

FREE UPSC eBook

TOP
100
CURRENT AFFAIRS
Questions and Answers
with Detailed Solutions



**MOST IMPORTANT
TOPICS FROM 2017-18
FOR UPSC PRELIMS
G.S PAPER I**

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Top 100 Current Affairs Questions and Answers Most Important Topics from 2017-18

The Union Public Service commission (UPSC) conducts the Civil Services Examination (CSE) to recruit officers for various officer level all India services such as: the Indian Administrative Services (IAS), Indian Foreign Services (IFS), and Indian Police Services (IPS) etc. The exam is conducted in offline mode (pen-paper test). The UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination is scheduled to be held on 3rd June 2018.

Oliveboard brings to you a list of 100 questions that you must try for G.S Paper I for the upcoming UPSC Prelims Exam. These questions are developed by experts based on current affairs and the trends followed by UPSC in prelims question papers.


General Studies Paper I

Evaluation	Question Type	Marks:	Duration
Merit Ranking (in prelims)	General Studies	200	200 Hours

General Studies Paper I: Syllabus

- Current events of national and international importance
- History of India and Indian National Movement
- Indian and World Geography-Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World
- Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.
- General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change – that do not require subject specialization
- General Science.

FOR ANSWER KEY TO QUESTIONS, REFER TO THE END OF THE EBOOK.




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▶ **10** MOCK TESTS FOR
GENERAL STUDIES
PAPER 1

▶ **12** SECTIONAL
PRACTICE TESTS FOR
GENERAL STUDIES
PAPER 1

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Top 100 Current Affairs Questions and Answers
Most Important Topics from 2017-18

- 1. Which of the following situations appropriately explains "Winner's curse"?**
(1) High investments in low productive markets anticipating high dividends.
(2) Bidding of assets in auction exceeding its intrinsic value.
(3) Rise in income along with change in tax slab leading to reduced disposable income.
(4) A country with high growth rate failing to attract investments due to speculations of failing in future.
- 2. Consider the following statements:**
1) The phenomenon of "Son meta preference" has led to increase in number of "missing" women category.
2) Increase in income of men is a reason for decline in participation of women in labor force.

Select the correct statement(s) from given code:

- (1) 1 only
(2) 2 only
(3) Both 1 & 2
(4) Neither 1 nor 2
- 3. The Common Risk Mitigating Mechanism is a feature of**
(1) International Solar Alliance
(2) Kigali Agreement
(3) Sustainable Developmental Goals
(4) Sendai Framework
- 4. Tholpavakoothu is a folk art of which state?**
(1) Tamil Nadu
(2) Karnataka
(3) Kerala
(4) Andhra Pradesh
- 5. With reference to "Bombogenesis", consider the following statements:**
1) They are cyclones formed in mid-latitude region of the Earth.
2) It is a phenomenon of winter season.

Select the answer form given code:

- (1) 1 only
(2) 2 only
(3) Both 1 & 2
(4) Neither 1 nor 2
- 6. Consider the following statements regarding Indian Agriculture:**
1) Changes in weather even on a marginal scale leads to extreme negative impact.
2) Pulses are more vulnerable than cereals to weather shocks.

Select the correct statement(s) from the given code:

- (1) 1 only
(2) 2 only
(3) Both 1 & 2
(4) Neither 1 nor 2

7. Consider the following about Udayagiri Caves:

- 1) These caves house rock-cut temples.**
- 2) They were built under the patronage of Gupta rulers.**
- 3) The site is associated with Hinduism and Buddhism.**

Select the correct statement(s) from given code:

- (1) 1 only
- (2) 2 & 3 only
- (3) 1 & 3 only
- (4) 1 & 2 only

8. Injeti Srinivas committee is associated with

- (1) Modernization of armory of Indian Defence forces.
- (2) Reformation of criminal justice system
- (3) State funding of elections
- (4) Working of insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

9. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Vipassana?

- 1) It is sect of Buddhism based on ideas of Bhakti movement.**
- 2) It was taught by Lord Buddha.**

Select the answer from given code:

- (1) 1 only
- (2) 2 only
- (3) Both 1 & 2
- (4) Neither 1 nor 2

10. Which of the following correctly expresses the position of "Lagrange point 1"?

- (1) Between Sun and Earth
- (2) Behind Earth
- (3) Behind Sun
- (4) Between Moon and Earth

11. Which of the following appropriately explains "tax inversion"?

- (1) High income earners are taxed less than low-income earners.
- (2) Relocation of a company from higher tax nation to lower tax nation.
- (3) Manufacturing region gaining lesser tax than consuming region.
- (4) Expanding GDP generating lesser income from tax than earlier.

12. Consider the following statements:

- 1) Savings in India has shifted from bank deposits to market instruments.**
- 2) "India-type" investment slowdown is characterized by stress on balance sheet.**

Select the correct statement(s) from given code:

- (1) 1 only
- (2) 2 only
- (3) Both 1 & 2
- (4) Neither 1 nor 2

13. Match the following correctly:

Performance Art State

- 1) Kavadiya Bhats a) Jammu & Kashmir**
- 2) Maniharo Ras b) Rajasthan**
- 3) Ladishah c) Odisha**
- 4) Gotipua d) Gujarat**

Select the answer from given code:

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

14. Consider the following about Paryushan Parva:

- 1) It is a festival celebrated by Jain community.**
- 2) It is celebrated annually for self-purification and uplift of an individual.**

Select the correct statement(s) from the given code:

- (1) 1 only
- (2) 2 only
- (3) Both 1 & 2
- (4) Neither 1 nor 2

15. Which of the following about "NARI" is/are correct?

- 1) It is an online grievance redressal system on issues related to women.**
- 2) It was developed by Ministry of Women and Child Development.**
- 3) The portal provides for interaction between NGOs and Ministry officials.**

Select the answer form given code:

- (1) 1 & 2 only
- (2) 1,2 & 3
- (3) 2 & 3 only
- (4) 2 only

16. The Economic Survey 2017-18 points out which of the following is/are reasons for "Late Convergence Stall" in Indian economic development?

- 1) Hyper-globalization repudiation**
- 2) Thwarted structural transformation**
- 3) Regression in human capital.**
- 4) Stress on agricultural.**

Select the answer from given code:

- (1) 2,3 & 4 only
- (2) 1,3 & 4 only
- (3) 1,2,3 & 4
- (4) 1,2 & 3 only



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17. Consider the following statements:

- 1) It is an orthopaedic deformity.**
- 2) The reason for the defect is not fully known.**
- 3) It is curable form of defect.**

The above—mentioned statements refers to which of the following diseases?

- (1) Microcephaly
- (2) Clubfoot
- (3) Down syndrome
- (4) Spina bifida

18. Which of the following statements is correct about SWIFT system in banking?

- (1) Common standard for fixing interest rates for foreign borrowers.
- (2) Reporting system on investments made from offshore accounts.
- (3) Electronic messaging service to facilitate cross-border payments.
- (4) None of the above

19. Which of the following about "Operation Greens" is/are incorrect?

- 1) It is a price fixation scheme in agriculture.**
- 2) The objective is to promote Farmer Producers Organizations.**

Select the answer from given code:

- (1) 1 only
- (2) 2 only
- (3) Both 1 & 2
- (4) Neither 1 nor 2

20. SHAKTI program is under the aegis of which ministry?

- (1) Ministry of Human Resource Development
- (2) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (3) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- (4) Ministry of Coal

21. In India, U-shaped behavioral pattern is observed in which of the following scenarios?

- (1) Fertility rate
- (2) Women labor force participation
- (3) Foreign investment
- (4) Manufacturing sector-induced inflation

22. The objective behind launching PENCIL portal is to

- (1) Achieve Sustainable Development Goal of quality education
- (2) Rise the enrollment ratio in primary education
- (3) Monitor and implement regulations related to child labor
- (4) Develop digital infrastructure to introduce students to smart learning

23. Consider the following about Pant-Mirza Agreement of 1955:

- 1) It is an agreement between India and Pakistan.**
- 2) It deals with demarcation of boundary along Line of Control.**
- 3) State of Jammu & Kashmir is a party to this agreement.**

Select the code:

- (1) 1 only
- (2) 2 & 3 only
- (3) 1 & 2 only
- (4) 1, 2 & 3

24. Consider the following statements:

- 1) Stunted plant growth in Selvas of South America.**
- 2) Excessive release of carbon dioxide into atmosphere.**
- 3) Change in wind direction.**

Which of the above-mentioned is/are effects of El Nino?

- (1) 1 & 2 only
- (2) 3 only
- (3) 2 & 3 only
- (4) All of the above

25. The International North South Transport Corridor passes through which countries?

- 1) Iran**
- 2) Russia**
- 3) Armenia**
- 4) Turkey**
- 5) Azerbaijan**

Select the answer from given code:

- (1) 1, 2 & 5 only
- (2) 1, 2, 3 & 5 only
- (3) 2, 3 & 5 only
- (4) 1, 2 & 3 only

26. Recently Government of India has launched SPARSH yojana. What is it related to?

- (1) Collection of Ancient articles
- (2) Hand-gloves to Mine Workers
- (3) Postal stamps collection
- (4) Differently-abled persons health scheme

27. Which is/are the necessary criteria for granting the 'Classical language status' to any language?

- 1. Early texts of that language should be five hundred years old.**
- 2. The literary tradition of the language should be genuine and not borrowed from another speech community.**
- 3. Continuity should be there between the classical language and its later forms.**

Select the correct answer from the given code:

- (1) Only 1
- (2) 1 and 3
- (3) Only 2
- (4) 2 and 3

28. Consider the following statements about India's export sector:

- 1) There is a strong correlation between export performance and states' standard of living.**
- 2) The largest firms account for a much smaller share than in other comparable countries.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (1) 1 only
- (2) 2 only
- (3) Both 1 and 2
- (4) Neither 1 nor 2

29. Consider the following statements about the Indian Economy:

- 1) Indian economy is currently seventh largest in the world.**
- 2) On Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) basis, India is the third largest economy.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (1) 1 only
- (2) 2 only
- (3) Both 1 and 2
- (4) Neither 1 nor 2

30. Consider the following statements about the "Saubhagya" scheme:

- 1) It aims to provide energy access to all by last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all remaining un-electrified households in rural areas only.**
- 2) Only poor households will be provided electricity connection.**
- 3) It also has a provision to provide free electricity to the below poverty line households.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (1) 1 only
- (2) 2 and 3 only
- (3) 1, 2 and 3
- (4) None of the above

31. Consider the following statements about the Affordable Housing Fund:

- 1. It will be established under the National Housing Bank (NHB).**
- 2. It will cater to refinancing of housing finance companies.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (1) 1 only
- (2) 2 only
- (3) Both 1 and 2
- (4) Neither 1 nor 2

32. 'Kurdistan region' is often in news. which among the following countries includes at least some part of this region?

- 1) Jordan**
- 2) Armenia**
- 3) Syria**
- 4) Iraq**
- 5) Turkey**

Select the correct code.

- (1) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- (2) 1, 3 and 5
- (3) 2, 3, 4 and 5
- (4) 3 and 5

33. Which among the following statements is *incorrect* about 'Electoral bond'?

- (1) These bonds are interest free instruments to make anonymous donations to political parties.
- (2) Residents of India and organisations incorporated in India can buy these bonds.
- (3) A bond can only be encashed in a pre-declared account of a political party.
- (4) These bonds are KYC compliant.

34. With respect to recently announced 'Liveability Index', Consider the following statements:

- 1) All municipalities in the countries would be evaluated in order of the quality of life.**
- 2) It would be launched by Ministry of Housing.**
- 3) This programme would receive assistance from 'World Bank'.**

Select the correct statement(s) from the given code:

- (1) 2 and 3
- (2) Only 1
- (3) Only 2
- (4) 1 and 3

35. Recently, Rhodendron park was launched in which state?

- (1) Himachal Pradesh
- (2) Uttarakhand
- (3) Arunachal Pradesh
- (4) Jammu and Kashmir

36. Which among the following statements is/are correct about 'Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food (RUTF)'?

- 1) It is a packaged paste rich in calories.**
- 2) UNICEF is the primary global procurer of RUTF.**
- 3) Implementation of RUTF may impose a massive financial burden on the government.**

Select the answer from the given code:

- (1) 1 and 2
- (2) 2 and 3
- (3) 1 and 3
- (4) All the above

37. "Operation Cactus" was in news recently. Which of the following was correct about it?

- (1) India's Mission in Maldives Political crisis
- (2) India's Mission in Sri Lankan Civil war
- (3) To eliminate enemies in Siachen Glacier
- (4) To free Goa and Daman, Diu from the Portuguese.

38. Recently India has acceded to Ashgabat Agreement as a member. Which of the following statement (s) is/are correct about this agreement/ organization?

- 1. It seeks to promote Infrastructure in the South-East Asia region.**
- 2. Pakistan is also a member of this agreement.**
- 3. It is a part of the One Belt One Road Initiative of China.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (1) 1 only
- (2) 1 and 2 only
- (3) 2 only
- (4) 1 and 3 only

39. What is a "Paleo-channel", which is seen often in the news?

- (1) An application of Nanotechnology which infuses medicine in blood vessels
- (2) Advanced form of Irrigation.
- (3) Arteries that causes circulation of food and water in plant
- (4) Remnant of a Dead River

40. Which of the Jain pilgrim place is associated with "Mahamastaka- Abhisheka festival"?

- (1) Vaishali
- (2) Pavapuri
- (3) Vallabhi
- (4) Shravanabelagola

41. Which of the following organization releases "Environmental Performance Index"?

- (1) United Nations Environmental Programme
- (2) United Nations development Programme
- (3) World Economic Forum
- (4) Green Peace Organization

42. Consider the following statements related to 'Paschim Lehar' that was in the news recently:

- 1) It is the first ever joint naval exercise between India and Vietnam.**
- 2) The exercise was held in the Bay of Bengal.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (1) Only a
- (2) Only b
- (3) a and b both
- (4) neither a nor b

43. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Fog Holes' observed over New Delhi:

- 1) It caused by a phenomenon called Urban Heat Island.**
- 2) Pollution plays an important role in their creation**

Select the correct statement(s) from the given code:

- (1) Only a
- (2) Only b
- (3) a and b both
- (4) neither a nor b

44. What was the philosophy of Saint Ramanujacharya?

- (1) Advaita
- (2) Dvaita
- (3) Nyaya
- (4) Vishishtadvaita

45. Which of the following is/are correct about the impacts of recently launched "SmartE" initiative?

- 1) Reduction of pollution levels.**
- 2) Generation of employment for marginalized youth.**
- 3) Scientific segregation of e-wastage.**

Select the answer form given code:

- (1) 1 & 3 only
- (2) 1 & 2 only
- (3) 2 only
- (4) All of the above



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46. Which of the following is correct about Graded Surveillance Measure?

- 1) The initiative is aimed at alerting investors trading in securities.**
- 2) The surveillance measure consists of six stages, with first stage having the minimum level of restrictions.**

Select the code:

- (1) 1 only
- (2) 2 only
- (3) Both 1 & 2
- (4) Neither 1 nor 2

47. With respect to Mathamma system, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1) It is practiced by Madiga community.**
- 2) It is similar to Devadasi system.**
- 3) The system is practiced in North and North-western India.**

Select the answer form given code:

- (1) 1 & 3 only
- (2) 3 only
- (3) 1 & 2 only
- (4) 2 only

48. Which of the following situations are appropriate example for Nudge economics?

- (1) Automatic enrollment for pension scheme with an option to opt-out.
- (2) Making drivers law-abiding by reducing the penalties for jumping the road signal.
- (3) Selling of same product with same quality with increased quantity for previous price.
- (4) Maintaining same price for goods despite reduction in expenditure of their production.

49. Crassulacean Acid Metabolism (CAM) in plants is a form of

- (1) Biomass allocation mechanism
- (2) Resilience to fungal attack
- (3) Modified form of photosynthesis
- (4) Root penetration technique to absorb water

50. Consider the following about Rogan Art:

- 1) It is a native art of India.**
- 2) Khatri community is associated with this art form.**
- 3) It is a form of oil painting made on piece of cloth.**

Select the correct statement(s) form the given code:

- (1) 1 only
- (2) 2 & 3 only
- (3) 3 only
- (4) 1,2 & 3

51. Establishment of UNESCO's "Category-2 Centre" in India will help to achieve which of the following Sustainable Development Goals?

- (1) Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- (2) Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- (3) Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.
- (4) Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.

52. The recently launched "LaQshya" initiative aims to achieve

- (1) Decent wage system for labours in unorganized sector.
- (2) Develop the scientific temper among school children by association them in research.
- (3) To reduce preventable maternal and new-born mortality.
- (4) None of the above

53. Which of the following statements about "Flink" is/are correct?

- 1) It is a form of 3D printing technology.**
- 2) Studies have shown it to possess environment polluting properties.**

Select the answer from given code:

- (1) 1 only
- (2) 2 only
- (3) Both 1 & 2
- (4) Neither 1 nor 2

54. Consider the following statements about Corotating Interaction Regions:

- 1) It is a cause for formation of Solar storms.**
- 2) They are wavelike disturbances rotating around sun.**
- 3) They are easily to observe and study.**

Which of the above-mentioned statements are correct?

- (1) 1, 2 & 3
- (2) 1 & 3 only
- (3) 2 & 3 only
- (4) 1 & 2 only

55. Which of the following art forms and states is/are *incorrectly* matched?

- 1) Chhapeli dance- Uttarakhand**
- 2) Perini Natyam – Telangana**
- 3) Oggu Dollu – Odisha**

Select the answer from given code:

- (1) 1 only
- (2) 2 & 3 only
- (3) 1, 2 & 3
- (4) 3 only

56. Consider the following about Tholpavakoothu:

- 1) It is a theater art form practiced in Kerala.**
- 2) Ramayana is the prominent play staged in this art form.**

Select the correct statement(s) from given code:

- (1) 1 only
- (2) 2 only
- (3) Both 1 & 2
- (4) Neither 1 nor 2

57. EcAMSat mission, a space project is aimed to study

- (1) Environmental dangers posed by space debris.
- (2) Impact of magnetic field of asteroids on other celestial bodies.
- (3) Influence of radiation on aging process of humans undertaking spaceflights.
- (4) Effect of microgravity on bacterial antibiotic resistance.

58. "360-degree rating system" is associated with

- (1) Industrial productivity in India after implementation of tax reforms
- (2) Performance of United Nation's member countries in poverty eradication
- (3) Pollution level of water bodies on different parameters
- (4) Feedback mechanism on performance of bureaucrats

59. Performing which of the following actions violates the constitution under the rights guaranteed for freedom of religion?

- (1) Propagation of one's religious beliefs to persuade other person to follow his/her religion.
- (2) A religious institution denying an official post within the organization to a person of different belief system.
- (3) State spending on reconstruction of religious place affected by communal violence.
- (4) None of the above

60. Consider the following:

- 1) Matters of Admiralty**
- 2) Intra-court appeals in civil matters**
- 3) Original civil jurisdiction on cases of higher value**
- 4) Original criminal jurisdiction**

Which of the above-mentioned matters differentiate jurisdiction powers of Madras, Calcutta & Bombay High Courts from other High Courts?

- (1) 1 & 3 only
- (2) 2 & 4 only
- (3) 1 & 4 only
- (4) 2 & 3 only

61. Eco-bridges are proposed to be constructed in which of the following tiger reserves?

- (1) Kalakad-Mundanthurai
- (2) Sanjay-Dubri
- (3) Dandeli-Anshi
- (4) Tadoba-Andhari

62. Consider the following about Economic Advisory Council:

- 1) It is an independent body to give advice on economic issues to the Prime Minister.**
- 2) It has powers to address macroeconomic issues on suo-motu basis.**

Which of the above-mentioned statements is/are correct?

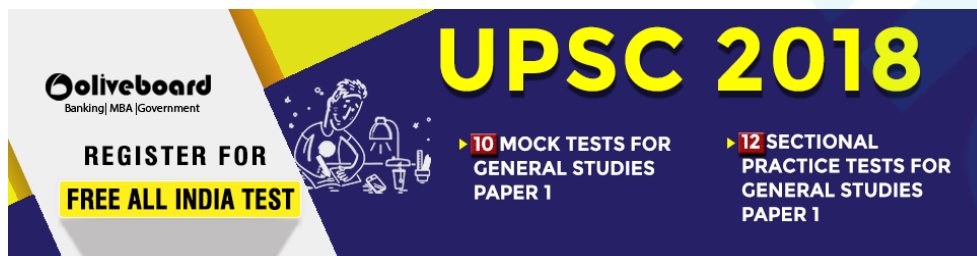
- (1) 1 only
- (2) 2 only
- (3) Both 1 & 2
- (4) Neither 1 nor 2

63. Which of the following statements about Peer-to-Peer lending (P2P) platforms is/are correct?

- 1) They are online platforms which provide unsecured loans.**
- 2) The loans raised through these platforms doesn't carry any interest.**
- 3) They are regulated by RBI.**

Select the answer from the given code:

- (1) 1 only
- (2) 2 & 3 only
- (3) 1 & 3 only
- (4) None of the above



The banner is for Oliveboard's UPSC 2018 preparation material. It features the Oliveboard logo on the left, which includes the text 'Banking | MBA | Government'. The central part of the banner has a dark blue background with a yellow and white illustration of a person studying at a desk with a lamp. To the right of the illustration, the text 'UPSC 2018' is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Below this, there are two columns of text in white, each preceded by a yellow arrow icon. The first column says '10 MOCK TESTS FOR GENERAL STUDIES PAPER 1' and the second column says '12 SECTIONAL PRACTICE TESTS FOR GENERAL STUDIES PAPER 1'. On the far left, there is a yellow box with the text 'REGISTER FOR FREE ALL INDIA TEST'.

64. With respect to India-UN Development Partnership Fund, consider the following statements:

- 1) The fund aims to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.**
- 2) The fund is managed by Government of India along with World Bank.**
- 3) It focusses on the least developed countries and Small Island Developing States.**

Select the correct statement(s) from the given code:

- (1) 1 & 2 only
- (2) 1, 2 & 3
- (3) 2 & 3 only
- (4) 1 & 3 only

65. Transformation of Aspirational Districts programme is under the aegis of

- (1) NITI Aayog
- (2) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- (3) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (4) Prime Minister's Office

66. Consider the following statements about Syed Ahmad Khan:

- 1) Publisher of Tehzeeb-ul-Ikhlaq journal.**
- 2) Founder of Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College, which is referred to as Aligarh movement.**
- 3) He was a member of Muslim League in its initial stages.**

Select the correct answer:

- (1) 1 & 2 only
- (2) 2 & 3 only
- (3) 2 only
- (4) All of the above

67. Consider the following statements:

- 1) It is famous for the flowering species Neelakurinji.**
- 2) It is home to a near threatened species called Grizzled Giant Squirrel.**
- 3) The sanctuary is situated along the Western Ghats.**

The above-mentioned statements refer to which of the following wildlife sanctuaries?

- (1) Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary
- (2) Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary
- (3) Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary
- (4) Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary

68. Programme "i3" is associated with which among the following purposes?

- (1) Aiding industrial revolution in India by boosting MSME output.
- (2) Inculcating innovative thinking among school children.
- (3) Promoting pharmaceutical industry in India.
- (4) Development of third generation artificial intelligence technologies in India.

69. Among the following, which statements are correct with reference to The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2016

- a) The Act provides for the constitution of the Medical Council of India (MCI).
- b) The MCI regulates the standards of medical education.
- c) permission to start colleges and Hospitals.

Options:

- (1) Only a
- (2) Only a and c
- (3) Only b and c
- (4) Only a and b

70. Among the following Questions which are correct

- a) In the Global Hunger Index, India ranked at low 100th position out of 119 countries.
- b) India's rank is better than Bangladesh
- c) The Index is developed by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Options:

- (1) Only a
- (2) Only b and c
- (3) Only a and c
- (4) Only a and b

71. Consider the following regarding Competition Appellate Tribunal (COMPAT) of India

- a) It is a statutory body under Competition Commission of India
- b) They have the power similar to Criminal Courts
- c) The Appellate Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908

Which of the above statements are true?

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

72. Consider the following statements

- a) When two full moons appear in the same calendar month, the second is termed a "blue moon".
- b) "Blood Moon" occurs when the full moon is at the closest point of its orbit to the Earth

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (1) Only a
- (2) Only b
- (3) Both a and b
- (4) Neither a nor b



- 73. The National Testing Agency (NTA), creation of which was recently approved by the Union Cabinet, will**
- a) Conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions which are currently being conducted by CBSE**
 - b) Undertake hands-on training for some rural students**
 - c) Conduct entrance examinations offline**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

- 74. With reference to 'Ganga Gram Project', which among the following statements is/are correct?**

- a) It is an urbanisation based integrated development project.**
- b) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation is the nodal agency for implementation of the Ganga Gram Project.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (1) Only a
- (2) Only b
- (3) Both a and b
- (4) Neither a nor b

- 75. Consider the following pairs of Initiatives of Ministry of Human Resource Development and their Objectives.**

- 1. E-Pathshala: Repository of Ph.D. theses**
- 2. Swayam: Open On-line Courses (MOOCs) on all kinds of subjects**
- 3. Shodhganga : Digital repository of NCERT books**

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (1) 1, 2 and 3
- (2) Only 2 and 3
- (3) Only 2
- (4) None of the above

- 76. Consider the following statements with reference to Green Good Deeds campaign**

- a) It was launched by ministry of Agriculture**
- b) It is to sensitize the people and students, in particular, about climate change and global warming.**

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- (1) Only a
- (2) Only b
- (3) Both a and b
- (4) Neither a nor b

77. Consider the following Statements with reference to 'Quit India Movement'

- a) The Failure of Cripps mission was one of the reasons for launching if the movement
- b) Aruna Asif Ali played a major role in second phase of the movement

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (1) Only a
- (2) Only b
- (3) Both a and b
- (4) Neither a nor b

78. Consider the following statements about World Food Programme (WFP)

- a) It is a member of the United Nations Development Group
- b) It is directed to fight micronutrient deficiencies, reduce child mortality and improve maternal health
- c) FITTEST is a small, elite, technical team of emergency responders within the IT division of the World Food Programme (WFP)

Select the Incorrect Statements

- (1) Only a
- (2) Only b
- (3) Both c
- (4) None of the above

79. Consider the following Statements about 'Rotavac'

- a) It is India's first indigenously developed vaccine which is pre-qualified by WHO
- b) "pre-qualified" vaccine can be sold internationally to several countries in Africa and South America.
- c) The vaccine was included in India's national immunisation programme.

Select the correct Statements.

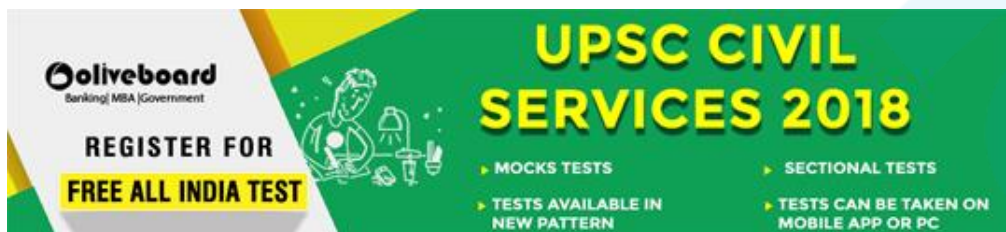
- (1) Only a, b and c
- (2) Only b and c
- (3) All are correct
- (4) None of the above

80. Which of the following countries are part of the MITI-V group also called as the Mighty Five Countries?

- a) Myanmar
- b) Malaysia
- c) Indonesia
- d) Philippines
- e) India

Options

- (1) All of the above
- (2) Only b, c and e
- (3) Only a, b ,c and d
- (4) Only b, c and d



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81. Consider the following statements.

- a) "Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)" is the new sub-scheme under the 'Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana'
- b) 'Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana' was launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Select the correct statements.

- (1) Only a
- (2) Only b
- (3) Both a and b
- (4) Neither a nor b

82. Consider the following statements

- a) PRATYUSH and MIHIR are high computing facilities for surveillance and defence purposes
- b) SARAS, an indigenous light transport aircraft has been successfully tested.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- (1) Only a
- (2) Only b
- (3) Both a and b
- (4) None of the above

83. Consider the following statements with reference to India State of Forest Report 2017 (ISFR)

- a) There has been a decrease in the total mangrove cover compared to previous assessment
- b) The extent of water bodies inside forest cover has increased as compared to previous assessment
- c) The Total Forest and Tree Cover has increased as compared to previous assessment

Which of the above statements is/are True?

- (1) Only a
- (2) Only b and c
- (3) a, b and c
- (4) None of the above

84. Consider the following statements with reference to India Joining a few multilateral export control regimes (MECR)

- a) Joined 'Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)', which is aiming to control spread of chemical and biological weapons.
- b) Joined 'Australian Group', which is related to transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (1) Only a
- (2) Only b
- (3) Both a and b
- (4) Neither a nor b

85. The Commission of Railway Safety works under the administrative control of

- (1) Ministry of Railways
- (2) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- (3) Ministry of Civil Aviation
- (4) Ministry of Home Affairs

86. Consider the following statements with reference to 'an artificial leaf'.

- a) It will create hydrogen fuel from sunlight**
- b) Photosynthesis is a process used by plants and other organisms to convert light energy into chemical energy**

Select the correct statements.

- (1) Only a
- (2) Only b
- (3) Both a and b
- (4) None of the above

87. Recently Eastern Europe experienced 'Orange Snow', what was the reason for this?

- (1) Mixing of Sulphur emissions with Water vapour
- (2) Collision of Siberian cold winds with dust filled winds from Sahara desert
- (3) Collision of Himalayan cold winds with dust filled winds from Thar desert
- (4) Collision of Siberian cold winds with dust filled winds from Atacama desert

88. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been in news for some time now. What are the technologies that help in development of AI?

- a) Machine Learning**
- b) Deep learning platforms**
- c) Natural Language Generation**
- d) Speech Recognition**

Options

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

89. Consider the following statements with respect to E-RaKam Portal

- a) The government recently launched an e-auction portal e- RaKam for selling agricultural produce.**
- b) Aims to help farmers get reasonable price for their farm produce**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (1) Only a
- (2) Only b
- (3) Both a and b
- (4) Neither a nor b

90. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Hamburg Action Plan' and select the correct ones.

- a) This plan was proposed at the end of 'G20 summit 2017'.**
- b) This plan was proposed to address major global challenges, including climate change, harnessing digitalisation, and to contribute to prosperity and well-being.**

Options

- (1) Both a and b
- (2) Neither a nor b
- (3) Only a
- (4) Only b

91. Polio Disease is still endemic in which of the following countries.

- a) Pakistan
- b) Gabon
- c) Nigeria
- d) Afghanistan
- e) Somalia

Options

- (1) a, b and d only
- (2) a and d only
- (3) a, d and e only
- (4) None of the above

92. Which of the following statements are incorrect?

- a) The 'Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Mechanism' was initiated and is led by China
- b) It relates to the mining of rare minerals.

Options

- (1) Only a
- (2) Only b
- (3) Both a and b
- (4) None of the above.

93. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Methanol Economy'

- a) The Road map for it is being prepared by Ministry of Finance
- b) It aims to achieve substantial annual reduction in Crude Imports by 2030
- c) This would be achieved by Methanol replacing conventional fuels

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- (1) Only a
- (2) Only b
- (3) Only c
- (4) All are correct

94. Ahmedabad gets status of India's first World Heritage City by UNESCO. Consider the following statements:

- a) Three world heritage cities lie in South Asia, other two are in Nepal and Sri Lanka
- b) Ahmedabad was founded by Ahmed Shah I.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (1) Only a
- (2) Only b
- (3) Both a and b
- (4) None of the above

95. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Ayushman Bharat'.

- a) It aims to provide govt sponsored Health insurance to all
- b) the benefits will include cashless treatment facility

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (1) Only a
- (2) only b
- (3) Both a and b
- (4) Neither a nor b

96.The 'Astana consensus' is related to which 2 countries?

- (1) India and Afghanistan
- (2) India and Kazakhstan
- (3) India and China
- (4) China and Kazakhstan

97.Consider the following statements with reference to 'Bakhshali Manuscript'

- a) First record of the use of mathematical symbol zero is found in this manuscript.**
- b) It is the oldest Indian Mathematical text**

Select the correct statements.

- (1) only a
- (2) only b
- (3) Both a and b
- (4) Neither a nor b

98.Consider the following statements –

- a) INS KALVARI and INS KHANDERI are Scorpene submarines**
- b) These are the Part of 'PROJECT-75' of Indian Navy for building Scorpene submarines**

Select the correct statements from above.

- (1) Only a
- (2) Only b
- (3) Both a and b
- (4) Neither a nor b

99.Hyperloop Technology is based on which of the following principles?

- (1) Quantum Teleportation
- (2) Electromagnetic Acceleration
- (3) Magnetic Levitation
- (4) None of the above

100._Recently Kesaria Stupa has been declared a monument of national importance by 'Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)', It was built by which of the following rulers?

- (1) Chandra Gupta Maurya
- (2) Samudra Gupta
- (3) Ashoka
- (4) Harshavardhana

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1. Answer key: 2

Solution:

The winner's curse is a tendency for the winning bid in an auction to exceed the intrinsic value or true worth of an item. Because of incomplete information, emotions or any other number of factors regarding the item being auctioned, bidders can have a difficult time determining the item's intrinsic value.

The Economic Survey 2017-18 has mentioned Winner's curse as a reason for challenges faced by economy. In the case of spectrum, coal, and renewables, auctions may have led to a winners' curse, whereby firms overbid for assets, leading to adverse consequences in each of the sectors; but they created transparency and avoided rent-seeking with enormous benefits, actual and perceptual.

Source: Economic Survey 2017-18

2. Answer key: 2

Solution:

The phenomenon of **son meta-preference** which involves parents adopting fertility "stopping rules" – having children until the desired number of sons are born. This meta-preference leads naturally to the notional category of **"unwanted" girls**.

The Phenomenon of **"son preference"** where development is not proving to be an antidote. Son preference giving rise to sex selective abortion and differential survival has led to skewed sex ratios at birth and beyond, leading to estimates of 63 million **"missing" women**. So, the categories of missing and unwanted women have different implications. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

On the supply side, increased incomes of men allows Indian women to withdraw from the labor force, thereby avoiding the stigma of working; higher education levels of women also allow them to pursue leisure and other non-work activities. On the demand side, the structural transformation of Indian agriculture due to farm mechanization results in a lower demand for female agricultural laborers. So, statement 2 is correct.

Source: Economic Survey 2017-18

3. Answer key: 1

Solution:

International Solar Alliance has been developing a Common Risk Mitigating Mechanism (CRMM) for de-risking and reducing the financial cost of solar projects in the ISA member countries. The instrument will help diversify and pool risks on mutual public resources and unlock significant investments.

Source: PIB (December 2017)

4. Answer key: 3

Solution:

Tholpavakoothu, a 2,000-year-old shadow puppet art form practised in Thrissur, Palakkad and Malappuram districts of Kerala.

Episodes (Kandams) of the Kamba Ramayana are staged in this art form. Legend has it that as Bhagavathy, or the Mother Goddess, was fighting the demon Darika, she could not watch the Rama-Ravana war. So, the Ramayana is staged for her.

The Koothu is performed on a stage called Koothumadam, and many temples have such permanent structures. The 42-foot-long stage has a screen (white cloth) behind which the puppets are held. The shadow play unfolds in the light cast by lamps lit in coconut shells. When the shlokas are recited, the puppets are moved to the accompaniment of musical instruments such as the chenda, maddalam, ezhupara, ilathalam, conch and cherukuzhal. The performance starts around 8 p.m. and winds up at dawn. The puppets were made using deer skin in the past, but now goat and buffalo hide is used. The puppets are mounted on bamboo shafts that act as supports for the flat figures and allow the puppeteers to manipulate them.

Source: The Hindu (November 2017)

5. Answer key: 3

Solution:

Bombogenesis, a popular term used by meteorologists, occurs when a midlatitude cyclone rapidly intensifies, dropping at least 24 millibars over 24 hours. A millibar measures atmospheric pressure. This can happen when a cold air mass collides with a warm air mass, such as air over warm ocean waters. The formation of this rapidly strengthening weather system is a process called bombogenesis, which creates what is known as a bomb cyclone. These bomb cyclones are winter weather storms, which are predominately occur in Northern Hemisphere. So, both the statements are correct.

Source: The Hindu (January 2018)

6. Answer key: 2

Solution:

The analysis Economic Survey 2017-18 suggests that in the Indian context, such marginal changes in weather have little or no impact, and that the adverse effects of weather are concentrated in the extremes. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

Findings of Economic Survey 2017-18 shows the varied susceptibility of different crops to temperature and precipitation. The crops grown in rainfed areas—pulses in both kharif and rabi—are vulnerable to weather shocks while the cereals—both rice and wheat—are relatively more immune. So, statement 2 is correct.

Source: Economic Survey 2017-18

7. Answer key: 4

Solution:

The Udayagiri caves are in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh. It is famous for a series of rock-cut caves and temples dating back to the Gupta Period. So, statement 1 is correct.

They lie on two low sandstone hills between the rivers Betwa and Bes. They fell directly on the Tropic of Cancer and thus the name translates to Mount of Sunrise. On the day of summer solstice, the sun would have been directly overhead, making this a place of worship. It is built under the patronage of the mighty Gupta ruler Chandragupta II Vikramaditya. So, statement 2 is correct.

This site has iconography related to Vaishnavism, Shaivism and Shaktism (Durga), as well as important inscriptions from the Gupta period. So, statement 3 is incorrect.

Source: The Hindu (February 2018)

8. Answer key: 4

Solution:

With rising number of cases under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, the government has set up a 14-member panel to identify and suggest ways to address issues faced in implementation of the law. The Insolvency Law Committee, chaired by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas, would take stock of the implementation of the Code. The panel would identify issues that might "impact the efficiency of the corporate insolvency resolution and liquidation framework" as well as make recommendations to address them.

Source: The New Indian Express (November 2017)

9. Answer key: 2

Solution:

Vipassana - a meditation technique taught by Lord Buddha. This practice includes three simple precepts - Morality, Concentration of mind and Self realisation through awareness and insight. It is a non-sectarian meditation technique that applies equally on all human beings irrespective of caste, religion, language, gender or age.

Source: PIB (January 2018)

10. Answer key: 1

Solution:

Lagrangian point, in astronomy, a point in space at which a small body, under the gravitational influence of two large ones, will remain approximately at rest relative to them. Lagrangian point 1 (L1) is a position between Sun and Earth. In a Sun-Earth system, satellite placed in this position has the advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any occultation/ eclipses. (Aditya-L1 mission of ISRO is recently in news.)

Source: PIB (December 2017) & ISRO

11. Answer key: 2

Solution:

Tax inversion is the practice of relocating a corporation's legal domicile to a lower-tax nation, or tax haven, usually while retaining its material operations in its higher-tax country of origin. Economic Survey 2017-18, regards tax inversion as a reason for input tax credits getting blocked, whereby taxes further back in the chain are greater than those up the chain.

Source: Economic Survey 2017-18

12. Answer key: 3

Solution:

There has been a marginal increase in the holding of financial assets. Even that savings has shift from currency and bank deposits towards market instruments, viz. shares and debentures. So, statement 1 is correct.

India's investment slowdown is unusual in that it is so far relatively moderate in magnitude, long in duration, and started from a relatively high peak rate of 36 percent of GDP.

Furthermore, it has a specific nature, in that it is a balance sheet-related slowdown. This is referred to as India-type investment slowdown. In other words, many companies have had to curtail their investments because their finances are stressed, as the investments they undertook during the boom have not generated enough revenues to allow them to service the debts that they have incurred. So, statement 2 is correct.

Source: Economic Survey 2017-18

13. Answer key: 1

Solution:

Kavadiya Bhats of Rajasthan, Bhand Pather and Ladishah of Kashmir, Maniharo Ras and Siddhi Dhamal from Gujarat, Gotipua from Odisha, Tamang Shello from Sikkim.

Kavadiya Bhats- singing is known as 'Kaavad Banchna' and the singer commonly known as Kavadiya Bhats.

Ladishah- form of conveying the message in poetry and in a sarcastic manner.

Siddhi Damal- Tribal Dance of Gujarat performed by Siddhi Goma.

Gotipua- performed by young boys who dress up as female to praise Lord Jagannath and Lord Krishna.

Source: PIB (October 2017)

14. Answer key: 3

Solution:

Paryushan Parva is celebrated by the Jain Community. It is celebrated by both sects- Shvetambars and Digambars. It is observed every year in the auspicious month 'Bhadrapad' of the Hindu calendar. So, statement 1 is correct.

It is celebrated annually for self-purification and uplift. The last day of Paryushan Parva is observed as Samvatsari. This is indeed a remarkable tradition. The festival of Samvatsari is symbolic of forgiveness, non-violence and brotherhood. It is also known as the Kshamavani Parva. So, statement 2 is correct.

Source: PIB (August 2017)

15. Answer key: 4

Solution:

NARI portal was developed by the Ministry of Women & Child Development, the portal will provide women citizens with easy access to information on government schemes and initiatives for women. In order to make this information more easily accessible in one place, the NARI portal summarizes over 350 government schemes and other important information for the benefit of women, with more being added everyday. It provides links to the Ministries, Departments and autonomous bodies offering these schemes as well as easy access to online applications and grievance redressal. To provide a platform for NGOs and Civil Societies to interact with the Ministry of Women & Child Development, **e-Samvad portal** has also been developed.

Source: PIB (January 2018)

16. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

Late Convergence refers to a period between 2008 to 2017, where developing countries try to catch up with developed countries in terms of economic development.

The possibility of such a "Late Converger Stall" arises because of four possible headwinds in the post-Global Financial Crisis era that were largely absent for the early convergers such as Japan and Korea. These headwinds include: the backlash against globalization which reduces exporting opportunities, the difficulties of transferring resources from low productivity to higher productivity sectors (structural transformation), the challenge of upgrading human capital to the demands of a technology-intensive workplace, and coping with climate change-induced agricultural stress.

Source: Economic Survey 2017-18

17. Answer key: 2**Solution:**

Clubfoot is a congenital deformity, meaning a birth defect, which twists the foot, making it difficult or impossible to walk. The exact reasons for this congenital disability are not fully known. It is an orthopaedic defect, meaning conditions involving the musculoskeletal system.

Source: PIB (November 2017)

18. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

The SWIFT is a global member-owned cooperative that is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. It was founded in 1973 by a group of 239 banks from 15 countries which formed a co-operative utility to develop a secure electronic messaging service and common standards to facilitate cross-border payments. is a secure financial message carrier — in other words, it transports messages from one bank to its intended bank recipient. Its core role is to provide a secure transmission channel so that Bank A knows that its message to Bank B goes to Bank B and no one else. Bank B, in turn, knows that Bank A, and no one other than Bank A, sent, read or altered the message en route.

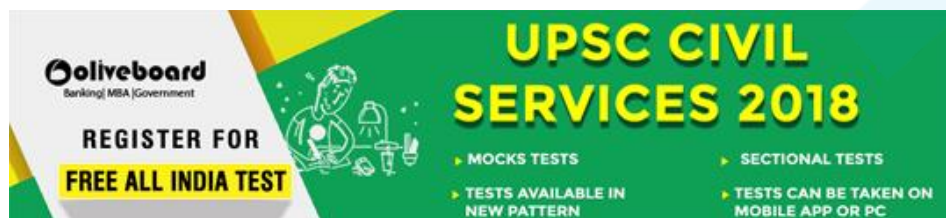
Source: The Hindu (February 2018)

19. Answer key: 4**Solution:**

The idea behind Operation Greens is to double the income of farmers by end of 2022. Operation is essentially a price fixation scheme that aims to ensure farmers are given the right price for their produce. So, statement 1 is correct.

Operation Greens aims to promote farmer producers organisations, agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management. The operation aims to aid farmers and help control and limit the erratic fluctuations in the prices of onions, potatoes and tomatoes. So, statement 2 is also correct.

Source: Union Budget 2018-19



The banner is for Oliveboard's UPSC Civil Services 2018 preparation. It features the Oliveboard logo on the left, which includes the text 'Banking| MBA | Government'. The main title 'UPSC CIVIL SERVICES 2018' is in large, bold, yellow letters. Below the title, there are four bullet points: '▶ MOCKS TESTS', '▶ TESTS AVAILABLE IN NEW PATTERN', '▶ SECTIONAL TESTS', and '▶ TESTS CAN BE TAKEN ON MOBILE APP OR PC'. On the left side of the banner, there is a call to action: 'REGISTER FOR FREE ALL INDIA TEST'. The background is green with some white line art illustrations of people studying.

20. Answer key: 4**Solution:**

SHAKTI is policy for allocation of future coal linkages in a transparent manner for power sector. As a part of this policy, Coal India Limited is to grant coal linkages on notified price on auction basis for Independent Power Producers (IPPs) having already concluded domestic coal based Power Purchase Agreement (PPAs), with the bidding parameter being levelled discount on existing tariff that the IPP is willing to provide.

Source: PIB (September 2017)

21. Answer key: 2**Solution:**

The percentage of women who work has declined over time, from 36 percent of women being employed in 2005-06 to 24 percent of women being employed in 2015-16. Economic Survey points this to Goldin's U-shaped behavior of female labor force participation with respect to development. India is on the downward part of the "U" and more so than comparable countries.

Source: Economic Survey 2017-18

22. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

The purpose of this portal is to provide a mechanism for both enforcement of the provisions of Child & Adolescent Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and effective implementation of the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for rehabilitation of child & adolescent labour. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

The main components of PENCIL portal are complaint corner, child & adolescent labour tracking system, NCLP and State Resource Centre which are connected with the Ministry of Labour & Employment. Further, the data obtained on the portal is to be shared with Ministry of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. At the State Government level the monitoring is to be done by State Resource Centre established at State Labour Department. At district level District Nodal Officers (DNOs) are nominated to take action on the complaints of their respective districts.

Source: PIB (December 2017)

23. Answer key: 1**Solution:**

Pant-Mirza Agreement of 1955 deals with Prevention of Border Incidents and protection of places of worship. Ministry of Minority Affairs is responsible for protection and preservation of non-Muslim shrines in Pakistan and Muslim shrines in India in terms of the Pant-Mirza Agreement of 1955, in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs.

Source: PIB (July 2017) & Ministry of External Affairs

24. Answer key: 4**Solution:**

El Nino is a periodic climate event that causes waters to warm up in east-central Pacific Ocean, which in turn causes huge changes in wind directions bringing less rain to south-east Asia and the Indian subcontinent, while increasing rain in other parts of the world.

According to a new study, El Nino has also led to excessive carbon dioxide releases in three ways. Hot weather and drought caused extensive wildfires in south-east Asia, while drought in the Amazon rainforest (Selvas) stunted plant growth, reducing the amount of carbon they absorb while growing. Besides these, warmer weather and near normal rainfall in Africa caused forests to exhale more CO₂.

Source: Economic Times (August 2017)

25. Answer key: 1

Solution:

India's ratification of TIR convention has increased the significance of INSTC. The trade route starts from India, passes through Iran, Azerbaijan and Russia.



Source: PIB (June 2017)

26. Answer key: 3

Solution:

Government has launched 'Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby-SPARSH Yojana' to promote the collection and study of the Postal stamps. It is a pan-India scheme to reward students pursuing Philately i.e. study of postal stamps as a hobby.

Source: PIB website (3 November)

27. Answer key: 3

Solution:

Currently, the proposal of granting 'a classical language status' to Marathi language is under consideration. At present, six languages i.e. Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia have been given status of classical languages. Expert committee of 'Sahitya Academy' mentioned four criteria for a classical language,

- High antiquity of its early texts/ recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years.
- A body of ancient literature/ texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.
- The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community.

- The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

Source: PIB and The Hindu

28. Answer key: 3

Solution:

As an information repository, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) embodies and heralds a radical alteration and enlargement in the understanding of the Indian economy. As per the recent economic survey, data on the international exports of states (the first in India's history) suggests a strong correlation between export performance and states' standard of living. India's exports are unusual in that the largest firms account for a much smaller share of exports than in other comparable countries.

Source: Economic Survey

29. Answer key: 3

Solution:

Indian economy is now 2.5 trillion dollar economy currently. It is seventh largest in the world. India is expected to become the fifth largest economy very soon. On Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) basis, we are already the third largest economy.

Source: Budget 2018-19

30. Answer key: 4

Solution:

Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – "Saubhagya" a new scheme was launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to ensure electrification of all willing households in the country in rural as well as urban areas on 25th September, 2017.

The objective of the 'Saubhagya' is to provide energy access to all by last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all remaining un-electrified households in rural as well as urban areas to achieve universal household electrification in the country.

Poor households would be provided electricity connections free of cost. Other households would also be provided electricity connections under the scheme on payment of Rs.500 only which shall be recovered by the DISCOMs/Power Departments in ten (10) instalments along with electricity bills. There is no provision in the scheme to provide free power to any category of consumers. The cost of electricity consumption shall have to be paid by the respective consumers as per prevailing tariff of the DISCOM/Power Deptt.

Source: Budget 2018-19

31. Answer key: 3

Solution:

The Government has proposed to establish a dedicated Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) in National Housing Bank, funded from priority sector lending shortfall and fully serviced bonds authorized by the Government of India. It will cater to refinancing of housing finance companies and also banks engaged in the affordable housing segment so long as their end customers satisfy the criteria and belong to economically weaker section and low and middle income groups.

Source: Budget 2018-19

32. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

Kurds are one of the indigenous peoples of the Mesopotamian plains and the highlands in what are now south-eastern Turkey, north-eastern Syria, northern Iraq, north-western Iran and south-western Armenia. This region is also known as 'Kurdistan region'. They form a distinctive community, united through race, culture and language, even though they have no standard dialect. They also adhere to a number of different religions and creeds, although the majority are Sunni Muslims.

Source: BBC news

33. Answer key: 2**Solution:**

Electoral bonds envisage total clean money and substantial transparency coming into the system of political funding. Electoral Bond would be a bearer instrument in the nature of a Promissory Note and an interest free banking instrument. **A citizen of India, not resident**, or a body incorporated in India will be eligible to purchase the bond. Electoral Bond (s) would be issued/purchased for any value, in multiples of Rs.1000, Rs.10000, Rs.1,00,000, Rs.10,00,000 and Rs.1,00,00,000 from the Specified Branches of the State Bank of India (SBI). The purchaser would be allowed to buy Electoral Bond(s) only on due fulfilment of all the extant KYC norms and by making payment from a bank account. The life of the bond would be only 15 days. A bond can only be encashed in a pre-declared account of a political party. Every political party in its returns will have to disclose the amount of donations it has received through electoral bonds to the Election Commission. The entire transactions would be through banking instruments.

Source: PIB

34. Answer key: 1**Solution:**

In January 2018, 'Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' has decided to bring out a liveability index of 116 cities, including the 99 smart cities already identified, state capitals, and cities with 1 million-plus population.

The cities, which together account for a total population of 13.4 crore people, will be ranked in order of the quality of life they offer. The ministry has decided to involve the Economist Intelligence Unit, which brings out an annual liveability index of cities across the world, for the purpose. The programme would be funded by the World Bank, and the assessment would be of relative nature, with the 116 cities graded against each other.

Source: Indian Express

35. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

In February 2018, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu laid the foundation stone of a Rhododendron Park in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh. The park would be built in a total area of 1.15 hectares and would be partly funded under border area development programme (BADP). More than 30 species of rhododendrons would be planted and conserved in the park where terrace cutting would also be done to raise the beauty and scenic component. The park would also have modern nursery, information centre on rhododendron, resting sheds, vehicle parking facility, public toilet facility, signage and lightings and iron security gate.

Source: The Hindu & Arunachal Pradesh state (Forest department) website.

36. Answer key: 4**Solution:**

'Ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF)' are energy dense, micronutrient enhanced pastes used in therapeutic feeding. Typical primary ingredients for RUTF include peanuts, oil, sugar, milk powder and vitamin and mineral supplements, which contains 520-550 kilocalories of energy per 100 g. Additional ingredients may include nuts, legumes, grains and sweeteners to improve the taste. The paste is given to children suffering from SAM (severely acute malnutrition) who aged between six months and six years, usually after a doctor's prescription. Each packet of the paste costs Rs 25 and has a shelf life of two years. A child can be given three packets daily for a month. UNICEF supports RUTF products and it is the primary global procurer of RUTF. But, following a central government notification, Maharashtra stopped the implementation of a plan to procure it. Implementation of RUTF plan may impose financial burden on the governments.

Source: Indian Express and UNICEF.

37. Answer key: 1**Solution:**

Operation Cactus is associated with India's intervention during Maldives political crisis.

Source: The Hindu

38. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

Here only statement 2 is correct. Pakistan is a member of Ashgabat agreement. Statement 1 is incorrect. It seeks to promote Infrastructure in the Central Asia region. Statement 3 is incorrect too. It is not a part of OBOR, but part of INSTC (India's North South Transport Corridor).
Ashgabat: capital of Turkmenistan.

Source: The Hindu

39. Answer key: 4**Solution:**

A Paleo-Channel is a **remnant of a Dead River**.
Paleo means Ancient and channel refers to some form of Circulation medium.
Dead rivers like **the Saraswati** which is mentioned in the Rig Veda is a Paleo-Channel.

Source: The Hindu

40. Answer key: 4**Solution:**

The "Mahamastaka- Abhisheka festival" is associated with **Bahubali, 2nd Jain Tirthankar**. It is located in Shravanabelagola in Karnataka.

About Gomateswar statue: It is a **huge Monolithic statue** carved by Western Ganga. (Made up of single stone)

Source: The Hindu

41. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

"Environmental Performance Index" is released by Yale and Columbia University along with World Economic Forum. It is a comprehensive Green Index measuring sustainable development.

Source: The Hindu

42. Answer key: 4**Solution:**

"Paschim Lehar" was tri service exercise between units of India Army, Navy and Airforce and It was organised in Arabian Sea.

Source: PIB

43. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

'Fog Holes' are observed globally in urban areas. Urban Heat Island (UHI) is caused due to the factors like Direct Pollution, Absorption of Heat, Urban Geometry, Blanketing effect of atmospheric pollution and lack of vegetation.

Source: The New Indian Express

44. Answer key: 4**Solution:**

It is a school of Vedanta philosophy which believes in all diversity subsuming to an underlying unity. Ramanuja, the main proponent of Visishtadvaita philosophy contends that the Prasthanas Traya ("The three courses") i.e Upanishads, Bhagavad Gītā, and Brahma Sūtras are to be interpreted in way that shows this unity in diversity, for any other way would violate their consistency. (Note: PM Narendra Modi released a commemorative stamp on the 1000th birth anniversary of a Saint Ramanujacharya on May 1, 2017 in New Delhi.)

Source: PIB

45. Answer key: 2**Solution:**

SmartE the brand name for E rickshaw fleet launched in Gurgaon. It is expected to provide cost effective and pollution free substitute in transport system of Gurugram and also generate employment opportunities for marginalised youth. SmartE will provide the last mile transport connectivity in the area. The E Rickshaws have been manufactured in India and are fitted with GPS and tracking system.

Source: PIB

46. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

SEBI introduced the 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.

The underlying principle behind the graded surveillance framework is to alert and protect investors trading in a security, which is seeing abnormal price movements. SEBI may put shares of companies under the measure for suspected price rigging or under the ambit of 'shell companies'. The measure would provide a heads up to market participants that they need to be extra cautious and diligent while dealing in such securities put under surveillance. So, statement 1 is correct. Once a firm is identified for surveillance it goes through six stages with corresponding surveillance actions and the restrictions on trading in those securities gets higher progressively. In the first stage, maximum of 5% movement in share price is allowed. In the sixth and final stage, there are maximum restrictions. Trading is permitted only once a month at this stage, with no upward movement allowed in price. Also, the additional surveillance deposit would be 200%. So, statement 2 is correct.

Source: The Hindu

47. Answer key: 3

Solution:

Mathamma system is the practice of "offering" girl children to Goddess Mathamma thrives in the districts of Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh and Tiruvallur in Tamil Nadu. Mathamma system is practiced by the Madiga community. It is equaliant of Devadasi system. Apart from children, even cattle are offered to Mathamma, if the calves are cured of their illness. The system is called 'Basivi' in Kurnool and Anantapur districts, 'Saani' in Krishna, East and West Godavari districts, and 'Parvathi' in Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts. So, both statements 1 & 2 are correct.

Source: The Hindu

48. Answer key: 1

Solution:

It is a concept in behavioural science, political theory and economics which proposes positive reinforcement and indirect suggestions to try to achieve non-forced compliance to influence the motives, incentives and decision making of groups and individuals. The concept is based on relatively subtle policy shift that encourages people to make decisions that are in their broad self-interest. In order to increase worryingly low pension saving rates among private sector workers the UK Government mandated employers to establish an "automatic enrolment". This meant that workers would be automatically placed into a firm's scheme, and contributions would be deducted from their pay packet, unless they formally requested to be exempted. The idea was that auto enrolment would make saving the default for employees, and thus make it easier for them to do what they really wanted to do and push up savings rates. (Note: Nudge theory has won Nobel Prize in Economics)

Source: Independent News Website

49. Answer key: 3

Solution:

Crassulacean acid metabolism, also known as CAM photosynthesis, is a carbon fixation pathway that evolved in some plants as an adaptation to arid conditions. In a plant using full CAM, the stomata in the leaves remain shut during the day to reduce evapotranspiration, but open at night to collect carbon dioxide (CO₂). Unlike other plants, CAM plants are able to take up CO₂ during the cooler night, which reduces water loss, and store captured CO₂ as malic acid inside the cell, allowing its use for photosynthesis without water loss during the next day. CAM photosynthesis is regulated by the plant's internal circadian clock, which allows plants to differentiate and pre-empt day and night and adjust their metabolism accordingly.

Source: The Hindu

50. Answer key: 2**Solution:**

Rogan art is believed to have originated in Persia some 300 years ago and was traditionally used to embellish bridal trousseaus. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

The Khatri community practices this art. It once did Rogan work on the clothes of local animal herders and farming communities. So, statement 2 is correct.

Rogan art is 100% an artist's imagination on a piece of cloth. 'Rogan' in Persian means oil: the paint is made with castor oil. So, statement 3 is also correct.

Source: PIB & The Hindu

51. Answer key: 4**Solution:**

Cabinet has approved the establishment of International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography, as a Category-2 Centre (C2C) of UNESCO, in Hyderabad. The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a training centre towards development of capacity for the countries on the Indian Ocean Rim (IOR), African countries bordering the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, small island countries under the framework of UNESCO. The Centre could contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goal-14 (SDG 14) related to building marine scientific research capacity in geographical area of the Centre responsibility which will also fulfill the commitments to support Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries.

Source: PIB

52. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched LaQshya to improve the quality of care that is being provided to the pregnant mother in the Labour Room and Maternity Operation Theatres, thereby preventing the undesirable adverse outcomes associated with childbirth.

LaQshya- Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative is a Safe Delivery Mobile Application for health workers who manage normal and complicated deliveries in the peripheral areas. The goal is to reduce preventable maternal and new-born mortality, morbidity and stillbirths associated with the care around delivery in Labour room and Maternity OT and ensure respectful maternity care.

The initiative will be implemented in Government Medical Colleges (MCs) besides District Hospitals (DHs), and high delivery load Sub- District Hospitals (SDHs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs). The initiative plans to conduct quality certification of labour rooms and also incentivize facilities achieving the targets outlined.

Source: PIB

53. Answer key: 1**Solution:**

'Flink' is a new 3D printing material, which is short for 'functional living ink'. It is a bacteria-containing ink that makes it possible to print mini-biochemical factories with certain properties, depending on which species of bacteria the scientists add to the ink. So, statement 1 is correct.

It has actually environmental friendly properties. Flink has potential to degrade toxins, creation of sensors that detect toxins in drinking water, or filters to deal with oil spills. So, statement 2 is incorrect.

Source: The Hindu

54. Answer key: 4

Solution:

Solar storms are violent events on the sun which can temporarily distort the earth's magnetosphere – the region around the earth which is influenced by its magnetic field. These temporary disturbances, called geomagnetic storms, can generate shock waves in the interplanetary medium that can accelerate charged particles to very high energies and which, in turn, can harm the satellites placed by humans in space. Such solar storms have two causes: Coronal Mass Ejections (CME) and Corotating Interaction Regions (CIR). So, statement 1 is correct.

Charged particles are being spewed continually out of the sun's corona, forming the solar wind. Some parts of these winds move faster than others. Since they contain charged particles in a plasma state, these different regions physically interact with each other to form wavelike disturbances called CIRs that emanate from the sun and spiral outwards. They are called "corotating" interaction regions as they rotate along with the sun, attached to it at one end. So, statement 2 is correct.

CIRs are much more complicated and difficult to observe. CIRs are generated in the interplanetary medium and there are no visual signatures for CIRs. Hence, in order to detect [them], solar wind parameters need to be characterised critically. So, statement 3 is incorrect.

Source: The Hindu

55. Answer key: 4

Solution:

Chhapeli is a dance form of Uttarakhand. The dance is performed by couples with the female carrying a mirror in her left hand and a colored handkerchief in the other. The male plays a Hudukka on his left shoulder accompanied by others playing the Hurka, Manjira and Flute. Perini Natyam is an art form of Telangana. Originally called "Lasya Nartana" and practiced only by temple dancers.

Oggu Dollu is also a dance form of Telangana. So, 3 is incorrect.

Source: PIB

56. Answer key: 2

Solution:

Tholpavakoothu, a 2,000-year-old shadow puppet art form practised in Thrissur, Palakkad and Malappuram districts of Kerala. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

Episodes (Kandams) of the Kamba Ramayana are staged in this art form. Legend has it that as Bhagavathy, or the Mother Goddess, was fighting the demon Darika, she could not watch the Rama-Ravana war. So, the Ramayana is staged for her. So, statement 2 is correct.

The Koothu is performed on a stage called Koothumadam, and many temples have such permanent structures. The 42-foot-long stage has a screen (white cloth) behind which the puppets are held. The shadow play unfolds in the light cast by lamps lit in coconut shells. When the shlokas are

recited, the puppets are moved to the accompaniment of musical instruments such as the chenda, maddalam, ezhupara, ilathalam, conch and cherukuzhal. The performance starts around 8 p.m. and winds up at dawn. The puppets were made using deer skin in the past, but now goat and buffalo hide is used. The puppets are mounted on bamboo shafts that act as supports for the flat figures and allow the puppeteers to manipulate them.

Source: The Hindu

57. Answer key: 4

Solution:

The E. coli AntiMicrobial Satellite (EcAMSat) mission is aimed to study microgravity's effect on bacterial antibiotic resistance, scientists are set to send E. coli, a common bacterial pathogen linked to urinary tract infections and foodborne illnesses, to the International Space Station (ISS). It aims to determine the lowest dose of antibiotic needed to inhibit growth of Escherichia coli, a bacterial pathogen that causes infections in humans and animals.

Source: The Hindu

58. Answer key: 4

Solution:

The 360-degree approach is a new multi-source feedback system for performance appraisal of bureaucrats started for future postings. The system seeks to look beyond the ratings received in appraisal reports written by their bosses. It relies on feedback of juniors and other colleagues for an all-round view. But previously the Second Administrative Reforms Commission has said that the multi-source feedback system was not suitable for India.

Source: The Indian Express

59. Answer key: 3

Solution:

Article 27 states that State should not spend the public money collected by way of tax for the promotion or maintenance of any particular religion. This provision prohibits the State from favouring, patronising and supporting one religion over the other. This means that the taxes can be used for the promotion or maintenance of all religions. So, statement c violates the constitutional provision.

Statement "a" doesn't violate as it is not an act of forcible conversion. Statement "b" also doesn't violate as religious institutions has to be formed by individuals with same belief system. (Note: Supreme Court has set aside a Gujarat High Court order directing the State to pay compensation to shrines destroyed in the 2002 communal riots on the basis of Article 27.)

Source: The Hindu and Indian Polity by Laxmikant

60. Answer key: 4

Solution:

The Calcutta, Bombay and Madras High Courts have provision for intra-court appeals. When a single judge of the high court has decided a case (either under the original or appellate jurisdiction of the high court), an appeal from such a decision lies to the division bench of the same high court.

The four high courts i.e., Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Delhi High Courts have original civil jurisdiction in cases of higher value.

Previously, Admiralty jurisdiction applies to the Bombay, Calcutta and Madras High Courts. The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Act, 2017 has extended this to the High Courts of Karnataka, Gujarat, Orissa, Kerala, Hyderabad, and any other High Court notified by the central government.

Source: PIB

61. Answer key: 4

Solution:

Eco-bridges are proposed to be constructed in Tadoba-Andhari tiger reserve. The reserve is in Maharashtra. The bridge will be built by Telangana state connecting the reserve with the Bejjur forests in Telangana. Recommendations on the size and locations of the bridges will be provided by National Board of Wildlife. Tadoba-Andhari tiger reserve comprises of Tadoba National Park and Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary.

Source: The Hindu

62. Answer key: 3

Solution:

The Economic Advisory Council is an independent body to give advice on economic and related issues to the Government of India, specifically to the Prime Minister. It is a non-constitutional and non-permanent body.

Terms of reference of the EAC is as follows:

- (i) To analyze any issue, economic or otherwise, referred to it by the Prime Minister and advising him thereon;
- (ii) To address issues of macroeconomic importance and presenting views thereon to the Prime Minister. This could be either suo-motu or on reference from the Prime Minister or anyone else;
- (iii) To attend to any other task as maybe desired by the Prime Minister from time to time.

Source: PIB & PRS India

63. Answer key: 3

Solution:

P2P lending is a form of crowd-funding used to raise loans which are paid back with interest. It can be defined as the use of an online platform that matches lenders with borrowers in order to provide unsecured loans.

Peer-to-peer lending (P2P) platforms are treated as non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and thus regulated by the RBI. As per the RBI, the business of a P2P lending platform is defined as the service of loan facilitation, via online medium or otherwise, to "the participants who have entered into an arrangement with that platform to lend on it or to avail of loan facilitation services provided by it."

P2P lending promotes alternative forms of finance, where formal finance is unable to reach and also has the potential to soften the lending rates as a result of lower operational costs and enhanced competition with the traditional lending channels.

Source: The Hindu

64. Answer key: 4**Solution:**

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund is a dedicated facility within the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation established in 2017. It is supported and led by the Government of the Republic of India, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and implemented in collaboration with the United Nations system.

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund supports Southern-owned and led, demand-driven, and transformational sustainable development projects across the developing world, with a focus on least developed countries and small island developing states. United Nations agencies implement the Funds projects in close collaboration with partnering governments.

India has pledged to contribute \$100 mn to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund to help the poorest nations achieve the world organisation's Sustainable Development Goals.

Source: The Hindu

65. Answer key: 1**Solution:**

"Transformation of Aspirational Districts" programme is under the aegis of NITI Aayog. It aims to quickly and effectively transform some of the most underdeveloped districts of the country. To enable optimum utilization of their potential, this program focusses closely on improving people's ability to participate fully in the burgeoning economy. Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure are this programme's core areas of focus.

Source: PIB

66. Answer key: 1**Solution:**

Tehzeeb-ul-Ikhlaq was a journal published by the Muslim reformer Sir Syed Ahmed Khan between 1871 and 1897. The journal published alternative Muslim perspectives.

In 1875, founded the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College, the first Muslim university in South Asia. During his career, Syed repeatedly called upon Muslims to loyally serve the British Empire and promoted the adoption of Urdu as the lingua franca of all Indian Muslims.

Muslim League was formed in 1906 by Aga Khan III. Syed Ahmed Khan was not associated with it.

Source: The Indian Express

67. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

Kurinji or Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthianus*) is a shrub that is found in the shola forests of the Western Ghats in South India. It is also found in Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala. Grizzled Giant Squirrel is a near threatened species as per IUCN is endemic to southern India (Kerala and Tamil Nadu) and Sri Lanka. Within India, the total population can be seen in Chinnar and adjoining Tamil Nadu, which is about 300 individuals. Chinnar wild life sanctuary located in the rain shadow region of the Western Ghats is the habitat for the endangered Grizzled giant squirrel in India.

Source: The Hindu and IUCN

68. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

Programme i3 is committed with a Mission to make India a hub for design and development of novel, affordable and effective biopharmaceutical products and solutions. The program is a part of National Biopharma Mission.

Source: PIB

69. Answer key: 4**Solution:**

The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was introduced by Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Mr. Jagat Prakash Nadda in Lok Sabha on July 19, 2016. The Bill seeks to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956. The Act provides for the constitution of the Medical Council of India (MCI). The MCI regulates: (i) standards of medical education, (ii) permission to start colleges, courses or increase the number of seats, (iv) registration of doctors, (v) standards of professional conduct of medical practitioners, among others.

Source - <http://www.prsindia.org/billtrack/the-indian-medical-council-amendment-bill-2016-4343/>

70. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

India has a "serious" hunger problem and ranks 100th out of 119 countries on the global hunger index — behind North Korea, Bangladesh and Iraq but ahead of Pakistan, according to a report. The country's serious hunger level is driven by high child malnutrition and underlines need for stronger commitment to the social sector, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) said in its report.

Source: The Hindu

71. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

Competition Appellate Tribunal (COMPAT) is a statutory body under Competition Commission of India. They have the power similar to Civil Courts and they are not bound by the procedure laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

Source: The Hindu

72. Answer key: 4**Solution:**

When the full moon is at the closest point of its orbit to the Earth(perigee) its called as 'Super Moon'. The moon appears 30% brighter and 14% bigger than the apogee full moon.

Source: The Mint

73. Answer key: 1**Solution:**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved creation of

National Testing Agency (NTA) as a Society registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860, and as an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions.

Features:

- The NTA would initially conduct those entrance examinations which are currently being conducted by the CBSE.
- Other examinations will be taken up gradually after NTA is fully geared up.
- The entrance examinations will be conducted in online mode at least twice a year, thereby giving adequate opportunity to candidates to bring out their best.
- In order to serve the requirements of the rural students, it would locate the centres at sub-district/district level and as far as possible would undertake hands-on training to the students.

Source: PIB

74. Answer key: 2

Solution:

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) today launched 'Ganga Gram' – a project for sanitation based integrated development of all 4470 villages along the River Ganga, at a multi-stakeholder sammelan held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi today.

Source - PIB

75. Answer key: 3

Solution:

E-Pathshala It is a single point repository of e-resources containing, NCERT textbooks and various other learning resources. It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Govt. of India and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), SWAYAM is an indigenous (Made in India) IT Platform for hosting the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) with a capacity to revolutionize the education system by providing best quality education covering all the subjects and courses being taught in the high schools, colleges and universities in the Country using the IT system to the students even in the remotest corner of the Country. and

Shodhganga is a Repository of Ph.D. thesis.

Source - PIB

76. Answer key: 1

Solution:

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr Harsh Vardhan has appealed to the teaching community to join the "Green Good Deeds" campaign, launched by the Ministry to sensitise the people and students, in particular, about climate change and global warming. Addressing about 700 principals of all government schools from North Delhi Municipal Corporation, the Minister said that environment is a matter of global concern, as never before.

Source - PIB

77. Answer key: 3

Solution:

In 2017, 75th anniversary of 'Quit India Movement' was celebrated in 2017. The Failure of Cripps Mission was one of the Primary reasons for launch of Quit India Movement. After the arrest of All major leaders of Congress, Aruna Asif Ali, a young woman carried on the movement by co-

ordinating protests through underground radio channels.

Source: Bipin Chandra's 'India after Independence'

78. Answer key: 4

Solution:

WFP coordinates with other UN agencies, often through the UN Development Assistance Framework, so that their efforts complement one another.

When the humanitarian community is called to respond to an emergency, WFP's Fast Information Technology and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team (FITTEST) is on hand to provide the lifesaving IT connections needed to coordinate an effective response and identifying the most appropriate solutions required for a specific operation.

Source - <http://www1.wfp.org/>

79. Answer key: 3

Solution:

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech Ltd on Wednesday announced that it had earned the World Health Organization (WHO) pre-qualification tag for its rotavirus vaccine, ROTAVAC.

The WHO pre-qualification paves the way for health and humanitarian organizations such as UNICEF, GAVI and Pan-American Health Organization to procure it for public health vaccination programmes across the world.

India had introduced ROTAVAC into its national immunization programme during 2016, with 35 million doses delivered till date.

Source - The Mint

80. Answer key: 2

Solution:

'Mighty five countries' includes countries 'Malaysia, India, Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam (MITI-V). these countries are supposed to inherit the china's crown in manufacturing sector. They are top economies for low-cost manufacturing (i.e., labour intensive commodity type products like apparel, toys, textiles and basic consumer electronics).

Source - The Mint

81. Answer key: 1

Solution:

Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India in June 2011. The Mission aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services. The Govt has launched a new sub-scheme named "Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)" as part of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). The Self-Help Groups under DAY-NRLM will operate road transport service in backward areas. This will help to provide safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services to connect remote villages with key services and amenities (such as access to markets, education and health) for the overall economic development of backward rural areas.

Source: PIB

82. Answer key: 1**Solution:**

Ministry of Earth Sciences has augmented the High-Performance Computing (HPC) System at a total cost of Rs.438.9 Cr. The systems are installed at two sites Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecast (NCMRWF), Noida with computing capacities of 4 peta flops and 2.8 peta flops, respectively.

The Two High Performance Computing (HPC) Systems Pratyush and Mihir installed at IITM, Pune and NCMRWF, Noida respectively have a total computing capacity of 6.8 peta flops. After the current augmentation, the total HPC capacity of the ministry has gone up to 8.0 Peta Flops.

The SARAS is an indigenous aircraft developed by the National Aeronautics Laboratories (NAL), which is overseen by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).

Source: PIB and Indian Express

83. Answer key: 2**Solution:**

As per the latest assessment, water bodies inside forest cover have increased by 2,647 sq kms during the last decade. As per ISFR 2017, mangrove forests have increased by 181 sq kms. Maharashtra (82 sq kms), Andhra Pradesh (37 sq kms) and Gujarat (33 sq kms) are the top three gainers in terms of mangrove cover. 7 out of the 12 mangrove states have shown an increase in mangrove cover and none of them show any negative change.

Source PIB

<http://pibphoto.nic.in/documents/rlink/2018/feb/p201821201.pdf>

84. Answer key: 4**Solution:**

Recently India has been admitted as the 42nd participating country into 'Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)' which is an export control group related to transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies.

India was admitted as the 43rd member of the Australia Group, an informal bloc (group) of countries which aims to stop the development and acquisition of chemical and biological weapons.

Source: The Economic times

85. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

The principle of separation of the Railway Inspectorate from the Railway Board was endorsed in 1940 by the Central Legislature who recommended that "Senior Government Inspectors of Railways should be placed under the Administrative control of some authority of the Govt. of India other than the Railway Board." Accordingly, the Railway Inspectorate was placed under the administrative control of the Department of "Posts and Air" in May 1941 and continuously thereafter under whichever Ministry that held the portfolio of Civil Aviation.

Source: The Mint

86. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

'The artificial Leaf' is developed by researchers at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Chemical Laboratory in Pune. It absorbs sunlight to generate hydrogen fuel from water, an advance that may provide clean energy for powering eco-friendly cars in the future.

Source: The Mint

87. Answer key: 2**Solution:**

Orange snow has fallen in parts of eastern Europe after a rare meeting of Siberia and the Sahara. Meteorologists say the snow from Siberia collided with dust-filled wind from the Sahara Desert in Africa.

Source: The Hindu

88. Answer key: 4**Solution:**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/gilpress/2017/01/23/top-10-hot-artificial-intelligence-ai-technologies/#4ca920031928>

89. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

All statements are correct.

E-RaKAM is a first-of-its-kind initiative that leverages technology to connect farmers of the smallest villages to the biggest markets of the world through internet and e-RaKAM centres.

E-RaKAM is developed by MSTC Limited and supported by marketing & logistics partner CRWC Limited.

E-RaKAM is a digital initiative bringing together the farmers, FPOs, PSUs, civil supplies and buyers on a single platform to ease the selling and buying process of agricultural products. Under this initiative, e-RaKAM centres are being developed in a phased manner throughout the country to facilitate farmers for online sale of their produce.

Source: Economic Times

90. Answer key: 1**Solution:**

'Hamburg Action Plan' sets out the G20's strategy for achieving strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. Closer partnership and action by G20 members will boost confidence and contribute to shared prosperity. Leaders of the G20 group resolved to tackle common challenges to the global community, including terrorism, displacement, poverty, hunger and health threats, job creation, climate change, energy security, and inequality including gender inequality, as a basis for sustainable development and stability.

In order to improving sustainable livelihoods, the G-20 leaders collectively committed to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions through, among others, increased innovation on sustainable and clean energies and energy efficiency, and work towards low greenhouse-gas emission energy systems.

The leaders stressed on the importance of harnessing the benefits of globalisation, reaffirm the importance of transparency for predictable and mutually beneficial trade relations, harness digitalisation to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Source: The Hindu

91. Answer key: 2

Solution:

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Gabon a “polio-free country”. This comes after lack of new reported or suspected cases in the central African country. Polio is highly-infectious viral disease caused by the poliovirus. It mainly affects young children and can result in permanent paralysis. The virus is transmitted from person to person. Now the disease is endemic is prevalent only in two South Asian countries Afghanistan and Pakistan, where WHO recorded four cases—two in each country this year. In 2016, there were 37 cases globally.

Source: The Hindu

92. Answer key: 2

Solution:

The co-operation mechanism is for transboundary water sharing. Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Mechanism (LMCM) is a sub-regional cooperation mechanism to help coordinate the use of water resources along the river Mekong which flows from China, Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Cambodia.

Source: The Hindu

93. Answer key: 1

Solution:

The final roadmap for ‘Methanol Economy’ being worked out by NITI Aayog is targeting an annual reduction of 100 Billion \$ by 2030 in crude imports. Methanol would replace the conventional fuels. To promote this renewable, alternate fuel a “Methanol Economy Fund” is also being set up by NITI Aayog. The fund would be amounting around ₹ 4000-5000 crore.

Source: The Mint

94. Answer key: 3

Solution:

More than 600-year-old Walled City of Ahmedabad founded by Ahmed Shah has been declared India’s first World Heritage City, recognising heritage value of the walled city’s unique heritage. The World Heritage Committee (WHC) of UNESCO announced on Saturday late night following a meeting in Poland’s Krakwo.

The city has now joined the privileged club of heritage cities like Paris, Cairo, Edinburg and two cities in subcontinent Bhaktpur in Nepal and Galle in Sri Lanka.

Source: The Hindu

95. Answer key: 2**Solution:**

In union budget 2018, finance minister Arun Jaitley unveiled the world's largest government-funded health programme called 'Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS)', covering 10 crore families or approximately 50 crore population, with ₹ 5 lakh insurance cover per family per year. The scheme is for secondary and tertiary healthcare, mainly for hospital care. This flagship scheme is likely to benefit more than 37% of the population, meaning that nearly all the poor and vulnerable families will be covered. It is not a central sector scheme, it is a centrally sponsored scheme. The cost shared on a 60:40 basis between central and state governments.

Source: PIB

96. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

The Astana Consensus was arrived at between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jin Ping at Astana on the side-lines of the SCO Summit in June 2017
Its two main components include:

- 1) India-China relations were significant not only bilaterally but were a "factor of stability" for the region and the whole world
- 2) India-China should resolve their differences through negotiations and not let them turn into disputes.

Source: The Hindu

97. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

In 2017, Oxford University identified 'the black dot on a third-century 'Bakhshali manuscript' as the first recorded use of the mathematical symbol zero, almost 500 years earlier than previously thought. The birch bark scroll is known as the 'Bakhshali manuscript' after the village, which is now in Pakistan, where it was found buried in 1881.

The Bakhshali manuscript is already recognised as the oldest Indian mathematical text. The text was in fact found to contain hundreds of zeroes, representing orders of magnitude in the ancient Indian numbers system.

Source: Live Mint and Economic Survey 2017-18

98. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

Under Project 75, six Scorpene submarines are being built with assistance and technology transfer from DCNS of France under deal signed in October 2005. The Scorpene class submarines are a class of diesel-electric attack submarine.

The first of the series INS Kalvari is completing sea trials and will be commissioned shortly. The other four submarines are expected to be launched at nine-month intervals after the INS Khanderi. At Present, the Indian Navy operates only 13 conventionally powered submarines and two nuclear submarines.

Source: The Hindu

99. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

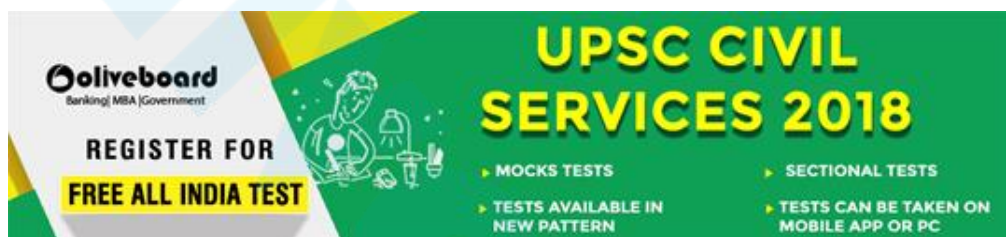
It is a system where magnetically levitating capsules are sent at high speeds through low-pressure tubes, thereby potentially reducing transport time — of people and goods — by more than 80%. India's first Hyperloop project will come up in Andhra Pradesh, which will connect the city centres of Vijayawada and Amaravati. It will supposedly cover the distance of over 35 km only in five minutes.

Source: The Hindu

100. Answer key: 3**Solution:**

Kesaria—an insignificant, tiny town in the district of East Champaran boasts the tallest stupa in the world, built by the Mauryan king Asoka. The Kesaria stupa has a circumference of almost 1,400 ft (430 m) and rises to a height of about 104 ft (32 m). It is one-foot taller than the Borobodur stupa in Java, which was recognised by the UNESCO as the tallest Buddhist monument in the world.

Source: The new Indian Express.



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