1. The BTIA (Broadbased Trade and Investment Agreement) recently seen in the news is
   (a) A bilateral free trade deal between India and the European Union, the negotiations for which are ongoing
   (b) A multilateral free trade deal between the SAARC grouping and EU, the negotiations for which are ongoing
   (c) A free trade deal between India and NAFTA
   (d) India’s proposal for participation in the Trans Pacific Partnership deal

Solution: a.


2. Under the National Energy Efficient Agriculture Pumps Programme
   1. Farmers will be helped with replacing old agricultural pumps across the country with new-age energy efficient agricultural pumps
   2. Pumps will come enabled with a smart control panel, giving farmers the flexibility to switch-on and switch-off these pumps from their mobile phones

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

Solution: c.

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138618

3. The nodal agency for implementing the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is
   (a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs
   (b) The Ministry of Rural Development
   (c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
   (d) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Solution: a.

http://tribal.nic.in/content/forestrightactotherlinks.aspx

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/columns/making-a-hollow-in-the-forest-rights-act/article8442490.ece

4. With reference to the Public Interest Litigation or PIL, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?
   1. The mid-day meal that children now receive in government and government-aided schools is because of a PIL
   2. A PIL can be filed only in the Supreme Court

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

Solution: b.

“The Supreme Court in the early 1980s devised a mechanism of Public Interest Litigation or PIL to increase access to justice. It allowed any individual or organisation to file a PIL in the High Court or the Supreme Court on behalf of those whose rights were being violated. The legal process was greatly simplified and even a letter or telegram
addressed to the Supreme Court or the High Court could be treated as a PIL.”

Chapter 5, Social and Political Life Class VIII NCERT

Improvisation:

http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/drought-sc-pulls-up-gujarat-haryana-for-lack-of-initiative/article8448756.ece


5. The nodal Ministry on the subject ‘Solid Waste Management’ is

(a) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(b) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
(c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(d) Ministry of Urban Development

Solution: d.

Solid Waste Management Rules 2016: Point 4, Page 2

6. The ‘Pindari glacier’ lies in the state of

(a) Jammu and Kashmir
(b) Himachal Pradesh
(c) Uttarkhand
(d) Sikkim

Solution: c.

Pindari Glacier

http://pib.nic.in/newssite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138582

http://pib.nic.in/newssite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137230

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the ‘36th International Geological Congress (IGC)’ is/are correct?

1. This will be the first time that India hosts the IGC
2. It will be hosted jointly by the Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Earth Sciences
3. Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan will be co-hosts

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 and 3 Only
(b) 2 and 3 Only
(c) 1 and 2 Only
(d) 3 Only

Solution: b.

“The IGC is a prestigious geoscience conference organized at an interval of 4 years under the aegis of International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) an affiliate of International Council of Science (ICSU).”

“India successfully made a bid to host the 36th IGC in India along with its co-host neighboring countries, namely, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. India had earlier hosted the 22nd session of IGC, which was the first IGC in Asia, in year 1964 in Delhi. The event will showcase India as a scientific destination for human resource development and training, and this will help improve Indian position in the South Asian and African regions on a long term basis. It will also contribute towards increasing tourism revenue by opening new avenues for geo-tourism.”
1. The Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways, recently seen in the news, will ease traffic congestion in

(a) The Golden Quadrilateral
(b) Delhi
(c) Coastal Highways
(d) Kolkata

Solution: b.

http://pib.nic.in/newssite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138596

2. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Water Mission is one of the eight National Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change
2. The National Project on Aquifer Management (NAQUIM) is an initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

Solution: c.

The National Project on Aquifer Management (NAQUIM) is an initiative of the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, for mapping and managing the entire aquifer systems in the country.

http://pib.nic.in/newssite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138705

3. With reference to ‘India Water Week 2016’, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. ‘Water for All: Water and Sustainable Growth’ is the theme
2. Netherlands is the Partnering Country

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

Solution: c.

“... I congratulate the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation for organising “India Water Week -2016”. The theme, “Water for All: Striving Together” is of universal relevance – and of great interest to all of us. ...”

“...I congratulate Israel, this year’s partner country and commend its Government, scientists, technicians and people for developing practical innovations for optimally utilizing – and saving every drop of water that they can...”

http://pib.nic.in/newssite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138705
4. In the context of Solid Waste Management (SWM) in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. In India, not all of the waste collected is processed

2. Under the SWM Rules 2016, all rag pickers in urban areas are to be brought under formal systems such as cooperatives

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

Solution: a.


5. Consider the following statements:

1. India is a member of the Financial Action Task Force, an intergovernmental body set up to combat money laundering

2. India’s Liberalised Remittance Scheme is a form of capital control

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

(a) 1 Only

(b) 2 Only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: c.

1. Which among the following is/are products or services developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)?

1. RuPay
2. Unified Payments Interface
3. National Financial Switch

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 3 Only
(b) 1 and 2 Only
(c) 2 and 3 Only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution: d.

http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/a-digital-wallet-for-all-your-espends/article8455651.ece

http://www.npci.org.in/aboutus.aspx

2. Antibiotics are said to be losing their effectiveness. Consider the following statements with regard to them:

1. The outcome of surgical procedures is strongly linked to the success of antibiotics
2. India has a ‘National Policy for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance’
3. The ‘World Antibiotic Awareness Week’ was observed for the first time in 2015

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 Only
(b) 1 and 2 Only
(c) 2 and 3 Only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: d.

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/sick-go-easy-on-the-antibiotics/article8455699.ece

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/antibiotics-losing-their-edge/article7904388.ece

3. The ‘Chennai Declaration’, sometimes seen in the news, is associated with the issue of

(a) Antibiotic Resistance
(b) India’s National Language
(c) Wetland Conservation
(d) Climate Change in Coastal Communities

Solution: a.

“... “A roadmap to tackle the challenge of antimicrobial resistance”, was the first ever joint meeting of medical societies in India addressing antibiotic resistance, held in Chennai in August 2012. The high antimicrobial resistance rate in the country and the inspiration received from the on-going international efforts prompted Indian doctors to organise the Chennai meeting. Considering the large number of medical societies in India, ensuring participation of all major societies, as well as representatives from of governmental bodies such as the office of Drugs Controller General of India, Medical Council of India, National Accreditation Board of Hospitals, Indian Council of Medical Research, was a major achievement.”

“The efforts resulted in a strategy of Indian medical societies and policy makers to combat the serious menace of antimicrobial resistance in the country. Shortly after the meeting, representatives of major societies joined together to compile a consensus document on tackling antimicrobial resistance.”
4. Consider the following statements with regard to Septage Management in India:

1. Sewage Treatment Plants’ overall treatment capacity remains underutilized

2. According to the National Water Supply and Sewerage Act of 1975 construction of a septic tank for domestic purposes is illegal in Tier-I and Tier-II cities

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

Solution: a.

“Most STPs in the country remain underutilised. Only 66 per cent—3,126 million litres per day (MLD)—of the actual treatment capacity of the 152 STPs spread across 15 states in the country is utilised, shows a 2015 report of CPCB.”

There is no “National Water Supply and Sewerage Act of 1975”.

“If a house is connected to sewerage this sewage will travel from the building's internal wastewater collection system to the municipal sewer system. Propelled by pumping stations, the wastewater will finally reach an STP, if there is one. Creating this infrastructure for all will be prohibitively costly. Nor is it suitable to all terrains. Management of excreta on the site by using septic tanks and pit latrines is, therefore, a necessity.”
1. An INCOIS team (The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services) was one among many presented with the National Geoscience Award – 2014 recently. For the development of which of the following systems was the team rewarded?

(a) Coral Bleaching Alerts
(b) Ocean State Forecast
(c) Tsunami Early Warnings
(d) Marine Fishery Advisories

2. ‘Multi-messenger Astronomy’ recently seen in the news can best explained as

(a) The combining of observations of a single event, made using different means, to arrive at a better understanding of it
(b) A new branch of Astronomy which relies on Gravitational Wave Observatories located at different locations on Earth
(c) NASA and ISRO’s collaborative Satellite Project 2020 which will, when launched, detect Gravitational and Electromagnetic Waves from space
(d) Another term for Gravitational Wave Astronomy

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Pregnant women who have never had diabetes before but who have high blood glucose levels during pregnancy are said to have gestational diabetes
2. Diagnosing and treating gestational diabetes can help keep the burden of diabetes under check
3. The United Nations has set a global target of halting adult prevalence of diabetes at 2010 levels by 2025

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 Only
(b) 2 and 3 Only
(c) 1 and 2 Only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

4. With reference to the fertilizer sector in India, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. Urea is under-priced, relative to other fertilizers
2. Of all the fertilisers, urea is the most produced, the most consumed and the most imported
3. Government intervention in different types of fertilizers is different

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 3 Only
(b) 2 Only
(c) 3 Only
(d) None

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Interest Subvention Scheme is/are incorrect?

1. It was introduced in 2010-11
2. The last quarter of the fiscal year witnesses a sudden spike in agricultural loans on account of preparation in agriculture for arrival of the monsoon

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
ANSWERS

1) Solution: b.

http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/an-early-warning-on-the-ocean-state/article8455381.ece

Improvisation:
http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/farm-error/

5) Solution: c.

It was introduced in 2006-07.

“The first international conference on the subject of gravitational wave (GW) astronomy, after the discovery of gravitational waves was announced in February, was held recently at International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS), Bengaluru….. It is apparent from talking to Dr Ajith that the next big revolution in the field of gravitational wave research could be around the corner — simultaneous observations of gravitational waves and electromagnetic waves, the so-called multi-messenger astronomy.”

http://www.thehindu.co.in/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-sci-tech-and-agri/stargazers-meet-make-plans-for-multimessenger-astronomy/article8457294.ece

“The first international conference on the subject of gravitational wave (GW) astronomy, after the discovery of gravitational waves was announced in February, was held recently at International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS), Bengaluru….. It is apparent from talking to Dr Ajith that the next big revolution in the field of gravitational wave research could be around the corner — simultaneous observations of gravitational waves and electromagnetic waves, the so-called multi-messenger astronomy.”

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/on-detecting-and-delaying-diabetes/article8458311.ece

3) Solution: d.

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/on-detecting-and-delaying-diabetes/article8458311.ece

4) Solution: d.

Chapter 9, Volume 1, Economic Survey 2015-16
1. The conflict in Yemen is essentially a 
   (a) Shia-Sunni conflict
   (b) Civilian uprising against an authoritarian regime
   (c) War against the Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)
   (d) Both a and b

Solution: a.

“The Yemeni Civil War is an ongoing conflict that began in 2015 between two factions claiming to constitute the Yemeni government, along with their supporters and allies. Houthi forces controlling the capital Sana’a and allied with forces loyal to the former president Ali Abdullah Saleh have clashed with forces loyal to the government of Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, based in Aden. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant have also carried out attacks, with AQAP controlling swaths of territory in the hinterlands, and along stretches of the coast.”

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/giving-peace-a-chance-in-yemen/article8462266.ece

2. With reference to INTERPOL notices published by INTERPOL’s General Secretariat at the request of National Central Bureaus and authorized entities, which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

(a) Red notice – to seek the location and arrest of wanted persons with a view to extradition or similar lawful action
(b) Black Notice – to seek information on unidentified bodies

Select the correct answer using codes given below:
   (a) 1 Only
   (b) 2 Only
   (c) Both 1 and 2
   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: c.

The black notice was issued in the Pathankot terror case recently, and the red notice was sought against Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Maulana Masood Azhar yesterday.


http://www.interpol.int/INTERPOL-expertise/Notices

3. Which of the following statements with reference to the latest National Sample Survey (NSS) on health insurance and medicare is/are incorrect?

1. Over 80 per cent of India’s population is not covered under any health insurance scheme
2. The biggest hurdle in seeking medical treatment in rural areas was found to be “no medical facility available in neighbourhood”
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

Solution: b.

“The biggest hurdle in seeking medical treatment was “financial constraint”, reported by over 55 per cent and 60 per cent people in rural and urban areas, respectively. In rural areas, the next most important reason was “no medical facility available in neighbourhood”, accounting for 15 per cent cases, while this figure was just 1.3 per cent for urban areas.”


4. With reference to the recently launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), which of the following statements is correct?

(a) It is a scheme for providing free LPG connections to women from BPL Households
(b) This is the second scheme in Independent India under which subsidised connections to BPL households are being provided
(c) The first such scheme in Independent India was the “Give Back” scheme linked to the “Give It Up” campaign
(d) Under the scheme five crore LPG connections will be provided by 2022

Solution: a.

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/clearing-the-smoke-on-lpg-reform/article8462292.ece
1. Consider the following list:

1. Gulf of Guinea
2. Alboran Sea
3. Lake Chad
4. Lake Victoria

Which of the above water bodies does Nigeria share its borders/border-regions with?
(a) 1 and 3
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 4
(d) None

2. The ongoing rural distress in some states of India has been triggered by

(a) Back-to-back failures of the Indian monsoon
(b) A collapse in global agricultural commodity prices
(c) Faulty Minimum Support Price Policy
(d) Both a and b

3. With reference to the Unified Payment Interface recently launched by the National Payment Corporation of India, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. It is a mobile interface and will work on mobile phones only
2. It functions as any other e-wallet but which can initially be used only for e-commerce transactions

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

4. The Rajasthan State Assembly recently passed the Rajasthan Urban Land (Certification of Titles) Bills, 2016. Which of the following statements with regard to it is/are not correct?

1. Owners in urban areas must compulsorily apply for a certificate of ownership of their land by paying a nominal fee to the government
2. Land certificate issued to the owner after due verification will not be guaranteed by the state government

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

5. With reference to the Cheraman Juma Masjid – located in Kerala’s Thrissur district – which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was built in the 7th Century AD
2. It is considered to be India’s oldest mosque
3. Unlike mosques elsewhere, this mosque faces the East

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 and 3 Only
(b) 2 and 3 Only
(c) 1 Only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

6. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy or CMIE works under the aegis of

(a) Ministry of Finance
(b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
(c) NITI Aayog
(d) None of the above
7. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Leverage Ratio':

1. Debt-to-Equity ratio is a type of financial leverage ratio
2. A very high leverage ratio may imply that the entity is unable to pay interest and principal payments

Which of the statements above is/are not correct?

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

8. Which of the following statements with reference to Export Credit in India is not correct?

(a) At present, Export Credit is not eligible to be categorized under Priority Sector as per RBI norms
(b) EXIM Bank of India has a low leverage ratio which is considered to be a reason for driving up the cost of export credit in India
(c) India’s foreign exchange reserves can be utilized to give loans to the EXIM Bank of India
(d) Indian companies can source funds not only from domestic but also from external sources

9. The proposed China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) connects

(a) Kashgar with Karachi
(b) Lhasa with Karachi
(c) Kashgar with Gwadar
(d) Lhasa with Gwadar

10. Consider the following statements:

1. This ship began its journey from Calcutta
2. The Shore Committee was set up in order to fight for the rights of this ship's passengers
3. The final destination was supposed to be Canada

Which of the statements above is/are correct and associated with the Komagata Maru ship incident?

(a) 2 Only
(b) 1 and 2 Only
(c) 1 and 3 Only
(d) 2 and 3 Only
ANSWERS

1) Solution: a.

Also learn which countries neighbor Nigeria – Benin, Niger, Chad and Cameroon.

Improvisation:

4) Solution: c.


5) Solution: d.

http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/narendra-modi-cheraman-juma-masjid-replica-saudi-king-gift/

6) Solution: d.

It is a private entity.

http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/consumer-sentiment-worsens-cmie-index/article8467624.ece

7) Solution: d.

Both statements are correct.

http://www.investopedia.com/terms/l/leverage.asp

8) Solution: a.


9) Ans: c.

A question posted earlier, being repeated.


10) Solution: d.

Page 152, India’s Struggle for Independence, Bipan Chandra

1. In the context of the recent temple fire caused by fireworks in Kerala, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. The manufacture of any explosive containing a mixture of Potassium Chlorate (PC) and Sulphur is wholly prohibited
2. The Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) is responsible for administering fireworks-related rules and regulations
3. PC is cheaper than Ammonium Nitrate – one that most Indian firecracker manufacturers use as a substitute

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

Solution: c.

“The manufacture, possession and importation of any explosive consisting of or containing sulphur or sulphurate in admixture with chloride of potassium or any other chloride” is NOT wholly prohibited; there are a few exceptions such as paper caps for toy pistols and for research purposes.

“PC costs one-third as much as the mixture of potassium nitrate or sodium nitrate that most Indian firecracker-makers use as a substitute.”

2. The Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation or PESO comes under the

(a) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers
(b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
(c) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
(d) Ministry of Defence

Solution: b.

http://www.firstpost.com/india/officials-suspect-banned-chemical-potassium-chlorate-was-used-in-crackers-that-caused-kerala-temple-fire-2722518.html

http://peso.gov.in/index.aspx

3. In the context of the India Meteorological Department’s forecasts, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. The Long Period Average (LPA) is the average rainfall received over a 50-year period preceding the year in which a forecast is made
2. A rainfall deficiency of even 2% of the LPA can result in drought-like conditions in some pockets in the country
3. In its first seasonal forecast each year, the IMD issues monsoon forecasts region-wise, apart from the country as a whole

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

http://www.firstpost.com/india/officials-suspect-banned-chemical-potassium-chlorate-was-used-in-crackers-that-caused-kerala-temple-fire-2722518.html

http://peso.gov.in/Activities.aspx
Solution: c.

“India receives about 116 cm of rainfall every year. A large part of this, 89 cm, comes in the four-month monsoon season from June to September. These numbers are averages of rainfall received over a 50-year period between 1951 and 2001, called the Long Period Average or LPA, and are treated as ‘normal’…”

“The long range forecast, the one that was issued on Tuesday, can only be done over a large geographical area, and for a prolonged period of time. Over a smaller area, forecasts can be done only for shorter periods of time. In its first seasonal forecast in April, the IMD, therefore, includes just one number: the probability of rainfall over the country as a whole over the entire four-month period.”

http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/india-monsoon-2016-understanding-how-the-monsoon-is-forecast/

4. With reference to the Komagata Maru incident, consider the following statements:

**Assertion (A):** The Canadians wanted to keep out Indians but no other Asians

**Reason (R):** There was a rapid growth of a revolutionary nationalism among the Indians who had settled in Canada and United States

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) A and R both are true, and R is the correct explanation for A

(b) A and R both are true, and R is the NOT the correct explanation for A

(c) A is correct, R is incorrect

(d) A is incorrect and R is correct

Ans: d.

Why did the Canadians want to keep out Indians (and other Asians)?

“Racial prejudice was always a factor, which was inflamed further by the increasing competition for jobs as a result of large-scale Asian migration. Vancouver saw large-scale anti-Japanese riots in 1907. But a more important — and historically relevant — reason for keeping out the migrants was the rapid growth of a revolutionary nationalism among the Indians who had settled in Canada and the United States. By the 20th century, political consciousness and the idea of azaadi from British rule had spread among Indians overseas. The British Crown did not want this feeling of revolution to spread to more Indians.”

5. India is contemplating the merger of two bodies that handle anti-dumping and import safeguard actions. In this context, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties functions under the Commerce Ministry

2. The Directorate General of Safeguards functions under the Finance Ministry

3. The authority which finally levies the Anti-dumping, Countervailing and Safeguard duty is the Finance Ministry

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 3 Only

(b) 1 and 2 Only

(c) 2 and 3 Only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution: d.
Questions on this topic/subject have been posted earlier.

http://www.livemint.com/Politics/zqbxOwcgkJYvpXbI0EnvO/Govt-plans-merger-of-antidumping-import-safeguard-bodies.html

6. Consider the following pairs:

   **Tiger Reserve – State(s)**

   1. Kanha – Madhya Pradesh  
   2. Nagzira – Maharashtra  
   3. Pench – Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh  
   4. Tadoba – Rajasthan

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Solution: a.

Tadoba Tiger Reserve – Maharashtra

“What is conspicuous, however, is the lack of political will to remove industrial pressures on forests. The proposal to widen National Highway 7 in Central India, for instance, has become controversial because of the dreadful impact it would have on tigers in the Kanha-Pench and Kanha-Nagzira corridors in Maharashtra.”

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/keeping-tigers-in-the-green-zone/article8467554.ece
1. Which of the following organizations brings out the publication known as ‘Global Financial Stability Report’?
   (a) The International Monetary Fund
   (b) The United Nations Development Programme
   (c) The World Economic Forum
   (d) The World Bank

2. Consider the following statements:
   1. Traditionally, the north-eastern States have had a higher voter turnout in the Assembly elections than that in the rest of Indian States
   2. The Federal Court of India was established in India in 1937 under the provisions of the Government of India Act 1935

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   (a) 1 Only
   (b) 2 Only
   (c) Both 1 and 2
   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. The nodal agency responsible for providing coordination and technical guidance for the National Family Health Survey is
   (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
   (b) Ministry of Women & Child Development
   (c) Jan Swasthya Abhiyan
   (d) The International Institute for Population Sciences

4. Consider the following list:
   1. Barygaza
   2. Korkai
   3. Kaveripattinam
   4. Arikamedu

What is common to all of the above mentioned places?
   (a) All were ancient Indian ports
   (b) Harappan sites
   (c) Oldest living towns of India
   (d) These towns were named after the cloth manufactured in these centres

5. Which of the following statements with reference to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is/are incorrect?
   1. He is considered to be the architect of water and river navigation policy in India
   2. He founded the Independent Labour Party, which contested the 1937 elections to the Central Legislative Assembly

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

**ANSWERS**

1) Solution: a.

[Link to article for reference]
2) Solution: c. 

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138871


3) Solution: d.

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India. The NFHS is a collaborative project of the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, India; ORC Macro, Calverton, Maryland, USA and the East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Government of India, designated IIPS as the nodal agency, responsible for providing coordination and technical guidance for the NFHS.


4) Solution: a.

“In addition to Lothal, there were also some other Indian ports, which were major drivers of global maritime trade two thousand years ago. These included:

- Barygaza – which today is known as Bharuch in Gujarat;
- Muziris which today is known as Kodungallur near Cochin in Kerala;
- Korkai which is today’s Tuticorin;
- Kaveripattinam which is in Nagapattanam District of Tamil Nadu;
- Arikamedu which is in Ariyankuppam District of Puducherry”

5) Solution: d.

“He is also the architect of the water and river navigation policy in India. Many of us may not know that Babasaheb Ambedkar created two powerful institutions related to water, navigation and power. They were: The Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission and The Central Technical Power Board. His observations while setting up these two organizations is a testimony to his great foresight.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138867

**Clarifications:**

13th April Quiz 87 Question 8: Please read the article to understand the statements given in the question. Additionally, some types of Export Credit IS eligible to be categorized under Priority Sector as per RBI norms.

12th April Quiz 86 Question 1: The Yemeni conflict is NOT a civilian uprising against an authoritarian regime. Please read the explanation.

12th April Quiz 86 Question 4: As per this PIB Release, “The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana – Scheme for Providing Free LPG connections to Women from BPL Households. The Scheme provides a financial support of Rs 1600 for each LPG connection to the BPL households.”
1. The Central Water Commission is an organization under the aegis of

(a) Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
(b) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
(c) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(d) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Solution: a.


2. Recently released data by the Central Water Commission shows that water levels in major reservoirs of the country are alarmingly low. In this context, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. Reservoirs of Western and Southern regions are the most affected ones
2. ‘Live Storage’ is the portion of the reservoir that can be utilised for irrigation purpose only

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

Solution: b.


3. Production of sugarcane is being blamed for Maharashtra’s water woes. In this context, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. For every unit weight of biomass produced, sugarcane consumes more water than wheat and paddy
2. The water content in sugarcane is used for generating power as well as for the sugar-manufacturing process in sugar mills

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

Solution: b.

“Sugarcane, no doubt, requires 2,100-2,200mm of water, more than the 1,400mm or so for paddy and 550mm for wheat. But then, sugarcane typically grows over 365 days, as against the 130 days of paddy and wheat. Besides, even the best Punjab farmer can harvest only six tonnes of wheat and nine tonnes of paddy per hectare, whereas cane yields rarely go below 40 tonnes, while averaging 80 tonnes for Maharashtra. Simply put, sugarcane consumes less water on a per-day basis, and even less for every unit weight of biomass produced.”
4. The satellite Cartosat-2C is set to be launched by ISRO on its workhorse PSLV. In this context, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. It is an earth observation satellite which will primarily cater to India’s military requirements

2. It has been built by the Defence Research and Development Organization

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

Solution: b.

The Cartosat-2C has been built at Space Applications Centre (SAC) in Ahmedabad.


http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/ahmedabad/cartosat-2c-to-boost-military-surveillance-capabilities/

5. China recently blocked its bid in the United Nations (UN) sanctions committee to designate JeM chief Masood Azhar a terrorist. Which of the following statements with regard to the sanctions committee is/are correct?

1. It can take decisions only unanimously

2. Only members of the UN Security Council are its members

3. The imposition of sanctions by it automatically authorizes the associated State/Nation to use force for its enforcement

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b.

Sanctions Committee

“The use of mandatory sanctions is intended to apply pressure on a State or entity to comply with the objectives set by the Security Council without resorting to the use of force. Sanctions thus offer the Security Council an important instrument to enforce its decisions. The universal character of the United Nations makes it an especially appropriate body to establish and monitor such measures.”


6. The Partner Country for the Maritime India Summit 2016 – a maiden flagship initiative of the Ministry of Shipping, Government of India – was

(a) Republic of Korea
(b) United Arab Emirates
(c) Japan
(d) United States of America
7. With reference to the Nilgiri Tahr, consider the following statements:

1. It is an endangered species of mountain goats
2. They are endemic to the Western Ghats
3. It is protected under Schedule II of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b.

IUCN Red List: “The Nilgiri tahr is fully protected (Schedule I) by the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972, although this protection is rarely enforced and illegal hunting is a major threat.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138911

8. Consider the following pairs:

National Park/Tiger Reserve – State
1. Silent Valley – Kerala and Tamil Nadu
2. Eravikulam – Kerala
3. Parambikulam – Tamil Nadu

Which of the pairs above is/are correctly matched?

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

Solution: c.

“The (Kerala) State Forest Department aims to create a comprehensive profile of these highly endangered mountain goats, which are endemic to the Western Ghats, through the three day counting exercise. It will cover various habitats, particularly the Siruvani area of Silent Valley National Park, the Munnar-Rajamala portion of Eravikulam National Park, the Nelliampathy Hills of Parambikulam Tiger Reserve and parts of Periyar and Agasthyamala sanctuaries.”

Agasthyamala Sanctuary covers areas in Kerala as well as Tamil Nadu.


1. “The State...shall in particular, provide free legal aid...” is a provision made in the
   (a) Preamble of the Constitution
   (b) Directive Principles of State Policy
   (c) Fundamental Rights
   (d) Article 124 of the Constitution

2. In law, standing or ‘locus standi’ is the term for
   (a) The ability of a party to demonstrate to the court sufficient connection to and harm from the law or action challenged to support that party's participation in the case
   (b) An action brought by a member of the public in the interest of public order
   (c) An equitable remedy in the form of a court order that compels a party to do or refrain from specific acts
   (d) A suit instituted between two private persons in the courts of law

3. The nodal body for adoption of Indian children is
   (a) Adoption Authority of India
   (b) Central Adoption Resource Authority
   (c) Department of Child Protection
   (d) Child Adoption Council of India

4. Which of the following statements with reference to the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) is/are incorrect?
   1. India is a ‘Member State’ in this intergovernmental institution
   2. It was established in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami
   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

5. Consider the following pairs:
   **Tiger Reserve – State**
   1. Periyar – Kerala
   2. Satpura – Maharashtra
   3. Parambikulam – Kerala
   4. Kaziranga – Assam

   Which of the pairs above are correctly matched?
   (a) 1, 2 and 3
   (b) 2, 3 and 4
   (c) 1, 3 and 4
   (d) All

6. Consider the following statements:
   1. India is a founder member of the Global Tiger Forum (GTF)
   2. The GTF has Non-Tiger Range Countries too among its members
   3. India is a member country of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network

   Which of the statements above is/are correct?
   (a) 1 and 3 Only
   (b) 1 and 2 Only
   (c) 2 and 3 Only
   (d) 1, 2 and 3

7. With reference to the ‘Global Tiger Summit’ held in 2010, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?
   1. It was hosted by New Delhi
   2. The Global Tiger Recovery Program was endorsed by the 13 Tiger Range Countries
   3. The Declaration on Tiger Conservation set the goal of doubling the wild tiger population by 2022

   Which of the statements above is/are incorrect?
   (a) 1 Only
   (b) 2 Only
   (c) Both 1 and 2
   (d) Neither 1 nor 2
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANSWERS

1) Solution: b.

“An affordable judicial system is a must for a country having a section of population at the bottom of the socio-economic pyramid. Article 39A of the Constitution provides that: “The State shall ensure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice, on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes in any other way, to ensure opportunities for securing justice are not denied by reason of economic or other disabilities”. The Legal Services Authorities Act was enacted in 1987 to give a statutory base to uniform legal aid programmes throughout the country.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138918

2) Solution: a.

“For the enforcement of fundamental rights, the Supreme Court through judicial innovation and activism has expanded the common law principle of 'locus standi'. It has been made possible for courts to permit anyone with sufficient interest and acting bona fide to maintain an action for judicial redress, and to activate the judicial process.”

“In law, standing or 'locus standi' is the term for the ability of a party to demonstrate to the court sufficient connection to and harm from the law or action challenged to support that party’s participation in the case. Otherwise, the court will rule that the plaintiff “lacks standing” to bring the suit and will dismiss the case without considering the merits of the claim. But the public interest litigations developed the concept of public interest standing which is a form to widen the scope of the locus standi.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138918

3) Solution: b.

“Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body of Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India. It functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions. CARA is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993, ratified by Government of India in 2003.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138933

4) Solution: d.

“As a part of the Integrated Ocean Information System for the Indian Ocean Countries Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad successfully deployed a Wave Rider Buoy, 27 Nautical Miles off a fishing harbour at Frigate Island, Seychelles. This is part of the technical cooperation umbrella of the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES), for which India represented by Dr. M. Rajeevan, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences is serving as Chair of its Executive Council.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138924
5) Solution: c.

Satpura – Madhya Pradesh

“The Prime Minister released a joint report on “Status of Tigers in the Sunderban Landscape – India and Bangladesh” on the occasion. He also presented awards in various categories for Tiger conservation to representatives from Tiger Reserves. The award-winning Tiger Reserves include: Periyar Tiger Reserve for Best Anti-poaching practices; Satpura Tiger Reserve for Village Relocation and Settlement; Kanha Tiger Reserve for Active Management; Parambikulam Tiger Reserve for Community Participation in Eco-Tourism and Kaziranga Tiger Reserve for Conservation of Species other than Tigers.”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger_reserves_of_India#List_of_Tiger_reserves_in_India

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138810

6) Solution: d.

“India along with several Tiger Range Countries is a founder member of the Global Tiger Forum, which is headquartered in New Delhi. This is the only inter-governmental organisation of its kind. It is now working closely with the Global Tiger Initiative Council.”


7) Solution: a.

“Prospects for the endangered cats brightened considerably with the results of the forum: a Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP) endorsed by delegates from the 13 tiger range countries (TRCs) and the St. Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation issued by the TRCs’ heads of government, including the Forum’s host and Russian Federation Prime Minister, Vladimir Putin. The Declaration set the goal: double the number of wild tigers by 2022. The GTRP lays out how to achieve it.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138795
1. Which of the following problems, that a country ‘X’ could face, could theoretically be dealt with by the use of a Negative Interest Rate Policy (NIRP) – an unconventional monetary policy tool?

1. Currency Depreciation
2. Flow of Hot Money into its economy
3. A period of Deflation

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

Solution: b.

NIRP: “During deflationary periods, people and businesses hoard money instead of spending and investing. The result is a collapse in aggregate demand which leads to prices falling even farther, a slowdown or halt in real production and output, and an increase in unemployment. A loose or expansionary monetary policy is usually employed to deal with such economic stagnation. However, if deflationary forces are strong enough, simply cutting the central bank’s interest rate to zero may not be sufficient to stimulate borrowing and lending.”

“The Swiss government ran a de facto negative interest rate regime in the early 1970s to counter its currency appreciation due to investors fleeing inflation in other parts of the world.” ... A negative interest reduces the demand for that currency, thereby resulting in the currency to depreciate. So a NIRP actually helps deal with problems arising due to a strong currency.

2. The term ‘IndARC’ sometimes seen in the news, is the name of?

(a) An indigenously developed radar system inducted into Indian Defence
(b) India’s satellite to provide services to the countries of Indian Ocean Rim
(c) A scientific establishment set up by India in Antarctic region
(d) India’s underwater observatory to scientifically study the Arctic region

Solution: d.

CS(P) 2015

3. Consider the following statements:

1. A species of mushroom genetically engineered by this method has recently been freed of regulation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture
2. The problem of inaccuracy of insertion of new (or ‘replacement’) DNA into cells has been overcome using this method

The above statements together are associated with which of the following gene-editing techniques?

(a) Zinc fingers
(b) TALENs
(c) CRISPR
(d) mSTING

Solution: c.

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/are-negative-interest-rates-the-new-normal/article8490496.ece

http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/arctic-link-to-the-monsoon/article8483453.ece

Statement 2 has been picked up from a question (November) earlier posted here.

“A species of genetically engineered mushroom has been freed of regulation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). This means that it can be cultivated and sold without being overseen by the USDA, according to a news report published online in Nature recently. Though about 30 genetically modified organisms have been similarly freed by the USDA, the special thing about this mushroom species is that this is the first organism to have been edited using the tool CRISPR-Cas9, which has been making waves in the field of genome editing, lately.”

http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/crispredited-mushroom-cleared/article8483468.ece

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The bulk of Chinese investment in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project will be in the energy sector

2. China’s ‘One Belt One Road’ initiative entails not only transport infrastructure development but also energy and telecommunication infrastructure

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

(a) 1 Only

(b) 2 Only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: c.

“Chinese firms will invest just under $ 46 billion in the project over six years — including $33.8 bn in energy projects and $ 11.8 bn in infrastructure, Reuters reported in November 2014, quoting an agreement signed by the two countries during a visit by Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to China earlier that month.”

“The CPEC is part of China’s larger regional transnational ‘One Belt One Road’ (OBOR) initiative, whose two arms are the land-based New Silk Road and the 21st century Maritime Silk Road, using which Beijing aims to create a Silk Road Economic Belt sprawled over a large patch of Asia and eastern Europe, and crisscrossed by a web of transport, energy supply and telecommunications lines.”

http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/cpec-pakistan-china-nawaz-sharif-xi-jinping-2758111/

5. With reference to the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) – it outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country – which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. Though they are recognised as engineering schools first, the IITs have competed under the category of ‘Universities’ in the Indian Rankings

2. For now, the participation of Higher Education Institutions in the India Ranking initiative is voluntary

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

Solution: a.

“These rankings will become an annual feature, and it is expected that both public and private institutions, and certainly students and parents, will find them useful. For now, however, the participation of HEIs in the
initiative is still voluntary and needs to improve further.”

“It is also a matter of concern and surprise that the IITs have chosen to participate in the rankings under the “engineering” category. Though they are recognised as engineering schools first, they compete under the category of “universities” in THE and QS world and regional university rankings. To the extent that they aspire to compete globally as universities, it is strange they should compete as engineering institutions in “India Rankings”....”

http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/hrd-ministry-university-india-rankings-2016-2758036/

6. Kalamkari painting refers to

(a) a hand-painted cotton textile in South India
(b) a handmade drawing on bamboo handicrafts in North-East India
(c) a block-painted woollen cloth in Western Himalayan region of India
(d) a hand-painted decorative silk cloth in North-Western India

Solution: a.

CS(P) 2015

“Kalamkari painting is a type of Indian folk textile art that involves free hand drawing and painting or printing on cloth, mostly cotton. Derived from the Persian language meaning ‘drawing or crafting with pen’, Kalamkari is an ancient form of painting that developed in India over a period of 3,000 years. Kalahasti and Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh, the nerve centres of this art continue to be beehives of Kalamkari activity.”


**Clarification**

**Quiz 88 April 14th Question 1**

Statement 2: ‘The Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) is responsible for administering fireworks-related rules and regulations’ – PESO is by and large responsible (the Controller of Explosives and Chief Controller of Explosives are under PESO) but in some instances it also is the District Magistrate or where there is a Police Commissioner system (like in Delhi or Mumbai, etc.), the Commissioner.

Who is the licensing authority for the manufacture, sale, storage and transport of fireworks?

Up to a certain quantity, it is the District Magistrate or, where there is a Police Commissioner system (like in Delhi or Mumbai, etc.), the Commissioner. The manufacture of fireworks or gunpowder between 15 kg and 500 kg requires a licence from the Controller of Explosives, and larger units must be cleared by the Chief Controller of Explosives. Likewise, there are categories of licences to sell fireworks. The licensing authority is also the implementing authority of the rules.
1. Consider the following statements:

1. The average number of earthquakes per year has been consistently increasing
2. Earthquakes that occur along the Western Coast of South America are largely the result of the Pacific plate sliding under the South American plate

Which of the statements above is/are correct?
(a) 1 Only
(b) 2 Only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: d.

“In the case of the Ecuadorean quake, the Nazca, a heavy oceanic plate, is sliding under the South American, a lighter continental plate, at a rate of about two inches a year; The geological survey, which monitors earthquakes around the world, says the average number of quakes per year is remarkably consistent.”

April 19, 2016 – Page 16, Indian Express


2. With reference to the ‘International Panel on Fissile Materials’, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. It is a subsidiary organ to and set up by participants at the First Nuclear Security Summit, 2010
2. Its members include nuclear experts from India
3. It releases the annual ‘Global Fissile Material Report’

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 Only
(b) 1 and 2 Only
(c) 1 and 3 Only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution: a.

“...Since 2006, the International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM), an independent group of arms-control and non-proliferation experts from 17 countries, has been keeping track of HEU and plutonium around the world. In Global Fissile Material Report 2015, IPFM’s most recent annual assessment of stockpiles, it was estimated that there is about 1,370 tons of HEU in the world, “enough for more than 76,000 simple, first-generation fission implosion weapons” with about 99 per cent of this material held by nuclear weapon states, mostly Russia and the United States.”...

“The International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM) is co-chaired by Dr. R. Rajaraman, Professor Emeritus, of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India and Professor Frank von Hippel of Princeton University. Its members include nuclear experts from eighteen countries” including India.

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/nuclear-security-summits-the-road-not-taken/article8490498.ece

3. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed free trade agreement between

1. All member states of ASEAN
2. Japan
3. South Korea
4. Australia
5. New Zealand
6. India
7. China

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: c.


4. The Special 301 report associated with the United States Trade Representative and often seen in the news is a report

(a) On violation of WTO’s Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights norms by its trading partners
(b) Which annually lists the country’s “significant” trade partners and are ranked on the basis of openness of their economies
(c) Which blacklists its trade partners due to restricted market access for American goods and services
(d) On the adequacy and effectiveness of U.S. trading partners’ protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights

Solution: d.


5. Consider the following statements:

1. The Fourteenth Finance Commission recommended the creation of a ‘Municipal Finance List’, by amending the Constitution, which should specify taxes that are exclusively in the domain of local governments
2. Funding under AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) is linked to reforms in institutions that govern the planning and management of cities

Which of the statements above is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: a.

The FFC made no such recommendation.

“The experience of the JNNURM highlights the importance of reforms if Indian cities are to be transformed. The government of India’s financial support under the JNNURM was made conditional on both the state government and the urban local government committing to specific reforms in urban planning, finance and management. While some cities made serious effort at reform, the wider canvas remains bleak. Amrut, a successor of the JNNURM, with funding conditional on reforms, is effectively a Centrally sponsored scheme with an outlay of Rs 50,000 crore over a five-year period. Its challenge will lie in enforcing the conditionality of reforms, precisely the area where the JNNURM failed.”

6. With a view to improve the governance of Public Sector Banks (PSBs), the Government recently set up an autonomous ‘Banks Board Bureau’. Its chairperson is

(a) Arvind Subramanian
(b) Arvind Panagariya
(c) Y V Reddy
(d) Vinod Rai

Solution: d.

Shri Vinod Rai (Former CAG of India) is the present chairperson. “Mr Rai, was been appointed as the chairman of BBB in February. The main task of the BBB is to appoint chief executives and board members in public sector banks and also guiding them with strategies.”

http://www.thehindu.com/business/all-defaulter-are-not-wilful-says-vinod-rai/article8498337.ece

7. Consider the following statements:

1. Bhimrao Ambedkar set up the ‘Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha’ or the ‘Outcastes Welfare Association’

2. According to the Poona Pact, in addition to the agreement on electoral constituencies, reservations were provided for untouchables in Government jobs

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

Solution: c.

- In 1923, he set up the ‘Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (Outcasts Welfare Association), which was devoted to spreading education and culture amongst the downtrodden, improving the economic status and raising matters concerning their problems in the proper forums to focus attention on them and finding solutions to the same.

- In 1927, he led the Mahad March at the Chowdar Tank at Colaba, near Bombay, to give the untouchables the right to draw water from the public tank where he burnt copies of the ‘Manusmriti’ publicly.

- On 24th September 1932, Dr. Ambedkar and Gandhiji reached an understanding, which became the famous Poona Pact. According to this Pact, in addition to the agreement on electoral constituencies, reservations were provided for untouchables in Government jobs and legislative assemblies. The provision of separate electorate was dispensed with.

Ambedkar attended all the three Round Table Conferences in London

13th April, PIB Features: http://www.pib.nic.in/newsite/efeatures.asp

8. Which of the following statements with reference to Mithun – an animal of the bovine family – is/are correct?

1. It is endemic to the North-eastern States of India

2. The IUCN has classified it as an endangered species

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

Solution: a.
“Mithun is a unique large semi-domesticated animal of the bovine family, endemic to the North-eastern States of India.”

“The Mithun, Bos frontalis, often referred to as ‘the cattle of the mountains’ and ‘ship of the highland’, is considered a descendent of the wild Indian gaur or bison. Mithuns prefer cold and mild climates, and feed on forest leaves, shrubs and grass.”

“The All India Livestock Census of 2007 put India’s mithun population at 2.64 lakh of which 82 per cent were in Arunachal alone.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=139001

9. With reference to ‘Jal Gram Yojana’, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. It is a scheme under ‘Jal Kranti Abhiyan’
2. Under this scheme, two villages will be selected from every district in the country for all round development of water resources

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

Solution: d.

“Jal Gram Yojana is one of the most important activity of the Jal Kranti Abhiyan under which two villages in every district (preferably being a part of dark block or facing acute water scarcity) are being selected as Jal Grams. An integrated water security plan for water conservation, water management and allied activities are being prepared to ensure optimum and sustainable utilization of water.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138994

“100 villages dominated by SCs in the country will be selected under Jal Gram Scheme for water conservation. Jal Gram is a schemes under Jal Kranti Abhiyan of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, in which two water starved villages will be selected from every district in the country for all round development of water resources.”
1. Consider the following list:

1. Macaca Munzala
2. Red Panda
3. Snow Leopard
4. Black-necked Crane

The above species are all found in which of the following regions?

(a) Great Himalayan National Park, Himachal Pradesh
(b) Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh
(c) Hemis National Park, Jammu and Kashmir
(d) Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim

2. Which of the following statements about the Tibetan Crane is/are correct?

1. It is listed in India’s Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as a Schedule 1 species
2. It has been classified as ‘vulnerable’ by the International Union for Conservation of Nature
3. There have been no reported sightings of the bird in India for over the past decade

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

3. Arrange the following geographical locations of the Mediterranean region in their order of occurrence from West to East:

1. Strait of Gibraltar
2. Lampedusa
3. Lesbos
4. Malta

4. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): India’s trade deficit with China has been worsening over the past few years and continues to worsen

Reason (R): China today requires lower quantities of raw materials from India while Indian imports from China have not been affected much

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) A and R both are true, and R is the correct explanation for A
(b) A and R both are true, and R is the NOT the correct explanation for A
(c) A is correct, R is incorrect
(d) A is incorrect and R is correct

5. Consider the following statements:

1. In the last two years, Indian services exports have been more affected than Indian manufacturing exports and also world service exports
2. Within Asia, the issue of Non-performing loans or bad debts is restricted to India and China at present

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

(a) 1 Only
(b) 2 Only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
ANSWERS

1) Solution: b.

“...other species that are found in the region include the red panda, the snow leopard and the Arunachal macaque Macaca munzala, a recently-described primate species in the area, according to court documents viewed by The Hindu. The project is planned on the Nyamjang Chhu river and is the largest of 13 hydro power projects to be built in the Tawang basin. With the NGT’s order, project developers will need to revisit their environmental clearance process...”


2) Solution: a.

“The threat to the future of a vulnerable bird species has halted the Rs. 6,400-crore hydro power project in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has suspended the Union Environment Ministry’s clearance for the project granted in 2012. The bird, most commonly found in China, is legally protected in Bhutan and India and is considered sacred to certain Buddhist traditions.”

“The black-necked crane is rated as ‘vulnerable’ in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) list of endangered species and is listed in India’s Wildlife Act as a Schedule 1 species, which gives animals and birds the highest legal protection.”


3) Solution: a.


“...A research paper by Crisil found that India’s trade deficit with China has been worsening at an alarming rate. “Between fiscals 2006 and 2016, it compounded at an annual 30 per cent, or thrice as fast as India’s overall trade deficit,” according to the paper. “If the trend continues, the trade deficit with China will equal and even surpass what India runs with the rest of the world.”....”

“The reason behind this, according to Mr. Joshi, is that China’s ongoing economic slowdown has meant that it requires lower quantities of the raw materials that it imports from India. On the other hand, India’s imports from China have not been affected to any large degree.”

http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/slowdown-hits-services-sector/article8505380.ece

5) Solution: a.

Statement 1: Page 30-31 Economic Survey 2015-16

“Bad debts at Asian banks have climbed to their highest since the global financial crisis and the trend will likely worsen as regional economies battle against China’s slowdown and volatile oil and commodities prices, a Reuters data analysis shows.”

1. Which of the following statements about ‘Khongjom Day’ is/are incorrect?

1. It is observed every year by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh
2. It was an armed conflict in which the British were defeated

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

Solution: d.

“*The Anglo-Manipur War* was an armed conflict between the British Empire and the Kingdom of Manipur. The war lasted between 31 March – 27 April 1891, ending in a British victory. April 23 is also celebrated as the “Khongjom Day”, marking the occasion of the battle of Khongjom.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=139060

3. The term ‘PROVe’ sometimes seen in the news, is the name of

(a) A defense satellite developed indigenously which is to be launched by ISRO on its workhorse PSLV
(b) India’s satellite to provide services to SAARC member nations
(c) An indigenously-developed Remotely Operated Vehicle, to map the coral reefs in Andaman & Nicobar Islands
(d) India’s seabed rover deployed for scientific studies in the Arctic region

Solution: c.

Currently, there is no mechanism other than Scuba diving to examine the corals and assess the extent of damage or rejuvenation that might be taking place since the great damages happened earlier. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), for the first time, used the indigenously-developed Remotely Operated Vehicle (PROVe), to map the coral reefs in Andaman & Nicobar Islands (North Bay and Chidiyatapu) and that the ROV can be used for this purpose efficiently.

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=139081

3. The Ashgabat Agreement, which the Union Cabinet recently gave its approval for India to accede to, is

(a) An agreement which makes Turkmenistan India’s partner in development of the Iranian Chabahar Port
(b) An international transport and transit corridor facilitating transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf
(c) The Snow Leopard and High-Mountain Ecosystems Conservation Programme
(d) A civil nuclear pact with Turkmenistan

Solution: b.

“The Ashgabat Agreement, an international transport and transit corridor facilitating transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf. Accession to the Agreement would enable India to utilise this existing transport and transit corridor to facilitate trade and commercial interaction with the Eurasian region. Further, this would synchronise with our efforts to implement the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) for enhanced connectivity.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138309
4. The ‘BTIA’ (Broadbased Trade and Investment Agreement), often seen in the news, is
   (a) A bilateral free trade deal between India and the European Union, the negotiations for which are ongoing
   (b) A multilateral free trade deal between the SAARC grouping and EU, the negotiations for which are ongoing
   (c) A free trade deal between India and NAFTA
   (d) India’s proposal for participation in the Trans Pacific Partnership deal

   Solution: a.

   Question being repeated. This was posted here earlier.

   http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/narendra-modi-second-year-in-office-foreign-policy-moves/article8510154.ece

5. During the recent visit of U.S. Defence Secretary to India, which of the following agreements were signed?

   1. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement
   2. Communications Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement
   3. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation

   Select the correct answer using the code given below:
   (a) 1 and 3 Only
   (b) 2 and 3 Only
   (c) 1 and 2 Only
   (d) None of the above

   Solution: d.
1. Consider the following statements:

   **Assertion (A):** Countries cannot eliminate the use of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) entirely

   **Reason (R):** In contrast to OPV, since it does not replicate in the gut, Inactivated Polio Vaccine induces lower levels of intestinal immunity

Which of the above statements is/are true?

(a) A and R both are true, and R is the correct explanation for A
(b) A and R both are true, and R is the NOT the correct explanation for A
(c) A is correct, R is incorrect
(d) A is incorrect, R is correct

Ans: d.

Preparing for the withdrawal of all oral polio vaccines (OPVs)

**Why stop using OPV?**

With at least one dose of Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine (IPV) in place as a risk mitigation measure, **OPVs will be removed in a phased approach**, beginning with removal of the type 2 poliovirus strain in a switch from trivalent OPV (tOPV) to bivalent OPV (bOPV).

bOPV contains types 1 and 3, and therefore will continue to protect against transmission of WPV1 and WPV3. **Once all wild polioviruses have been fully eradicated, then all OPVs will be withdrawn.**

**Why can’t countries eliminate the use of OPV entirely, rather than switch to bOPV?**

Because IPV is an inactivated vaccine and not a “live” attenuated vaccine, it carries no risk of VAPP. However, in contrast to OPV, since it does not replicate in the gut, IPV induces lower levels of intestinal immunity and does not confer protection to others. IPV is also less effective than OPV in reducing fecal-oral transmission. Using both vaccines together provides the best form of protection.


2. Consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Constitution allows the Chief Justices of the High Courts to appoint retired judicial officers as ad hoc judges for two years

2. The strength of the Supreme Court is fixed at 31 judges, including the Chief Justice of India

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

Solution: c.

“Article 224 A of the Constitution will be invoked to allow the Chief Justices of the High Courts to appoint retired judicial officers as ad hoc judges for two years, up to the age of 65.”

“An overworked Chief Justice of India Tirath Singh Thakur on Sunday traced the phenomenal growth in litigation from 1950, right from when the Supreme Court came into existence, to explain the “impossible burden” of justice delivery faced by the judiciary reeling under the impact of huge pendency, anemic number of judges and government inaction.”

http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/backlog-can-be-cleared-only-with-more-judges/article8517587.ece
3. Consider the following statements:

1. King Harshavardhana’s campaign to extend his kingdom to the South of Narmada ended in his defeat.
2. The accounts of Hiuen Tsang provide the details of this campaign.
3. The capital of the Kingdom whose ruler defeated Harsha was Vatapi or Badami.

Which dynasty did this ruler, to which the above statements refer, belong to?

(a) Vijayanagara
(b) Cheras
(c) Bahamani
(d) Western Chalukyas

Solution: d.

Researchers from the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (BORI), which houses South Asia’s largest collection of manuscripts and rare texts, claim to have fixed the date of Emperor Harshavardhan’s defeat to the Chalukya King Pulakeshin II by decoding a copper plate. The date of Pulakeshin’s great triumph over Harsha in a battle fought primarily with elephants on the banks of the Narmada, can now be fixed at 618 A.D."

TN Board, History, Class XI

http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/pulakeshins-famed-victory-over-harsha-was-in-618-ad/article8517577.ece

4. With reference to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which 174 countries and the European Union signed recently, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. In India, approval of the Parliament will be required for the government to ratify it.
2. It requires the ratification by at least 55 countries which together account for at least 55 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, for its operationalisation.

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

Solution: a.

“In India, approval of Parliament will not be required for the government to ratify the Paris Agreement. A Cabinet decision to this effect would be enough.”

“For its operationalisation, the Paris Agreement requires the signing and ratification by at least 55 countries which together account for at least 55 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Both conditions need to be met.”

http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/paris-climate-deal-paris-agreement-2768771/

5. Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution permits the Central government to pass the budget of a State, if it is under President’s Rule, only if Parliament is not in session.
2. The Budget session of Parliament according to the Constitution comprises two sessions because the first part of the Budget session is always prorogued by the President.

1. In India, approval of the Parliament will be required for the government to ratify it.
Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

Solution: a.

“The first part was adjourned on March 16, with the announcement that the Houses will meet again on April 25, but the session was formally closed just before the end of March. This was done to enable the passage of the Uttarakhand Budget by executive order of the Central government after President’s Rule was imposed in the State. The Constitution allows Parliament to pass the budget of a State if it is under President’s Rule. It permits the Central government to do so if Parliament is not in session. Rather than call Parliament for a day’s sitting, the government chose the latter route. This is not the first instance of using the flexibility of Parliament sessions by governments to suit their ends.”

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/comment-article-on-gst-by-mr-madhavan-keep-it-parliamentary/article8516697.ece

6. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s ‘Mahad Satyagraha’ was directed towards

(a) Allowing Dalit students to attend public schools
(b) The right of Dalits to enter Hindu temples
(c) The issue of separate electorates for the Dalit community
(d) Opening up access to community water tanks that had been barred to Dalits

Solution: d.

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/lead-article-by-gautam-bhatia-on-maharashtra-protection-of-people-laws-that-make-us-human/article8516692.ece
1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Law Commission in its 245th report suggested using ‘number of judges per million population’ criteria to assess the required judicial strength

2. At present, a ‘rate of disposal’ method – the number of judges required at each level to dispose of a particular number of cases – is employed to determine the required judicial strength

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

2. Consider the following statements:

1. An efficient drip irrigation system can help reduce consumption of fertilizer through fertigation

2. The Prime Minister’s Krishi Sinchayi Yojana seeks to consolidate/amalgamate ongoing irrigation schemes

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): The Central Government has the power to enter into treaties on behalf of the Indian republic

Reason (R): Article 73 of the Indian Constitution extends the power of the Central government to matters in the Union list

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) A and R both are true, and R is the correct explanation for A
(b) A and R both are true, and R is the NOT the correct explanation for A
(c) A is correct, R is incorrect
(d) A is incorrect and R is correct

4. ‘Nomadic Elephant – 2016’, recently seen in the news, is

(a) Indo-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise
(b) The first edition of a Travel and Tourism Fair being organized by the Ministry of Tourism in India’s Northeast
(c) Odisha’s International Advertising Award-winning tourism campaign to ‘Bring to Life the Mauryan Empire’
(d) The inaugural edition of Assam’s International Music Festival
ANSWERS

1) Solution: d.

“It is said that a modern society would ideally need 50 judges per million population. However, the Law Commission, in its 245th report two years ago, had pointed to the impracticability of using the number of judges per million population (the official figure for India in 2013 was 16.8) as a criterion to assess the required judicial strength. Instead, it had suggested a ‘rate of disposal’ method by which the number of judges required at each level to dispose of a particular number of cases could be computed based on analysis.”

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-desperate-situation/article8520212.ece

2) Solution: c.

“Fertigation is the process of introducing fertiliser directly into the crop’s irrigation system.”

“The consolidation of ongoing irrigation schemes – the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and On Farm Water Management (OFWM) – into the Prime Minister’s Krishi Sinchayi Yojana (PMKSY) offers the possibility of convergence of investments in irrigation, from water source to distribution and end-use.”

Page 74, Economic Survey 2015-16 Volume 1

http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/sensitise-states-dont-intimidate-them/article8520926.ece

3) Solution: a.

“A combined reading of Entry 14 of the Union list, which provides for entering into treaties, and Article 73, which extends the power of the Central government to matters in the Union list, shows that the Central government has the power to enter into treaties on behalf of the Indian republic.”

NCRWC – Treaty-Making Power under our Constitution: “From a reading of Article 246 along with the said Entries, it is obvious that the Parliament is competent to make a law with respect to the several matters mentioned in the above entries. In other words, treaty-making is not within the exclusive competence of the Executive. It is squarely placed within the legislative competence of the Parliament. By virtue of Article 73 of the Constitution, however, the Executive power of the Union extends, in the absence of parliamentary legislation, to the matters with respect to which the Parliament has power to make laws subject, of course, to constitutional limitations. The resulting situation, unfortunately, is that it is left totally to the Executive to not only enter into treaties and agreements but also to decide the manner in which they should be implemented except where such implementation requires making of a law by Parliament.”

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/comment-on-water-drought-by-seema-bathla-elumalai-kannan-water-will-continue-to-be-scarce/article8520173.ece

4) Solution: a.
1. The ‘MCA21 Portal’, sometimes seen in the news, is

   (a) A platform for companies to submit the required documents and filings under the Companies Act
   (b) An Online Consumer Grievance Lodging and Monitoring System launched by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs
   (c) The Indian Space Research Organisation’s public portal for access to select data from the IRNSS Navigation Satellites
   (d) An Online Grievance Redressal System of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Solution: a.

“The MCA21 portal is the key platform for companies to submit the required documents and filings. Besides, it provides public access to corporate information. MCA21 has been in place for many years and its second phase runs from January 2013 to July 2021. The portal is designed to fully automate all processes related to enforcement and compliance of legal requirements under the Companies Act.”


2. The ‘Self Respect Movement’ was founded by

   (a) C. N. Annadurai
   (b) E. V. Ramaswamy Naicker
   (c) Shri Narayana Guru
   (d) Ghasidas

Solution: b.


3. With reference to the Gujarat State Higher Education Council Bill, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

   1. By virtue of this bill, the government can overrule decisions taken by a university, which will then be required to implement directions given by the government
   2. With its passage, Gujarat will be the first state in the country to set up a Higher Education Council

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

Solution: b.

“This bill envisages the formation of a council to be headed by the Chief Minister for the “planning, co-ordination and development” of higher education. Universities fear the council will snatch their autonomy and reduce them to a mere department of the government. Under Section 15 of the Bill, the government may, either on the council’s recommendation or on its own, overrule decisions taken by a university — which will then be required to implement directions given by the government.”

“Both the UGC and Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan, a centrally-sponsored scheme launched in 2013, recommended the setting up of a higher education council in states. Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal already have
such a council and, should the Governor sign the Bill, Gujarat will become the sixth state to comply. However, Gujarat is the first state that proposes to have the CM head the council.”

http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/how-gujarat-wants-to-shackle-its-universities-2771825/

4. Consider the following statements in the context of trade in agriculture produce:

1. India is a net exporter of water (‘virtual water’)
2. India was a ‘net importer’ of water until around 1980s

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

Solution: c.

“...India was a “net importer” of water until around 1980s. With increases in food grain exports, India has now become a net exporter of water – about 1 per cent of total available water every year. The ratio of export to import of such virtual water is about 4 for India and 0.1 for China. Thus China remains a net importer of water. This is also evident in China and India’s trade patterns. China imports water-intensive soybeans, cotton, meat and cereal grains, while exporting vegetables, fruits and processed food. India, on the other hand, exports water-intensive rice, cotton, sugar and soybean...”

http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/bPPHFHvI9qBaA5grPa6SuN/India-is-the-biggest-virtual-exporter-of-water.html
1. Consider the following statements:

1. Milk from desi (indigenous) cows naturally contain A1 type milk protein
2. A1 type milk protein is known to protect humans from various chronic health problems such as Cardio Vascular Diseases and Diabetes

Which of the statements above is/are correct?
(a) 1 Only
(b) 2 Only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: d.

“In the recent years A1 and A2 type milk has emerged as one of the hot debating topic among the consumers worldwide. Studies suggest that milk from cows with A2 type is for healthier than their A1 counterparts. Shri Singh said that Milk from desi (indigenous) cows naturally contains A2 type milk protein. The indigenous breeds of cows produce A2 type milk protein which is known to protect us from various chronic health problems such as Cardio Vascular Diseases, Diabetes and neurological disorders besides providing several other health benefits.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=142254

2. The Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) is an international project being funded by scientific organisations of

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
(b) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
(c) 3, 4 and 5 only
(d) It is a purely indigenous and not an international project

Solution: b.

“The Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project is the joint responsibility of the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) from India. As per the information provided by Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) under DST, the TMT is an international project being funded by scientific organisations of Canada, China, India, Japan and USA.”

“While Mauna Kea, Hawaii is the preferred choice for the TMT project, given the large investments that have already been made and committed, the project is also looking at alternate sites both in the northern and southern hemispheres. Hanle, Ladakh is one of the sites being evaluated for hosting the telescope.”

“TMT will enable scientists to study fainter objects far away from us in the Universe, which gives information about early stages of evolution of the Universe. The project will also provide state-of-the-art high end technologies to the country.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/mbErel.aspx?relid=142343

3. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): Creation of Cassation Benches of the Supreme Court would require no constitutional amendment

Reason (R): Article 130 of the Constitution permits the Chief Justice of India to, with the approval of the President, appoint
Delhi or other place(s) as a seat of the Supreme Court

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) A and R both are true, and R is the correct explanation for A
(b) A and R both are true, and R is the NOT correct explanation for A
(c) A is correct, R is incorrect
(d) A and R both are incorrect

Ans: a.

According to Wikipedia, “Courts of cassation do not re-examine the facts of a case, they are only competent for verifying the interpretation of the law. For this, they are appellate courts of the highest instance. In this way they differ from systems which have a supreme court which can rule on both the facts and the law of a case.”

“The 229th report of the Law Commission of India delved into this problem in depth and came up with the suggestion of retaining the New Delhi bench of the Supreme Court as a Constitutional Court and the establishment of Cassation Benches of the Supreme Court in the four regions at New Delhi, Chennai/Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai. The 2009 report pointed out that since Article 130 of the Constitution provides that “the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint”, the creation of Cassation Benches of the Supreme Court would require no constitutional amendment.”


4. The Armed Forces Special Powers Act is currently operational in parts or whole of

1. Assam
2. Nagaland
3. Manipur
4. Arunachal Pradesh
5. Tripura
6. Meghalaya

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: c.

“He said AFSPA was currently operational in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur (excluding Imphal Municipal Area), Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts of Arunachal Pradesh, 16 police station areas bordering Assam, a 20 km wide belt bordering Assam in Meghalaya and Anantnag, Baramula, Badgam, Kupwara, Pulwama, Srinagar, Jammu, Kathua, Udamour, Poonch, Rajouri and Doda districts in J&K. AFSPA, 1958, has been withdrawn from the areas falling in the jurisdiction of 30 Police Stations of the Tripura State by the State Government of Tripura vide its notification dated 27.05.2015.”

1. Consider the following statements with reference to the ‘Heart of Asia’ Conference:

1. It is an outcome of the SAARC Summit in Maldives, 2011
2. It places Afghanistan at its center and engages the ‘Heart of Asia’ countries in sincere and result-oriented cooperation for a peaceful and stable Afghanistan

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

Solution: b.

“The Istanbul Process provides a new agenda for regional cooperation in the ‘Heart of Asia’ by placing Afghanistan at its center and engaging the ‘Heart of Asia’ countries in sincere and result-oriented cooperation for a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, as well as a secure and prosperous region as a whole.”

“Meeting on the sidelines of the Heart of Asia conference, the two officials failed to find common ground to kickstart the Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue process, or even agree on a timetable.”

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/editorial-on-indiapakisatan-foreign-secretaries-talk-another-missed-opportunity/article8533352.ece

2. Consider the following statements:

1. India is ceding market share in the global apparel industry to countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam

2. Apparel firms in India now make up the largest share of establishments in the informal sector

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

Solution: c.

Page 145-146, Economic Survey 2015-16 Volume 1

Improvisation:
http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/reforms-a-must-to-boost-apparel-exports/article8533259.ece

3. With reference to the IRNSS constellation, consider the following statements:

1. Its service area encompasses all South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries except Afghanistan
2. The constellation of satellites are located in geosynchronous and geostationary orbits
3. The latest satellite to be launched had a lift-off mass of 2,425 kilograms

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

Ans: c.
The PSLV cannot launch a payload weighing that much into the geosynchronous and geostationary orbit.

http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/inrss-1-g-satellite-india-gets-its-own-gps-2775276/

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Employment growth and elasticity have declined in the 2000s compared to the 1990s
2. The average growth rate of the economy was higher than the growth rate of employment in the 2000s

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

Solution: c.

“In fact, the Economic Survey last year (this issue was hardly mentioned in this year’s Economic Survey) showed that during the last decade (2001-11), the growth rate of the labour force (2.23 per cent) was significantly higher than the growth rate of employment (1.4 per cent), which itself was several-fold less than the growth rate of the economy. According to Census 2011, the average growth rate of the economy was 7.7 per cent per annum, when it was only 1.8 per cent for employment.”

Page 8, Volume 1, Economic Survey 2014-15


5. The ‘Triffin dilemma’, sometimes seen in the news, is

(a) The conflict of economic interests that arises between short-term domestic and long-term international objectives that issuers of reserve currencies confront
(b) A paradox in decision analysis in which two individuals acting in their own best interest pursue a course of action that does not result in the ideal outcome
(c) A social-choice paradox illustrating the impossibility of having an ideal voting structure that is reflective of specific fairness criteria
(d) The antithesis of the zero sum game - one person’s gain is not equivalent to another’s loss, so the net change in wealth or benefit is not zero

Solution: a.

1. In which of the following cases did the Supreme Court restrict the total reserved quota to 50%?

(a) Kaka Kalekar vs Union of India
(b) B. P. Mandal vs Union of India
(c) Balaji Raghavan vs Union of India
(d) Indra Sawhney vs Union of India

2. The provisions in the Ninth Schedule in the Constitution of India are made in order to

(a) determine the criteria related to disqualification of Members of Parliament and State Legislatures on ground of defection
(b) protect acts and regulations included in it from judicial review
(c) list out the languages recognized by the Constitution
(d) determine the powers, authorities, and responsibilities of Panchayats

3. The provisions in the Tenth Schedule in the Constitution of India are made in order to

(a) determine the emoluments, allowances, privileges and so on of certain Constitutional authorities
(b) allocate seats in the Rajya Sabha to the States and the Union Territories
(c) determine the criteria related to disqualification of Members of Parliament and State Legislatures on ground of defection
(d) determine the powers, authorities, and responsibilities of Panchayats

4. With reference to the anti-defection law, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. According to it, a Member of Parliament or State Legislature is deemed to have defected if he voluntarily resigns from his party or disobeys the directives of the party leadership on a vote

2. A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has ruled that the law does not violate any rights or freedoms of the legislators

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

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Interpol’s constitution strictly forbids the agency from undertaking any intervention or activities of a political character
2. Interpol has a global membership of 190 countries

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

6. Consider the following statements:

1. The growth rate of direct tax collections have fallen in the last five years compared to the previous five years
2. About four per cent of India’s voters are taxpayers

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

(a) 1 Only
(b) 2 Only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
ANSWERS

1) Solution: d.

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/editorial-on-gujarat-patidar-agitators-a-misguided-surrender/article8537874.ece

2) Solution: b.

The 76th Amendment Act of 1994 placed the Tamil Nadu Reservations Act of 1994 in the Ninth Schedule.

“In Indra Sawhney v. Union of India, the Supreme Court had limited the total quota to 50 per cent, a figure both States intend to exceed. Tamil Nadu is an exception as a constitutional amendment was passed in 1994 to allow the State to continue to set the limit for reservation at 69 per cent.”

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/editorial-on-gujarat-patidar-agitators-a-misguided-surrender/article8537874.ece

3) Solution: c.

“The Constitution (Fifty-second Amendment) Act, 1985 added the Tenth Schedule to the Indian Constitution to curb the growing tendency of political defections by parliamentarians and legislators from one party to another after elections.”

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/lead-article-by-congress-leader-manish-tewari-on-liberate-the-legislator/article8537888.ece

4) Solution: d.

“The 52nd amendment to the Constitution added the Tenth Schedule which laid down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection. A Member of Parliament or state legislature was deemed to have defected if he either voluntarily resigned from his party or disobeyed the directives of the party leadership on a vote.”

“Does the law impinge on the right of free speech of the legislators? This issue was addressed by the five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in 1992 (Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachilhu and others). The court said that “the anti-defection law seeks to recognise the practical need to place the proprieties of political and personal conduct...above certain theoretical assumptions.” It held that the law does not violate any rights or freedoms, or the basic structure of parliamentary democracy.”

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/lead-article-by-congress-leader-manish-tewari-on-liberate-the-legislator/article8537888.ece

5) Solution: c.

“In 2013, UK-based NGO Fair Trials International said that the credibility of RNs was being undermined as they were being misused by some of the 190 participating states to pursue exiled political opponents, and this was a problem particularly because under Article 3 of Interpol’s constitution the agency was strictly forbidden from undertaking any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character.”

6) Solution: c.

growth rate

“Conclusions based on analyses of the data were reported in the chapter, the crux of which was that just four per cent of India’s voters are taxpayers, though it should be closer to 23 per cent, and 85 per cent of the net national income falling outside the tax net.”
