBI and NPCI has launched online facility as well as two Mobile App to purchase FASTag for easy purchase, recharge and grievances redressal.

11. Consider the following statements

1. Paid news refers to propaganda in favor of a candidate for a price in cash or kind as consideration
2. Paid news is an electoral offence because it is considered as a grave electoral malpractice on the part of candidates to circumvent expenditure limits
3. A Statutory body, Media Certification & Monitoring Committee (MCMC) has been created at District and State level for checking Paid News.

Choose the Correct statements.

- a. 1 only
- b. 2, 3 only
- c. 3 only
- d. All the above

D

Explanation: The Election Commission (EC) has disqualified Madhya Pradesh Minister Narottam Mishra for three years for filing wrong accounts of election expenditure. The membership has been revoked under section 10A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

As per Press Council of India, paid news refers to propaganda in favor of a candidate masquerading as news reports or articles for a price in cash or kind as consideration. It is considered a “grave electoral malpractice” on the part of candidates to circumvent expenditure limits. Paid news is not an electoral offence yet.

The Commission has appointed a Media Certification & Monitoring Committee (MCMC) at District and State level for checking Paid News.

12. Consider the following statements

1. Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) is an autonomous administrative body and it has its own administrative, legislative, executive and financial powers
2. It is created under Article 244 A which provides for an autonomous state for certain tribal areas with its own legislature and council of ministers

Choose the correct statements.

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. None of the above

B

Explanation: There has been total shutdown in Darjeeling and instances of violence over demand for creation of Gorkhaland.

Reasons: Bengali language being made mandatory up to class 9th by the state government. The Gorkhas, whose native language is Nepali, has taken it as a threat to their identity.

Indian Gorkhas are indigenous people living all along the Himalayan belt and the North-East states of India. The Gorkhas inhabit areas in J&K, Himachal, Uttarkhand, Sikkim, Darjeeling, Assam, and other states in the NorthEast.

Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA): GTA created in 2012 through a tripartite agreement signed by GoI, Govt. of West Bengal and GorkhaJanmukti Morcha (GJM), replaced the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council. It is a semi-autonomous administrative body. It has administrative, executive and financial powers but no legislative powers. GTA presently has three hill subdivisions Darjeeling, Kurseong and Mirik and some areas of Siliguri subdivision of Darjeeling district and the whole of Kalimpong district under its authority

Article 244 A provides for an autonomous state for certain tribal areas in Assam with its own legislature and council of ministers.

13. Consider the following statements

1. 'Tele-Law' pilot project was launched with the intent to make legal aid easily accessible to the marginalized communities and citizens living in rural areas
2. Para Legal Volunteers will be the first point of contact for the rural citizens and will help them

in understanding the legal issues

Choose the correct statement/s.

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. None of the above

C

Explanation: In order **to** make legal aid easily accessible to the marginalized communities and citizens living in rural areas, Government of India has launched the '**Tele-Law**' pilot project on June 11, 2017.

Union Ministry of Law and Justice has partnered with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, to provide legal aid services through its **Common Service Centers (CSC)** at the Panchayat level across India

A portal called 'Tele-Law' will be launched, which will be available across the CSC network. It will enable people to seek legal advice from lawyers through video conferencing.

Para Legal Volunteers: They will be the first point of contact for the rural citizens and will help them

in understanding the legal issues, explain the advice given by lawyers and assist in further action required.

14. Recently Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) has been asked to prepare a proposition on lateral entry into Civil Services. Consider the following statements

1. Current recruitment process of civil servants is career based system with tenure security
2. In Career based system employees are guaranteed employment, but not a specific position

Choose the correct statement/s.

- a. 1 only

- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. None of the above

C

Explanation: Recently Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) has been asked to prepare a proposition on lateral entry into Civil Services

Current recruitment process of civil servants is career based system (with tenure security) while the change is expected towards a position based system (like in Australia, New Zealand and Britain). Both have their own pros and cons which must be carefully examined

Career based system: Employees are guaranteed employment, but not a specific position. Entry into the system is through a separate competitive process. Mobility within the system is through a different process, which can be less stringent and less transparent. There are formal rules for the system, and a centralized management.

Position Based System: Competitive recruitment to each position. No right of transfer to another position. Selections may be based on position-specific competence assessments. Recruitment decisions may be decentralized.

15. Consider the following statements

1. Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) are foreigners who are persons of Indian origin and they can travel to India without visa
2. The Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016 provides for a cancellation of an OCI registration even for minor offences

Choose the correct statement/s.

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. None of the above

C

Explanation: OCIs are foreigners who are persons of Indian origin. For example, they may have been former Indian citizens or children of current Indian citizen. They enjoy various rights like to travel to India without visa

The Bill allows cancellation of OCI registration for violation of any law. This is a wide ground that may cover a range of violations, including minor offences (e.g. parking in a no parking zone).

16. Which of the following are not correct regarding the Draft Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017?

- a. It mandates packaging and labeling requirements specified under the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labeling) Regulations, 2011.
- b. It exempts unprocessed organic food sold directly by farmers or farmer organizations
- c. All organic food imports are required to be recertified on import
- d. None of the above

C

Explanation: FSSAI has notified the Draft Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017, which is meant to ensure the safety and authenticity of all organic food manufactures, packs and sells, in the country.

Key Features

- Any food which is intended to be offered for sale as organic food must comply with the provisions of any of the following:
- It **mandates** packaging and labeling requirements specified under the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labeling) Regulations, 2011.
- It **exempts** unprocessed organic food sold directly by farmers or farmer organizations to consumers.
- Organic food imports made under bilateral/multilateral agreements would not be required to be re-certified on import

17. Consider the following statements

1. GeM is an Online Market platform that enables the procurement of products of marginal farmers without the help of intermediaries
2. GeM is a completely paperless, cashless and system driven e-market place that enables procurement with minimal human interface

Choose the correct statement/s.

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2

d. None of the above

B

Explanation: Recently 5 States and a Union Territory (UT) formally adopted the Centre's initiative called the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

- GeM is an Online Market platform to facilitate procurement of goods and services by various Ministries and agencies of the Government.
- It aims to ensure that public procurement of goods and services in India which is worth more than Rs. 5 lakh crore annually, is carried out through online platform.
- GeM is a completely paperless, cashless and system driven e-market place that enables procurement with minimal human interface.

18. Government at a Glance report is published by

- a. IMF
- b. World Bank
- c. OECD
- d. WTO

C

Explanation: OECD's Government at a Glance report states that 73 per cent Indians have faith in their government which is third highest in the world. Index is topped by Switzerland (80%) while Greece is at the bottom (13%).

19. Recently, Supreme Court ruled that right to privacy as an intrinsic part of

- a. Article 21
- b. Article 19
- c. Article 14
- d. None of the above

A

Explanation: Recently, in *Justice K. S. Puttaswamy (retired.) vs. Union of India*, a nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court ruled that right to privacy is an intrinsic part of life and liberty under Article 21.

Etches firmer boundaries for the state - Now right to privacy cannot be curtailed or abrogated only by enacting a statute but can be done only by a constitutional amendment

Independent external monitoring - Now citizen can directly approach Supreme Court or High Courts for violation of his fundamental right under Articles 32 and 226. Thus ensuring that the right is subject to reasonable restrictions of public health, morality and order only

20. Which of the following are correct with reference to Transparency of Rules Act (TORA).

- a. Laws would normally be applicable after a specified time after the rule has been posted
- b. It would make it mandatory for all departments to place every citizen-facing rule on its website
- c. For TORA-complaint department any rule that is not explicitly on the website would be deemed not to apply.
- d. All the above

D

Explanation: The government could consider introducing a new law to ensure transparency of rules after the Economic Survey (II) has suggested the introduction of Transparency of Rules Act (TORA).

It would make it mandatory for all departments to place every citizen-facing rule, regulation, form and other requirement on its website (preferably in English, Hindi and regional language). Once a department is declared “TORA-complaint”, any rule that is not explicitly on the website would be deemed not to apply.

It will further specify that all laws, rules and regulations need to be presented as an updated, unified whole at all times.

- The websites should clearly state the date and time when each change is made. Laws would normally be applicable after a specified time after the rule has been posted to give citizens a reasonable time to comply. The officials cannot retrospectively change the rules

21. Consider the following statements about International Centre for Alternate Dispute Redressal (ICADR)

1. The Regional Centers of ICADR are fully funded and supported by the respective State Governments.

2. The Union Minister for Commerce and Industry is the Chairman of ICADR

Choose the correct statement/s.

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. None of the above

A

Explanation: The High-Level Committee, under the **Chairmanship of Justice B. N. Srikrishna**, to review the institutionalization of arbitration mechanism and suggest reforms thereto has submitted its report recently.

Report Recommendations:

The Committee in Part II of the Report reviewed the working of International Centre for Alternate Dispute Redressal (ICADR). It called for declaring the ICADR as an Institution of national importance.

International Centre for Alternate Dispute Redressal (ICADR):

The ICADR is an autonomous organization with its headquarters at New Delhi. The Regional Centers of ICADR are fully funded and supported by the respective State Governments.

It was set up by the Department of Legal Affairs as an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

The Minister for Law & Justice is the Chairman of ICADR. Its main object is to promote popularize and propagate Alternative Dispute Resolution to facilitate early resolution of disputes to reduce the burden of arrears in the Courts.

22. Which of the following are correct about None of the Above (NOTA)

- a. The provisions of NOTA are not included in the Rajya Sabha elections
- b. If a voter (MLA) defies the party directive he is subjected to disqualification under Anti-defection law
- c. Both a & b
- d. None of the above

D

Explanation: In recent elections in Gujarat for the Rajya Sabha membership, the option of NOTA has been challenged through a petition to the Election Commission.

None Of The Above (NOTA):

When a voter is not satisfied with any of the candidates posed by the political parties in an election they can register their discontent through NOTA

The Election Commission had issued a circular in January 2014 that the provisions of NOTA are included in the Rajya Sabha elections too, after it was included as one of the options in the Electronic Voting Machines in 2013.

If a voter (MLA) defies the party directive and votes for someone else or uses NOTA option, he cannot be disqualified as a legislator. But the party is free to take disciplinary action. The party high command can issue a whip for a Rajya Sabha candidate, but anti-defection law provisions do not apply, and a defiant MLA cannot be disqualified from membership of the House

23. Consider the following statements

1. Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) is a statutory body under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, regulating the public exhibition of films
2. Films can be publicly exhibited in India only after they have been certified by the Central Board of Film Certification.

Choose the correct statement/s.

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. 1 and 2
- d. None of these

C

Explanation: Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has refused to clear a documentary on Amartya Sen called 'The Argumentative Indian' until words such as —Cow , —Gujarat , —Hindutva and —Hindu Rashtra are either removed or beeped out.

CBFC

- It is a **statutory body** under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, regulating the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952.

- Films can be publicly exhibited in India only after they have been certified by the Central Board of Film Certification.
- The Board consists of non-official members and a Chairman (all of whom are appointed by Central Government).
- It functions with headquarters at Mumbai and has nine Regional offices

24. Consider the following statements about CAPART (Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology).

- 1) It was formed in the year 2017 by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- 2) It assists voluntary organizations across the country in implementing a wide range of development initiatives.

Choose the correct statements.

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. None of the above

B

Explanation:

The government and CAPART will blacklist NGOs not complying with the recent government rules and also move to file civil suit for recovery of money siphoned off. Formal recognition of the role of voluntary organisations in the Seventh Plan documented to the formation of the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) in 1986, as a nodal agency for catalysing and coordinating the emerging partnership between voluntary organisations and the Government for sustainable development of rural areas.

CAPART was formed by amalgamating two agencies the 'Council for Advancement of Rural Technology' (CART) and People's Action for Development India (PADI).

CAPART is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860, and is functioning under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. Today, this agency is a major promoter of rural development in India, assisting over 12,000 voluntary organizations across the country in implementing a wide range of development initiatives.

25. Consider the following statements regarding the new training programme Comprehensive Online Modified Modules on Induction Training (COMMIT).

- 1) To improve the public service delivery mechanism
- 2) To provide citizen centric administration

Choose the incorrect statements.

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. None of the above

D

Explanation:

A new training programme Comprehensive Online Modified Modules on Induction Training (COMMIT) for State Government officials has been launched.

Objective: To improve the public service delivery mechanism and provide citizen centric administration through capacity building of officials who interact with the citizens on day-to-day basis.

Details The COMMIT programme has been developed by DoPT in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

COMMIT will be launched in 6 States of Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal initially on pilot basis during the current financial year 2017-18 and within next year it is expected to cover all India.

Importance: It is cost effective and has the potential to cover about 3.3 lakh officials annually.

It allows translating the content in local/regional languages, thus making the training more useful.

It will equip the officials with the soft skills and best possible tools to perform best to their ability

26. Match the below schemes with their corresponding services

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1) Tele-Law | A) Legal advice from lawyers for rural marginalized population. |
| 2) Pro bono legal | B) To encourage lawyers services and legal professionals to |

volunteer for Public good.

3)'Nyaya Mitra C) Reducing
scheme' pendency of cases
 especially on those
 pending for more than 10 years.

a) 1:A ,2 :B, 3:C

b) 1:A ,2 :C, 3:B

c) 1:C ,2 :B, 3:A

d) 1:C ,2 :A, 3:B

A

Explanation:

'Tele-Law' is one the three key legal aid and empowerment initiatives of the Department of Justice along with 'Pro bono legal services' and 'Nyaya Mitra scheme' that were announced in April 2017.

Tele-Law: To make legal aid easily accessible to the marginalized communities and citizens living in rural areas.

'Tele-Law' will enable people to seek legal advice from lawyers through video conferencing available at the Common Service Centres (CSC)

The Ministry of Law and Justice partnered with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), which anchors the Digital India programme, to provide legal aid services through its Common Service Centres (CSC) at the panchayat level, spread across the country.

Pro bono legal services: It is a web-based initiative which can be accessed through the website www.doj.gov.in. Litigants who cannot afford legal services can apply for legal aid and advice from pro bono lawyers.

The idea behind this online initiative is to promote the concept of legal aid in an institutionalized manner and ensure that those lawyers who volunteer for such services are duly recognized.

'Nyaya Mitra' scheme: It aims to reduce pendency of cases across selected districts, with a special focus on those pending for more than 10 years. This scheme would play a pivotal role in assisting litigants who are suffering due to delay in investigation or trial, by actively identifying such cases through the National Judicial Data Grid, providing legal advice and connecting litigants to government agencies and civil society organizations. This initiative would be launched in 227

districts—27 districts in the North-east and J&K and 200 in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Odisha, Gujarat, West Bengal.

Access to Justice Project for Marginalized Persons: The schemes are continuation to the “Access to Justice Project for Marginalized Persons” which is being implemented by Department of Justice and United Nation Development Programme (UNDP). The Access to Justice Project has already partnered with CSC-E-governance Services India Limited to mainstream legal literacy through CSCs in Jharkhand and Rajasthan. Importance: Using technology for providing access to justice is in tandem with the Digital India initiative, the primary focus being transparency, good governance and digital delivery of services. These initiatives will serve as a tool to give the poor, rural, marginalised communities a voice and ensure that everybody has equal access to justice.

27. From the below identify the methods which can be used for financing Urban Local Bodies.

- 1) Value capture financing
 - 2) User charges
 - 3) National Investment and Infrastructure Fund
 - 4) Municipal Bonds
- a) 1 and 4 only
 - b) 1, 2 and 4 only
 - c) 4 only
 - d) All of the above

D

Value Capture Financing seeks to enable States and city governments raise resources by tapping a share of increase in value of land and other properties like buildings resulting from public investments and policy initiatives, in the identified area of influence. The VCF is constituted of four steps:

Value Creation- Creating new development opportunities.

Value Capture- Investment turned into monetary value.

Value Realisation- Sharing of gains through agreed instruments of VCF

Value Recycling- Resources thus collected are used for local development projects, thus looping the loop.

User Charges:

Where services can be measured and beneficiaries identified, user water and sewerage charges, charges must apply rather than taxes should be levied separately rather than built into the property tax User charges should be so structured as to meet at least the O&M cost Automatic partial indexation to inflation will ensure smooth increase over time User charges should also be linked to improved quality of service To enhance revenue streams and promote the use of public transport, ULBs should introduce parking fees

NIIF:-

Objective: Maximize economic impact mainly through infra development in commercially viable projects, both greenfield and brownfield. Initial authorized corpus of NIIF would be Rs.20,000 cr Functions include investing, which would entail considering and approving candidate companies/ institutions/ projects (incl state entities) for investments – both debt and equity Funds would also be available for equity support for NBFCs/ FIs that are engaged in infra financing. Municipal bonds issued by the ULBs, are redeemable after a specific period and have a definite rate of interest.

28. Choose the correctly matched pairs.

1) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India : Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

2) National Programme for Organic Production : Ministry of Commerce and Industry

3) Participatory Guarantee System for India [PGS-India] : Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

a) 1 only

b) 1 and 3 only

c) 2 and 3 only

d) All of the above

D

Explanation:

Any food which is intended to be offered for sale as organic food must comply with the provisions of any of the following:

- National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)
- Participatory Guarantee System for India (PGS-India)
- Any other system or standards as may be notified by the FSSAI from time to time.

FSSAI It is a statutory body, set up in August 2011 under the Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006.

It comes under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Its aim is to establish a single reference point for all matters relating to food safety and standards.

Prevalent Certification Systems for organic food in India

National Programme for Organic Production [NPOP]: Also known as Third Party Certification system, applicable to individual farmers or farmer groups.

Governed by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry o Certification is mandatory for exporting organic product.

Participatory Guarantee System for India [PGS-India]

It is applicable only to farmer groups and works around the collective responsibility of the group. Governed by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. Certification is meant only for the domestic market.

29. Consider the following statements regarding Data (Privacy and Protection) Bill, 2017.

1) It emphasizes on Rights-based approach where consent of individual is mandatory for collection, processing, storing and deletion of personal data with very limited exceptions.

2) It allows for the creation of position of Data protection officer for grievance redressal of end-users.

Choose the correct statements.

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. None of the above

C

Explanation:

Data (Privacy and Protection) Bill, 2017 Rights-based approach where consent of individual is mandatory for collection, processing, storing and deletion of personal data with very limited exceptions on case-by-case basis.

Differentiate data collectors and data processors and mandates that they shall collect, store or access personal data in a lawful and transparent manner and implement necessary security measures for data collected Data intermediaries must inform individuals of data breach within a time frame

Creation of position of data protection officer for grievance redressal of end-users with a provision for appeal to Data Privacy & Protection Authority
However, bill skips the issue of data sovereignty- the practice of subjecting information to the jurisdiction of data privacy laws on the basis of geographical boundaries. Unless explicitly specified, Indian IT laws are not applicable to data stored outside India and data intermediaries can claim immunity by exploiting this loophole.

30. Consider the following statements regarding Marital Rape in India

- 1) Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code criminalizes Marital Rape .
- 2) National Family Health Survey (NFHS) collects information about sexual violence in India.

Choose the correct statements.

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. None of the above

B

Explanation:

Section 375 of the IPC dealing with rape makes an exception for instances of forced intercourse within marriages and holds that “sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under 15 years of age, is not rape”

No other statute or law recognises marital rape, and victims only have recourse to civil remedies provided under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

In NFHS-3, a module of questions on domestic violence was included as part of the Woman’s Questionnaire. Information was collected on different forms of violence experienced by women age 15-49 and their help-seeking behaviour. The module collects detailed information on physical, sexual, and emotional violence perpetrated by husbands against their wives, physical consequences of spousal violence, and when spousal violence was first initiated, as well as information on violence perpetrated by wives against their husbands. In addition, in order to examine the intergenerational effects of domestic violence, information was collected on whether the respondent’s father ever beat her mother.

31. Consider the following statements regarding The DNA Based Technology (Use and Regulation) Bill, 2017.

- 1) It aims to prevent misuse of DNA technology by regulating and standardizing DNA testing as well as supervising the activities of all authorized laboratories
- 2) It allows DNA profiling to the purpose of identification and extracting other information.
- 3) It proposes the creation of a National DNA Data Bank and regional DNA databanks in every state or one or more states.

Choose the correct statements

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

A

Law Commission of India has released The DNA Based Technology (Use and Regulation) Bill, 2017. It aims to prevent misuse of DNA technology by regulating and standardizing DNA testing as well as supervising the activities of all authorized laboratories.

Establishing new institutions – a DNA profiling Board, a National DNA Data Bank and regional DNA databanks in every state or one or more states.

Only for identification: It restricts DNA profiling to the purpose of identification only and not for extracting any other information

Mandatory consent: No bodily substances will be taken from a person unless consent is given by him except if the individual is arrested for certain specific offences or if magistrate is satisfied of the need for DNA test

Option for deletion of data - There is also provision for defined instances for deletion of profiles and destruction of biological samples.

Rights to an undertrial – He can request for another DNA test in case of doubts that his earlier samples may have been contaminated.

Penalties: Any violation would attract imprisonment up to three years and a fine up to 2 lakhs. Only accredited labs by DNA profiling Board would be authorised to carry out DNA testing and analysis.

The new Bill has also removed a provision that allowed DNA profiles in the databank to be used for “creation and maintenance of population statistics databank”.

Samples picked up from a crime scene, belonging to those who are not offenders or suspects, would not be matched with the databases. They would have to be expunged from the records on a written request from the individual concerned.

32. Which of the following are true PRADHAN MANTRI YUVA YOJANA.

- i) The main objective is to connect entrepreneurs in enabling networks of peers, mentors, funds and business services.
- ii) The scheme support entrepreneurs through Entrepreneurship Hubs (E - Hubs).

Choose the appropriate code.

- a) i only
- b) ii only
- c) Both I & ii
- d) Neither I nor ii

C

PRADHAN MANTRI YUVA YOJANA. : MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

Objective : 1. Educate and equip potential and early stage entrepreneurs 2.

Connect entrepreneurs in enabling networks of peers, mentors, funds and business services 3. Support entrepreneurs through Entrepreneurship Hubs (E - Hubs).

33. Which of the following are incorrect regarding PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA.

- i) Its objective Providing 5 Crore free electricity connections to BPL households.
- ii) Any Below Poverty Line (BPL) family, whose information is included in the district BPL list prepared by the State government will be the beneficiary .

Choose the appropriate code

- a) i only
- b) ii only
- c) Both I & ii
- d) Neither I nor ii

C

PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA is implemented by MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS.

Objective :Providing 5 Crore free LPG connections to women from BPL households. Financial support of Rs 1600 for each LPG connection to the BPL households. The poor have limited access to cooking gas (LPG). Premature deaths will be prevented: Indoor air pollution is also responsible for a significant number of acute respiratory illnesses in young children. The LPG field officials will check the details of the applicant and match them against SECC (Socio Economic and Caste Census) data to confirm eligibility.

34. Which of the schemes are correctly matched

- i) MINISTRY OF POWER - UDAY (UJWAL DISCOM ASSURANCE YOJANA).
- ii) MINISTRY OF FINANCE - National Pension Scheme.
- iii) MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT - National Commission for SafaiKaramcharis

Choose the appropriate code

- a) I, ii only
- b) ii, iii only
- c) iii, I only
- d) I, ii, iii .

D

All the above schemes are rightly matched.

35. Which of the following is true regarding Khelo India

- i) It is a national programme which aims to develop grassroots level talent by providing them with a national level platform.
- ii) It aims for biggest school sport outreach programme to make football the sport of choice in India.

Choose the appropriate code

- a) i only
- b) ii only
- c) Both I & ii
- d) Neither I nor ii

Which of the following is true regarding Khelo India

- i) It is a national programme which aims to develop grassroots level talent by providing them with a national level platform.
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Choose the appropriate code

- a) i only
- b) ii only
- c) Both I & ii
- d) Neither I nor ii

Solution a

Khelo India

- It is a national programme which aims to develop grassroots level talent by providing them with a national level platform.
- Khelo India Scheme is based on Gujarat's model of "Khel Mahakumbh" in which schools and colleges from across the country participate in 27 different disciplines. The GOI of India merged the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan with Khelo India in 2016.
- Two other schemes that were brought under the umbrella of Khelo India are: Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) and National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS).

Mission XI millionis biggest school sport outreach programme □ to make football the sport of choice in India.

36. Which of the following countries are permanent members of shangai cooperation Organisation(SCO)?

- 1) Pakistan
- 2) Russia
- 3) India
- 4) Tajikistan
- 5) Turkmenistan
- 6) Kyrgyzstan

Options

- a) 1 2 3 4 and 6
- b) 2 4 5 and 6
- c) 1 3 4 and 5

d)4 5 and 6

A

- The SCO is an Eurasian political, economic and security organisation of China, Russia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan ,Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan
- The SCO is primarily centred on its member nations' Central Asian security-related concerns, often describing the main threats it confronts as being terrorism, separatism and extremism.
- India and Pakistan joined SCO as full members on 9 June 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

37. Consider the following statements regarding BIMSTEC

- 1) Permanent secretariat of BIMSTEC is in Kaatmandu.
- 2) India is a founder member of BIMSTEC
- 3) BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement was established in June 2017

Which of the following are not true?

OPTIONS

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) None of the above

C

The permanent secretariat of BIMSTEC was established in Dhaka in 2014

It was originally called BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand - Economic Cooperation) (Thus India is a founding member)

The BIMSTEC free trade agreement has not been materialized still.

38. In which of the following groupings India is not a member?

- 1) Wassenaar Arrangement
- 2) Australia Group
- 3) Nuclear supplier Group
- 4) Missile Technology Control Regime

OPTIONS

- a) 2 and 3
- b) 1 and 2

- c)3 and 4
- d)1 2 and 3

A

Among these four groups, India is a member in MTCR and Wassenaar agreement. India is pushing for membership in other three groups through diplomatic ways

The Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies

The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), for the control of nuclear related technology

The Australia Group (AG) for control of chemical and biological technology that could be weaponized

The Missile Technology Control Regime for the control of rockets and other aerial vehicles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction

39. Which of the following are ransomware attacks in news?

- 1)Wannacry
- 2)Notpetya
- 3)Cryptolocker
- 4)Tesla crypt

OPTIONS

- a)1 and 2
- b)3 and 4
- c)1, 2 and 4
- d)All the above

D

WannaCry (also known as WannaCrypt) has been one of the most devastating ransomware attacks in history, affecting several hundred thousand machines and crippling banks, law enforcement agencies, and other infrastructure.

NotPetya started as a fake Ukrainian tax software update, and went on to infect hundreds of thousands of computers in more than 100 countries over the course of just a few days. This ransomware is a variant of Petya, but uses the same exploit

behind WannaCry. It hit a number of firms in the US and caused major financial damage.

CryptoLocker, which burst onto the scene in 2013, that really opened the age of ransomware on a grand scale. CryptoLocker spread via attachments to spam messages, and used RSA public key encryption to seal up user files, demanding cash in return for the decryption keys

TeslaCrypt — targeted ancillary files associated with video games — saved games, maps, downloadable content, and the like.. By 2016, TeslaCrypt made up 48 percent of ransomware attack.

40. Shekatkar Committee which was constituted by Government of India is related to
- a) Combating cyber attacks
 - b) curbing black money
 - c) Defense reforms
 - d) Curbing left wing extremism

C

Aim:

- To recommend measures to enhance the combat capabilities of the armed forces and re-balance the overall defence expenditure.
- The overall aim of the committee is to ensure combat capabilities Indian armed forces and enhance their potential with a better teeth-to-tail combat ratio, within budgetary constraints.
- It also aims at ensuring leaner and cost-effective fighting forces of India.

Background:

1. The committee was constituted owing to the present revenue component (day-to-day costs/salaries) in the defence budget.
2. The revenue component usually outstrips the capital outlay every year and leaves a very little for new modernisation projects for the armed forces.
3. Since the 1999 Kargil conflict, Union Government is trying to follow a policy of 'save and raise' in order to improve combat capabilities without manpower increases.

4. For this purpose government is focusing on modernisation and induction of cutting-edge technologies, for optimisation of manpower.

Major Recommendations:

1. Capital expenditure:
Roll-on defence budget must have enough capital expenditure available for modernisation.
It is against the present practice of surrendering unspent capital budget at the end of each financial year.
Performance audit:
It must be conducted of non-combat organisations under the Defence Ministry.
It must include those dealing with defence estates and accounts, Director- General of Quality Assurance, Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and National Cadet Corps (NCC).
Downsizing or rationalisation of manpower: It will lead to significant savings.
2. Joint services war college: It must be established for training middle-level officers.
3. Reduce deployment of active-duty soldiers in avoidable postings: They will be replaced by retired officers and jawans in the running of NCC.
4. Comprehensive reforms in the running of NCC: Transfer of NCC out of the Defence Ministry to the HRD Ministry. NCC can be run by re-employed or on-contract ex-service personnel.

Steps Taken:

1. Government has accepted most of the recommendations
2. If recommendations of committee are implemented over the next five years, government can save up to Rs. 25,000 crore from the current defence expenditure.
3. Government has started implementing the first phase of reforms based on above recommendations.
4. These reforms will be completed in all respects by 2019.

41. Consider the following statements regarding Xiamen declaration

- 1) It is an outcome of 2017 SAARC summit, held in Xiamen.
 - 2) The theme of the declaration was "Stronger Partnership for a brighter future".
- Which of the following statements are correct?

OPTIONS

- a)1 only
- b)2 only
- c)Both 1 and 2
- d)None of the above

B

Recently, 9th BRICS Summit 2017 was held in Xiamen, China. Xiamen declaration Focussed on the theme of 'Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future'.

42. Which of the following places recently in news are correctly matched with countries?

Places	Countries
1. Rakhine	Bangladesh
2. Tel aviv	Iran
3. Astana	Turkmenistan

Options

- a)2 and 3
- b)1 and 3
- c)1 and 2
- d)None of the above

D

Places	Countries
1)Rakhine (Rohingyamuslims)	Myanmar
2)Telaviv (Indian Embassy in Israel located)Israel	
3)Astana (SCO summit 2017)	Kazakhstan

43. Asia-Africa Growth Corridor is a joint initiative of which countries?

- a)India and Japan

- b)BRICS Countries
- c)Asia Africa joint forum countries
- d)India , Japan and china

A

The Asia-Africa Growth Corridor or AAGC is an economic cooperation agreement between the governments of India and Japan to build connectivity for which Japan has committed \$30 billion and India \$10 billion.

44. Operation 'Insaniyat' is related to which of the following?

- a)Rohingya refugees
- b) counter terrorism
- c)Climate change refugees
- d)Rescuing Indian Diaspora from other countries during emergency

A

Operation 'Insaniyat': The Ministry of External Affairs has started Operation Insaniyat to provided assistance to Bangladesh in response to humanitarian crisis being faced by it due to large influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar.

45. The first phase of National Cyber Coordination Centre(NCCC) has been made operational now. Which of the following statements are true about it?

- 1)NCCC is a multi-stakeholder body and comes under Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)
- 2)The centre is under the administrative control of ministry of Home Affairs.
- 3)It derives its powers as per provisions of section 69B of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

OPTIONS

- a)1 AND 2
- b)2 AND 3
- c)1 AND 3
- d)All the above

C

NCCC is a multi-stakeholder body and comes under Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) at Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

It derives its powers as per provisions of section 69B of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Rules notified under it.

It will scan the country's web traffic to detect real-time cyber security threats and alert various organisations as well as internet service providers (ISP) for timely action.

It also will coordinate between intelligence agencies, specifically during network intrusions and cyber-attacks.

It will virtually be in touch with the control room of all ISPs, flowing at the point of entry and exit, including international gateways.

46. Underlining WTO's Agreement on Agriculture, Subsidies for agriculture are categorised into different boxes. Subsidies which are trade distorting and need to be curbed are called as
- a) Green box
 - b) Blue box
 - c) Amber box
 - d) Red box

C

Agreement on agriculture stands on 3 pillars viz. Domestic Support, Market Access, and Export Subsidies.

- **Domestic Support** – It refers to subsidies such as guaranteed Minimum Price or Input subsidies which are direct and product specific. Under this, Subsidies are categorized into 3 boxes –
 - a) **Green Box** – Subsidies which are **no or least market distorting** includes measures **decoupled from output** such as income-support payments (decoupled income support), safety – net programs, payments under environmental programs, and agricultural research and-development subsidies.
 - b) *Blue Box* – Only 'Production limiting Subsidies' under this are allowed. They cover payments based on acreage, yield, or number of livestock in a base year.
 - c) *Amber Box* – Those subsidies which are trade distorting and need to be curbed.

47. Match the following joint exercises of India with the respective countries

Joint Exercise	Country	1) Varuna
a) UK		

- 2) Hand in Hand b)China
- 3) Surya Kiran c)France
- 4) Konkan d)Nepal

OPTIONS

- | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----|---|---|---|---|
| a) | a | c | b | d |
| b) | c | b | d | a |
| c) | b | a | c | d |
| d) | d | a | b | c |

B

The annually held Varuna naval exercise is an integral part of **France–India strategic relationship** in the 21st century and consists of naval cooperation drills between the **French Navy** and the **Indian Navy**.

Hand-in Hand" - the annual exercise between the Indian Army and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA)

The Surya Kiran series of bilateral military exercises are conducted bi-annually, alternatively in India and Nepal.

Konkan –» The annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy (British Navy)..

48. Which of the following countries are not part of the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership(RCEP)?

- 1)Australia
- 2)Newzealand
- 3)Korea
- 4)Japan
- 5)China
- 6)Brunei

Options

- a)1 2 4 and 5
- b)4 and 5
- c)6 only

d)None of the above

D

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) and the six states with which ASEAN has existing free trade agreements (Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand).

49.Hamburg action plan is associated with which of the following grouping?

- a) G20
- b) BRICS
- c)UNITED NATIONS
- d)EU

A

Recently G20 Summit was organised in Germany where Hamburg action plan was launched. This Plan sets out the G20's strategy for achieving strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

50. Which of the following statements are true about Muntra, launched recently ?

- 1) It is India's first unmanned, remotely operated tank.
- 2) It is used for surveillance, mine detection and reconnaissance in areas with nuclear and biological threats.
- 3)It was developed by DRDO(Defence Research and Development Organisation)

OPTIONS

- a)1 and 2
- b)2 and 3
- c)1 and 3
- d)All the above

D

Defence Research and Development Organisation has developed an unmanned, remotely operated tank which has three variants – surveillance(Muntra-S) , mine detection(Muntra-M) and reconnaissance in areas with nuclear and bio threats(Muntra –N)

51. Consider the following statements regarding South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program

1)The South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program was setup recently in 2010.

2) Member countries include Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

3) Philippines-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) serves as the Secretariat for the SASEC member countries

Which of the statements are incorrect?

a)1 and 2

b)2 and 3

c)1 and 3

d)None of the above

A

The South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program was set up in 2001.

2)Member countries

include Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka (Not Pakistan)

3) Philippines-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) serves as the Secretariat for the SASEC member countries

52. With which of the following regional groupings does india has Free trade agreement in force?

1)European Union

2)SAARC

3)ASEAN

OPTIONS

a)1 and 2

b)2 and 3

c)1 and 3

d)All the above

B

1)India-European Union (EU) FTA, **officially known as the Broad-Based Trade and Investment Agreement** is **being negotiated** for quite a while. But has not been operationalised and brought into force.

2) The concept of South-Asia Free Trade Agreement or SAFTA was conceived for the **first time in 1993 as a Preferential Trade Agreement** (an agreement amongst the nations to trade selected goods without tariffs or with very low tariffs) and later, it was **upgraded to a Free Trade Agreement in 2004 and came into force in 2006.**

3) **India-ASEAN free trade agreement was created in 2003. In 2009, the Free Trade Agreement in Goods was signed and enacted in 2010.** The **ASEAN-India Free Trade Area (AIFTA)** has been completed with the entry into force of the ASEAN-India Agreements on Trade in Service and Investments in 2015.

53. Recently there was a rift between countries of Gulf Cooperation Council(GCC) and quatar. Which of the following countries are part of (GCC)?

1)Bahrain

2)Kuwait

3)Oman

4)Iraq

5)Iran

6)United Arab Emirates

OPTIONS

a)1 2 3 and 6

b)1 2 and 3

c)1 2 3 4 and 6

d)4 5 and 6

A

Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf originally (and still colloquially) known as the **Gulf Cooperation Council(GCC)** is a regional intergovernmental political and economic union consisting of all Arab states of the Persian Gulf, except for Iraq. Its member states are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates

54. A recent report of IB mentioned Rohingyas as security threat to India. Which of the following statements are true about Rohingyas?

- 1) Rohingyas are of Buddhist origin.
- 2) They are from Rakhine State, Myanmar.
- 3) Rohingyas are stateless people.

OPTIONS

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All the above

B

- 1) Rohingyas are stateless, Indo-Aryan people from Rakhine State, Myanmar.
- 2) Majority of Rohingyas are Muslims while minority Hindus.

55. Which of the following neighbourhood countries of India are signatories of China's 'Belt and Road' Initiative?

- 1) Nepal
- 2) Bhutan
- 3) Sri Lanka
- 4) Myanmar

OPTIONS

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

D

All the neighbours of India except Bhutan are a part of Belt and Road Initiative of China.

56. Which of the following ports are correctly matched with their countries?

- | Ports | Countries | | |
|---------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1) Hambantota | Myanmar | 1) Sittwe | Sri Lanka |

a) 1 and 2
b) 3 and 4
c) 2 3 and 4
d) All the above

1)Sittwe	Myanmar
2)Hambantota	Srilanka
3)Chittagong	Bangladesh
4)Gwadhar	Pakistan

- 1) It is an indigenously developed missile by DRDO
- 2) It is a surface-to-air missile
- 3) It is a beyond visual range missile

a) 1 and 2
b) 2 and 3
c) 1 and 3
d) All the above

Astra is beyond visual range air-to-air indigenously developed MISSILE by DRDO

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

- c) 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

C

The **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project** is a project that will connect the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Rakhine State, Myanmar by **sea**. In Myanmar, it will then link Sittwe seaport to Paletwa, Chin State via the **Kaladan river boat route**, and then from Paletwa by **road** to Mizoram state in Northeast India



59. Consider the following statements regarding Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

- 1) It is one of the principal Organs of United Nations
- 2) India is a member of ECOSOC

Which of the statements are incorrect?

OPTIONS

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

D

The **United Nations Economic and Social** is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, responsible for coordinating the economic, social, and related work of 15 UN specialized agencies, their functional commissions and five regional commissions

India has won its re-election to the UN's principal organ on economic, social and environmental issues for another three-year term membership.

60. Global Human Capital report is released by

- a) International Labour Organisation
- b) World Bank
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) INSEAD

C

India has been placed at a low 103 rank, the lowest among BRICS economies, on the WEF's Global Human Capital Index, which has been topped by Norway.

The list compiled by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) takes into account "the knowledge and skills people possess that enable them to create value in the global economic system" to measure the 'human capital' rank of a country.

61. Consider the following statements:

1. UNESCO has inscribed 'KumbhMela' on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
2. This festival is held in Allahabad, Haridwar, Ujjain and Nasik.

Choose the correct choice given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

C

Explanation: The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage under UNESCO has inscribed 'KumbhMela' on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during its 12th session being held at Jeju, South Korea

KumbhMela is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth. The festival, held in Allahabad, Haridwar, Ujjain and Nasik, represents a syncretic set of rituals related to worship and ritual cleansing in holy rivers in India. As a religious festival, the tolerance and inclusiveness that KumbhMela demonstrates are especially valuable for the contemporary world.

1. Tradition of Vedic Chanting	200 8
2. Ramlila, the traditional performance of Ramayana	200 8
3. Kutiyattam, Sanskrit Theatre	200 8
4. Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas, India	200 9
5. Navroj*	200 9
6. Mudi yettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala	201 0
7. Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan	201 0

8. Chhau dance	201 0
9. Buddhist chanting of Ladakh	201 2
10. Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur	201 3
11. Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab	201 4
12. Yoga	201 6
13. KumbhMela	201 7

62. Consider the following regarding UNESCO's creative cities Network:

1. UNESCO programme which recognises cities world-wide who foster innovation and creativity as key drivers for a more sustainable and inclusive urban development.
2. Chennai has been included in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

Choose the correct choice given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above.

C

Explanation: The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.

By joining the Network, cities commit to sharing their best practices and developing partnerships involving the public and private sectors as well as civil society in order to:

- Strengthen the creation, production, distribution and dissemination of cultural activities, goods and services;

- Develop hubs of creativity and innovation and broaden opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector;
- Improve access to and participation in cultural life, in particular for marginalized or vulnerable groups and individuals;
- Fully integrate culture and creativity into sustainable development plans.

The Network covers seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts, Film, Design, Gastronomy, Literature and Music.

The Creative Cities Network is a privileged partner of UNESCO, not only as a platform for reflection on the role of creativity as a lever for sustainable development but also as a breeding ground of action and innovation, notably for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Chennai has been included in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network for its rich musical tradition. Including Chennai, a total of 64 cities from 44 countries have joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. Jaipur and Varanasi are the other Indian cities that feature on the list.

63. UNESCO Award for Cultural Heritage was awarded to which of the following Cultural site:

- Srirangam temple
- Madurai Meenakshi temple
- Sanchi Stupa
- Virupaksha Temple

A

Explantation: **UNESCO Asia Pacific Heritage Awards** (since 2000) are given with as the strategic purpose of UNESCO with in the region Asia Pacific. The objective is to motivate the protection of Cultural Heritage sites, which are initiated by any individual organization under private sector or institutional organization

Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangam, the sacred shrine temple has won the UNESCO Asia Pacific Award of Merit 2017 for cultural heritage conservation. It has become the first temple in Tamil Nadu to be given the prestigious award from the UN body

64. Consider the following regarding Hornbill festival:

1. The Hornbill Festival is a celebration held every year in Nagaland

2. It is also called the 'Festival of Festivals'.
3. Hornbill Festival of Nagaland is named after the Great Indian Hornbill.
4. The aim of the festival is to revive and protect the rich culture of Nagaland and display its extravaganza and tradition

Choose the correct choice:

- a) 1,2,4
- b) 1,2,3
- c) 1,3,4
- d) All of the above

D

Explantation: The **Hornbill Festival** is a celebration held every year from 1 - 10 December, in Nagaland, Northeast India. It is also called the 'Festival of Festivals'.

The state of Nagaland is home to several tribes, which have their own distinct festivals. More than 60% of the population of Nagaland depends on agriculture and therefore most of their festivals revolve around agriculture. The Nagas consider their festivals sacred, so participation in these festivals is essential.

To encourage inter-tribal interaction and to promote cultural heritage of Nagaland, the Government of Nagaland organizes the Hornbill Festival every year in the first week of December. The first festival was held in 2000.

The festival is named after the Indian hornbill, the large and colourful forest bird which is displayed in the folklore of most of the state's tribes.

65. Consider the following regarding Paika rebellion:

1. Paikas were essentially the peasant militias of the Gajapati rulers of Odisha
2. They rebelled against the British under the leadership of Baxi Jagandhu Bidyadhara as early as 1817 to throw off the British .

Choose the correct choice:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

C

Explanation: what has been popularly regarded as the first war of independence in 1857, the Paika Bidroha (Paika Rebellion) of 1817 in Odisha briefly shook the foundations of British rule in the eastern part of India. Paikas were essentially the peasant militias of the Gajapati rulers of Odisha who rendered military service to the king during times of war while taking up cultivation during times of peace. They unfurled the banner of rebellion against the British under the leadership of Baxi Jagannath Bidyadhar as early as 1817 to throw off the British yoke.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=168762>

66. Project 'Mausam' an initiative of Ministry of Culture is implemented by:

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Secretary to Ministry of Tourism
- c) Archaeological Survey of India
- d) None of the above

C

Explanation: Project 'Mausam' is the initiative of Ministry of Culture to be implemented by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as the nodal agency with research support of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and National Museum as associate bodies. This project aims to explore the multi-faceted Indian Ocean 'world'—collating archaeological and historical research in order to document the diversity of cultural, commercial and religious interactions in the Indian Ocean. It also aims to promote research on themes related to the study of Maritime Routes. Main objective of the project is to inscribe places and sites identified under Project Mausam as trans-national nomination for inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage List

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1496936>

67. Consider the following statements:

1. City of Ahmedabad is declared as Historic City under UNESCO's World Heritage Property.
2. The walled city of Ahmedabad lies on the eastern bank of the Sabarmati river.

Choose the correct choice:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

C

Explanation: India has been successful in securing the nomination of the “Historic City of Ahmadabad” on UNESCO’s World Heritage list on 8th July, 2017 during the 41st Session of World Heritage Committee. This makes the walled city of Ahmedabad the first city in India and the third in Asia to be inscribed to the World Heritage List. In the past 3 years alone, India has managed to put five built heritage sites on the world heritage list of UNESCO.

India now has overall 36 World Heritage Inscriptions with 28 Cultural, 07 Natural and 01 Mixed site. While India stands second largest in number after China in terms of number of world heritage properties in ASPAC (Asia and Pacific) region, it is overall seventh in the world.

Founded in 15th century, the walled city of Ahmadabad, on the eastern bank of the Sabarmati river, presents a rich architectural heritage

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1495035>

68. Consider the following :

1. Amsar Act 2010 provides for the preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance.
2. Recently this act was amended to allow public works or projects essential for public in prohibited area within 100 meter from protected monument but not having substantial impact on preservation, safety, security or access to the monument.

Choose the correct choice:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

C

Explanation: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1497259>

69. Who among the following were involved in Champaran Satyagraha:

1. Brajkishore Prasad
 2. Rajendra Prasad
 3. Anugrah Narayan
 4. J. B. Kripalani
- a) 1,2,3
b) 1,2,4
c) 1,3,4
d) All of the above

D

Explanation: Raj Kumar Shukla, a money lender who also owned some land, persuaded Gandhi to go to Champaran and thus, the Champaran Satyagraha began. Gandhi arrived in Champaran 10 April 1917 with a team of eminent lawyers: Brajkishore Prasad, Rajendra Prasad, Anugrah Narayan Sinha Ramnavmi Prasad, and others including J. B. Kripalani.

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1497817>

70. Consider the following regarding Azad Hind Fauj:

1. It was an Indian provisional government established in occupied Singapore in 1943.
2. It was supported by USA, France during the second world war.

Choose the correct choice:

- a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) None of the above

A

Explanation: **Ārzī Hukūmat-e-Āzād Hind**, the **Provisional Government of Free India**, or, more simply, **Free India (Azad Hind)**, was an Indian provisional

government established in occupied Singapore in 1943 and supported by the Empire of Japan, Nazi Germany, the Italian Social Republic, and their allies. On the occasion of 75th Anniversary of the Quit India Movement and the Azad Hind Fauj, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (I/C) for Culture and Tourism inaugurated an exhibition **“Quit India and Azad Hind Fauj – 75th Anniversary (1942-2017)”** in the National Archives of India, Janpath, New Delhi
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1499046>

71. Consider the following:

Festival	Region	1. Loshar	Meghalaya
2. Wangala	Kashmir		
3. Sajibu Cheiraoba	Manipur		

Choose the correct choice:

- a) 1, 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) All of the above

C

Explanation: The Losar festival marks the beginning of the New Year in Ladakh/Tibet and is considered to be the most important festival of the region. Wangala is a post-harvest festival of Garos, held in November, marking the end of the agricultural year.

Sajibu Cheiraoba is the New Year of the Manipuris and is celebrated on the first day of the Manipuri month, Sajibu, which falls in the month of March or April.

72. Consider the following regarding Alpana:

- 1. Alpana is a folk art of Maharashtra was mainly done on the floor and the walls of the house.
- 2. Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage has joined hands with the Daricha Foundation to revive the lost folk art of Alpana.

Choose the correct choice:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2

d) None of the above.

B

Explanation: Alpana is a folk art of Bengal was mainly done on the floor and the walls of the house. The painting was done with hands (fingers are the brush) and the paint is mainly a paste comprising of rice flour. The motifs drawn are ritualistic images from mythology and scriptures. Alpana was drawn by women of the house before the sunset. It is considered to ward off evil spirits and was specifically drawn on special occasions such as festivals or weddings.

73. August Kranti in Indian History is also known as:

- a) Swadeshi Movement
- b) Revolt of 1857
- c) Quit India Movement
- d) Delhi Chalo

C

Explanation: On August 8, 1942 Mahatma Gandhi and the All-India Congress Committee (AICC) launched the Quit India Movement or Bharat Chodo Andolan at the Bombay session. As the Quit India Movement was launched in August, it is also known as August Movement or August Kranti. This was a civil disobedience movement initiated to end British rule in India. Gandhi called the nation to 'Do or Die' in his speech. The movement started on August 9, 1942 after the British responded by arresting all the major leaders including Mahatma Gandhi. After the arrest, AICC led by young Aruna Asaf Ali hoisted the Indian flag. This day, August 9, is celebrated as August Kranti Diwas or August Kranti Day to remember the historic Quit India Movement. The day is celebrated by paying tribute to freedom fighters, national integration speeches and other events.

75th anniversary of Quit India Movement:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1499046>

74. Consider the following statements:

1. Prevention of cruelty to animals Act was amended to exempt Kambala.

2. Kambalais the traditional slush track buffalo race of Kerala.

Choose the correct choice:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

A

Explanation: **Kambala** is an annual Buffalo Race held traditionally under the sponsorship of local Tuluva landlords and households in the coastal district's of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi of Karnataka India which is termed under single region known as Tulu Nadu.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/centre-clears-kambala-bill/article18788687.ece>

75. Talanoa Dialogue is associated with which among the following:

- a) IUCN
- b) UNFCCC
- c) WWF
- d) Greenpeace

B

Explanation: Talanoa is a traditional word used in Fiji and the Pacific to reflect a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue. The purpose of Talanoa is to share stories, build empathy and to make wise decisions, which are for the collective good. The process of Talanoa involves the sharing of ideas, skills and experience through storytelling. During the process, Parties build trust and advance knowledge through empathy and understanding. Blaming others and making critical observations are inconsistent with the building of mutual trust and respect, and therefore inconsistent with the concept of Talanoa. Talanoa fosters stability and inclusiveness in relation to dialogue, by creating a safe space which embraces mutual respect for a platform for decision making for a greater good

http://unfccc.int/files/na/application/pdf/approach_to_the_talanoa_dialogue.pdf

76. Consider the following statements regarding Black Buck:

1. They are generally found in grasslands and open forests.
2. Uttar Pradesh government recently approved for Blackbuck Conservation Reserve in the Meja forest division.

Choose the correct choice:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the following

C

Explanation: A wildlife conservation reserve dedicated exclusively to the blackbuck is coming up over 126 hectares in the trans-Yamuna region of Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh. The State cabinet has approved a Blackbuck Conservation Reserve in the Meja forest division that is known for its rocky, undulating and arid terrain. The area has more than 200 species of birds and herbivores like blackbucks and bluebull, and carnivores like jackals and striped hyena.

This will become first black conservation reserve in India.

77. The 'Graded Response Action Plan' was notified by the Environment Ministry. The plan is meant to tackle

- a) Air pollution in all urban regions of India
- b) Water pollution in river Ganga
- c) Soil pollution in eastern regions of India
- d) None of the above

D

Explanation: The 'Graded Response Action Plan' was notified earlier this year by the Environment Ministry against air pollution for Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR includes Rajasthan, Haryana and UP). The plan puts governments under the lens and holds out the promise of improvement in air quality, if followed properly.

A graded response lays down stratified actions that are required to be taken as and when the concentration of 20 pollutants, in this case particulate matter, reaches a certain level. The response will change as pollutant levels increase.

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

78. The prohibition of usage of pet coke by the supreme court in few states will result in

1. Higher fuel cost for cement companies operating out of these states
2. Reduced emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide

Choose the correct choice:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

C

Explanation: Petroleum coke, the bottom-of-the-barrel leftover from refining Canadian tar sands

crude and other heavy oils, is cheaper and burns hotter than coal.

Supreme Court banned the use of key raw material of cement industries — pet coke and furnace oil — in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Haryana. The move, aimed at curbing pollution, could impact their earnings by as much as 8 per cent in 2017-18 because substitute fuel for cement factories is at least 25 per cent costlier than petcoke.

In petroleum coker units, residual oils from other distillation processes used in petroleum refining are treated at a high temperature and pressure leaving the petcoke (and separating off remaining light and heavy oils) after driving off gases and volatiles including sulphur and nitrogen dioxide.

79. With reference to SEBI, which of the following statement is/ are correct?

- 1) SEBI is the statutory regulator for the securities market in India

- 2) SEBI has come up with comprehensive guidelines asking the Commodity derivatives exchanges to compulsorily set up investor protection and service funds
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2

C

Solution :SEBI is the statutory regulator for the securities market in India established in 1988. It was given statutory powers through the SEBI Act, 1992. SEBI has come up with comprehensive guidelines asking the Commodity derivatives exchanges to compulsorily set up investor protection and service funds. The Investor Service Fund (ISF) is aimed at providing minimum facilities at various investor service centres.

At the initial stage, the commodity exchange has to contribute at least Rs 10 lakh towards ISF. Subsequently, the commodity exchanges are required to transfer 1% of the turnover fees charged from its members on monthly basis towards the ISF. The Investor Protection Fund (IPF) of a Commodity Exchange should have a maximum of five trustees. Out of these, three trustees should be public interest directors and a representative from Sebi-recognised investor association. In addition, the commodity exchange's compliance officer should be made part of the trust.

80. Which of the following institute developed a microbial called SONA under Jute- ICARE project which will enhance fibre yield by 20%
- a) Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres
 - b) Instiute of Jute Technology
 - c) Indian Jute Industries Research Association
 - d) Jute Agricultural Research Laboratory

A

Solution : Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres (CRIJAF) developed a microbial called SONA under Jute-ICARE project which will enhance fibre yield by 20%

Jute-ICARE project

Launched in 2015, by National Jute Board for better agronomic practices through; Distribution of quality certified seeds at 50% subsidy.

line sowing of jute using seed drill to increase yield by 10-15%;

Reducing the cost of weeding by wheel hoeing/nail weeder instead of hand weeding

81. The framework, 'Graded Surveillance Measure', was recently introduced by which one of the following Indian regulatory authorities?

- a) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
- b) National Highways Authority of India
- c) Reserve Bank of India
- d) Securities and Exchange Board of India

D

Solution : SEBI introduced the "grade surveillance measure" to keep a tab on securities that witness an abnormal price rise that is not commensurate with financial health and fundamentals of the company such as earnings, book value, price to earnings ratio among others.

82. "Investment facilitation mechanism" aims to promote and facilitate trade and investment between

- a) India and US
- b) India and European union
- C) India and Japan
- d) India and china

B

Solution : India and European Union (EU) have established Investment Facilitation Mechanism (IFM) for EU Investments in India. The mechanism will allow for a close coordination between EU and India with an aim to promote and facilitate EU investment in India.

83. With reference to “New Metro Rail policy 2016” , which of the following statement is/ are correct?

1. The policy make PPP (Public Private Partnership) component mandatory for availing central assistance for new metro projects
2. The new policy mandate Transit Oriented Development (TOD) to promote compact and dense urban development along metro corridors.

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

C

Solution : Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the New Metro Rail Policy which focuses on compact urban development, cost reduction and multi-modal integration.

Highlights of New Metro Rail Policy

The policy make PPP (Public Private Partnership) component mandatory for availing central assistance for new metro projects.

The three broad PPP models detailed in the policy include; Design-Build-Finance-OperateTransfer mode, Allowing private players to operate the service as well as supply rolling stock and Involving them in the maintenance and upgrade of infrastructure.

The new policy mandate Transit Oriented Development (TOD) to promote compact and dense urban development along metro corridors.

New metro projects will be approved in line with global best practices, on the basis of ‘Economic Internal Rate of Return of 14%’, a change from the existing ‘Financial Internal Rate of Return of 8%.

84. The annual ‘World Investment Report’ is published by

- a) World Bank
- b) World Trade Organisation
- c) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- d) World Economic Forum

C

Solution : World Investment Report is published by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development since 1991.

The annual World Investment Report presents foreign direct investment (FDI) trends and prospects at global, regional and national levels. It also analyses the latest developments in new policy measures for investment promotion, facilitation and regulation around the world, and provides the annual update on investment treaties, their reform and investment dispute settlement cases. The 2017 edition, subtitled "Investment and the Digital Economy", investigates the internationalization patterns of digital MNEs, as well as the digitization effect on the global companies across all industries. It will provide insights to policymakers on how the digital economy impact on investment policies and how investment policy can support digital development, with a view towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

85. With reference to “Index of Industrial Production” , which of the following statement is/ are correct?

1. It is compiled and published monthly by the Central Statistical Organization
2. The CSO had revised the base year of the IIP from 2004-05 to 2011-12
3. items included falls into 3 categories viz. Manufacturing, Mining & Electricity

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

D

Solution :The IIP is a composite indicator that measures the short-term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products. It is compiled and published monthly by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

The CSO had revised the base year of the IIP from 2004-05 to 2011-12 to capture structural changes in the economy and improves the quality and representativeness of the indices.

It covers 407 item groups. Sector wise, the items included falls into 3 categories viz. Manufacturing (405 items), Mining (1 items) & Electricity (1 item). The weights of the three sectors are 77.63%, 14.37%, 7.9% respectively.

86. The Union Government has issued gazette notification, notifying that Peer-to-peer lending (P2P) platforms will be regulated by

- a) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- b) Reserve Bank of India
- c) SIDBI
- d) NABARD

B

Solution :The Union Government has issued gazette notification, notifying that Peer-to-peer lending (P2P) platforms will be treated as non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and thus regulated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI). P2P lending is a form of crowd-funding used to raise loans which are paid back with interest. It enables individuals to borrow and lend money – without use of an official financial institution as an intermediary.

Day 2:

87. Consider the following statements

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its World Economic Outlook (WEO)

- 1) The global economic growth rate will be increasing in 2018
- 2) India's GDP growth rate is also revised upwards.

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

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

C

Solution :The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its July World Economic Outlook (WEO) Update has retained India's projected GDP growth rate at 7.2% for 2017-18, slightly up from 7.1% in the previous year.

The global economic growth rate will be 3.5% in 2017 and 3.6% in 2018. The economic activity in both advanced and emerging and developing economies is accelerating. Moreover, inflation in advanced economies remains subdued and generally below target and also declining in several emerging economies.

88. With reference to “Monetary policy committee” (MPC) , which of the following statement is/ are correct?

- 1) MPC is a committee of the central bank — Reserve Bank of India, headed by its Governor.
 - 2) The 6 member MPC is entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy interest rate (repo rate) to contain inflation.
 - 3) Each member has one vote and governor has casting vote in case of tie.
- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3

C

Solution :MPC is a committee of the central bank — Reserve Bank of India, headed by its Governor. It was set up by amending the RBI Act to provide for a statutory and institutionalised framework for MPC.

The 6 member MPC is entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy interest rate (repo rate) to contain inflation within the target level. The majority voice of the committee will be final in deciding the interest rates.

Composition of MPC includes Governor of RBI (ex officio Chairperson), Deputy Governor of RBI, in charge of Monetary Policy (Member), one officer of RBI (Member) and three members appointed by Central Government as members. Each member has one vote and governor has casting vote in case of tie.

89. Which ministry has recently initiated the process of formulation of a New Industrial Policy to deploy a different set of ideas and strategies to build a globally competitive Indian industry.

- a) Ministry of Heavy Industry & Public Enterprises
- b) Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- c) Ministry of Finance
- d) NITI Aayog

B

Solution : The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry initiated the process of formulation of a New Industrial Policy to deploy a different set of ideas and strategies to build a globally competitive Indian industry. The new Industrial Policy will subsume the National Manufacturing Policy and strives to formulate an outcome- oriented actionable industrial policy that provides direction and charts a course of action for a globally competitive Indian industry which leverages skill, scale and technology. Its objective is to promote use of modern smart technologies. It aims at making India a manufacturing hub by promoting 'Make in India', to create jobs for the next two decades.

90. The Ministry of Agriculture's 'Seven-point Strategy' to double farmers' income by 2022 includes which of the following provisions

- 1) Increase in production
- 2) Effective use of input cost
- 3) Reduction of post harvest loss
- 4) Value addition
- 5) Risk, security and assistance.

- a) 1,2,3 and 4
- b) 1,2,4, and 5
- c) 1,2 and 3
- d) 1,2,3,4 and 5

D

Solution :Agriculture Ministry is working sincerely and honestly to fulfil our Prime Minister's dream to Double Farmers Income by 2022. Ministry's Seven point strategy includes

- 1) Increase in production
- 2) Effective use of input cost
- 3) Reduction of post-harvest losses
- 4) Value Addition
- 5) Reforms in Agriculture Marketing
- 6) Risk, Security and Assistance
- 7) Allied Activities

91. The Standing Committee on Energy (Chair: Mr.Virendra Kumar) has recently submitted its report on the Review of the National Electricity Policy. As per the report , Which of the following is/are the challenges of the power sector

- 1) fall in solar tariff and its low gestation period is posing a threat to the economic viability of thermal power plants
- 2) financial condition of the power distribution companies (discoms).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

C

Solution :The aims of the Policy included: (i) access to electricity for all households by 2010, (ii) meeting the power demand of the country by 2012, (iii) supplying reliable and quality power in an efficient manner and at reasonable rates, and (iv) financial turnaround and commercial viability of the electricity sector.

The Committee noted that none of the Policy's objectives could be met within the stipulated timeline. It pointed out that: (i) four crore households still need to be electrified; (ii) while generation capacities are adequate, the demand for power has not been fully met due to affordability issues; and (iii) financial condition of the power distribution companies (discoms) has worsened.

The Committee noted that the fall in solar tariff and its low gestation period is posing a threat to the economic viability of thermal power plants. While the growth of solar energy is good for the sector, thermal power has been the primary source of energy in the country and its importance will not reduce in the coming years.

92. Which of the following two commodity exchanges merge recently to create country's third largest commodity exchange
- a) MCX merge with NCDEX
 - b) MCX merge with SEBI
 - c) NMCE merge with ICEX
 - d) NMCE merge with NCDEX

C

Solution :National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE), India's first demutualised online national multi-commodities exchange will merge with Indian Commodity Exchange (ICEX). The merged entity will create India's third biggest commodity exchange. The largest commodity exchange by volume is the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) followed by National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX).

This is the first merger deal in the commodity exchange space in India. It has been approved by the boards of both exchanges and is expected to be completed by December 2017, subject to regulatory approvals. In the merged entity, the ICEX will hold a 62.8% stake, while NMCE shareholders will own the rest.

Commodity trading is an exchange where various commodities and derivatives products are traded. Most commodity markets trade in agricultural products and other raw materials and contracts based on them. These contracts can include spot prices, futures, forwards and options on futures.

93. Which of the following is true regarding cryptocurrencies?

- 1) It is a virtual currency that uses cryptography
- 2) It can be easily counterfeited
- 3) It is issued by the central bank of the country

Options

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) 1 and 2
- D) 1 and 3

A

cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security. Hence it is difficult to counterfeit. It is not issued by any central authority, rendering it theoretically immune to government interference or manipulation.

- The first cryptocurrency to capture the public imagination was Bitcoin, which was launched in 2009 by an individual or group known under the pseudonym Satoshi Nakamoto. Bitcoin's success has spawned a number of competing cryptocurrencies, such as Litecoin, Namecoin and PPCoin.

94. Which of the following is true about Nag?

- 1) It is an anti tank missile developed by DRDO
- 2) It is part of the integrated missile development programme
- 3) It uses fire and forget technology

Options

- A) 1 only
- B) 1 and 2
- C) 1 and 3
- D) All the above

D

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test fired the anti-tank missile “Nag” in Rajasthan.

The Nag missile is a third generation “fire and forget” anti-tank missile and can be launched from land and air- based platforms. It is equipped with highly advanced Imaging Infrared Radar (IRR) seeker and has integrated avionics technology in its arsenal.

- It is one of the five missile systems developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) under the integrated guided missile development programme (IGMDP). The four other missiles developed under this programme include Agni, Akash, Trishul and Prithvi.

95. KELT-9b recently in news is associated with which of the following

- A) The hottest known planet
- B) A new species of plant in western ghats
- C) Vaccine against kala azar
- D) An asteroid spotted near Saturn

A

Scientists have discovered the hottest known planet, designated KELT-9b, located 650 light years from Earth.

- It is Jupiter-like in size and orbits star KELT-9 every day and a half. It is warmer than most stars in the universe. It has a glowing gas tail like a comet. The tail is formed by evaporation of the planet due to intense ultraviolet radiation from the star it orbits.
- It is tidally locked to its star as the moon is to Earth. Hence, the day side of the planet is perpetually bombarded by stellar radiation. As a result, the planet is so hot that molecules such as water, carbon dioxide and methane cannot form there.

96. Regarding Biotechnology innovation organisation (BIO) which of the following is true?

- 1) The recently held convention was held under India's chairmanship
- 2) It helps towards a growing biotechnology industry involving research and development of innovative healthcare, agri, industrial and environmental products.

Options

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

B

The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) BIO 2017 was held in San Diego, USA in June, 2017 under USA's chairmanship.

The Indian delegation was led by Shri Y S Chowdary, Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences.

- The minister informed that Indian Government had several prestigious schemes like Ramalingaswamy Fellowship; DST Inspire, DBT- Wellcome Trust Fellowship

and IYBA etc that facilitate the re-entry of Indian researchers working abroad into India who are desirous of pursuing post-doctoral research in the country.

- India Biotech Handbook 2017, showcasing the strengths of India's fast growing \$ 42 bn bio-economy was released.

BIO is the world's largest trade association representing biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers and related organizations across the United States and in more than 30 other nations. BIO members are involved in the research and development of innovative healthcare, agricultural, industrial and environmental biotechnology products.

The BIO International Convention, hosted by BIO since 1993, is the largest global event for the biotechnology industry and attracts the biggest names in biotech, offers key networking and partnering opportunities, and provides insights and inspiration on the major trends affecting the industry. The BIO International Convention helps BIO fulfill its mission to help grow the global biotech industry

97. Regarding quantum computing, which of the following is true?

- 1) It uses qubits to store information
- 2) It function according to the principles of superposition and entanglement

Options

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

C

In a classical computer, information is stored using binary units, or bits. A bit is either a 0 or 1. A quantum computer instead takes advantage of quantum mechanical properties to process information using quantum bits, or qubits.

- A qubit can be both 0 or 1 at the same time, or any range of numbers between 0 and 1.
- They function according to two key principles of quantum physics: superposition and entanglement.
- Superposition means that each qubit can represent both a 1 and a 0 at the same time.
- Entanglement means that qubits in a superposition can be correlated with each other; that is, the state of one (whether it is a 1 or a 0) can depend on the state of another.

- Using these two principles, qubits can act as more sophisticated switches, enabling quantum computers to function in ways that allow them to solve difficult problems that are intractable using today's computers.
- The computing power of a quantum computer increases exponentially as the qubits are increased.

98. Regarding JeevanBindi recently seen in news, which of the following is correct ?

- A) It is a vermilion which cures iodine deficiency
- B) It is a genetically modified variety of lady's finger
- C) A portal to reduce drop out ratio in primary schools
- D) None of the above

A

Singapore based marketing agency and Maharashtra based NGO developed a Vermillion (Bindi) named Jeevan- Bindi which contains iodine.

It is medically enhanced version of regular bindi, embedded with iodine along with the adhesive base.

- Bindi deliver the daily requirement of iodine 100-150 adsorption through the skin.
- It need to be worn every day for up to eight hour to be effective.
- This initiative is supplemented with iodine pills available at community health centre.
- The initiative focus pregnant women because the effects of iodine deficiency are most severe in them and reflected in new-born.

99. Which of the following is true regarding stem cells?

- 1) They are derived from embryos and adult tissues
- 2) They are a class of undifferentiated cells that are able to differentiate into specialised cells

Options

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

C

Stem Cells: Stem cells are a class of undifferentiated cells that are able to differentiate into specialized cell types.

Commonly, stem cells come from two main sources: Embryos (embryonic stem cells) and Adult tissue (adult stem cells). Both are generally characterized by their potency, or potential to differentiate into different cell types. For eg: Pluripotent stem cells have the ability to differentiate into almost all cell types.

100. Regarding Kala azar which of the following is true?

- 1) It is a vector borne disease
- 2) It is caused by bacteria
- 3) It is endemic in eastern states of India

Options

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) 1 and 3
- D) All the above

C

Kala -Azar OR Visceral leishmaniasis

- It is a vector borne disease caused by a protozoan parasite of genus Leishmania.

Post Kala-azar Dermal Leishmaniasis (PKDL) is a condition

when *Leishmania donovani* (parasite) invades skin cells, and manifests as dermal lesions.

- Some of the kala-azar cases manifest PKDL after a few years of treatment