



**UPSC Prelims 2018 -
Question Paper with
Detailed Solutions &
Answer Key**

1. Consider the following statements

1. In the first Lok Sabha, the single largest party in the opposition was the Swatantra Party.
2. In the Lok Sabha, a "Leader of the Opposition" was recognised for the first time in 1969.
3. In the Lok Sabha, if a party does not have a minimum of 75 members, its leader cannot be recognised as the Leader of the Opposition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: B

Solution:

It was in 1969 that an official leader of the opposition was recognised for the first time.

For the first Lok Sabha, elections were held for 489 seats. The Indian National Congress (INC) won 364. Only two other parties won double digit seats. The CPI with 16 seats and the Socialist Party with 12 seats. In fourth Lok Sabha elections, six other parties won double digit seats with C Rajagopalachari's Swatantra Party winning 44 seats and emerging as the single largest opposition party.

In each House of Parliament, there is the 'Leader of the Opposition'. The leader of the largest Opposition party having not less than one-tenth seats of the total strength of the House is recognized as the leader of the Opposition in that House. So, in case of Lok Sabha, it is one tenth of 545 seats.

2. Which of the following leaf modifications occur(s) in the desert areas to inhibit water loss?

1. Hard and waxy leaves
2. Tiny leaves
3. Thorns instead of leaves

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer key: D

Solution:

Desert plants tend to look very different from plants native to other regions. They are often swollen, spiny, and have tiny leaves that are rarely bright green and are thorny. The stems and leaves of most species have waxy cuticles that render them nearly waterproof when the stomata are closed.

3. As per the NSSO 70th Round "Situation Assessment - Survey of Agricultural Households", consider the following statements :

1. Rajasthan has the highest percentage share of agricultural households among its rural households.
2. Out of the total agricultural households in the country, a little over 60 percent; belong to OBCs.
3. In Kerala, a little over 60 percent of agricultural households reported to have received maximum income from sources other than agricultural activities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: C

Solution:

Rajasthan had highest percentage of agricultural households (78.4 percent) among its rural households followed by Uttar Pradesh (74.8 percent) and Madhya Pradesh (70.8 percent). During the reference period of July 2012- June 2013, about 45 percent out of the total agricultural households in the country belonged to Other Backward Classes (OBC). About 16 percent of agricultural households were from Scheduled Castes (SC) and 13 percent were from Scheduled Tribes (ST). During the same period about 45 percent of the rural households of the country belonged to OBC. SC and ST, respectively, had a share of about 20 percent and 12 percent among the rural households.

Kerala where about 61 percent of the agricultural households reported to have earned maximum income from sources other than agricultural activities.

Source: http://mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/KI_70_33_19dec14.pdf

4. How is the National Green Tribunal (NGT) different from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)?
1. The NGT has been established by an Act whereas the CPCB has been created by an executive order of the Government.
 2. The NGT provides environmental justice and helps reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts whereas the CPCB promotes cleanliness of streams and wells, and aims to improve the quality of air in the country.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Answer key: B
Solution:
The Central Pollution Control Board of India is a statutory organisation under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. It was established in 1974 under the Water Act, 1974.
5. Consider the following statements
1. The Parliament of India can place a particular law in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
 2. The validity of a law placed in the Ninth Schedule cannot be examined by any court and no judgement can be made on it
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Answer key: A
Solution:
Ninth schedule was added by the 1st Amendment (1951) to protect the laws included in it from judicial scrutiny on the ground of violation of fundamental rights. However, in 2007, the Supreme Court ruled that the laws included in this schedule after April 24, 1973, are now open to judicial review.
6. Which one of the following best describes the term "Merchant Discount Rate" sometimes seen in news?
- (a) The incentive given by a bank to a merchant for accepting payments through debit cards pertaining to that bank.
 - (b) The amount paid back by banks to their customers when they use debit cards for financial transactions for purchasing goods or services.
 - (c) The charge to a merchant by a bank for accepting payments from his customers through the bank's debit cards.
 - (d) The incentive given by the Government to merchants for promoting digital payments by their customers through Point of Sale (PoS) machines and debit cards.
- Answer key: C
Solution:
Self-explanatory
7. What is/are the consequence/ consequences of a country becoming the member of the 'Nuclear Suppliers Group'?
1. It will have access to the latest and most efficient nuclear technologies.
 2. It automatically becomes a member of "The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)".
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer key: A

Solution:

Full compliance with the obligations of one or more of the following: the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Treaties of Pelindaba, Rarotonga, Tlatelolco, Bangkok, or an equivalent international nuclear nonproliferation agreement are conditions for membership to NSG.

8. With reference to India's decision to levy an equalization tax of 6% on online advertisement services offered by non-resident entities, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It is introduced as a part of the Income Tax Act.
 2. Non-resident entities that offer advertisement services in India can claim a tax credit in their home country under the "Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements".
- Select the correct answer using the code given below :
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer key: D

Solution:

Equalization levy is not Income-tax. Chapter VIII of Finance Act does not become part of the Income-tax law. Like STT, it will remain a separate tax. Hence Double Tax Avoidance Agreements are not applicable to EL.

9. Consider the following statements:
1. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Review Committee Report has recommended a debt to GDP ratio of 60% for the general (combined) government by 2023, comprising 40% for the Central Government and 20% for the State Governments.
 2. The Central Government has domestic liabilities of 21% of GDP as compared to that of 49% of GDP of the State Governments.
 3. As per the Constitution of India, it is mandatory for a State to take the Central Government's consent for raising any loan if the former owes any outstanding liabilities to the latter.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer key: C

Solution:

Central Govt. Liabilities stands at 48 % of GDP.

10. Consider the following statements:
1. The quantity of imported edible oils is more than the domestic production of edible oils in the last five years.
 2. The Government does not impose any customs duty on all the imported edible oils as a special case.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: A

Solution:

India's vegetable oil imports — in volume and value terms — have skyrocketed in recent years to about 14 million tonnes, worth approximately \$11 billion (over ₹70,000 crore). In value terms veg oil imports are next only to crude and gold, and the highest for any food commodity. The import duty on crude edible oils now is 25-30 per cent. In the case of refined oils, it is 35-40 per cent.

11. He wrote biographies of Mazzini, Garibaldi, Shivaji and Shri Krishna; stayed in America for some time; and was also elected to the Central Assembly. He was
- (a) Aurobindo Ghosh
 - (b) Bipin Chandra Pal

- (c) Lala Lajpat Rai
- (d) Motilal Nehru

Answer key: C

Solution:

He wrote the biographies of the patriots Mazzini and Garibaldi who unified Italy. He also wrote outstanding books about Indian great men Shivaji, Sri Krishna and Dayananda Saraswati. The books on Mazzini and Shivaji contained passages, which encouraged people to fight for freedom. So the government even thought of arresting Lalaji.

12. Consider the following statements:

1. Aadhaar card can be used as a proof of citizenship or domicile.
 2. Once issued, Aadhaar number cannot be deactivated or omitted by the Issuing Authority.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: D

Solution:

Aadhaar is a 12-digit unique identity number that can be obtained by residents of India, based on their biometric and demographic data.

Aadhaar can be deactivated under various circumstances. An Aadhaar with mixed or anomalous biometric information or multiple names in single name is a good candidate for deactivation.

Aadhaar can also get deactivated upon non-usage of the same for three consecutive years.

13. Which of the following has/have shrunk immensely/dried up in the recent past due to human activities?

1. Aral Sea
2. Black Sea
3. Lake Baikal

Select the, correct answer using the code given below :

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

Answer key: D

Solution:

The shrinking of the Aral Sea has been called "one of the planet's worst environmental disasters". Aral Sea has been shrinking since the 1960s after the rivers that fed it were diverted by Soviet irrigation projects.

Lake Baikal, contains about 1/5th of the earth's unfrozen fresh water reserves. The lake is now at its lowest level in over 30 years & experts predict it will keep dropping until melting mountain snow & spring rains begin to recharge the lake around late April or mid-May. The problem, scientists & environmentalists say, is a combination of climate change & growing use of hydropower.

14. "Rule of Law Index" is released by which of the following?

- (a) Amnesty International
- (b) International Court of Justice
- (c) The Office of UN Commissioner for Human Rights
- (d) World Justice Project

Answer key: D

Solution:

The World Justice Project (WJP) released the 2017-2018 WJP Rule of Law Index® on 31 January 2018. It is a quantitative assessment tool designed to offer a comprehensive picture of the extent to which countries adhere to the rule of law in practice.

15. Which one of the following links all the ATMs in India?

- (a) Indian. Banks' Association
- (b) National Securities Depository Limited
- (c) National Payments Corporation of India
- (d) Reserve Bank of India

Answer key: C

Solution:

National Financial Switch (NFS) is the largest network of shared automated teller machines (ATMs) in India. It is owned by NPCI.

16. Consider the following statements :

1. Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) is the amount that banks have to maintain in the form of their own funds to offset any loss that banks incur if the account-holders fail to repay dues.

2. CAR is decided by each individual bank

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer key: A

Solution:

CAR is regulated by RBI.

17. The identity platform Aadhaar' provides open "Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)". What does it imply?

1. It can be integrated into any electronic device.

2. Online authentication using iris is possible.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer key: C

Solution:

Aadhaar authentication API is the procedure wherein the Aadhaar number of the user along with other attributes including the biometrics, are submitted online to the CIDR for verification on the basis of data and documents available with it. It uses the resident's fingerprint or iris along with the Aadhaar number to verifying the person's identity.

18. Very recently, in which of the following countries have lakhs of people either suffered from severe famine/acute malnutrition or died due to starvation caused by war/ethnic conflicts?

(a) Angola and Zambia

(b) Morocco and Tunisia

(c) Venezuela and Colombia

(d) Yemen and South Sudan

Answer key: D

Solution:

Seven million people are on the brink of famine in war-torn Yemen, which was already in the grip of the world's worst cholera outbreak when coalition forces led by Saudi Arabia tightened its blockade on the country last week, stemming vital aid flows.

An estimated in South Sudan are on the brink of starvation, according to the latest food and security analysis update by the UN and South Sudan's National Bureau of Statistics, released in November.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/jan/10/brink-starvation-south-sudan-equatoria>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/12/millions-on-brink-of-famine-in-yemen-as-saudi-arabia-tightens-blockade>

19. Regarding: Wood's Despatch, which of the following statements are true?

1. Grants-in-Aid system was introduced.

2. Establishment of universities was recommended.

3. English as a medium of instruction at all levels of education was recommended.

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer key: A

Solution:

The medium of instruction at the primary level was to be vernacular while at the higher levels it would be English.

20. With reference to the Parliament of India, which of the following Parliamentary Committees scrutinizes and reports to the House whether the powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules, by-laws, etc. conferred by the Constitution or delegated by the Parliament are being properly exercised by the Executive within the scope of such delegation?
- Committee on Government Assurances
 - Committee on Subordinate Legislation
 - Rules Committee
 - Business Advisory Committee

Answer key: B

Solution:

Self-explanatory

21. Consider the following statements:

- As per the Right to Education (RTE) Act, to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in a State, a person would be required to possess the minimum qualification laid down by the concerned State Council of Teacher Education.
- As per the RTE Act, for teaching primary classes, a candidate is required to pass a Teacher Eligibility Test conducted in accordance with the National Council of Teacher Education guidelines.
- In India, more than 90% of teacher education institutions are directly under the State Governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2
- 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 3 only

Answer key: B

Solution:

In accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 23 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has laid down the minimum qualifications for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in class I to VIII.

22. Consider the following pairs:

Traditions State

- Chapchar Kut festival : Mizoram
- Khongjom Parba ballad : Manipur
- Thang-Ta dance : Sikkim

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 1 and 2
- 3 only
- 2 and 3

Answer key: B

Solution:

The Chapchar Kut is a festival of Mizoram, India. It is celebrated during March after completion of their most arduous task of Jhum operation i.e., jungle-clearing (clearing of the remnants of burning). It is a spring festival celebrated with great fervour and gaiety.

Khongjom Parba is a style of ballad singing from Manipur using Dholak (drum) which depicts stories of heroic battle fought by Manipuris against the mighty British Empire in 1891.

Thang Ta - is an ancient Manipuri Martial Art developed from the war environment of Manipur & created by the Meitei.

23. Consider the following statements :

- The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 replaced the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

2. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is under the charge of Director General of Health Services in the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: A

Solution:

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the Administrative Ministry for the implementation of FSSAI. The Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have already been appointed by Government of India. The Chairperson is in the rank of Secretary to Government of India.

24. The term "two-state solution" is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of

- (a) China
- (b) Israel
- (c) Iraq
- (d) Yemen

Answer key: B

Solution:

The two-state solution refers to a solution of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict which calls for "two states for two groups of people." The two-state solution envisages an independent State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel, west of the Jordan River.

25. With reference to the provisions made under the National Food Security Act, 2013; consider the following statements :

- 1. The families coming under the category of 'below poverty line (BPL)' only are eligible to receive subsidised food grains.
- 2. The eldest woman in a household, of age 18 years or above, shall be the head of the household for the purpose of issuance of a ration card.
- 3. Pregnant women and lactating mothers are entitled to a 'take-home ration' of 1600 calories per day during pregnancy and for six months thereafter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: B

Solution:

The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the population. The eligible persons are entitled to receive 5 Kgs of foodgrains per person per month at subsidised prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains. The existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute the poorest of the poor, will continue to receive 35 Kgs of foodgrains per household per month.

26. India enacted The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 in order to comply with the obligations to

- (a) ILO
- (b) IMF
- (c) UNCTAD
- (d) WTO

Answer key: D

Solution:

India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999 has come into force with effect from 15th September 2003.

27. Consider the following statements :

- 1. In India, State Governments do not have the power to auction non-coal mines.

2. Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand do not have gold mines.
3. Rajasthan has iron ore mines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: D

Solution:

In India, gold mines are located in Jharkhand and Karnataka.

State governments have power to auction minor mineral mines.

Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Odisha, Goa, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu are the principal Indian producers of iron ore.

28. With reference to digital payments, consider the following statements :

1. BHIM app allows the user to transfer money to anyone with a UPI-enabled bank account.
2. While a chip-pin debit card has four factors of authentication, BHIM app has only two factors of authentication.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: A

Solution:

BHIM app asks for a four-digit PIN which is required to log into the app and authorize transactions. UPI-PIN is a 4-6 digit secret code that would be required for authorizing transactions.

29. Among the following cities, which one lies on a longitude closest to that of Delhi?

- (a) Bengaluru
- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) Nagpur
- (d) Pune

Answer key: A

Solution:

Longitude of Delhi- 77.1025° E

Longitude of Bangalore- 77.5946° E

Longitude of Nagpur- 79.0882° E

Longitude of Pune- 73.8567° E

30. International Labour Organisation's Conventions 138 and 182 are related to

- (a) Child labour
- (b) Adaptation of agricultural practices to global climate change
- (c) Regulation of food prices and food security
- (d) Gender parity at the workplace

Answer key: A

Solution:

ILO Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour and Convention No. 138 is on the minimum age for admission to employment and work.

31. Regarding Money Bill, which of the following statements is not correct?

- (a) A bill shall be deemed to be a Money Bill if it contains only provisions relating to imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax.
- (b) A Money Bill has provisions for the custody of the Consolidated Fund of India or the Contingency Fund of India.
- (c) A Money Bill is concerned with the appropriation of moneys out of the Contingency Fund of India.
- (d) A Money Bill deals with the regulation of borrowing of money or giving of any guarantee by the Government of India.

Answer key: C

Solution:

Money bill deals with appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India.

32. With reference to the election of the President of India, consider the following statements :

1. The value of the vote of each MLA varies from State to State.
2. The value of the vote of MPs of the Lok Sabha is more than the value of the vote of MPs of the Rajya Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: A

Solution:

Every elected member of either House of Parliament shall have such number of votes as may be obtained by dividing the total number of votes assigned to members of the legislative assemblies of the states by the total number of the elected members of both the Houses of Parliament.

Value of the vote of an MP = Total value of votes of all MLAs/ Total number of elected members of Parliament.

33. In the Indian context, what is the implication of ratifying the 'Additional Protocol' with the 'International Atomic Energy Agency'?

- (a) The civilian nuclear reactors come under IAEA safeguards.
- (b) The military nuclear installations come under the inspection of IAEA.
- (c) The country will have the privilege to buy uranium from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).
- (d) The country automatically becomes a member of the NSG.

Answer key: A

Solution:

An Additional Protocol (AP) to the Safeguards Agreement between the Government of India and the IAEA for the Application of Safeguards to Civilian Nuclear Facilities entered into force on 25 July 2014.

34. Consider the following countries :

1. Australia
2. Canada
3. China
4. India
5. Japan
6. USA

Which of the above are among the 'free-trade partners' of ASEAN?

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

Answer key: C

Solution:

ASEAN has five free trade agreements (FTAs) with six Dialogue Partners, namely China, Japan, Republic of Korea, India, and Australia and New Zealand.

35. With reference to the 'Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA)', which of the following statements is/ are correct?

1. GACSA is an outcome of the Climate Summit held in Paris in 2015.
2. Membership of GACSA does not create any binding obligations.
3. India was instrumental in the creation of GACSA.

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Answer key: B

Solution:

The Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA), was launched on 23 September 2014 at the UN Climate Summit.

GACSA is a voluntary platform open to governments, international and regional organizations, institutions, civil society, farmers' organizations and businesses who agree with its vision and its Framework Document. Being a member does not create any binding obligations and members determine their particular voluntary actions according to their needs and priorities.

36. Which of the following is/are the aim/ aims of "Digital India" Plan of the Government of India?

1. Formation of India's own Internet companies like China did.
2. Establish a policy framework to encourage overseas multinational corporations that collect Big Data to build their large data centres within our national geographical boundaries.
3. Connect many of our villages to the Internet and bring Wi-Fi to many of our schools, public places and major tourist centres.

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Answer key: B

Solution:

Digital India is an umbrella programme based on technology with a vision to transform India to a digitally empowered society and a knowledge economy. The Government of India specifically targets nine 'Pillars of the Digital India' as follows:

- Broadband Highway
- Universal Access to Mobile connectivity
- Public Internet Access Programme
- E-Governance, reforming Government through Technology
- E-Kranti, electronic delivery of services
- Information for All
- Electronics Manufacturing
- IT for Jobs
- Early Harvest Programmes

37. Consider the following pairs :

Towns sometimes Country mentioned in news

1. Aleppo - Syria
2. Kirkuk - Yemen
3. Mosul - Palestine
4. Mazar-i-sharif - Afghanistan

Which of the pairs given above matched?

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

Answer key: B

Solution:

Aleppo- Syria

Kirkuk- Iraq

Mosul- Iraq

Mazar-i-sharif- Afghanistan

38. In the Federation established by The Government of India Act of 1935, residuary powers were given to the

- (a) Federal Legislature
- (b) Governor General
- (c) Provincial Legislature
- (d) Provincial Governors

Answer key: B

Solution:

GOI, 1935 provided for the establishment of an All-India Federation consisting of provinces and princely states as units. The Act divided the powers between the Centre and units in terms of three lists—Federal List (for Centre, with 59 items), Provincial List (for provinces, with 54 items) and the Concurrent List (for both, with 36 items). Residuary powers were given to the Viceroy. However, the federation never came into being as the princely states did not join it.

39. Consider the following statements:

1. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly shall vacate his/her office if he/she ceases to be a member of the Assembly.
2. When ever the Legislative Assembly is dissolved, the Speaker shall vacate his/her office immediately.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: A

Solution:

Usually, the Speaker remains in office during the life of the Assembly. However, he has to vacate his office earlier in any of the following three cases:

1. if he ceases to be a member of the assembly;
2. if he resigns by writing to the Deputy Speaker; and
3. if he is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the members of the assembly.

Such a resolution can be moved only after giving 14 days' advance notice.

40. Which one of the following reflects the most appropriate relationship between law and liberty?

- (a) If there are more laws, there is less liberty.
- (b) If there are no laws, there is no liberty.
- (c) If there is liberty, laws have to be made by the people.
- (d) If laws are changed too often, liberty is in danger.

Answer key: C

Solution:

"Rule of Law" states that primacy of the rights of the individual, that is, the constitution is the result of the rights of the individual as defined and enforced by the courts of law rather than the constitution being the source of the individual rights. So, laws are made as a result of liberty that people already enjoy.

41. Consider the following statements :

1. No criminal proceedings shall be instituted against the Governor of a State in any court during his term of office.
2. The emoluments and allowances of the Governor of a State shall not be diminished during his term of office.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: C

Solution:

Like the President, the governor is also entitled to a number of privileges and immunities. He enjoys personal immunity from legal liability for his official acts. During his term of office, he is immune from any criminal proceedings, even in respect of his personal acts. He cannot be arrested or imprisoned. His emoluments and allowances cannot be diminished during his term of office.

42. The well-known painting "Bani Thani" belongs to the

- (a) Bundi school
- (b) Jaipur school
- (c) Kangra school
- (d) Kishangarh school

Answer key: D

Solution:

Bani Thani is an Indian miniature painting painted by Nihâl Chand from the Marwar school of Kishangarh. It portrays a woman who is elegant and graceful.

43. What is "Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)", sometimes seen in the news?

- (a) An Israeli radar system

- (b) India's indigenous anti-missile programme
- (c) An American anti-missile system
- (d) A defence collaboration between Japan and South Korea

Answer key: C

Solution:

Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), formerly Theater High Altitude Area Defense, is an American anti-ballistic missile defense system designed to shoot down short-, medium-, and intermediate-range ballistic missiles in their terminal phase (descent or reentry) by intercepting with a hit-to-kill approach.

44. With reference to cultural history of India, consider the following statements :

1. Most of the Tyagaraja Kritis are devotional songs in praise of Lord Krishna.
2. Tyagaraja created several new ragas.
3. Annamacharya and Tyagaraja are contemporaries.
4. Annamacharya kirtana are devotional songs in praise of Lord Venkateshwara.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer key: B

Solution:

Saint Thyagaraja was born on 4th May, 1767, as per the Gregorian calendar. Annamacharya was born on Vaishakha Shuddha Pournami in the year Sarvadhari (22 May 1408). So, statement 3 is incorrect.

Tyagaraja composed thousands of devotional compositions, most of them in praise of Lord Rama.

45. Which of the following are regarded as the main features of the "Rule of Law"?

1. Limitation of powers
2. Equality before law
3. People's responsibility to the Government
4. Liberty and civil rights

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Answer key: C

Solution:

The concept of 'equality before law' is an element of the concept of 'Rule of Law', propounded by A.V. Dicey, the British jurist. His concept has the following three elements or aspects: (i) Absence of arbitrary power, that is, no man can be punished except for a breach of law. (ii) Equality before the law, that is, equal subjection of all citizens (rich or poor, high or low, official or nonofficial) to the ordinary law of the land administered by the ordinary law courts. (iii) The primacy of the rights of the individual, that is, the constitution is the result of the rights of the individual as defined and enforced by the courts of law rather than the constitution being the source of the individual rights.

46. Which one of the following statements correctly describes the meaning of legal tender money?

- (a) The money which is tendered in courts of law to defray the fee of legal cases
- (b) The money which a creditor is under compulsion to accept in settlement of his claims
- (c) The bank money in the form of cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, etc.
- (d) The metallic money in circulation in a country

Answer key: B

Solution:

Legal tender is any official medium of payment recognized by law that can be used to extinguish a public or private debt, or meet a financial obligation. The national currency is legal tender in practically every country. A creditor is obligated to accept legal tender toward repayment of a debt.

47. If a commodity is provided free to the public by the Government, then

- (a) the opportunity cost is zero.
- (b) the opportunity cost is ignored.
- (c) the opportunity cost is transferred from the consumers of the product to the tax-paying public.
- (d) the opportunity cost is transferred from the consumers of the product to the Government.

Answer key: D

Solution:

Opportunity cost refers to a benefit that a person could have received, but gave up, to take another course of action. Stated differently, an opportunity cost represents an alternative given up when a decision is made. In this case, as the government is the decision maker, the cost is also borne by the government.

48. Increase in absolute and per capita real GNP do not connote a higher level of economic development, if

- (a) Industrial output fails to keep pace with agricultural output.
- (b) Agricultural output fails to keep pace with industrial output.
- (c) Poverty and unemployment increase.
- (d) Imports grow faster than exports.

Answer key: C

Solution:

The unequal distribution of wealth gained out of increase in real GNP will result in poor economic development. Poverty and increase in unemployment are products of unequal distribution.

49. Consider the following statements :

Human capital formation as a concept is better explained in terms of a process which enables

1. individuals of a country to accumulate more capital.
2. increasing the knowledge, skill levels and capacities of the people of the country.
3. accumulation of tangible wealth.
4. accumulation of intangible wealth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: C

Solution:

The human capital formation indicates, "the process of acquiring and increasing the number of persons who have the skills, education and experience which are critical for the economic and the political development of the country. The benefits attained are intangible in nature, whereas tangible asset is an asset that has a physical form. Tangible assets include both fixed assets, such as machinery, buildings and land, and current assets, such as inventory.

50. Despite being a high saving economy, capital formation may not result in significant increase in output due to

- (a) weak administrative machinery
- (b) illiteracy
- (c) high population density
- (d) high capital-output ratio

Answer key: D

Solution:

Capital output ratio is the amount of capital needed to produce one unit of output. If this ratio is high, even high savings can't be transformed into significant output.

51. After the Santhal Uprising subsided, what was/were the measure/measures taken by the colonial government?

1. The territories called 'Santhal Pargana' were created.
2. It became illegal for a Santhal to transfer land to a non-Santhal.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer key: C

Solution:

Santhal Pargana is main land of famous Santhal rebellion. On 30 June 1855, two Santal rebel leaders, Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu, mobilized ten thousand Santals and declared a rebellion against British colonists. After the uprising, Santhal parganas were created by British Government.

Formerly, Santhal Parganas comprised a district of the same name, in undivided Bihar state, India. Earlier to that, in 1855, during British India, Santhal Parganas was created as a district, and was a part of the Bengal Presidency. Currently, these districts are found in the state of Jharkhand.

52. Economically, one of the results of the British rule in India in the 19th century was the

- (a) Increase in the export of Indian handicrafts
- (b) Growth in the number of Indian owned factories
- (c) Commercialization of Indian agriculture
- (d) Rapid increase in the urban population

Answer key: C

Solution:

Commercialization of Indian agriculture was the one of the main effects of Industrial revolution began in Europe in 18th-19th century. New land tenure policies, incentives to the crops with high demand, promotion of plantation crops led to the commercialization of Indian agriculture.

53. If the President of India exercises his power as provided under Article 356 of the Constitution in respect of a particular State, then

- (a) the Assembly of the State is automatically dissolved.
- (b) the powers of the Legislature of that State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of the Parliament.
- (c) Article 19 is suspended in that State.
- (d) the President can make laws relating to that State.

Answer key: B

Solution:

An Emergency due to the failure of the constitutional machinery in the states (Article 356). This is popularly known as 'President's Rule'. It is also known by two other names—'State Emergency' or 'constitutional Emergency'. During its operation, the state executive is dismissed and the state legislature is either suspended or dissolved. The president administers the state through the governor and the Parliament makes laws for the state.

54. Consider the following pairs :

Craft Heritage of

- 1. Puthukkuli shawls - Tamil Nadu
- 2. Sujni embroidery - Maharashtra
- 3. Uppada Jamdani Saris - Karnataka

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: A

Solution:

Sujni Embroidery- Bihar

Uppada Jamdani Sari- Andhra Pradesh

55. In which of the following areas, GPS technology be used?

- 1. Mobile phone operations
- 2. Banking operations
- 3. Controlling the power grids

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Answer key: D

Solution:

GPS i.e. 'Global Positioning System' is used in all the above-mentioned areas.

56. Consider the following statements :

1. The Reserve Bank of India manages and services Government of India Securities but not any State Government Securities.
2. Treasury bills are issued by the Government of India and there are no treasury bills issued by the State Governments.
3. Treasury bills offer are issued at a discount from the par value.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: C

Solution:

RBI manages and services both centre and state securities. A Government Security (G-Sec) is a tradable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments. In India, the Central Government issues both, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities. Treasury bills or T-bills, which are money market instruments, are short term debt instruments issued by the Government of India and are presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91 day, 182 day and 364 day.

57. Consider the following statements :

1. The Earth's magnetic field has reversed every few hundred thousand years.
2. When the Earth was created more than 4000 million years ago, there was 54% oxygen and no carbon dioxide.
3. When living organisms originated, they modified the early atmosphere of the Earth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: C

Solution:

When the Earth was created, Hydrogen and Helium were prominent gases. As the Earth cooled, a primitive atmosphere was created by the outgassing. The early atmosphere contained no oxygen. Living organisms played very important role in modifying the present atmosphere.

58. The terms 'WannaCry, Petya and Eternal Blue' sometimes mentioned in the news recently are related to

- (a) Exoplanets
- (b) Cryptocurrency
- (c) Cyber attacks
- (d) Mini satellites

Answer key: C

Solution:

The given terms are well-known ransomwares.

59. With reference to the circumstances in Indian agriculture, the concept of "Conservation Agriculture" assumes significance. Which of the following fall under the Conservation Agriculture?

1. Avoiding the monoculture practices
2. Adopting minimum tillage
3. Avoiding the cultivation of plantation crops
4. Using crop residues to cover soil surface
5. Adopting spatial and temporal crop sequencing/crop rotations

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Answer key: C

Solution:

'Conservation Agriculture' is a set of soil management practices that minimize the disruption of the soil's structure, composition and natural biodiversity. Despite high variability in the types of crops grown and specific management regimes, all forms of conservation agriculture share three core principles. These include, maintenance of permanent or semi-permanent soil cover (using either a previous crop residue or specifically growing a cover crop for this purpose); minimum soil disturbance through tillage (just enough to get the seed into the ground) ; regular crop rotations to help combat the various biotic constraint.

60. The term "sixth mass, extinction/sixth extinction" is often mentioned in the news in the context of the discussion of

- (a) Widespread monoculture practices in agriculture and large- scale commercial farming with indiscriminate use of chemicals in many parts of the world that may result in the loss of good native ecosystems.
- (b) Fears of a possible collision of a meteorite with the Earth in the near future in the manner it happened 65 million years ago that caused the mass extinction of many species including those of dinosaurs.
- (c) Large scale cultivation of genetically modified crops in many parts of the world and promoting their cultivation in other parts of the world which may cause the disappearance of good native crop plants and the loss of food biodiversity.
- (d) Mankind's over-exploitation/ misuse of natural resources, fragmentation/loss of natural habitats, destruction of ecosystems, pollution and global climate change.

Answer key: D

Solution:

A biological annihilation of wildlife in recent decades means a sixth mass extinction in Earth's history. It is happening because of mankind's over-exploitation of natural resources, fragmentation, destruction of ecosystems, pollution and climate change.

61. With reference to the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), consider the following statements :

- 1. IRNSS has three satellites in geostationary and four satellites in geosynchronous orbits.
- 2. IRNSS covers entire India and about 5500 sq. km beyond its borders.
- 3. India will have its own satellite navigation system with full global coverage by the middle of 2019.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) None

Answer key: A

Solution:

IRNSS is an independent regional navigation satellite system being developed by India. It is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary. The space segment consists of the IRNSS constellation of eight satellites, NavIC. Three satellites are located in suitable orbital slots in the geostationary orbit and the remaining four are located in geosynchronous orbits

62. Consider the following phenomena :

- 1. Light is affected by gravity.
 - 2. The Universe is constantly expanding.
 - 3. Matter warps its surrounding space-time.
- Which of the above is/are the prediction/predictions of Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, often discussed in media?

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

Answer key: D

Solution:

All the above observations are the predictions of Albert Einstein's 'General Theory of Relativity'.

63. With reference to the Genetically Modified mustard (GM mustard) developed in India, consider the following statements :

1. GM mustard has the genes of a soil bacterium that give the plant the property of pest-resistance to a wide variety of pests.
2. GM mustard has the genes that allow the plant cross-pollination and hybridization.
3. GM mustard has been developed jointly by the IARI and Punjab Agricultural University.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: B

Solution:

DMH-11 is a Genetically Modified (GM) mustard hybrid. Hybrids are normally obtained by crossing 2 genetically diverse plants from the same species. It is developed by a team of Delhi University.

64. Consider the following pairs :

Terms sometimes in news Context /Topic

1. Belle II - Artificial experiment Intelligence
2. Blockchain technology - Digital/ Cryptocurrency
3. CRISPR-Cas9 - Particle Physics

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer key: B

Solution:

The Belle II experiment is a particle physics experiment designed to study the properties of B mesons. Digital/ Cryptocurrency is based on blockchain technology. CRISPR- Cas9 is an gene editing technique.

65. Which of the following statements best describes "carbon fertilization"?

- (a) Increased plant growth due to increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
- (b) Increased temperature of Earth due to increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
- (c) Increased acidity of oceans as a result of increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
- (d) Adaptation of all living beings on Earth to the climate change brought about by the increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere

Answer key: A

Solution:

Carbon fertilization effect suggests that the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increases the rate of photosynthesis in plants. The effect varies depending on the plant species, the temperature, and the availability of water and nutrients.

66. When the alarm of your smartphone rings in the morning, you wake up and tap it to stop the alarm which causes your geyser to be switched on automatically. The smart mirror in your bathroom shows the day's weather and also indicates the level of water in your overhead tank. After you take some groceries from your refrigerator for making breakfast, it recognises the shortage of stock in it and places an order for the supply of fresh grocery items. When you step out of your house and lock the door, all lights, fans, geysers and AC machines get switched off automatically. On your way to office, your car warns you about traffic congestion ahead and suggests an alternative route, and if you are late for a meeting, it sends a message to your office accordingly.

In the context of emerging communication technologies, which one of the following terms best applies to the above scenario?

- (a) Border Gateway protocol
- (b) Internet of Things
- (c) Internet Protocol
- (d) Virtual Private Network

Answer key: B

Solution:

'Internet of Things' means the interconnection via the Internet of computing devices embedded in everyday objects, enabling them to send and receive data.

67. With reference to solar power production in India, consider the following statements:
1. India is the third largest in the world in the manufacture of silicon wafers used in photovoltaic units.
 2. The solar power tariffs are determined by the Solar Energy Corporation of India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer key: D

Solution:

India is an importer of silicon wafers used in photovoltaic units.

As per SECI website FAQs, Solar Power tariffs shall be determined either through CERC/SERC Regulations or competitive bidding.

68. The staple commodities of export by the English East India Company from Bengal in the middle of the 18th century were
- (a) Raw cotton, oil-seeds and opium
 - (b) Sugar, salt, zinc and lead
 - (c) Copper, silver, gold, spices and tea
 - (d) Cotton, silk, saltpetre and opium

Answer key: D

Solution:

Basic commodities including cotton, silk, indigo dye, salt, saltpetre, tea, and opium were exported by the English East India Company from Bengal in 18th Century.

69. Which one of the following is a very significant aspect of the Champaran Satyagraha?
- (a) Active all-India participation of lawyers, students and women in the National Movement
 - (b) Active involvement of Dalit and Tribal communities of India in the National Movement
 - (c) Joining of peasant unrest to India's National Movement
 - (d) Drastic decrease in the cultivation of plantation crops and commercial crops

Answer key: C

Solution:

Champaran Satyagraha in 1917 was the first Satyagraha movement inspired by Mohandas Gandhi and a major revolt in the Indian Independence Movement. It led to the large influx of peasants into India's National Movement.

70. Who among the following were the founders of the "Hind Mazdoor Sabha" established in 1948?
- (a) B. Krishna Pillai, E.M.S. Namboodiripad and K.C. George
 - (b) Jayaprakash Narayan, Deen Dayal Upadhyay and M.N. Roy
 - (c) C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, K. Kamaraj and Veeresalingam Pantulu
 - (d) Ashok Mehta, T.S. Ramanujam and G.G. Mehta

Answer key: D

Solution:

'HMS (Hind Mazdoor Sabha)' was founded in Howrah in west Bengal on 29 December 1948, by socialists, Forward Bloc followers and independent unionists. Its founders included Basawon Singh (Sinha), Ashok Mehta, R.S. Ruikar, Maniben Kara etc.

71. With reference to the religious practices India, the "Sthanakvasi" sect belongs to
- (a) Buddhism
 - (b) Jainism
 - (c) Vaishnavism
 - (d) Shaivism

Answer key: B

Solution:

Sthanakvasi is a sect of Svetambara Jainism founded by a merchant named Lavaji in 1653 AD. It believes that idol worship is not essential in the path of soul purification and attainment of Nirvana/Moksha.

72. With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following statements:

1. White marble was used in making Buland Darwaza and Khankah at Fatehpur Sikri.
2. Red sandstone and marble were used in making Bara Imambara and Rumi Darwaza at Lucknow.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: A

Solution:

First statement is correct. Bara Imambara is an imambara complex in Lucknow, India, built by Asaf-ud-Daula, Nawab of Awadh, in 1784. Bara Imambara building is hollow and is made of sugarcane juice, jaggery and Urad daal.

73. Which one of the following foreign travellers elaborately discussed about diamonds and diamond mines of India?

- (a) Francois Bernier
- (b) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier
- (c) Jean de Thevenot
- (d) Abbe Barthelemy Carre

Answer key: B

Solution:

Jean- Baptiste Tavernier was a 17th-century French gem merchant and traveler. Tavernier was a private individual and merchant. He discussed about diamonds and it's mines in India.

74. With reference to Indian history, who among the following is a future Buddha, yet to come to save the world?

- (a) Avalokiteshvara
- (b) Lokeshvara
- (c) Maitreya
- (d) Padmapani

Answer key: C

Solution:

Maitreya is regarded as a future Buddha of this world in Buddhist eschatology. In some Buddhist literature, such as the Amitabha Sutra and the Lotus Sutra, he is referred to as Ajita.

75. Which one of the following statements does not apply to the system of Subsidiary Alliance introduced by Lord Wellesley?

- (a) To maintain a large standing army at others expense
- (b) To keep India safe from Napoleonic danger
- (c) To secure a fixed income for the Company
- (d) To establish British paramountcy over the Indian States

Answer key: C

Solution:

'Subsidiary Alliance' was an alliance between princely states and French India, and later the British East India Company. The pioneer of the subsidiary alliance system was French Governor Dupleix. The final shape was given by Lord Wellesley, British Governor-General in India from 1798 to 1805. Its motive was to establish British Paramountcy over Indian States. Securing fixed income was not a goal of this system.

76. Which of the following led to the introduction of English Education in India?

1. Charter Act of 1813
2. General Committee of Public Instruction, 1823
3. Orientalist and Anglicist Controversy

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer key: D

Solution:

All these events led to the introduction of English Education in India.

77. Which one of the following is an artificial lake?

(a) Kodaikanal (Tamil Nadu)

(b) Kolleru (Andhra Pradesh)

(c) Nainital (Uttarakhand)

(d) Renuka (Himachal Pradesh)

Answer key: A

Solution: Kodaikanal lake is a manmade lake located in the Kodaikanal city in Dindigul district in Tamil Nadu, India. Sir Vere Henry Levinge, the then Collector of Madurai, was instrumental in creating the lake in 1863.

78. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

2. It, among other things, will also impart training in soft skills, entrepreneurship, financial and digital literacy.

3. It aims to align the competencies of the unregulated workforce of the country to the National Skill Qualification Framework.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer key: C

Solution:

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana is the flagship scheme of Ministry of Skill development. The objective of this Skill Certification Scheme is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood. Other statements are correct.

79. In 1920, which of the following changed its name to "Swarajya Sabha"?

(a) All India Home Rule League

(b) Hindu Mahasabha

(c) South Indian Liberal Federation

(d) The Servants of India Society

Answer key: A

Solution:

In 1920, the All India Home Rule League elected Mahatma Gandhi as its president. In a year, the body merged into the Indian National Congress to form a united Indian political front under name of 'Swaraj Sabha'.

80. Which among the following events happened earliest?

(a) Swami Dayanand established Arya Samaj.

(b) Dinabandhu Mitra wrote Neel darpan.

(c) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote Anandmath.

(d) Satyendranath Tagore became the first Indian to succeed in the Indian Civil Services Examination.

Answer key: B

Solution:

Swami Dayanand established Arya Samaj in 1875. Nil Darpan is a Bengali play written by Dinabandhu Mitra in 1858–1859. Anandamath is a Bengali fiction, written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and published in 1882. Satyendranath Tagore became the first Indian to succeed in the Indian Civil Services Examination in 1863.

81. Which of the following is/are the possible consequence/s of heavy sand mining in riverbeds?

1. Decreased salinity in the river

2. Pollution of groundwater

3. Lowering of the water-table

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Answer key: B

Solution:

Heavy sand mining in riverbeds increase the salinity in the river. other statements are the consequences of sand mining.

82. With reference to agricultural soils, consider the following statements:

- 1. A high content of organic matter in soil drastically reduces its water holding capacity.
 - 2. Soil does not play any role in the sulphur cycle.
 - 3. Irrigation over a period of time can contribute to the salinization of some agricultural lands.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: B

Solution:

A high content of organic matter in soil doesn't reduce its water holding capacity rather it increases. Soil also plays role in the sulphur cycle.

83. The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), a UN mechanism to assist countries transition towards greener and more inclusive economies, emerged at

- (a) The Earth Summit on Sustainable Development 2002, Johannesburg
- (b) The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012, Rio de Janeiro
- (c) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2015, Paris
- (d) The World Sustainable Development Summit 2016, New Delhi

Answer key: B

Solution:

'Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)' was launched in 2013 as a response to the call at Rio+20 i.e. UN Conference on Sustainable Development 2012, to support those countries wishing to embark on greener and more inclusive growth trajectories.

84. "3D printing" has applications in which of the following?

- 1. Preparation of confectionery items
- 2. Manufacture of bionic ears
- 3. Automotive industry
- 4. Reconstructive surgeries
- 5. Data processing technologies

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Answer key: D

Solution:

3D printing is any of various processes in which material is joined or solidified under computer control to create a three-dimensional object. It has applications in all the above mentioned fields.

85. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Barren Island volcano is an active volcano located in the Indian territory.
- 2. Barren Island lies about 140 km east of Great Nicobar.
- 3. The last time the Barren Island volcano erupted was in 1991 and it has remained inactive since then.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(d) 1 and 3

Answer key: A

Solution:

Barren Island Volcano is only active volcano in India and South Asia. A team from the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) spotted the volcano erupting on 23 January 2017. Barren Island is situated in the Andaman Sea, and lies about 138 km northeast of the territory's capital, Port Blair.

86. Why is a plant called *Prosopis juliflora* often mentioned in news?

- (a) Its extract is widely used in cosmetics.
- (b) It tends to reduce the biodiversity in the area in which it grows.
- (c) Its extract is used in the synthesis of pesticides.
- (d) None of the above

Answer key: B

Solution:

'*Prosopis Juliflora*' is a shrub or small tree in the family Fabaceae, a kind of mesquite. It is native to Mexico, South America and the Caribbean. It has become an alien species in India. It tends to reduce the biodiversity in area in which it grows.

87. Consider the following statements:

1. Most of the world's coral reefs are in tropical waters.
2. More than one-third of the world's coral reefs are located in the territories of Australia, Indonesia and Philippines.
3. Coral reefs host far more number of animal phyla than those hosted by tropical rainforests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: D

Solution:

Coral reefs are diverse underwater ecosystems held together by calcium carbonate structures secreted by corals. Coral reefs are built by colonies of tiny animals found in marine water that contain few nutrients. All the statements are correct.

88. "Momentum for Change: Climate Neutral Now" is an initiative launched by

- (a) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- (b) The UNEP Secretariat
- (c) The UNFCCC Secretariat
- (d) The World Meteorological Organization

Answer key: C

Solution:

Momentum for Change is an initiative spearheaded by the UN Climate Change secretariat (UNFCCC) to shine a light on the enormous groundswell of activities underway across the globe that are moving the world toward a highly resilient, low-carbon future.

89. With reference to educational institutions during colonial rule in India, consider the following pairs:

Institution		Founder
1. Sanskrit College at Benaras	-	William Jones
2. Calcutta Madrasa	-	Warren Hastings
3. Fort William College	-	Arthur Wellesley

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: B

Solution:

Sanskrit College at Banaras was proposed by Jonathan Duncan and Lord Cornwallis sanctioned it in 1791. Calcutta Madrasa was built by Warren Hastings. Fort William College was founded by Lord Wellesley, then Governor General. Arthur Wellesley was brother of him.

90. Consider the following pairs :

Regions sometimes mentioned in news		Country
1. Catalonia	-	Spain
2. Crimea	-	Hungary
3. Mindanao	-	Philippines
4. Oromia		Nigeria

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer key: C

Solution:

Crimea - Russia
 Oromia - Ethiopia

91. Consider the following events :

1. The first democratically elected communist party government formed in a State in India.
2. India's then largest bank, 'Imperial Bank of India', was renamed 'State Bank of India'.
3. Air India was nationalised and became the national carrier.
4. Goa became a part of independent India.

Which of the following is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?

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

Answer key: B

Solution:

First democratically elected communist party government was formed in Kerala in 1957. India's largest bank, 'Imperial Bank of India', was renamed as 'State Bank of India' in 1955. Air India was nationalised in 1953. Goa became a part of Independent India in 1961.

92. Right to Privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty. Which of the following in the Constitution of India correctly and appropriately imply the above statement?

- (a) Article 14 and the provisions under the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution
 (b) Article 17 and the Directive Principles of State Policy in Part IV
 (c) Article 21 and the freedoms guaranteed in Part III
 (d) Article 24 and the provisions under the 44th Amendment to the Constitution

Answer key: C

Solution:

Right to Privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty. It is part of Article 21 and freedoms guaranteed in Part III.

93. Consider the following:

1. Areca nut
2. Barley
3. Coffee
4. Finger millet
5. Groundnut
6. Sesamum
7. Turmeric

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has announced the Minimum Support Price for which of the above?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 7 only
 (b) 2, 4, 5 and 6 only
 (c) 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
 (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Answer key: B

Solution:

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices. The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). 26 commodities are currently covered under MSP but it doesn't include Areca nut, Coffee, Sesamum and Turmeric.

94. In which one of the following States is Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary located?

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Manipur
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Nagaland

Answer key: A

Solution:

Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary lies in the foothills of the Eastern Himalaya in the East Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh.

95. With reference to India's satellite launch vehicles, consider the following statements :

1. PSLVs launch the satellites useful for Earth resources monitoring whereas GSLVs are designed mainly to launch communication satellites.
2. Satellites launched by PSLV appear to remain permanently fixed in the same position in the sky, as viewed from a particular location on Earth.
3. GSLV Mk III is a four-staged launch vehicle with the first and third stages using solid rocket motors; and the second and fourth stages using liquid rocket engines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: A

Solution:

Both PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) and GSLV (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle) are the satellite-launch vehicles (rockets) developed by ISRO. PSLV is designed mainly to deliver the "earth-observation" or "remote-sensing" satellites with lift-off mass of up to about 1750 Kg to Sun-Synchronous circular polar orbits of 600-900 Km altitude. The GSLV is designed mainly to deliver the communication-satellites to the highly elliptical (typically 250 x 36000 Km) Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). GSLV Mk III is three staged vehicle.

96. With reference to the governance of public sector banking in India, consider the following statements :

1. Capital infusion into public sector banks by the Government of India has steadily increased in the last decade.
2. To put the public sector banks in order, the merger of associate banks with the parent State Bank of India has been affected.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: B

Solution:

Capital infusion into public sector banks by Government of India has not steadily increased in last decade. Merger of SBI and its associated banks are taken place to improve the financial health of banks.

97. Consider the following items

1. Cereal grains hulled
2. Chicken eggs cooked
3. Fish processed and canned
4. Newspapers material containing advertising

Which of the above items is/are exempted under GST (Goods and Services Tax)?

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

Answer key: C

Solution:

Fish (not processed and frozen) are exempted from GST along with other mentioned items. Fish processed and canned are not exempted under GST.

98. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The definition of "Critical Wildlife Habitat" is incorporated in the Forest Rights Act, 2006.
- 2. For the first time in India, Baigas have been given Habitat Rights.
- 3. Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change officially decides and declares Habitat Rights for Primitive and Vulnerable Tribal Groups in any part of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: A

Solution:

Forest Rights Act 2006 defines 'Critical Wildlife Habitat' as the areas of national parks and sanctuaries where it has been specifically and clearly established, case by case, on the basis of scientific and objective criteria, that such areas are required to be kept as inviolate for the purposes of wildlife conservation'.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of "Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)" exclusively for them . Under the scheme, Conservation-cum-Development (CCD)/Annual Plans are to be prepared by each State/UT for their PVTGs based on their need assessment, which are then appraised and approved by the Project Appraisal Committee of the Ministry. Activities for development of PVTGs are undertaken in Sectors of Education, Health, Livelihood and Skill Development , Agricultural Development , Housing & Habitat, Conservation of Culture etc.

99. Consider the following:

- 1. Birds
- 2. Dust blowing
- 3. Rain
- 4. Wind blowing

Which of the above spread plant diseases?

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

Answer key: D

Solution:

Diseases that attack the leaves of a plant are primarily spread by wind, but they can also move to nearby plants by taking a ride on splashing water droplets from rain or irrigation. Birds act as pollinators as well as carriers of diseases from one plant to another.

100. With reference to organic farming in India, consider the following statements :

- 1. 'The National Programme for Organic Production' (NPOP) is operated under the guidelines and directions of the Union Ministry of Rural Development.
- 2. 'The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority' (APEDA) functions as the Secretariat for the implementation of NPOP.
- 3. Sikkim has become India's first fully organic State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer key: B

Solution:

NPOP is being managed by APEDA under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. NPOP is the mainstay for quality assurance for organic agriculture products in India operated through 28 accredited certification bodies.

Sikkim has become India's first fully organic state by implementing organic practices on around 75,000 hectares of agricultural land.

