1. With the advent of the monsoon, animals from the Kaziranga National Park move to higher grounds. Which among the following hills do they head to?

   (a) Chin Hills  
   (b) Mikir Hills  
   (c) Mishmi Hills  
   (d) Mizo Hills

Solution: b.

“Elephants and other animals migrate before the monsoon southwards into the Mikir Hills and beyond them to avoid the annual flooding of the National Park (Sinha, 1981).”

http://assamforest.in/knp-osc/pdfreport/unep_wcmc_kaziranga.pdf


2. The next financial statement will see “plan” and “non-plan” expenditure eliminated. It will be replaced by

   (a) Revenue and Capital Expenditure  
   (b) Domestic and Foreign Expenditure  
   (c) Central and State Expenditure  
   (d) None of the above

Solution: a.

“For eliminating the distinction between plan and non-plan and replacing it with revenue and capital expenditures, a decision is already in place. A very elaborate exercise is going on for both the procedural as well as the formatting aspects. Soon we should be in a position to lay down the new structure of the budget.”

http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/interview-with-ashok-lavasa-finance-secretary/article8922201.ece


Similar question has been asked here before.

3. Which of the following nations do not open out to the Red Sea?

   (a) Saudi Arabia  
   (b) Eritrea  
   (c) Ethiopia  
   (d) Yemen

Solution: c.
4. It is said that the real concern today is not prices of arhar dal, but chana or chickpea. Prices of the former are softening in contrast to the rising trend of the latter. What may be the reason for this?

(a) In the current Kharif season, Arhar crop area sown thus far is well above the Chana crop area sown
(b) Chana is a Rabi crop whereas Arhar is a Kharif crop
(c) At present, Arhar crop is available in plenty whereas there is a shortage of Chana in the international market
(d) The demand for Chana is rising whereas the demand for Arhar is falling

Solution: b.

“Arhar, urad (black gram) and moong (green gram) are basically kharif pulses. They are mostly sown in June-July with the onset of the southwest monsoon rains. This year, farmers have hugely expanded acreages under kharif pulses, encouraged by the high prices prevailing in the markets. And with the monsoon also turning out to be very good so far, we can expect a bumper kharif crop that should take care of arhar prices at least.”

“Things are somewhat different with chana, which is a rabi season crop planted in October-November and harvested in March-April. The last two years’ crops have been poor. The very fact it is due only in March-April means that the respite on the chana prices front may still be some months away.”


5. China’s claims in waters of East Asia are enclosed by what it refers to and has come to be known as the ‘Nine-Dash Line’. This line encompasses which all seas?

1. South China Sea
2. Sulu Sea
3. Celebes Sea

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: a.

Trick question. Though there is some confusion regarding the extent of China’s claims, their “nine-Dash line” claim lies in the South China Sea and definitely do not enclose the Sulu Sea or Celebes Sea.


http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/all-at-the-south-china-sea/article8925134.ece
1. Which of the following statements with reference to the recent amendments to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 is/are correct?:

1. It prohibits employment of children below 15 years in all occupations except where the child helps his family after school hours

2. The above provision (Statement 1) is in conformance with conventions of the International Labour Organisation

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.

It prohibits employment of children below 14 years in all occupations except where the child helps his family after school hours.

“The NDA government, like its predecessor that proposed the amendments, seems to be satisfied with mere compliance with International Labour Organisation Conventions 138 and 182. The former mandates compulsory schooling till the age of 15, but permits countries with inadequate education facilities to reduce it to 14, while Convention 182 prohibits employment of children “in the worst forms of labour”.”

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_Peninsula
http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/soft-on-saudi-arabias-war-on-yemen/article8929307.ece?ref=sliderNews

3. Many thousands of lawyers in the state of Tamil Nadu recently laid siege to the Madras High Court. What was the reason for their agitation?

(a) The Bar Council of India suspended some lawyers for indiscipline
(b) Requirement of lawyers to work during weekends until backlog of cases in the Court is reduced by 50 per cent
(c) Recent amendments were made to the statutory rules of the Court that empower judges to debar errant lawyers from continuing practice
(d) Appointment of women-judges only in the recent round of appointments made to the High Court

Solution: c.
This is simply a current affairs-based question. Not one that would be asked in preliminaries.


4. Which of the following commissions/panels have dealt with the Armed Forces Special Powers Act in part or in whole?

1. The Second Administrative Reforms Commission
2. Justice Jeevan Reddy Commission
3. Justice Santosh Hegde Commission
4. Justice J.S. Verma Committee

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: d.

“Nothing, it seems, can move the Central government to have this draconian Act repealed or moderated — not Ms. Sharmila’s hunger strike, not the periodic eruptions of violent street protests against it in Imphal or Srinagar, not even the recommendations of three high-powered panels set up by the Central government. These include the 2005 recommendations of the Justice Jeevan Reddy Commission set up to “humanise the AFSPA”, as former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said; the 2005 Veerappa Moily-led second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC); and the 2013 Justice J.S. Verma Committee set up in the wake of the December 16, 2012, Delhi rape case, looking into reforms to speed up as well as ensure conviction in rape cases.”


http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/irom-sharmila-the-cause-is-afspa/article8929257.ece

5. From which of the following list of countries have Indians been evacuated by the Government of India during peace time?

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Nepal
3. Kuwait

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: a)
1. What are some of the issues associated with Stormwater Drainage in India?

1. Their coverage – percentage of road length covered by the Stormwater drainage network – is low in urban areas

2. Many a time they are clogged with garbage and sewage although they are designed to address situations of high rainfall concentrated in short durations

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.

“Stormwater drains, which are designed to address high rainfall concentrated in a short period of time, face clogging with garbage and sewage. That is, when they exist in the first place; often they don’t. So, the city gets deluged even if it receives less-than-normal rainfall.”


2. The Committee on Possible Tax rates under GST recommended a ‘Revenue Neutral Rate’ (RNR) within a range of 15 and 15.5 per cent. What is RNR?

(a) It refers to that single rate, which preserves revenue at desired (current) levels

(b) It is the rate at which the resulting income equals expenditure (both capital and revenue)

(c) It is the rate at which there would be minimal difference among states in overall tax earnings

(d) Both b and c

Solution: a.

“Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and the party’s Deputy Leader in the Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma, who were the lead negotiators for the Congress, explained that the government had promised that the GST Council — in consultation with the States — would work out a set of bands to ensure a revenue neutral tax.”


http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=132570

3. Anti-dumping duty is imposed on certain products when

(a) The importing nation wants to restrict imports of those products

(b) There is a sudden surge in import of those products in the importing nation

(c) Those products are exported to India from other nations at ‘below-normal value’

(d) a, b and c

Solution: c.

Option ‘a’ is partially correct but option ‘c’ is the wholly correct statement. Option ‘b’ refers to Safeguard Duty.

http://www.thehindu.com/business/india-to-slap-antidumping-duty-on-steel-import-from-6-nations/article8933882.ece

https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/what_is_e/tif_e/agrm8_e.htm

4. With reference to the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Bill passed recently by the Parliament, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. Apart from constituting a National Authority to manage and utilise amounts credited to the National CAF, State Authorities will be set up in each State and Union Territory to manage and utilise amounts credited to the State CAFs

2. The funds can be utilised only for “compensatory” afforestation
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.

According to PIB, “the bill provides for the Constitution of a State Authority in each State and Union Territory to manage and utilise the amounts credited to the State CAFs.”

“The fund was envisaged to be used only for “compensatory” afforestation, but the Bill before Parliament has expanded the list of works that this money can be utilised for, and includes the general afforestation programme run through the Green India Mission. Forest protection, forest management, forest and wildlife related infrastructure development, wildlife conservation, even facilitating the relocation of people from protected wildlife areas, are proposed to be made valid expenditure from this account. Critics say this will take the focus away from the prime objective of compensating for the forest cover lost to industrial or infrastructure development.”


6. One of the latest amendments proposed to the GST Bill is that “the GST Council shall establish a mechanism to adjudicate any disputes”. The GST Council will consist of

(a) Union Finance Minister as chairman and Chief Ministers of States as members
(b) Union Finance Secretary as chairman and State Finance Secretaries as members
(c) Union Finance Secretary as chairman and State Chief Secretaries as members
(d) Union Finance Minister as chairman and any Minister nominated by each State Government as member

Solution: d.

“Composition of the GST Council: The GST Council is to consist of the following three members:

i. the Union Finance Minister (as Chairman),
ii. the Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue or Finance, and
iii. the Minister in charge of Finance or Taxation or any other, nominated by each state government.”

http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/gst-bill-parliament-what-is-goods-services-tax-economy-explained-2950335/

5. Because of developmental or industrial requirements, forests are routinely cut, or, “diverted for non-forest purposes”. In such cases, which of the following acts/bills require that non-forest land, equal to the size of the forest being “diverted”, is afforested?

(a) Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015
(b) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
(c) Environmental Protection Act, 1986
(d) Indian Forest Act, 1927

Solution: b.

1. The 122nd Amendment Bill, 2014 for the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax was recently passed in the Rajya Sabha. Arrange the following list of procedures sequentially that will now have to follow, in order to enable the rollout of GST:

1. President’s assent
2. Setting up GST council
3. Ratification of the Bill by a minimum of 15 states in their respective assemblies
4. Ratification of amendments, moved in the upper house, in Lok Sabha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: d.

“The term revenue neutral rate (RNR) will refer to that single rate, which preserves revenue at desired (current) levels. The RNR should be distinguished from the “standard” rate defined as that rate in a GST regime which is applied to all goods and services whose taxation is not explicitly specified.”

“After this, the Bill is slated to head back to Lok Sabha for the ratification of amendments moved in the Upper House, followed by the next crucial step — a ratification of the Bill by a minimum of 15 states in their respective assemblies. This will have to be followed by the President’s assent to the legislation to enable the rollout of GST by the intended deadline of April 1, 2017. From an operational perspective, after the Presidential assent, a GST Council with representatives from the Centre and states will have to be formed within 60 days of the enactment of the Bill. The Council will be entrusted with recommending the tax rates, including the band of rates for goods and services.”


2. The Committee headed by the Chief Economic Adviser on Possible Tax rates under GST had recommended a standard rate varying between 17 and 18 per cent. Which of the following statements is not correct in this regard?

(a) The committee had not taken into account the possibility that the centre would have to compensate states for up to 5 years for any shortfall in revenues
(b) The standard rate is nothing but the RNR or the Revenue Neutral Rate
(c) The report was based on data of 2013-14 and thus did not include the updated tax components of centre and states from 2014-15 onward
(d) a, b and c all are incorrect

Solution: b.

“In the name of the people, I ask you to keep this rate at the rate recommended by your CEA (Chief Economic Advisor), namely, the standard rate should not exceed 18 per cent. I know you are not incorporating it in the Constitutional amendment Bill... but three months later, when you come back with the GST Bill (another enabling legislation), you must mention a tax rate,” Chidambaram said, underlining that his party will campaign throughout the country and lobby with other political parties to ensure that this rate is not more than 18 per cent.

Replying to the discussion later in the evening, Jaitley said that many states felt that coming down to 18 per cent from the present tax rates which add up to between 27 and 30 per cent was too steep a descent, too quickly. He said the report of the CEA had not recommended an 18 per cent rate but a band between 16.9 and 18.9 per cent. Jaitley pointed out that the CEA’s report was based on data of 2013-14 and it did not take into account the compensation that the Centre had agreed to pay to the states which fear loss of revenue in the initial few years. “If you add these two
3. Bihar recently brought amendments to its 4-month-old prohibition law. With reference to it, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It makes all adults of a family responsible for the consumption and possession of liquor at home by any member of the family
2. All sections of the act are non-bailable
3. Finding utensils with a mix of sugar or jaggery with grapes implies that liquor-making is in progress
4. Police can confiscate the premises where liquor is consumed or stored
5. It includes tougher provisions against harassment by the police and excise officials

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: d.

http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/nitish-kumar-bihar-liquor-ban-new-provision-2952328/

4. The nodal ministry for transgenders in India is the

(a) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
(b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(c) Ministry of Law and Justice
(d) Ministry of Women and Child Development

Solution: a.

“…In the wake of these PILs, the union government constituted an expert committee with officials of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment — which was designated as the nodal Ministry for transgenders in 2012 — and representatives from the transgender community, as well as Ministries of Health, External Affairs and Law & Justice.”

http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/transgenders-persons-bill-provisions-explained-2952316/

5. Consider the following statements about the nomadic tribe of Bawariyas:

1. Their name is derived from the word ‘bawar’ or noose with which they would trap wild animals
2. They have been placed under the Scheduled Tribe category

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.

“After de-notification of this tribe, the Bawariyas were put under the Scheduled Caste category.”

1. Which of the following is/are tributary/tributaries of River Mahadayi?
- Kalasa
- Subansiri
- Banduri

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

Solution: c.

"An old battle over the sharing of water from the Mahadayi or Mandovi river — whose basin is spread across the states of Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra — has flared up again after the Mahadayi River Disputes Tribunal on July 27 rejected an interim plea by Karnataka to allow diversion of 7.56 thousand million cubic (tmc) feet to meet drinking water requirements in four northern districts of Karnataka."

"..A flashpoint was reached in 2002 after the government of Chief Minister S M Krishna moved to implement a long pending drinking water project by building a canal across two tributaries of the Mahadayi, the Kalasa and the Banduri."

http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/mahadayi-river-project-dispute-karnataka-siddaramaiah-2962344/

2. What is the objection raised by the state of Goa in its opposition to Karnataka’s drinking water project, which would source water from River Mahadayi’s tributaries?

(a) Under the garb of a drinking water project, Karnataka is making plans to construct a dam to supply power to its northern districts
(b) The project would cause immense damage to fragile ecosystems in protected areas of Western Ghats in Goa
(c) Diversion of the water could affect drinking water availability for Goan residents in summer months
(d) Movement of goods in Goa primarily is reliant on waters of its two primary rivers; diversion of waters of one river will consequently affect the state economy

Solution: b.

"Goa approached the Centre in 2002 seeking a Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal to assess “available utilisable water resources in the basin at various points and allocation of this water to the three basin states keeping in view priority of the use of water within basin”. It argued that the Kalasa-Banduri project would cause immense damage to fragile ecosystems in protected areas of the Western Ghats in Goa."

http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/mahadayi-river-project-dispute-karnataka-siddaramaiah-2962344/

3. Consider the following statements about an anadromous species of fish – the Hilsa – which can be found in the water bodies surrounding India:

1. It is known to travel up to 1400 kilometres to lay eggs
2. The commissioning of Farakka Barrage in West Bengal resulted in a consistent reduction in annual catch of the fish

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.

See graphic in link provided below for justification for second statement being wrong.

Is the hilsa (Tenualosa ilisha) a sea or a river fish? Where is it found?

It is what is called an anadromous species — like the salmon, sturgeon and shad, it is born...
in fresh water, spends most of its life in the sea and returns to fresh water to spawn. The bony fish, with silver scales and a faint streak of pink on its belly, is found in marine, estuarine and riverine environments. *The Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean, and Arabian Sea are its marine homes; the rivers Ganga, Bhagirathi, Hooghly, Brahmaputra, Rupnarayan, Narmada, Cauvery and Godavari are its spawning grounds.*

**And how far upstream does it travel?**

It’s a long-distance swimmer that’s been known to travel 1,200-1,400 km from the Bay of Bengal — up the Hooghly and then the Ganga up to Patna and Varanasi, and sometimes even Allahabad, Kanpur and, up the Yamuna to Agra.


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4. Which one of the following was given classical language status most recently?

(a) Odia

(b) Telugu

(c) Kannada

(d) Assamese

Solution: a.

“In 2008, soon after the Central government accorded the status to Kannada and Telugu, Chennai-based senior advocate R. Gandhi moved the High Court challenging the decision, alleging undue influence in the grant of status. The court, through an interim order, said any decision taken by the committee set up by the Central government to consider grant of classical language status would be subject to the decision on the writ petition. Mr. Gandhi moved one more PIL in 2015 challenging the decision to confer the status for Malayalam and Odia.”

Q25, CS(P) 2015


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5. “To prohibit the slaughter of cows, calves and other milch and draught cattle and to improve their breeds”

(a) Is stated in Article 48 of the Indian Constitution

(b) Can be classified as a “liberal-intellectual” directive principle of state policy

(c) Both a and b

(d) None of the above

Solution: a.

It is best classified as a Gandhian principle.

Chapter 8, DPSP, Indian Polity 4th Edition by M Laxmikanth


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6. Recently, linking of which of the following rivers was undertaken?

(a) Mahanadi and Sone

(b) Damanganga and Pinjal

(c) Godavari and Krishna

(d) Narmada and Tapti

Solution: c.

Q85, CS(P) 2016

http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/godavari-and-krishna-rivers-interlink-when-two-rivers-meet/

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7. ‘Fish ladders’, recently seen in the news, is/are

(a) A series of ascending pools in which anadromous fish leap against the rushing water, rest in a pool, and then repeat the process until they cross it all

(b) A massive pipe made of cement located next to obstacles such as dams in which water is made to flow in the opposite direction so that anadromous fish can cross these obstacles

(c) Conservationists who work in tandem with fishermen in order to catch fish

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downstream and release them upstream in the river

(d) None of the above

Solution: a.

A fish ladder, or fishway, is essentially a structure that allows migrating fish passage over or around an obstacle — dams, culverts, waterfalls — on a river. Fishways give anadromous fish — whose survival depends on migration — a detour, and have been considered critical in keeping up fish stocks. Fish ladders are common in the US, and are of designs that depend on the obstruction, river flow, and species of affected fish. The general principle, however, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the US Department of Commerce, is the same for all: “the ladder contains a series of ascending pools that are reached by swimming against a stream of water. Fish leap through the cascade of rushing water, rest in a pool, and then repeat the process until they are out of the ladder.”


8. The Centre is planning to begin implementing the Ken-Betwa river linking project as a model Project. Which area will this project benefit?

(a) Gawilgarh Hill Area

(b) Mewar

(c) Baghelkhand

(d) Bundelkhand

Solution: d.

“The controversial Ken-Betwa link that will partially submerge the Panna Tiger sanctuary, is yet to be cleared by the National Wild Life Board and discussions are on between the Water Resources Ministry and the Ministry of Environment and Forests to mitigate the potential loss of forests. The Government is planning to begin implementing this as a model ILR project, which will benefit the drought prone areas of Bundelkhand region.”
1. Which among the following states recently launched “Quit India Movement 2”?
   (a) Odisha
   (b) Andhra Pradesh
   (c) Uttar Pradesh
   (d) Maharashtra

   Solution: d.
   “..Earlier, addressing the gathering, Maharashtra Chief Minister, Shri Devendra Fadnavis said Mumbai had played a significant role during the freedom struggle. “Today, the city is taking a lead in launching the second Quit India Movement. This time the fight is not against the British, but against the social evils plaguing the state like corruption, farmer suicides, malnutrition, water wastage and terrorism”…”
   [http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=148605]

2. The Wardha Resolution, also known as the “Quit India Resolution” was ratified by the All India Congress Committee at
   (a) Kolkata
   (b) Lucknow
   (c) Ahmedabad
   (d) Bombay

   Solution: d.
   “..The Wardha Resolution is also known as “Quit India Resolution”. This resolution was ratified in the All India Congress Committee at Bombay on August 7, 1942. Here a nonviolent mass struggle under the leadership of Gandhi was sanctioned in the “August Kranti Maidan”…”
   [http://www.gktoday.in/quit-india-movement/]

3. India’s first world-class Integrated Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre, similar to the ones in Shanghai and Hannover, will come up at
   (a) Delhi
   (b) Jaipur
   (c) Bangalore
   (d) Agra

   Solution: a.
   “It has been estimated that the global MICE market, which supports 400,000 conferences and exhibitions worldwide, is of the size of US $ 280 billion and is a significant economic driver for a large number of nations. The total size of the Asian MICE market accounts for US$ 60 billion having demonstrated a growth of 38% since 2006. In the absence of world class exhibition and conference facilities, India has not benefited from the potential benefits of this development. In order to capitalize on this vast market and to drive India’s industry, commerce, trade and tourism, the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion has taken the initiative to develop a State-of-The-Art Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre at Delhi.”
   [http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138299]

4. Certain medications are marked by a red line on their packaging. What is this supposed to convey?
   (a) The drug is on the National List of Essential Medicines
   (b) The drug can be bought only at Jan Aushadhi Stores
   (c) The drug must be used carefully, and to discourage unnecessary prescription and over-the-counter sale
   (d) The drug is a generic drug

   Solution: c.
23rd February, 2016: “Appreciating the need for media campaign for raising awareness about antibiotics, Shri J P Nadda launched the “Medicines with the Red Line” media campaign at the function which creates awareness regarding rational usage of medicines which carry a red line on their strip. He also unveiled the Infection Control Policies for Hospitals handbook.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136657
http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/policy-and-issues/losing-ground-in-the-war-on-superbugs/article8965534.ece

5. It has been always known that sunflower heads follow the sun, a phenomenon called “heliotropism”. How exactly does this happen?

(a) At night, the west-side of stems grow more whereas during the day, the east-side of the stems grow more

(b) A twenty-four hour circadian rhythm guides the sunflower’s movement

(c) Roots of the plant send signals to the stem depending on the relative heat of soil during a twenty-four hour cycle

(d) Both a and b

Solution: d.

Because of statement ‘b’, ‘a’ takes place. That is, “...a 24-hour circadian rhythm was guiding the sunflowers’ movement. But without muscles, how did they move? The answer was in their stems. Like those of other plants, the stems of young sunflowers grow more at night — but only on their west side, which is what allows their heads to bend eastward. During the day, the stems’ east side grows, and they bend west with the sun. Dr. Atamian collected samples of the opposite sides of stems from sunflowers periodically, and found that different genes, related to light detection and growth, appeared active on opposite sides of the stems.”

“How Sunflowers follow the Sun, day after day”, ‘Explained’ page, Indian Express, 10th August 2016
1. Consider the following statements:

1. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities requires signatory countries to change their laws to give effect to the rights of persons with mental illnesses

2. The Mental Health Care Bill, 2013 does not cover mental retardation, but includes mental conditions associated with substance abuse

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: d.

Both statements are correct.

http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/new-mental-health-bill-provisions-rajya-sabha-2964545/

2. With reference to the Mental Health Care Bill, 2013 recently passed by the Rajya Sabha, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It decriminalises suicide
2. It guarantees every person the right to access mental health care and treatment from the government
3. It mandates the central and state governments to ensure access to mental health services in every district of the country
4. It does not address issues related to guardianship of mentally ill persons

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: "The Bill mandates the central and state governments to ensure access to mental health services in every district. These will include outpatient and inpatient services, hospitals, and community-based rehabilitation establishments. However, the financial memorandum of the Bill does not estimate the expenditure required to meet the obligations under the Bill nor does it provide details of the sharing of expenses between the central and state governments. Without the allocation of adequate funds, the implementation of the Bill could be affected. The Standing Committee examining the Bill had noted that public health is a state subject. Since several states face financial constraints, the central government might have to step in to ensure funds for the implementation of the law."

"If the Bill is passed by Parliament in its current form, there will be a legal vacuum with regard to provisions of guardianship of mentally ill persons."

Also: "The Bill does not prescribe specific penalties for non-compliance with several of its provisions."

http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/new-mental-health-bill-provisions-rajya-sabha-2964545/

3. Which of the following nations have been granted observer status to the Arctic in the Arctic Council?

1. India
2. South Korea
3. Singapore
4. Japan
5. China

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 5 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
Solution: d.

“There has been a surge of global interest in the Arctic because of its vast reserves of oil, gas and minerals, commercial fishing opportunities, and shortened shipping routes that are now accessible because of global warming. In 2013, India was granted observer status to the Arctic, where India joined China, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and South Korea as a non-circumpolar country in the Arctic Council."

“This year China, Japan and South Korea held talks on Arctic issues in Seoul. India is also an observer state on the same legal ground as the other three countries but so far, we have been remarkably missing from talks such as these.”


4. Shipping traffic in the “Northern Sea Route” (NSR) is expected to keep increasing over the next few years. The NSR runs along

(a) The Russian Arctic Coast from the Barents Sea to the Bering Strait

(b) The North American Arctic Coast (via the Canadian Arctic Archipelago) connecting the northern Atlantic and Pacific Oceans

(c) Coastal Europe from the Strait of Dover all the way up to Novaya Zemlya

(d) None of the above

Solution: d.

“Through all the proposed projects, sanctions and bail-outs, one thing is certain — that traffic in the Northern Sea Route (NSR) will keep increasing which is evidenced by the increasing number of vessels plying through those waters and the increase in the global production of icebreakers. Currently, oil comes to Asia through the Suez Canal and is stored in Singapore, making Singapore the world’s biggest oil storage hub. When the NSR opens up, it will be a challenge to Singapore because the NSR is a shorter route and piracy issues plague the Suez Canal.”

“The Northern Sea Route (click on it to open Wikipedia page) is a shipping route officially defined by Russian legislation as lying east of Novaya Zemlya and specifically running along the Russian Arctic coast from the Kara Sea, along Siberia, to the Bering Strait. The entire route lies in Arctic waters and within Russia’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).”

Statement ‘a’ refers to the Northeast Passage (this passage includes the NSR)

Statement ‘b’ refers to the Northwest Passage.

Statement ‘c’ is not associated with Arctic shipping routes.

See the double-coloured dash line on the right side in the image.


5. With reference to the art form “Tala Maddale”, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. It is a variation of Yakshagana theatre

2. The word is derived from the word ‘tala’ meaning drum beat and ‘maddale’ meaning cymbal

3. It normally focusses on episodes from the epics – Bhagavata and Puranas
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: c.

“The word Talamaddale is derived from the word ‘tala’ (Cymbal) and Maddale (the drum).”

“Though Tala Maddale normally focusses on episodes from the epics, Bhagavata and puranas, episodes have also been created on other issues, including the Second World War, Tashkent Agreement, and even one against computerisation about a couple of decades ago called Ganakasura Kalaga.”

“A variation of yakshagana theatre, Talamaddale is not a well known art-form outside coastal karnataka. It is called Koota (gathering) as against the costumed performance ata (play). It is also called Baithak (sitting), prasanga (episode), odike (reading ) and Jagara (keep awake). To put it simply, Talamaddale is a Yakshagana minus dance,costume and stage conventions. It has features which are a combination of puranapravachana (discourse), harikatha and Yakshagana. While the Yakshagana ata has speech, dance and costume and the ballet has dance and costume, talamaddale has only the spoken word. Music is common to all forms.”


6. The tripartite Assam Accord
(a) signified the end of the six-year-long anti-foreigners movement in the state
(b) introduced the system of Inner Line Permit for select districts
(c) was the precursor of statehood for Assam
(d) outlined the steps that would be taken by the Central Government, State Government and residents of the state to mitigate the effects of inevitable flooding of Brahmaputra every monsoon

Solution: a.

“Three decades ago the Government of India(Gol), the State and the students of Assam penned down a document which was to change the way people saw the State. The Assam Accord was signed by the leadership of A.A.S.U, All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad and the Centre in 1985 to signify the end of the six-year-long anti-foreigners movement in the state.”

“The tripartite Assam Accord, which was signed in 1985, talks about the socio-economic development of Assam. The control of flood waters and erosion is crucial to the socio-economic development of Assam since roads, culverts and bridges are regularly swept away in the recurring floods. Unless this issue is addressed, the well-being of the large number of poor families can not be ensured.”

http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/assam-heavy-rain-floods-india-monsoon-2966763/

7. Which among the following form a part of the Government of India’s African engagement?

1. Dialogue with the tribes of Africa
2. Food, of which joint agricultural production of crops like pulses is one component
3. Maritime security

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: d.

“Adding an unusual layer to India’s African engagement, the Narendra Modi government is sending a senior Minister to hold a dialogue with the tribes of southern Africa later this month. The visit by Minister for Tribal Affairs
Jual Oram will begin a new Indian season of political, diplomatic and trade outreach to Africa.”


8. The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 seeks to give citizenship to undocumented migrants who are followers of which of the following faiths?

1. Hindus
2. Jains
3. Sikhs
4. Christians

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: d.

“The Opposition parties, led by the Congress, want the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in July, sent to a Standing Committee of Parliament. They say the amendments seek to give the granting of citizenship a religious twist. The original Act, passed in 1955, lists the ways to acquire citizenship, denying to undocumented migrants. The amendments now seek to allow citizenship to undocumented migrants of all faiths barring Islam from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh.”

1. In which of the following cases can a special leave petition under Article 136 of the Constitution *not* be filed before the Supreme Court of India?

1. A case decided by the District and Sessions Judge’s Court
2. A case decided by an Inter-State Water Disputes Tribunal
3. A judgment passed by a court or tribunal constituted by or under any law relating to the Armed Forces

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: d.

*According to the Constitution: Special leave to appeal by the Supreme Court*

- Notwithstanding anything in this Chapter, the Supreme Court may, in its discretion, grant special leave to appeal from any judgment, decree, determination, sentence or order in any cause or matter passed or made by any court or tribunal in the territory of India
- **Nothing in clause (1) shall apply to any judgment, determination, sentence or order passed or made by any court or tribunal constituted by or under any law relating to the Armed Forces**

But the recent Supreme Court judgement on AFSPA makes it clear that Clause 2) as mentioned above is *not valid.*

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/editorial-the-supreme-courts-mundane-burden/article8975107.ece

2. China’s claims in waters of East Asia are enclosed by what it refers to and has come to be known as the ‘Nine-Dash Line’. This line encompasses which all seas?

1. South China Sea
2. Sulu Sea
3. Celebes Sea

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: a.

3. The 2016 G20 summit will be hosted by

(a) Malaysia
(b) Spain
(c) China
(d) Singapore

Solution: c.
China is the only member of G20 from the above list of nations.

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/columns/world-view-a-chance-to-narrow-indiachina-differences/article8975102.ece

4. With reference to the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. It introduces a provision which requires every establishment to intimate a woman at the time of her appointment of the maternity benefits available to her.
2. It introduces a provision to grant 12 weeks of maternity leave to a woman who legally adopts a child below three years of age.

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 Bill introduces a provision to grant 12 weeks of maternity leave to:

(i) a woman who legally adopts a child below three months of age;
(ii) a commissioning mother.

A commissioning mother is defined as a biological mother who uses her egg to create an embryo implanted in another woman.”

http://www.prsindia.org/billtrack/the-maternity-benefit-amendment-bill-2016-4370/


5. Consider the following statements:

1. He was born in Bhabra village
2. He was involved in the Kakori Train Robbery of 1925

3. He had a vision of an independent India based on socialist principles.

The above statements refer to

(a) Keshab Chandra Sen
(b) Ram Prasad Bismil
(c) Chandrashekhar Azad
(d) Ashfaqulla Khan

Solution: c.

Statements 2 and 3 are generic; the Kakori conspiracy was organised by the Hindustan Republican Association which itself had the aim of an independent India based on socialist principles.

Statement 1 has been in the news recently because the Government launched India’s 70th Independence Day celebrations from this village in Madhya Pradesh.


Notes
1. The Government of India recently concluded a successful dialogue on the Naga political issue with which of the following groups?

(a) National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang)
(b) Naga Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang)
(c) National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak Muivah)
(d) Naga Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak Muivah)

Solution: c.

“The Government of India and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) successfully concluded the dialogue on Naga political issue, which has existed for six decades, and signed an agreement today in the presence of the Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Government’s Interlocutor for Naga Peace Talks, Shri R.N. Ravi, signed the Agreement on behalf of the Government of India. Shri Isak Chishi Swu, Chairman and Shri Th. Muivah, General Secretary were the signatories on behalf of the NSCN. The entire top leadership of the NSCN (IM), including all members of the “collective leadership”, has fully endorsed the agreement and was present during the ceremony.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=148872

2. Crimea is surrounded by the waters of

1. Black Sea
2. Sea of Azov
3. Mediterranean Sea
4. Sea of Marmara

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b.


3. The primary objective of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is to

(a) provide connectivity, by way of roads – kutcha or pucca, to the eligible unconnected habitations in rural areas
(b) upgrade existing roads in districts whose rural habitations are already connected
(c) increase the pace of construction of rural roads in the country
(d) provide connectivity, by way of all-weather road, to the eligible unconnected habitations in rural areas

Solution: d.

“The primary objective of the PMGSY is to provide Connectivity, by way of an All-weather Road (with necessary culverts and cross-drainage structures, which is operable throughout the year), to the eligible unconnected Habitations in the rural areas, in such a way that all Unconnected Habitations with a population of 1000 persons and above are covered in three years (2000-2003) and all Unconnected Habitations with a population of 500 persons and above by the end of the Tenth Plan Period (2007).

In respect of the Hill States (North-East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal) and the Desert Areas (as identified in the Desert Development Programme) as well as the Tribal (Schedule V) areas, the objective would be to connect Habitations with a population of 250 persons and above.”
4. The term ‘Skimming’, sometimes seen in the news with regard to card transactions, refers to

(a) An electronic method of capturing a victim’s card information with the help of an electronic ‘skimmer’ device

(b) Usage of a ‘sticker’ device in ATM machines which causes non-dispensation of full amount sought to be withdrawn

(c) A technique which distorts the readout of the magnetic strip by altering the speed or motion of the card as it is swiped, making any information copied from the card unreadable

(d) The process of ATMs seeking identity proofs of persons withdrawing cash to enhance security of the individual’s account and money therein

Solution: a.

“Skimming: An electronic method of capturing a victim’s personal information used by identity thieves. The skimmer is a small device that scans a credit card and stores the information contained in the magnetic strip. Skimming can take place during a legitimate transaction at a business.”

“Skimming can occur easily in a restaurant because your card is taken away when the bill is being settled. If your server is a skimming identity thief, he or she will, before giving the card back to you, scan the credit card with a hand-held electronic device, which takes only seconds. The electronically captured information is then used to by the thief or sold to other criminals.”

5. The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is India’s premier nuclear research facility based in Trombay, Mumbai. It also conducts research in

1. Power Generation
2. Supercomputers
3. Biotechnology

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3

(d) None of the above

Solution: c.

“BARC is a multi-disciplinary research centre with extensive infrastructure for advanced research and development covering the entire spectrum of nuclear science, engineering and related areas. Its core mandate is to sustain peaceful applications of nuclear energy, primarily for power generation.”

“In addition to its nuclear research mandate, it also conducts research in other high technology areas like accelerators, micro electron beams, materials design, supercomputers, computer vision among the few.”

“It also conducts research in biotechnology at the Gamma Gardens, and has developed numerous disease resistant and high-yielding crop varieties, particularly groundnuts. It also conducts research in Liquid Metal Magnetohydrodynamics for power generation.”

PIB: “BARC and Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology sign MoU for joint development of Deep Brain Stimulator”

6. The Jal Marg Vikas Project, being executed with assistance from the World Bank, will involve which of the following states?

1. Uttar Pradesh
2. Bihar
3. Jharkhand
4. West Bengal
5. Assam
6. Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b.

“NW-1 is a waterway of national significance passing through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.”

PIB, 2015: “The Jal Marg Vikas Project envisions to develop a fairway with 3 meters depth between Allahabad to Haldia covering a distance of 1620 kms at an estimated cost of Rs. 4200 crore to be completed in six years. This would enable commercial navigation of at least 1500 ton vessels. For implementation of the Jal Marg Vikas Project, technical assistance and investment support is being provided by the World Bank.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsreleases/printrelease.aspx?relid=148879
1. In the context of modern scientific research, consider the following statements about IceCube, a particle detector, which was recently in the news:

1. It is the world's largest neutrino detector, encompassing a cubic kilometre of ice.
2. It is a powerful telescope to search for dark matter.
3. It is located at North Pole.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b.

Slightly modified form of Q80, CS(P) 2015.

"IceCube is a particle detector at the South Pole that records the interactions of a nearly massless subatomic particle called the neutrino. IceCube searches for neutrinos from the most violent astrophysical sources: events like exploding stars, gamma-ray bursts, and cataclysmic phenomena involving black holes and neutron stars."

"The IceCube telescope is a powerful tool to search for dark matter and could reveal the physical processes associated with the enigmatic origin of the highest energy particles in nature. In addition, exploring the background of neutrinos produced in the atmosphere, IceCube studies the neutrinos themselves; their energies far exceed those produced by accelerator beams. IceCube is the world's largest neutrino detector, encompassing a cubic kilometer of ice. It is buried beneath the surface, extending to a depth of about 2,500 meters. Burying it deep in ice is important to enhance the precision of the detector."

2. Neutrino Physicists at the IceCube Neutrino Detector facility recently drew a blank in their search for a "sterile" neutrino – which when discovered would be the fourth type of neutrino. In what way would its discovery not be helpful?

1. It would explain the mismatch between quantities of matter and antimatter in the universe
2. It would give a clue as to what forms dark matter

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.

Both statements are correct.

"Sterile neutrinos (or inert neutrinos) are hypothetical particles that interact only via gravity and do not interact via any of the other fundamental interactions of the Standard Model."

"If discovered, this particle would have been a fourth type of neutrino and would have indicated the existence of new physics beyond the "standard model" of physics which predicts that there are only three varieties of neutrino. Also, it would have explained the mismatch between quantities of matter and antimatter in the universe, while giving a clue as to what forms dark matter."

"It was, in fact, not just the theorists who were keen on seeing the sterile neutrino, so called because it does not interact with matter at all, except for gravity. Its presence was hinted at by experiments at Los Alamos National Laboratory in the 1990s and recently at the Daya Bay nuclear reactor facility (Daya Bay Reactor Neutrino Experiment) in Hong Kong."
3. The Daya Bay Reactor Neutrino Experiment is not

(a) A China-based project
(b) A China-based project
(c) Buried deep in ice
(d) Situated in Daya Bay

Solution: c.

“The Daya Bay Reactor Neutrino Experiment is a China-based multinational particle physics project studying neutrinos. The multinational collaboration includes researchers from China, Chile, the United States, Taiwan, Russia, and the Czech Republic. The US side of the project is funded by the US Department of Energy’s Office of High Energy Physics. It is situated at Daya Bay, approximately 52 kilometers northeast of Hong Kong and 45 kilometers east of Shenzhen.”

4. Consider the following statements:

1. How fast a planet spins on its axis affects whether it has a habitable climate
2. For a planet which contains water on its surface, more dry land in its tropical region would limit greenhouse gas effect
3. ‘Magellan Mission’ as well as the ‘Pioneer Mission’ were missions by NASA to Venus

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

Solution: b.

“Previous studies have shown that how fast a planet spins on its axis affects whether it has a habitable climate. A day on Venus is 117 Earth days. Until recently, it was assumed that a thick atmosphere like that of modern Venus was required for the planet to have today’s slow rotation rate. However, newer research has shown that a thin atmosphere like that of modern Earth could have produced the same result. That means an ancient Venus with an Earth-like atmosphere could have had the same rotation rate it has today.”

“Another factor that impacts a planet’s climate is topography. The GISS team postulated ancient Venus had more dry land overall than Earth, especially in the tropics. That limits the amount of water evaporated from the oceans and, as a result, the greenhouse effect by water vapor. This type of surface appears ideal for making a planet habitable; there seems to have been enough water to support abundant life, with sufficient land to reduce the planet’s sensitivity to changes from incoming sunlight.”

5. NExSS’ is a NASA research coordination network which seeks to

1. develop tools and technologies needed in the search for life beyond Earth
2. study the diversity of exoplanets and help classify the diversity of worlds being discovered
3. understand where habitable niches are most likely to occur

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: d.

“The research was done as part of NASA’s Planetary Science Astrobiology program through the Nexus for Exoplanet System Science (NExSS) program, which seeks to accelerate the search for life on planets...”
orbiting other stars, or exoplanets, by combining insights from the fields of astrophysics, planetary science, heliophysics, and Earth science. The findings have direct implications for future NASA missions, such as the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite and James Webb Space Telescope, which will try to detect possible habitable planets and characterize their atmospheres.”

6. Polished rice is widely consumed today as opposed to the earlier practice of consumption of hand pound rice. Which of the following is the most appropriate reason for this present-day practice?

(a) Polished rice can be, and is usually, bio-fortified which means that it contains small amounts of essential nutrients

(b) Polished rice is known to help reduce the problem of ‘hidden hunger’

(c) The human digestive system can better extract the nutrients in polished rice than in unpolished rice, viz. bio-availability of polished rice is better

(d) Polished rice has a longer storage life

Solution: d.

“Mahatma Gandhi was always advocating us to eat hand pound rice and hand ground wheat rather than eating polished rice. Yet we continue using machine-polished cereals because they can be stored longer. But machine-polishing removes the bran (surrounding the seed) containing the pericarp and the ‘aleurone layer’ which have small amounts of essential nutrients such as some vitamins, iron, zinc and other inorganic components. So, Gandhiji was right! Machine-polished grains are thus poorer in such ‘micronutrients.”…”

“This leads to what is today termed as “hidden hunger.” You may eat stomach full of food everyday and yet miss out on these micro-nutrients essential for the growth and health of the body. UN agencies estimate that hidden hunger affects one in every three children across the world, leading to deficiency in physical growth and development of the brain.”

7. ‘DRR Dhan 45’, also termed ‘IET 23832’, recently seen in the news is

(a) The earliest fossil soil to be discovered, which has helped establish the time of colonisation of land regions by the earliest plants to be 20 million years earlier than was believed

(b) A bio-fortified zinc-rich rice plant

(c) An exoplanet discovered based on interpreted data recovered from Astrosat

(d) An integrated optical system capable of detecting and monitoring algal blooms both spatially and temporally in coastal and open ocean waters

Solution: b.

“What if, rather than supplementing these micro-nutrients separately, they become part and parcel of the rice, wheat and other cereals we eat daily? Are there rice or wheat plants which are inherently rich in some of these micronutrients? Can they be grown, cross-bred or hybridised with other conventional rice or wheat plants? This has been the dream of agricultural scientists across the country, and the group led by Dr Vemuri Ravindra Babu of the Institute of Rice Research (of the Indian council of Agricultural Research or ICAR) at Hyderabad has succeeded in doing so, after a pursuit that has lasted for over 12 years. A particular variety, termed DRR Dhan 45 (also termed IET 23832) is a zinc-rich rice plant developed by this group. It contains as much as 22.18 parts per million of zinc (the highest so far in released rice varieties) It is also moderately resistant to pests that kill rice plant by causing the leaf blast disease.”

Also, read the paragraph which discusses why zinc is important to the human body:

http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/biofortification-micronutrientbuiltin-grains/article8986007.ece
8. Under the ‘Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme’, a scheme for Left Wing Extremism affected states, funds are provided for meeting the recurring expenditure relating to

1. Rehabilitation of Left Wing Extremist cadres who surrender
2. Construction of fortified police stations
3. Training and operational needs of the security forces

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.

Statement 3 is a separate scheme – ‘Scheme of Fortified Police Stations’.

Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme: Under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme, funds are provided for meeting the recurring expenditure relating to insurance, training and operational needs of the security forces, rehabilitation of Left Wing Extremist cadres who surrender in accordance with the surrender and rehabilitation policy of the State Government concerned, community policing, security related infrastructure for village defence committees and publicity material.


9. In India, a ban on any pesticide is based on research conducted by

(a) Central Insecticides Board
(b) Department of Agriculture Research and Education
(c) Department of Fertilisers and Pest Management
(d) None of the above

Solution: d.

“However, the committee is perturbed to note that there is no provision for periodic scientific evaluation of pesticides used in the country and the Central Insecticides Board doesn’t carry out any research or study on its own, and its advice to the government is based on national and international literature or information available. The action for ban of particular pesticides is taken only after receipt of general information on the ban on, or restriction of, particular pesticides in other countries. A ban is based on the recommendation of a committee of experts constituted for the purpose,” it said.

The Central Insecticides Board has been constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968 and it falls under Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers’ Welfare.

http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/parliamentary-committee-pitches-for-better-pesticide-regulation/article8988964.ece

*Clarifications*

Daily Quiz, August 12th (Click Here):

**Q1. On Special Leave Petition.**

Answer should be 'c', not 'd'.

"A bench of justices Madan B. Lokur and Uday Lalit gave this ruling on a PIL filed by Extra Judicial Execution Victim Families Association alleging 1,528 fake encounter deaths in Manipur in the last decade and demanding a probe by a special investigation team." The case was not filed under Article 136, and as of now, the exception under 136(2) persists, as pointed out by an Insightian.

http://thewire.in/50110/army-excessive-force-afspa-sc-manipur/

**Q2. Nine-Dash line extent.**

Wrong solution and explanation mentioned by mistake.

Solution: a. Trick question. The Nine-Dash Line has always been associated only with the South China Sea.

Q4. On provisions in the Maternity Bill.
According to PIB, “The act is applicable to all establishments employing 10 or more persons.”

Statement 1, as mentioned in the questions: “It introduces a provision which requires every establishment to intimate a woman at the time of her appointment of the maternity benefits available to her”.

It should instead have been, “It introduces a provision which requires every establishment employing ten or more persons to intimate a woman at the time of her appointment of the maternity benefits available to her”.

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=148712
1. With reference to ‘Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana’, consider the following statements:

1. There will be a uniform premium of only 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops.
2. It provides for localised risk coverage which includes losses arising out of hail storms, land slides and inundation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: c.

Modified form of Q96, CS(P) 2016.

“There will be a uniform premium of only 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5%. The premium rates to be paid by farmers are very low and balance premium will be paid by the Government to provide full insured amount to the farmers against crop loss on account of natural calamities.”

See Table for differences between past and present Crop Insurance Schemes: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134432
http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/drones-better-than-satellites-to-gauge-crop-loss-says-panel/article8992050.ece

2. A place by name ‘Manbij’ recently appeared in the news. It is located in

(a) Turkey
(b) Iraq
(c) Syria
(d) Iran

Solution: c.

“The loss of Manbij, a northern Syrian town close to the border with Turkey, to Kurdish-Arab forces is a body blow to the Islamic State.

Since 2014, when it captured the town, the IS had used Manbij as a critical supply link for goods and fighters to be smuggled in and out across the Turkish border.”

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/setback-for-the-islamic-state/article8991392.ece

3. ‘MADAD’, as an online grievance monitoring system will ensure accountability, accessibility and responsiveness. It has been launched by

(a) Ministry of Women and Child Development
(b) Ministry of Tourism
(c) Ministry of External Affairs
(d) Ministry of Labour and Employment

Solution: c.

See Graphic, ‘News’ Page, The Hindu

“..In pursuance of “good governance” initiatives, the Ministry of External Affairs has launched an online Consular Grievances Monitoring System, named MADAD, on 21 February 2015, to extend a helping hand to Indians abroad requiring consular assistance. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) work together to address complaints received through MADAD.”

http://mea.gov.in/lok-sabha.htm?dtl/26093/Q+NO603+MADAD
4. With reference to the Bhakti Saint Ramanujacharya, consider the following statements:

1. According to him, one of the best means of attaining salvation was through intense devotion to Vishnu.

2. He helped spread Shankaracharya’s doctrine of oneness of the individual soul and the Supreme God.

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.

Page 107, Our Pasts – II, Class 7, NCERT: Ramanuja, born in Tamil Nadu in the eleventh century, was deeply influenced by the Alvars.

- According to him the best means of attaining salvation was through intense devotion to Vishnu.
- He propounded the doctrine of Vishishtadvaita or qualified oneness in that the soul even when united with the Supreme God remained distinct.
- Ramanuja’s doctrine greatly inspired the new strand of bhakti which developed in north India subsequently.

“Brothers and Sisters, this year is important due to various reasons. The country is celebrating 1000th birth anniversary of Saint Sri Ramanuja Acharyaji. While remembering Sri Ramanuja Acharya ji today, I wish to underline his message to the country. He used to say that we should serve all the devotees of the Lord, irrespective of their caste and class. He had said that we should never humiliate anyone and should give respect to all, without any discrimination on the basis of age and caste.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=148930

5. Balochistan province borders which of the following nations?

1. Iran
2. India
3. Afghanistan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: c.

http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/balochistan-pakistan-pm-modi-independence-day-speech-2977638/
1. An ancient camping site dating to about 10,000 years ago was recently discovered by the Archaeological Survey of India. Where is this site located?

(a) Malintan, Arunachal Pradesh
(b) Kushtagi, Karnataka
(c) Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh
(d) Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir

Solution: d.

“An ancient camping site dating ninth millennium BC has been discovered by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), under Ministry of Culture, on the way to Saser La which leads to the Karakoram Pass in Ladakh. A charcoal sample collected from the Site, was subsequently sent to BETA LAB, Florida, USA, for radiocarbon date determination in order to understand the antiquity of the above stated camp-site. The outcome i.e. 8500 BC (10500 years before present) was beyond even ASI’s expectation. Such an early antiquity on the basis of a scientific date was the very first for that region.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=148945

2. Section 124A of the Code of Criminal Procedure states that

(a) Whoever speaks against the government has committed the offence of sedition
(b) Whoever speaks against the government has committed the offence of sedition
(c) Whoever promotes enmity between different groups on grounds of religion shall be punished with imprisonment, or with fine, or with both
(d) None of the above

Solution: d.

It is Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (and NOT the Code of Criminal Procedure) which states that

1) Whoever by words either spoken or written or by signs or by visible representation or otherwise brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, the government established by law; or

2) Whoever by the above means excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law (and NOT towards the nation!), has committed the offence of sedition.


3. In the ‘Wholesale Price Index’, which of the following is accorded the highest weight?

(a) Services
(b) Fuel and Power
(c) Manufactured products
(d) Primary articles

Solution: c.

“In India, headline inflation is measured through the WPI – which consists of 676 commodities (services are not included in WPI in India). It is measured on year-on-year basis i.e., rate of change in price level in a given month vis a vis corresponding month of last year. This is also known as point to point inflation.”

“In India, there are three main components in WPI –

• Primary Articles (weight: 20.12%),
• Fuel & Power (weight: 14.91%) and
• Manufactured Products (weight: 64.97%).

Within WPI, Food commodities (from which Food Inflation) have a combined weight of 24.31%. This includes “Food Articles” in the Primary Articles (14.34%) and “Food Products” in the Manufactured Products category (9.97%).”


4. ‘Headline Inflation’ in India refers to

(a) Consumer Price Index
(b) Wholesale Price Index
(c) Median value of a and b
(d) None of the above

Solution: d.
Solution: b.

“In India, **headline inflation is measured through the WPI** – which consists of 676 commodities (services are not included in WPI in India).”


5. Which of the following statements with reference to the Bank Boards Bureau (BBB) is/are incorrect?

1. It will help create a holding company for the government’s stakes in state run banks, as recommended by the P.J. Nayak Committee

2. It is responsible for the appointment of the chief executive and other top executives in state run banks

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 **P.J. Nayak Committee** in its report on **governance of Indian Banks** had recommended setting up of a BIC or Bank Investment Company, to which the government would have to transfer its holdings.

“Outgoing Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Raghuram Rajan has stressed the need to improve governance at public sector banks and said the task of appointing top executives and non-official directors in these entities should be left to the Bank Board Bureau (BBB). At present, the Centre appoints the chief executive, executive directors and other board members. Mr. Rajan’s suggestion is in line with the proposals of the P.J. Nayak committee set up by the RBI to look into the issue of governance in Indian banks.”


6. Which of the following can be classified as an Indirect Tax?

1. Goods and Services Tax

2. Excise Duty

3. Securities Transaction Tax

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution: b.

**“Securities Transaction Tax (STT)” is a type of financial transaction tax levied in India on transactions done on the domestic stock exchanges. The rates of STT are prescribed by the Central / Union Government through its Budget from time to time. In tax parlance, this is categorised as a direct tax.”**

Improvisation:


7. Consider the following pairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mountain Pass</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Saser La</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Shipki La</td>
<td>Uttarakhand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Yonggyap Pass</td>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which of the pairs above is/are correctly matched?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1 and 3 Only
Solution: c.

The options were framed such that if you read the PIB release on the camping site which was recently discovered in Ladakh, you were left with only two options, of which one pass (Shipki La) is mentioned in the Class XI NCERT textbook.

- Saser La – Jammu and Kashmir
- Shipki La – Himachal Pradesh
- Yonggyap Pass – Arunachal Pradesh

“An ancient camping site dating ninth millennium BC has been discovered by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), under Ministry of Culture, on the way to Saser La which leads to the Karakoram Pass in Ladakh.”

(Last two passes were picked up from India Physical Environment Class XI NCERT and a physical map of India. For reference, Click Here.)

Improvisation: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=148945

8. With reference to U Tirot Sing Syiem, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. He fought against British colonialism before the first war of Indian Independence
2. He belongs to the Naga tribe
3. He was an assistant commander to Rani Gaidinliu

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: c.

Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect.

“Referring to Tirot Sing as a pioneer of India’s freedom struggle, Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that Tirot Sing was sentenced to death by British rulers even before the first war of Independence and thus inspired the next two generations of Indians to jump into the freedom struggle. He said that Northeast had, along with the rest of India, contributed substantially to the freedom struggle and this aspect needs to be highlighted to the countrymen living in other parts of the country.”

“U Tirot Sing, was one of the chiefs of the Khasi people in the early 18th century. He drew his lineage from the Syiemlieh clan. In the attempt to prevent the Khasi Hills from falling into colonial hands, Tirot Sing raised the battle cry against the invasive British forces on April 4, 1829, but was eventually captured and defeated. He died in captivity in Dhaka on July 17, 1835.”

http://thenortheasttoday.com/5-lesser-known-facts-about-u-tirot-sing/

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=148956
1. Consider the following statements about ‘SVEEP’, associated with the Election Commission of India:

1. It is a programme to increase voter awareness and participation in electoral processes
2. It is organised once every five years, a year before elections to the Lok Sabha
3. It is designed according to, among other factors, the cultural profile of each state

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

Solution: c.

**SVEEP** is an on-going process and not a one-off event.

“For making the purpose of publication of draft rolls effective, series of SVEEP events, multiple and periodic meetings with political parties at Taluk, district and state levels and regular press meets may be organized.”

“Systematic Voters’ Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) is a programme of multi interventions through different modes and media designed to educate citizens, electors and voters about the electoral process in order to increase their awareness and participation in the electoral processes. SVEEP is designed according to the socio-economic, cultural and demographic profile of the state as well as history of electoral participation in previous rounds of elections and learning thereof.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=148968

2. With reference to a radio station named ‘Akashvani Maitree’, consider the following statements:

1. It was originally launched as The Bangla Radio Service in 1971 during the Bangladesh Liberation Movement
2. It now will be a unique broadcast service whose content would be contributed jointly by India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh
3. One of the reasons for its relaunch in a new avatar is to counter the presence of Chinese Radio International

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

Solution: c.

“Shri Naidu conveyed to his Bangladesh counterpart that AIR would be launching an exclusive service for Bangladesh and Bengali diaspora titled “Akashvani Maitree” on 23rd August 2016.”

“It now will be a unique broadcast service whose content would be contributed jointly by India and Bangladesh.”

“The re-launch of the channel on 596 KHz has twin objectives, say officials: To counter the presence of CRI (Chinese Radio International with its strong programming) and to attract Bengali-speaking listeners from both countries. Live-streaming of programmes online will cater to the Bengali diaspora.”


3. Administrator of every union territory is appointed by

(a) President of India
(b) Governor of Kerala
(c) Minister of Home Affairs
(d) Speaker of Lok Sabha
Solution: a.

“Every union territory is administered by the President acting through an administrator appointed by him.”

Chapter 36, Union Territories, Indian Polity 4th Edition by M Laxmikanth

http://pib.nic.in/newssite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=148973

4. ‘TARANG’ mobile app, ‘e-Trans’ and ‘DEEP’ e-bidding web portals are associated with which of the following ministries?

(a) Ministry of Mines
(b) Ministry of Power
(c) Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
(d) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

Solution: b.

“TARANG is a powerful monitoring tool that tracks upcoming transmission projects and monitor the progress of Inter-State & Intra-State transmission systems in the country”

“e-Trans’ web platform for e-bidding and e-reverse auction for Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) in transmission projects”

“DEEP (Discovery of Efficient Electricity Price) e-Bidding’ portal for medium term (1-5 years) purchase of power, on the occasion. The Portal will provide a common e-bidding platform with e-reverse auction facility to facilitate nation-wide power procurement through a wider network so as to bring uniformity and transparency in the process of power procurement.”

http://pib.nic.in/newssite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=148982

5. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) recently developed a portable kit for the detection of Chromium contamination of water. In this context, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Chromium-3 (Trivalent) is an essential human dietary element
2. Chromium-6 (Hexavalent) is, according to the WHO, carcinogenic
3. Ingestion of the carcinogenic form of Chromium can cause gastrointestinal disorders whereas its inhalation causes respiratory problems

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) None of the above

Solution: c.

“Chromium is an odorless and tasteless metallic element. Chromium is found naturally in rocks, plants, soil and volcanic dust, and animals.

The most common forms of chromium that occur in natural waters in the environment are:

- **Trivalent chromium (chromium-3)**
  Chromium-3 is an essential human dietary element. It is found in many vegetables, fruits, meats, grains, and yeast.

- **Hexavalent chromium (chromium-6)**
  Chromium-6 occurs naturally in the environment from the erosion of natural chromium deposits. It can also be produced by industrial processes.

There are demonstrated instances of chromium being released to the environment by leakage, poor storage, or inadequate industrial waste disposal practices. These forms of chromium can convert back and forth in water and in the human body, depending on environmental conditions. Measuring just one form may not capture all of the chromium that is present.”

“The World Health Organization has classified **Cr-6 as carcinogenic** and can cause stomach ulcers and cancers and severe damage to kidneys and liver.”

http://pib.nic.in/newssite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=148984
https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water
6. Which of the following industries utilise Chromium?

1. Leather
2. Steel
3. Paint
4. Wood

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: d.

“Chromium and its salts are used in the

- leather tanning industry,
- the manufacture of catalysts, pigments and paints, fungicides,
- the ceramic and glass industry,
- photography,
- chrome alloy and chromium metal production, chrome plating, and
- corrosion control”

“Chromium is widely used in various industries like leather, steel, chrome plating, paint manufacturing, wood preservation etc.”

“As per Indian standard IS10500 for drinking water, the maximum permissible concentration of Cr(VI) in drinking water is 50 microgram per litre. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends a still lower permissible concentration of 10 microgram (combined – both Cr-3 and Cr-6) per litre.”

http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/dwq/chemicals/chromium.pdf
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=148984

*Clarifications*

17th August 2016 Quiz (Click Here)

Q5. On Bank Board Bureau –

“The Bureau is mandated to play a critical role in reforming the troubled public sector banks by recommending appointments to leadership positions and boards in those banks and advise them on ways to raise funds and how to go ahead with mergers and acquisitions.”

http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/centres-nod-for-bank-board-bureau/article8293334.ece

Q4: On Headline Inflation –

According to Mrunal (Click Here), headline inflation exists for both – CPI as well as WPI. Additionally, if you read the RBI’s Monetary Policy Statements (Click Here and Here), they specifically have referred to ‘Headline CPI Inflation’.

If at all such a question is asked, the preferred answer would be CPI because according to a footnote on this RBI page, “headline inflation is measured by year-on-year changes in all-India CPI Combined (Rural+Urban).” (But please also note that this foot-note was associated with the specific term ‘headline CPI inflation’ and not just ‘headline inflation’.)

Notes
1. India’s first Olympic medal at Rio was won in the sport of Women’s wrestling. The Bronze medal was won due to the unique rule in wrestling called the ‘Repechage’. What does this rule broadly mean?

(a) A loser in the Round of 16 (knockout stage) still has a chance of winning the Bronze medal

(b) ‘X’ can be declared the winner if the number of limb grabs against ‘Y’ is more than the number of times ‘X’ was pinned down by ‘Y’

(c) If at any point during the match, a wrestler gains a ten-point lead over his opponent, the wrestler would win the match by ‘technical fall’

(d) One is declared the winner if the opponent is forced out of the perimeter thrice during a single round

Solution: a.

“Sakshi won the crucial bout after coming from behind. She, in fact, had lost 2-9 in the quarterfinals to Russia’s Valeriia Koblova in the fifth bout of the day before getting a second chance in repechage when her conqueror reached the final.”

First, there are two bronze medals to be won in wrestling.

‘Repechage’ is easy to understand with the help of the image provided. “Assume 1 and 16 made it to the finals. Those who lost to 1 and 16 (2,3,5 and 15,13,9) respectively have been circled, and they will compete separately for the bronze. So all the red circled players will compete for a bronze, and all the blue circled players will compete for another bronze. The bronze competitors will fight in this manner: 2 and 3 will play a match; if 2 wins, he will play with 5. Whoever wins the match between 2 and 5, wins the bronze. Similarly, 15 and 13 will play a match; if 15 wins, he will play with 9. Whoever wins the match between 15 and 9 wins the second bronze.”

http://m.sportskeeda.com/wrestling/rio-olympics-2016-repechage-rule-wrestling-explained


2. Scientists who recently created a virtual black hole in the lab claimed to have observed for the first time a phenomenon predicted by British physicist Stephen Hawking more than thirty years ago according to which

(a) some particles can escape black holes

(b) black holes are spheres (3-D) and not two-dimensional as was earlier believed

(c) black holes cannot absorb sound waves classified as hyper-frequency waves

(d) Black holes can weaken and eventually disappear/collapse

Solution: a.

Stephen Hawking’s prediction, if found to be true, will help explain the statement in option ‘d’.

“For many years, scientists believed that nothing could ever escape from a black hole — not even light. However, in 1974, Stephen Hawking suggested particles, that are now called Hawking radiation, could escape black holes.”

“According to him if a particle and its antiparticle appeared spontaneously at the edge of a black hole, one of the pair might be pulled into the black hole while the other escaped, taking some of the energy from the black hole with it. This would explain why black holes grow smaller and eventually disappear. However, since such emissions are feeble, no one has been able to measure Hawking radiation. Researchers have instead tried to build virtual black holes in labs to test the theory.”
3. Apart from India, the Non-Aligned Movement was founded by leaders of which of the following nations?

   1. Egypt  
   2. Serbia  
   3. Indonesia  
   4. Nigeria  

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b. 

Serbia was a part of Yugoslavia at the time. 

“The organization was largely conceived by India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru; Indonesia's first president, Sukarno; Egypt's second president, Gamal Abdel Nasser; Ghana's first president Kwame Nkrumah; and Yugoslavia's president, Josip Broz Tito.”

4. Consider the following pairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tiger Reserve</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ranthambore</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sariska</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mukundara Hills</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

Solution: a.

All three tiger reserves are in Rajasthan.

5. The Centre recently constituted a committee to restructure two key central bodies that manage water resources in India. These bodies are

   (a) Central Pollution Control Board and Central Water Commission  
   (b) National Institute of Hydrology and Central Water Commission  
   (c) Central Water Research Station and Central Water Commission  
   (d) None of the above

Solution: d.

15th September, 2015: Seeking to carry forward the Gujarat-model of irrigation reform in the country and to quickly complete the task of aquifer mapping to quantify available groundwater resources, the Centre has constituted a seven-member committee to restructure the central water commission (CWC) and the central ground water board (CGWB) – the two key central bodies that manage water resources in India.

The committee, headed by ex-planning commission member Mihir Shah, has been asked to submit its report in three months so that government can make a policy framework to utilize available water resources in the country in a better way.

Link: The Hindu
1. Who of the following organized a march on the Tanjore coast to break the Salt Law in April 1930?
   (a) Kavimani Desiya Vinayagam Pillai  
   (b) V.O Chidambaram Pillai  
   (c) C. Rajagopalachari  
   (d) K. Kamaraj  
   Solution: c. Q96, CS(P), 2015  
   He was arrested in April 1930 for leading a salt march from Trichinopoly to Vedaranniyam on the Tanjore coast.  
   http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=149032

2. The phrase ‘Memorandum of Procedure’ has recently been in the news with regard to which of the following issues?
   (a) A new tender for Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircrafts  
   (b) Judicial Appointments  
   (c) Declaration of an area as ‘disturbed’ under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act  
   (d) Appointment of Executive Directors of Public Sector Banks  
   Solution: b.  

3. The chairman is appointed by the President  
   Select the correct answer using the code given below:
   (a) 1 only  
   (b) 1 and 3 only  
   (c) 2 and 3 only  
   (d) 3 Only  
   Solution: d  
   Only Statement 3 is correct.  
   “The commission is a multi member body consisting of a chairman and four members. The chairman should be a retired chief justice of India, and members should be serving or retired judges of the Supreme Court, a serving or retired chief justice of a high court and two persons having knowledge or practical experience with respect to human rights.”  
   Chapter 50, National Human Rights Commission, Indian Polity 4th Edition by M Laxmikanth  
   http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/corruption-population-hindering-development/article9009662.ece

4. Consider the following statements:
   1. Unlike Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan was not militarily taken over by Pakistan  
   2. India has in the past passed a parliamentary resolution reaffirming that Gilgit-Baltistan region is a part of India  
   Which of the statements above is/are correct?
   (a) 1 only  
   (b) 2 only  
   1. Unlike Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan was not militarily taken over by Pakistan  
   2. India has in the past passed a parliamentary resolution reaffirming that Gilgit-Baltistan region is a part 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
Both statements are correct. Read this Indian Express article to understand the history of the Gilgit-Baltistan region, post-Indian Independence.

5. Which of the following players did P.V.Sindhu defeat on her way to claim Olympic Silver medal in Rio Olympics?

1. Wang Yihan
2. Nozomi Okuhara
3. Carolina Marin

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

Solution: d)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Games</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Stage</td>
<td>Michelle Li (CAN)</td>
<td>Won</td>
<td>2–1</td>
<td>19–21,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laura Sárosi (HUN)</td>
<td>Won</td>
<td>2–0</td>
<td>21–4, 21–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tai Tzu-Ting (TPE)</td>
<td>Won</td>
<td>2–0</td>
<td>21–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finals</td>
<td>Wang Yihan (CHN)</td>
<td>Won</td>
<td>2–0</td>
<td>22–20,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nozomi Okuhara (JPN)</td>
<td>Won</td>
<td>2–0</td>
<td>21–19,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carolina Marin (ESP)</td>
<td>Lost</td>
<td>1–2</td>
<td>12–21,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15–21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes
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- Students who subscribed our test series last year have done exceptionally well in Prelims - 2015 and 2016. If you solve all our tests, be sure of clearing Prelims hurdle.
1. It is in the 1980s that the Punjab Governor was given an additional role – that of administering the Union Territory of Chandigarh. What was the reason for the same?

(a) It was a political decision with no clear justification provided apart from the fact that the Constitution permits such an arrangement

(b) The acute shortage of foreign reserves in late 1980s prompted the Government of the day to look at ways of cutting down expenditure, and other Union Territories too came to be administered by Governors of adjacent States

(c) It made it easier for the maintenance of close coordination with Punjab on militancy-related issues

(d) There were persistent demands by residents of Chandigarh for the city to be incorporated as the capital of Punjab

Solution: c.

“The Punjab militancy of the early 1980s had a spillover effect on Chandigarh. Parliament enacted the Chandigarh Disturbed Areas Act, 1983, to deal with militancy-related problems and maintain law and order. From June 1, 1984, the Governor of Punjab was given charge of administering the city in close coordination with Punjab on militancy-related issues. The office of the Chief Commissioner was redesignated Advisor to Administrator. Arjun Singh was the first Governor of Punjab to hold the charge of Chandigarh Administrator — and the arrangement has continued ever since, even though the Chandigarh Disturbed Areas Act itself was quashed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court in 2012.”


2. Which among the following refers to the recently launched ‘Quantum Satellite’?

(a) Messenger

(b) Magellan

(c) Quess

(d) None of the above

Solution: c

“The satellite, which weighs over 1,300 pounds, is called Quantum Experiments at Space Scale, or Quess, and nicknamed Micius, after a Chinese philosopher and scientist in the fifth century B.C.”

“On August 16, China said it had launched a quantum satellite into space that could be the future of wireless communication and set new standards in Internet security. “The project tests a technology that could one day offer digital communication that is hack-proof”. The 600-kg satellite will try to communicate with earth using the principle of quantum entanglement, whereby subatomic particles become inextricably linked or “entangled” in such a way that any change in one disturbs the other even if both are at opposite ends of the universe. This means any attempt at hacking entangled particles would, even in principle, be impossible.”

What is a quantum satellite? (The Hindu)


3. What is the purpose of the world’s first and recently launched ‘Quantum Satellite’?

(a) Search for extra-terrestrial life

(b) Establishing ‘hack-proof’ communication networks

(c) Better understanding the process of expansion of the universe

(d) Locating anti-matter reserves of the universe

Solution: b.

“With the launch of the quantum satellite Micius, China has pulled ahead of the pack in the race to harness the effect which Einstein had colourfully termed “spooky action at a distance”, which could take communication and computing to a new level. However, Micius is not a standout achievement, as the media coverage seems to suggest, but one of many projects driving towards a quantum solution to communications security, quantum computing and even a quantum secured Internet. Developments on all three fronts have been reported over the last 12
months, and China’s new commitment to original research with Micius will propel the whole process forward.”

**Understanding Micius (Indian Express)**

4. NASA’s Curiosity rover recently captured a 360-degree view of mesas and buttes on Mars. What type of landforms are these?

(a) Irregular edges being formed due to the sand-blasting effect of winds against any projecting rock mass.

(b) Wind abrasion sculpting rocks – which have a layer of soft rocks lying beneath a surface layer of more resistant rocks – resulting in a weird-looking ‘ridge and furrow’ landscape.

(c) A chain of ‘island-mountains’, similar to The Ayers Rock and surrounding rocks in the Australian Desert

(d) A flat, table-like land mass with a very resistant horizontal top layer, and very steep sides

Solution: d.

Page 57, Certificate Physical and Human Geography, G.C. Leong

*Mars rover finds buttes and mesas*

5. Which of the following rivers is/are right-bank tributary/tributaries of river Ganga?

1. Son
2. Chambal
3. Kali Ganga

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 3 Only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1 ,2 and 3

Solution: a.

River **Kali Ganga** (or River **Sharda**) is a tributary of river **Ghaghara** which in turn is a tributary of River **Ganga**. River **Chambal** is a right-bank tributary of River **Yamuna**.

1. The town of Tamu in Myanmar is located near which Indian state on the India-Myanmar border?

(a) Arunachal Pradesh
(b) Nagaland
(c) Manipur
(d) Mizoram

Solution: c.

“Ms. Swaraj discussed areas of possible collaboration such as power with the Myanmar leadership. India is already supplying 3 MW electricity to Myanmar through the Moreh-Tamu link. This can be further upgraded, Mr. Swarup said.”


2. A political party is eligible for “national party” status if

(a) It has secured not below two per cent seats in a general election; and these candidates are elected from four states
(b) It has won not below six per cent of the total valid votes in general or assembly elections in at least four states and in addition it wins three Lok Sabha seats from any state(s)
(c) It is recognised as a state party in at least four states
(d) Both a and c

Solution: c.

“Criteria based on status as a state party: It is recognised as a state party in at least four states. “In a major reprieve to three political parties which faced the possibility of losing their “national party” status and all the benefits associated with it, the Election Commission on Monday amended the rules under which it will now review the status of political parties every 10 years, instead of five. According to the new rule, a recognised national or State party will not lose its status despite not having met the criteria in one general or Assembly election. “For instance, the status of a party — that did not perform up to the mark in 2014 – will be reviewed in 2024,” explained an official. However, the eligibility criteria for recognition will remain the same.”

Ch-64, Political Parties, Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth 4th Edition


3. The Central Government recently issued a notification related to “Good Samaritans”. This notification makes it mandatory for a “Good Samaritan” to

(a) File an affidavit which shall be treated as a complete statement by the police official while conducting the investigation
(b) Voluntarily declares himself to be an eyewitness
(c) Assist the investigation by the police and judicial process as and when called for
(d) None of the above

Solution: d.

The notification is a directive not for Good Samaritans, but for how to protect them. A “Good Samaritan” is one who voluntarily declares himself to be an eyewitness.

“Any disclosure of personal information or offer to be a witness, in the event of the Good Samaritan also being an eyewitness to an accident, ought to be voluntary. Further, the examination of such a volunteer as a witness
shall be done only on a single occasion and without harassment or intimidation.”

“The affidavit of Good Samaritan, if filed, shall be treated as a complete statement by the police official while conducting the investigation. In case, the statement is to be recorded, the complete statement shall be recorded in a single examination,” the notification added.


4. Consider the following list of sportspersons:
   1. Dipa Karmakar
   2. V. Sindhu
   3. Sakshi Malik
   4. Jitu Rai

Who from the above list – of winners of the Khel Ratna Award – have secured medals at the recently concluded Rio Olympics?

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

Solution: c.

“The Sports Ministry on Monday confirmed the awarding of the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna to Rio Olympics medallist Sakshi Malik and P.V. Sindhu along with shooter Jitu Rai and gymnast Dipa Karmakar for their exceptional performances.”

http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-sports/ministry-to-present-khel-ratna-to-sindhu-and-sakshi-also/article9019169.ece

5. Fungus (Fungi, Funguses) can be used for which of the following purposes?
   1. Production of antibiotics
   2. Bioremediation
   3. To produce alcoholic beverages
   4. Recycle rechargeable batteries

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: d.

“Scientists have found a low-cost and environment-friendly method to recycle used rechargeable lithium-ion batteries, with the help of fungi..... Now, a team of researchers at the University of South Florida in the U.S. is turning to fungi to drive an environmentally friendly recycling process to extract cobalt and lithium from tonnes of discarded batteries. While other methods exist to separate lithium, cobalt and other metals, they require high temperatures and harsh chemicals.”


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fungus#Human_use

6. Consider the following statements:

1. The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights Act (PPV&FRA) has provisions for granting intellectual property rights to plant breeders as well as farmers.
2. The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights Authority operates the National Gene Fund, both of which have been established under the PPV&FRA
3. One of the objectives of the PPV&FRA is to encourage the development and cultivation of new varieties of plants.
4. The Plant Genome Saviour Community Award is awarded annually from the National Gene Fund.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: d.

“The Act is the first of its kind in granting intellectual property rights not only to the plant breeders but also to the farmers by protecting new, extant and farmers’ varieties.”

The Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers Right Act, 2001 (PPVFR Act) is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted to provide for the establishment of an effective system for protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders, and to encourage the development and cultivation of new varieties of plants.

The PPV&FR Act, 2001 was enacted to grant intellectual property rights to plant breeders, researchers and farmers who have developed any new or extant plant varieties.

Community of farmers who have engaged in conservation, improvement and preservation of genetic resources of economic plants and their wild relatives particularly in areas identified as agro-biodiversity hotspots are awarded annually from Gene Fund. The name of the award is Plant Genome Saviour Community Award and the amount is INR 10,00,000 for each community.

The Authority also confers Plant Genome Savior “Farmer Reward” and “Farmer Recognition” to the farmers engaged in the conservation of genetic resources of land races and wild relatives of economic plants and their improvement through selection and preservation.

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=149072
1. The United Nations list of proscribed terrorists, or the U.N list 1267 is often seen in the news. This resolution 1267 imposed sanctions which were restricted initially to which of the following entities?

(a) Al-Qaeda
(b) Taliban
(c) Boko Haram
(d) USSR

Solution: b.

“The Committee was initially established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), which imposed a limited air embargo and assets freeze on the Taliban. Over time, the regime evolved and the measures became a targeted assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo against designated individuals and entities.”


2. If India is successful in getting the UN 1267 Committee to include certain individuals in the list of proscribed terrorists, what are the steps that must be taken by the member states of the United Nations?

1. Freeze funds and other financial assets or economic resources of designated individuals and entities
2. Snap the telecommunication networks in areas occupied or controlled by the designated individuals and entities
3. Prevent the entry into or transit through their territories by designated individuals

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.

“Mayoral reform has now made its way into Parliament with Shashi Tharoor introducing a private member’s bill to amend the Constitution for strengthening local governments.”

A private member can introduce a bill for the amendment of the Constitution. Hence, the second statement is correct.

Chapter 10, Indian Polity 4th Edition by M Laxmikanth

Improvisation:

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/columns

3. With reference to the amendment of the Constitution as laid down in Article 368, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. There is no provision for holding a joint sitting of the two Houses for the purpose of deliberation and passage of the bill
2. Members of the governing party – who are not ministers – too can introduce a bill for the amendment

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.
4. Two declarations – the ‘Jaipur Declaration’ and ‘Udaipur Declaration’ – were in the news recently. These two are respectively associated with which of the following groups/entities?

(a) New Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
(b) BRICS and United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
(c) IBSA and ASEAN+6
(d) Both are associated with BRICS

Solution: d.

“The meeting of women Parliamentarians from BRICS nations concluded recently in Jaipur. During the meeting the parliamentarians expressed commitment to work together in the field of economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. At the end of the meeting, ‘Jaipur Declaration’ was adopted.”

“A two-day meeting of BRICS Ministers on Disaster Management ended in Udaipur, Rajasthan today with the adoption of the Udaipur Declaration. The meeting laid bare the common thread of challenges on disaster issues faced by all the BRICS nations.”

5. The first major port in the country to have secured loans through external commercial borrowing is

(a) Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust
(b) Visakhapatnam Port Trust
(c) New Mangalore Port
(d) V.O. Chidambaram Port Trust

Solution: a.

“India’s premier container port, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in Navi Mumbai, has signed an agreement with State Bank of India and Development Bank of Singapore for External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) to the tune of USD 400 Million at a “very competitive” interest rate to improve the infrastructure required for “doubling” its existing capacity to 9.85 Million TEUs annually. JNPT has US Dollar denominated foreign currency earnings which can be leveraged for a low cost foreign currency borrowing. The ECB of USD 400 Million (USD300 Million from the SBI & USD100 Million from DBS) will be primarily utilised by JNPT for expanding the network of roads that connect to its port projects.”

“Speaking on the occasion, Shri Gadkari said that JNPT is the first major port in the country to have taken loans in dollars. This was possible because ports have a natural hedge in foreign currency earnings. He also said that the rate of the ECB loan of 2.025% plus Libor USD 6M (approx 3.15%) is cheaper than Indian currency loan. He said the funding by JNPT is the first of its kind for major port and it opens up one more avenue for major and government ports to raise funds by accessing international markets for their requirements.”

The government is also looking at setting up subsidiary companies to ports which will secure loans from foreign banks for development of inland waterway projects around the respective ports.

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=149130

6. Consider the following list:

1. Bharuch Port
2. Mormugao Port
3. Ratnagiri Port
4. Kamarajar Port

Which among the above list are classified as a ‘Major Port’?

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

Solution: b.

Major Ports in India:
- Kandla Port
- Mumbai Port
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port
Mormugao Port  
New Mangalore Port  
Kochi Port  
O. Chidambaram Port (or Tuticorin Port)  
Kamarajar Port (earlier known as Ennore Port)  
Madras Port  
Visakhapatnam Port  
Paradip Port  
Haldia Port

Improvisation:
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=149112
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=149130

7. The “Jallianwala Bagh of the South” refers to the indiscriminate police fire – similar to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, albeit at a smaller scale – at a group of villagers who had congregated to organise a Satyagraha. The place associated with this incident is located in which state?

(a) Kerala  
(b) Karnataka  
(c) Andhra Pradesh  
(d) Tamil Nadu

Solution: b.

The article (Click Here) associated with this appeared in a regional edition of the Hindu.

“Vidurashwatha (Chikkaballapur district, Karnataka) is known as the “Jallianwala Bagh of the South”. On April 25, 1938, as a part of the freedom struggle of India, a group of villagers had congregated to organise a Satyagraha. Similar to what happened at Jallianwala Bagh, police fired indiscriminately at the group, resulting in the death of around 35 people. A memorial has been erected in this location bearing the names of those who lost their lives in this incident.”
1. United Kingdom Members of Parliament recently recommended a ban on microbeads used in a number of cosmetics. What harm do microbeads cause?

(a) They are little bits of plastic which are added for their abrasive properties, which eventually end up in water bodies.

(b) These microbeads consist of chemicals which have recently been identified to be causing rapid eutrophication of lakes in the United Kingdom.

(c) Microbeads are manufactured using ivory, which the cosmetics industry by and large lacks proof of its ethical sourcing.

(d) None of the above

Solution: a.

“Microbeads is the term given to the little bits of plastic that are sometimes added to products for their abrasive properties. Manufacturers use them because the beads can be made with uniform size and hardness. The pieces are small enough to pass through water filtration plants and therefore end up in lakes and rivers. They can even be found in Arctic sea-ice and on the ocean floor.”


2. Consider the following pairs:

Community sometimes mentioned in the news

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Associated nation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kurd</td>
<td>Armenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rohingya</td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhesi</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

(a) 1 and 2

(b) 2 only

(c) 2 and 3

(d) 3 only

Solution: a.

“The Kurds are one of the indigenous people of the Mesopotamian plains and the highlands in what are now south-eastern Turkey, north-eastern Syria, northern Iraq, north-western Iran and south-western Armenia.”

Slightly modified form of Q94, CS(P) 2016.

http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/myanmar-names-kofi-annan-to-head-panel-on-rohingya-muslims/article9025645.ece

3. An advisory panel – to find “lasting solutions” to the conflict in Rakhine state – headed by former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan was recently set up by which of the following entities/nations?

(a) Burma

(b) United Nations

(c) United States of America

(d) Amnesty International

Solution: a.

“Myanmar’s government has set up an advisory panel headed by former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to find “lasting solutions” to the conflict in Rakhine state, where human rights groups have documented widespread abuses against the minority Rohingya Muslims. A statement Tuesday by the office of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi said an agreement will be signed between her office and the Kofi Annan Foundation to set up a nine-member advisory commission to resolve “protracted issues in the region.”

http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/myanmar-names-kofi-annan-to-head-panel-on-rohingya-muslims/article9025645.ece
4. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) launched the Standards and Labelling (S&L) Programme in order to provide consumers with informed choices for energy saving, and thereby the operational cost-saving potential of equipment/appliances. The equipment/appliances covered under this programme include:

1. Ceiling fans
2. Tubular fluorescent lamps
3. Domestic Gas Stoves

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Solution: d.

“The objective of the S&L Programme is to provide consumers with informed choices for energy saving, and thereby the operational cost-saving potential of equipment/appliances. The equipment/appliances are given a star rating of one to five stars being the most energy efficient. The equipment/appliances covered under this programme include frost free (no-frost) refrigerators, tubular fluorescent lamps (TFLs), room air-conditioners, direct cool refrigerators, distribution transformers, induction motors, pump sets, ceiling fans, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) stoves, electric geyser, ballasts, computers, and colour televisions.”

Modified form of Q53, CS(P) 2016.

Improvisation:
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=149154

5. Consider the following pairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>River</th>
<th>States involved in dispute over water-sharing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mahadayi</td>
<td>Maharashtra and Goa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaveri</td>
<td>Karnataka and Tamil Nadu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahanadi</td>
<td>Odisha and Jharkhand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which of the pairs above is/are correctly matched?

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

Solution: b.

Mahadayi – Karnataka and Goa
Mahanadi – Odisha and Chattisgarh

“A delegation from Odisha led by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan called on Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Sushri Uma Bharti in New Delhi today and requested her to sort out Mahanadi water issue at the earliest.”

“The Odisha government has been alleging that the neighbouring Chhattisgarh unilaterally constructed projects on the upstream of Mahanadi which caused dip in the flow of water to Odisha.”


http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=149201
1. The objective of the Amendment Bill to the Citizenship Act, 1955 is to enable Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians who have fled to India to acquire Indian citizenship. This bill in its present form will enable “illegal migrants” from which of the following nations to acquire Indian citizenship?

1. Afghanistan
2. Pakistan
3. Myanmar
4. Bangladesh
5. Sri Lanka

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1, 2 and 4
(b) 2, 3 and 4
(c) 1, 3 and 5
(d) None of the above

Solution: d.

“Under the Bill, such persons shall not be treated as illegal immigrants for the purpose of the Citizenship Act.”

The Citizenship Act permits granting a certificate of naturalisation to any person not being an “illegal migrant”. “The Bill amends the Act to provide that that the following groups of persons will not be treated as illegal migrants: (i) Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, (ii) who have been exempted from provisions of the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, and the Foreigners Act, 1946 by the central government. The 1920 Act mandates foreigners to carry passport, while the 1946 Act regulates the entry and departure of foreigners in India.”

Ch-6, Citizenship, Indian Polity 4th Edition by M Laxmikanth

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/citizenship-without-bias/article9026942.ece

2. The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, permits certain migrants to acquire Indian Citizenship by which of the following means?

1. By Naturalisation
2. By Descent
3. By Registration

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: a.

“The object of the proposed Bill is to enable Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians who have fled to India from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh without valid travel documents, or those whose valid documents have expired in recent years, to acquire Indian citizenship by the process of naturalisation.”

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/citizenship-without-bias/article9026942.ece

3. ‘Proxima b’ recently seen in the news is

(a) The sun’s closest star neighbour
(b) Is an exoplanet which is in the habitable zone of its star
(c) A ‘red dwarf’ star which mislead scientists into thinking they were observing a planet
(d) A comet containing ice discovered under the ‘Breakthrough Starshot Project’

Solution: b.

“Just over four light years away, a planet orbits its cool red-dwarf star – Proxima Centauri, the sun’s closest star neighbour. What is special about this planet is that after years of tracking it, astronomers have come to the conclusion that it is in the habitable zone of its star. Informally designated Proxima b, the planet revolves around its star once every 11.2 days and is located at a distance of nearly
7 million kilometres from its star. This is only about 5 per cent the Earth-Sun distance. The mass of the planet is believed to be about 1.3 times that of the Earth. It could contain water and it is estimated that surface temperatures could be close to – 40 degrees C.”


4. The ‘Pale Red Dot Campaign’ refers to

(a) An awareness creation programme undertaken to make Indian Pharmacies show restraint in dispensing anti-tuberculosis drugs

(b) An HIV-AIDS awareness programme specifically targeted towards sex workers in India

(c) The combing operations as part of the counter-insurgency campaigns in Red Corridor areas

(d) None of the above

Solution: d.

“The star, Proxima Centauri, is not very bright and cannot be tracked with the naked eye, especially as it is very close to the brighter binary star pair Alpha Centauri AB. So the astronomers used the HARPS spectrograph to observe it on the European Southern Observatory’s 3.6-metre telescope at La Silla in Chile and also other telescopes around the world. These observations which took place in the first half of 2016 have been dubbed the Pale Red Dot campaign.”


5. The ‘Breakthrough Starshot’ project aims to

1. Develop ultra-fast light-driven nanocrafts which can travel at 20 per cent of the speed of light

2. Promote astronomical observations in search of evidence of intelligent life beyond Earth

3. Lay the foundations for a first launch to Alpha Centauri within the next generation

4. Design a message representing earth, life and humanity that could potentially be understood by another civilisation beyond Earth

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 4 only

(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4

(d) None of the above

Solution: a.

“The Breakthrough Starshot project announced by Stephen Hawking and Yuri Milner and also supported by Mark Zuckerberg aims to send thousands of nanocraft into the space to study Alpha Centauri and Proxima Centauri.”

“The Breakthrough Initiatives are a program of scientific and technological exploration, probing the big questions of life in the Universe: Are we alone? Are there habitable worlds in our galactic neighborhood? Can we make the great leap to the stars? And can we think and act together – as one world in the cosmos?”

- **Breakthrough Listen** is a $100 million program of astronomical observations in search of evidence of intelligent life beyond Earth.
- **Breakthrough Message** is a $1 million competition to design a message representing Earth, life and humanity that could potentially be understood by another civilisation.
- **Breakthrough Starshot** is a $100 million research and engineering program aiming to demonstrate proof of concept for a new technology, enabling ultra-light unmanned space flight at 20% of the speed of light; and to lay the foundations for a flyby mission to Alpha Centauri within a generation.  Link
1. Consider the following pairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community sometimes mentioned in the news</th>
<th>Associated nation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Malaiha</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Chakma</td>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Hajongs</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

Solution: d.

Malaiha refers to Indian-origin Sri Lankans (Indian Tamils originally) who fled to Tamil Nadu as refugees.

Hajongs people – Northeast India and Bengal region (West Bengal, Bangladesh)

Chakma – Bangladesh, Burma and East/Northeast India

“Immigrants, even those who are termed illegal, are entitled to equal protection before the law and the various rights that flow from Article 21. This was stressed by the Supreme Court in National Human Rights Commission v. State of Arunachal Pradesh while addressing the rights of Chakma refugees.”

Hajongs and Chakmas were in the news in 2015.

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/citizenship-without-bias/article9026942.ece

2. Asia’s oldest football tournament is

(a) Federation Cup  
(b) AFC Cup  
(c) Durand Cup  
(d) IFA Shield

Solution: c.

“Durand Cup is a prestigious football tournament conducted in the country. It was instituted in 1888 at Shimla by Sir Henry Mortimer Durand. It is the oldest tournament in Asia and third oldest in the world after Football Association Cup of England and Scotland Football Association Cup. The Defence Services have been associated in organizing Durand Football Tournament right from its inception.”

http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=149252

3. India can sell its BrahMos missiles to any nation on the basis of India being

(a) A sovereign nation  
(b) A member of Australia Agreement  
(c) A member of the Missile Technology Control Regime  
(d) A member of Wassenaar Arrangement

Solution: c.

“Mr. Modi will reach Hangzhou after visiting Vietnam, which has expressed its interest in buying the BrahMos missiles. India is free to export these missiles as it has got the membership of the Missile Technology Control Regime.”

http://www.thehindu.com/news/china-nudges-india-to-focus-on-border-stability-following-brahmos-controversy/article9032307.ece

4. Which of the following statements with references to the Habeeas Corpus writ is/are correct?

1. This writ can be issued against both public authorities as well as private individuals.
2. It cannot be issued in a situation wherein the proceeding is for contempt of a legislature or for contempt of a court

Solution: 1 and 2.
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.
Both statements are correct.

“However, the Bench refused to aid Ms. Jahan find her four minor children, whom she claims to have been “taken away” by her husband after talaq’. Instead, the Bench asked her to move a habeas corpus petition in the High Court concerned, at one point remarking that “she produced them [children]”...”

“The writ of habeas corpus can be issued against both public authorities as well as private individuals. The writ, on the other hand, is not issued where the (a) detention is lawful, (b) the proceeding is for contempt of a legislature or a court, (c) detention is by a competent court, and (d) detention is outside the jurisdiction of the court.”

Fundamental Rights, Indian Polity 4th Edition by M Laxmikanth


Solution: a.

“Jaisalmer is an example a hill fort in desert terrain. The extensive township contained within it from the outset, still inhabited today, and the group of Jain temples, make it an important (and in some respects even unique) example of a sacred and secular (urban) fort.”


5. Consider the following statements:

1. An example of a hill fort in desert terrain
2. An extensive township contained within it from the outset and still inhabited today
3. A UNESCO World Heritage Site
4. Also known as “Sonar Quila”
5. Contains a group of Jain temples within

The statements given above refer to which of the following forts?

(a) Jaisalmer
(b) Raichur
(c) Gingee
(d) Mehrangarh

Solution: b.

6. Arrange the following list of nations in their order of occurrence from South to North:

1. Kazakhstan
2. Afghanistan
3. Kyrgyzstan
4. Tajikistan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b.
China's decision to turn proactive along the turbulent AfPak-Central Asia corridor was anchored earlier this month. Top military commanders from China, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan met in Urumqi, capital of China’s Xinjiang province on August 3, to form a “Quadrilateral Cooperation and Coordination Mechanism in Counter Terrorism.”


*Clarifications*:

**August 23rd, 2016 (Click Here):** Question 4 on Khel Ratna Award and Rio Olympics – The question is basically asking for who the medal winners at the Olympics were. Answer will remain the same, option ‘c’ that is.

**August 25th, 2016 (Click Here):** Question 2 on communities mentioned in news and associated nations – The explanation in the solution clearly mentions the nations that are associated with the Kurds. The intention of the question was to make one aware of the many countries that the Kurds are spread across. The answer will remain the same.
1. Under which of the following circumstances can a civil servant be accused of criminal misconduct under section 13(1)(d)(iii) of the Prevention of Corruption Act of 1988?

1. He undervalues, unintentionally, an asset which is being disinvested.

2. In order to preserve his honesty, he permits himself to cave in against a dishonest minister, while not accepting any form of gratification.

3. Without seeking gratification – directly or indirectly – he recommends a particular course of action, and the final decision as taken by his minister was in line with the recommendations, but it conferred undue favour on private parties.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: d.

Not a question that would appear in the preliminaries, but the issue is certainly relevant for the main examination.

“The conclusions of his committee were purely recommendatory in nature. That the final authority here was the Coal Minister, who, at that point of time, was Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, and that he was not prosecuted by the investigating agency, is not very relevant to Mr. Gupta’s defence — although the CBI decision, possibly backed by legal opinion, smacked of double standards.”

“An amendment to the PC Act of 1988 is before a select committee in Parliament. It deals with Section 13(1) (d). It is just possible that this subsection may be eventually substantially diluted or wholly deleted. If this happens, the logical question would be one of how to introduce deterrence against a civil servant who, though honest, would like to just drift and permit himself to cave in against a dishonest Minister. This is a serious issue that negates the basic concept of civil service accountability.”

2. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the United Nations is

(a) A review of the “hits and misses” of the United Nations in resolving pressing issues in which it has intervened thus far.

(b) A mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council that periodically reviews the compliance of member states with international human rights law.

(c) An recently instituted review mechanism of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to identify states across the world that “are not doing enough” to assist refugees on humanitarian grounds.

(d) A periodic review by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime of the implementation by member states of the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol.

Solution: b.

“India’s recent track record in protecting freedom of expression is expected to come under close scrutiny in the next Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2017, and leading the charge could be Holland. The UPR is a mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council that periodically reviews the compliance of member states with international human rights law.”

http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/world/holland-to-raise-free-speech-
3. The rainbow mountains of China are known for their colours that mimic a rainbow painted over the tops of rolling mountains. They were originally a layered horizontal and flat stratigraphy, which turned into a mountainous terrain due to

(a) The collision of Indian Plate into the Eurasian Plate.
(b) The pulling away of the Eurasian plate from the Filipino plate.
(c) Volcanic eruptions, all of which today lie dormant.
(d) The Yellow River Flood of 1938 which was man made.

Solution: a.

“The Rainbow Mountains are cretaceous sandstones and siltstones that were deposited in China before the Himalayan Mountains were formed. The sand and silt was deposited with iron and trace minerals that provided it with the key ingredient to form the colors we see today.”

“What was once a layered horizontal and flat stratigraphy was disrupted by the Indian Plate colliding into the Eurasian Plate approximately 55 million years ago. Much like when two cars get in a wreck and the bumpers fold and break, a similar process folded what was once flat sandstones into the Rainbow Mountains we see today. This process uplifted mountains and exposed sedimentary rocks that were otherwise hidden well below the surface of the earth. Weathering and erosion removed the overlying layers of continental siliciclastic rocks and exposed underlying formations with different mineralogy and chemistry. This causes the striking variation in colors seen across the Rainbow Mountains.”

4. Which of the following are tributaries of River Cauvery?

1. Hemavathi
2. Bhavani
3. Kabini
4. Amravati

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: d.

“Its longest tributary is the Hemavathi.” The other three tributaries mentioned in the question have been picked from Page 27, India Physical Environment Class XI NCERT.

“Its important tributaries joining from left are the Harangi, the Hemavati, the Shimsha and the Arkavati whereas the Lakshmantirtha, the Kabbani, the Suvarnavati, the Bhavani, the Noyil and the Amaravati joins from right.”

5. Titan, the only natural object other than Earth where clear evidence of stable bodies of surface liquid has been found, is a natural satellite of which of the following planets?

(a) Jupiter
(b) Saturn
(c) Uranus
(d) Ganymede

Solution: b.

Ganymede is the solar system’s largest natural satellite and is Jupiter’s; Titan is
6. The Members of Parliament of the United Kingdom recently passed a resolution calling for a worldwide ban on the use of microbeads in cosmetics. In the context of microbeads, which Indian state became the first in the country to ban it?

(a) Sikkim  
(b) Meghalaya  
(c) Karnataka  
(d) Andhra Pradesh

Solution: c.

“Karnataka: The ban on plastic, which came into effect in March, included miniscule particles of plastic polymers — barely a few millimetres in diameter — which are commonly found in cosmetics, body scrubs and even toothpastes. With this, Karnataka became the first State in the country to ban microbeads — a decision that had been previously taken by economically advanced countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom.”

The following article appeared in the Bangalore Edition:  

7. Arrange the following list of cities of Western Europe in their order of occurrence from North to South:

1. Newry  
2. Belfast  
3. Dublin  
4. Edinburgh

8. The first experimental mission of ISRO’s Scramjet Engine towards the realisation of an Air Breathing Propulsion System (ABPS) was successfully conducted recently. In what way is the ABPS technology and its development for India significant?

1. It will help improve the payload-to-lift-off mass ratio.  
2. It is key to developing the single-stage-to-orbit launch vehicle.  
3. Re-useable rockets can become a reality for India in the near future.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: d.
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b.

There is a separate programme for the development of a Re-usable launch vehicle (RLV-TD), and this programme (Scramjet Engine) is only complimentary to the RLV programme, in the sense that both will help ISRO become a “major space faring agency with technological competence to offer services for low-cost access to space in the long term”.

“There are uncertainties related to air breathing mode performance and the existing material technology puts a question mark on the real feasibility of such a SSTO launcher in the near future. It could be relatively easy to develop a two-stages-to-orbit (TSTO) launcher with an air breathing first stage. The key technology to enable the operation of two stages and finally the SSTO launch vehicle is air breathing propulsion which can operate over a wide Mach number regime.”


9. With reference to “Ramjet” technology, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It cannot move an aircraft from a standstill.
2. At hypersonic speeds, the efficiency of an engine working on this technology starts to drop.

Solution: c.

“A ramjet is a form of air breathing jet engine that uses the vehicle’s forward motion to compress incoming air for combustion without an axial compressor. Fuel is injected in the combustion chamber where it mixes with the hot compressed air and ignites. Ramjets cannot produce thrust at zero airspeed; they cannot move an aircraft from a standstill. A ramjet-powered vehicle, therefore, requires an assisted take-off like a rocket assist to accelerate it to a speed where it begins to produce thrust. The ramjet works best at supersonic speeds and as the speed enters the hypersonic range, its efficiency starts to drop.”

“Another concept is the scramjet. A scramjet engine is an improvement over the ramjet engine as it operates at hypersonic speeds and allows supersonic combustion, which gives it its name — supersonic combustion ramjet, or scramjet. The exhaust gases are then accelerated to hypersonic speeds using a divergent nozzle.”

“The third concept is a mix of ramjet and scramjet, which is called DMRJ. There is a need for an engine which can operate at both supersonic and hypersonic speeds.”


*Clarifications*

August 27th, 2016, Q3 (Click Here): The MTCR is not a treaty and does not impose any legally binding obligations on Partners.

The Business Standard and The Wire have this to say: “The operational range of the missile has often been stated to be just a shade below the 300 km
threshold that the regime primarily concerns itself with. As such, the cruise missile would not have come under the MTCR's annex of items to begin with. It is unlikely that India's membership to the MTCR will provide a direct or significant boost to the missile's export prospects.”

However, Livemint and Economic Times have this to say: “Gaining MTCR membership will allow India to sell the BrahMos missiles, which it manufactures jointly with Russia, to countries like Vietnam. The operational range of the missile is just under the 300km threshold that the regime primarily concerns itself with.”

Clearly, there is some confusion regarding this. But if one goes purely by the technicality part of it, the preferable answer would be option ‘a’, that is, India can sell the BrahMos to other nations because it is a sovereign nation.
1. ‘Project 75’, recently seen in the news, refers to
   (a) An initiative by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which aims to eliminate avoidable blindness by the 75th year of Indian Independence.
   (b) ISRO’s blueprint for its next Mars mission.
   (c) India’s Scorpene submarine programme.
   (d) A Government initiative to highlight and promote studies in the field of contributions made by seventy five freedom fighters of northeast India.

Solution: c.

“To coordinate next year’s Golden Jubilee celebrations of the induction of the first submarine in the Navy, more than 100 retired officers of the submarine branch started a WhatsApp group last month. This group, which includes three-star officers who have spent decades with submarines, went abuzz at midnight last Tuesday after The Australian newspaper reported that 22,400 pages of documents pertaining to India’s Scorpene submarine programme, called Project-75, had been leaked.”


2. The first of six Scorpene submarines to be made by the public sector entity Mazagon Docks is
   (a) INS Kalavari
   (b) INS Khandari
   (c) S 52
   (d) INS Shankul

Solution: a.

“Under Project-75, French company DCNS provides design and technology to public sector Mazagon Docks to make six Scorpene submarines, the first of which, INS Kalvari was put out for sea trials earlier this year. The hulls of the other five submarines have been cast, and they are scheduled to be commissioned by 2020.”

“The Kalvari class is a class of submarines based on the Scorpène-class submarine being built for the Indian Navy. It is a class of diesel-electric attack submarine which is designed by French naval defence and energy company DCNS and being manufactured by Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai.”


3. It is said that the one issue which highlights the need to unify the Central Water Commission and the Central Ground Water Board is the drying up of peninsular rivers, the single most important cause of which is
   (a) Climate Change.
   (b) Over-extraction of groundwater.
   (c) Construction of excessive number of dams.
   (d) Excess population in the peninsular region.

Solution: b.

“India is suffering from endemic hydro-schizophrenia, where the left hand of surface water does not know what the right hand of groundwater is doing. The one issue that really highlights the need to unify CWC and CGWB is the drying up of peninsular rivers, the single most important cause of which is over-extraction of groundwater. If river rejuvenation is the key national mandate, then this cannot happen without hydrologists and hydrogeologists working together, along with social scientists, agronomists and other stakeholders.”

http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/mihir-shah-panel-water-management-cwc-3001152/

4. A proposal has recently been made to merge the Railway Budget with the Union Budget. A separate Railway Budget was initially instituted following the recommendations of a committee headed by
   (a) N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar
   (b) Sir Rothley South
   (c) Sir William Acworth
   (d) John Mathai

Solution: c.
“A separate Railway Budget too was based on convention — following recommendations of a committee headed by Sir William Acworth, then chairman of Eastern Railway. The committee argued that the Railways, a commercial undertaking that fixed its own fares, needed to have a separate Budget. The convention, which came into force in 1924 and has survived for over 90 years, is now set to change, with a proposal to merge the Railway Budget with the Union Budget.”

http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/in-fact-how-budgetmaking-has-changed-and-how-it-may-change-again-3001172/

5. India is the fourth nation to have successfully tested the scramjet technology. Which of the following is/are not among the other three nations to have done so?

1. China
2. Japan
3. Brazil

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b.

“It might take a decade before this technology can be used in a rocket. The US, China and Russia have this technology, Sivan said, but have not used it in rockets as it is complicated and has to be mastered completely.”


6. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): Earthquakes with a deep focus, viz. deep below the surface, cause greater destruction.

Reasons (R): P and S waves have to travel longer distances, consequently causing greater magnification of the waves which is recorded in the form of larger amplitudes of surface waves on a seismograph.

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 and R both are incorrect.

Solution: d.

“..According to the United States Geological Survey, it occurred about six miles below the surface. “Shallow earthquakes cause more destruction than deep earthquakes because the shallowness of the source makes the ground-shaking at the surface worse,” Professor Rothery said.”

Also, according to the USGS, “The most obvious indication on a seismogram that a large earthquake has a deep focus is the small amplitude, or height, of the recorded surface waves and the uncomplicated character of the P and S waves.”

Explained Page, The Indian Express, 30th August 2016. The same article originally appeared in the NYTimes.
1. The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement will

1. Give militaries of only the USA access to Indian military facilities for supplies and repairs.

2. Require individual clearance for every case of logistical support.

3. Allow military bases to be set up.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution: b.

“The LEMOA will give the militaries of both countries access to each other’s facilities for supplies and repairs.” This implies, this particular agreement – the LEMOA – will give access only to one nation – the USA – to access Indian military facilities for supplies and repairs.

“While it is an enabling agreement, LEMOA does not make logistical support automatic or obligatory for either party, the Minister and the Secretary said. The agreement does not involve allowing military bases either, they said. Each case will require individual clearance. The services or supplies accessed will be on a reimbursable basis. “That’s a very substantial enabler of our two countries to work together….on a case by case basis. But when they do agree, this is an agreement that makes it all go so much more smoothly and efficiently…. It’s not a basing agreement of any kind,” said Mr. Carter…”

http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/india-us-to-share-defence-facilities/article9052252.ece

2. In what ways is the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) significant for India?

1. It will facilitate innovative and advanced opportunities in defence technology and trade cooperation.

2. India may be able to fly domestically assembled F-16s and F/A-18s.

3. It will enable seamless communication between the military systems of the two countries.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) None of the above

Solution: d.

Statement 2 refers to the possibility arising due to the US designation of India as a “Major Defense Partner” recently. Statement 3 refers to the other two foundational agreements that the USA has been insisting on – the CISMOA and BECA – The USA argues that the CISMOA and BECA would enable tech transfer and seamless communication between the military systems of the two countries. “The LEMOA, which comes after more than a decade of negotiations, puts an automatic approvals process in place for the two militaries to share each other’s bases for various operations."

- The agreement will aid the sort of operations India has undertaken to rescue stranded Indians in conflict zones.

- Further, as the Indian military continues to expand its role to aid in disaster relief, as it did during the 2004 tsunami, it will benefit from easier access to America’s network of military bases around the world.

- The pact will also enhance the military’s capability to be an expeditionary force, at a time when Indian interests are distributed around the world with major investments planned both onshore and offshore in oilfields.
3. India and the USA recently signed the LEMOA. The USA has been pushing India to sign some additional “foundational agreements” which do not include:

1. Mutual Elementary Defence Support Agreement (MEDSA)
2. Communications Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA)
4. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b.

GSOMIA has already been signed by the two nations. No ‘MEDSA’ agreement exists between the two nations, neither is such an agreement being pushed for.

“The US argues that the CISMOA and BECA would enable technology transfer and seamless communication between the military systems of the two countries.”

4. With reference to the “SAUNI Yojana” recently seen in the news, which of the following statements are incorrect?

1. It is an irrigation and drinking water project, which will also generate hydropower.
2. It is associated with River Narmada.
3. It envisages filling more than a hundred major dams in Maharashtra’s Vidarbha region.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Solution: c.

SAUNI stands for Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation, a project launched by Narendra Modi in September 2012.

- SAUNI envisages filling 115 major dams of the arid Saurashtra region by diverting floodwaters overflowing from the Sardar Sarovar Dam across the Narmada in south Gujarat.
- SAUNI is an out-and-out irrigation and drinking water project designed solely for the Saurashtra peninsula.
- SAUNI aims to fill irrigation dams which already have canal networks to channel water to farms. Technically, therefore, SAUNI is a link project.
- Also, SAUNI will have pipe canals instead of conventional open canals. The government decided on pipelines in the planning stage of the project, based on memories of land acquisition problems it had faced while building minor and sub-minor canals of the Narmada dam project. SAUNI’s massive pipelines — of diameter 3 m to 500 mm — will run underground, require no land acquisition, and involve less loss of water as compared to conventional canals. Pumping stations will be constructed on government land.

5. “Prakampana” recently seen in the news refers to

(a) The name assigned to a cyclone that is expected to make landfall along the Odisha coast soon.

(b) The all-women “tourist police” to be set up in All States and Union Territories to look after safety of tourists at sites most frequently visited by foreigners.

(c) The all-women “tourist police” to be set up in All States and Union Territories to look after safety of tourists at sites most frequently visited by foreigners.

(d) The name of the proposed indigenous military transport aircraft which will eventually replace the Antonov AN-32s.

Solution: c.

“Prakampana” means ‘Cyclone’ in Sanskrit. The maiden Joint Disaster Management Exercise named Prakampana has been inaugurated at Visakhapatnam today, 30th August 16. Several dignitaries from various Central and State Government agencies, representatives from PSUs located in Visakhapatnam, Professors, University reps and experts in the field of disaster management are participating in the exercise in addition to armed forces viz. Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force.”


6. The Election Commission recently recommended the introduction of “totaliser machines”. Which of the following statements is correct in this context?

(a) The introduction of such machines will allay fears of voters against any pre-poll intimidation or post-poll victimisation by any candidate.

(b) It will be a complementary device to the VVPAT which is a device that will provide a feedback to voters.

(c) It will reintroduce a practice which was prevalent when ballot papers were used during elections.

(d) Both a and c.

Solution: d.

“Before the introduction of electronic voting machines, as provided under Rule 59A of the Conduct of Election Rules, counting of votes used to take place by mixing of ballot papers. The machine is expected to prevent disclosure of voting patterns across polling stations during counting, which will allay the fears of voters against any pre-poll intimidation or post-poll victimisation by any candidate.”