PRELIMS - 2017

INSIGHTS REVISION TEST – 4
(DAYS 16-20)

Question and Solution Booklet

For Insights Current Affairs;
PRELIMS 2017 REVISION MODULES etc.

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1. Consider the following statements:

1. She became the first female teacher in India in 1848
2. opened a clinic in 1897 for victims of the bubonic plague that spread across Maharashtra
3. In her honour, University of Pune was renamed in 2014

Above statements refer to
(a) Saint Sakhubai
(b) Soyarabai Bhonsle
(c) Janabai
(d) None of the above

Solution: d)

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They refer to Savitribai Phule

Born in Naigaon in Maharashtra on January 3, 1831, Phule is widely regarded as one of India’s first generation modern feminists for her significant contributions in ensuring equal education opportunities under the British raj. She became the first female teacher in India in 1848 and opened a school for girls along with her husband, social reformer Jyotirao Phule. The two also worked against discrimination based on caste-based identity, something vehemently opposed by the orthodox sections of society in Pune. She went on to establish a shelter for widows in 1854 which she further built on in 1864 to also accommodate destitute women and child brides cast aside by their families.

2. The Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution on January 26, 1950. Why?

(a) The date coincided with Gandhiji’s arrival in India from South Africa
(b) The date coincided with the anniversary of ‘Purna Swaraj Diwas’
(c) The date coincided with date of first Indian National Congress session
(d) None of the above

Solution: b)

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The Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution on January 26, 1950, a date specially chosen to coincide with the anniversary of ‘Purna Swaraj Diwas’. January 26, 1930 was marked as ‘Purna Swaraj Diwas’, or the day the nation would attain complete freedom from its colonisers by the Congress.

3. Consider the following colour settings presently being used by the Survey of India for classification of land uses in India:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colour</th>
<th>Representation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Yellow</td>
<td>A. Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Red</td>
<td>B. Settlements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Brown</td>
<td>C. Cultivated Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Black</td>
<td>D. Road Transportation Network</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is the correct match for the above?

(a) 1C, 2B, 3A, 4D
(b) 1A, 2C, 3D, 4B
(c) 1B, 2A, 3D, 4A
(d) 1A, 2B, 3C, 4D

Solution: a)

Justification: Black: all writings on the map except grid numbers (names, abbreviations such as DB, RS, P0), river banks, broken ground, dry streams, surveyed trees, heights and their numbering, railway lines, telephone and telegraph lines, lines of latitude and longitude. Blue: water features or water bodies (lakes, rivers, wells, ponds, ctc) Green: wooded and forested areas shown with green wash; orchards, scattered trees and scrubs shown in green colour

Note: Surveyed trees are shown in black which serve as landmarks for further survey related work and are not allowed to be cut. Yellow: cultivated areas shown with a yellow wash White patches: uncultivated land Brown: contour lines, their numbering, form lines and sand features such as hills and dunes Red: grid lines and their numbering; wads, cart and foot tracks, settlements, huts and buildings.
4. There have been many concerns regarding Article 310 and Article 311 and even recommendations for their deletion from the Constitution. These constitutional articles deal with
   (a) Civil Services
   (b) Ordinance making power of executive
   (c) Legislative Council in States
   (d) Special privileges extended to certain states

Solution: a)

Articles: A310 essentially conveys that civil servants of the Union hold office during the pleasure of the President, and those at the state at the pleasure of the Governor. A311 conveys that they cannot be removed by an authority subordinate to the one that appointed them, and that due inquiry must be conducted where they are allowed to hear charges against them and defend themselves appropriately.

Justification: It is believed by many, including the 2nd ARC that these articles provide undue protection to dishonest and corrupt civil servants and shield them from action. This is because the protection is excessive, and hearings go through many bureaucratic layers, which ultimately corrodes the fabric of administration and its efficiency. There are many arguments against this as well, but delving into there is not a subject of concern here.

5. During the reorganization of Indian states, it was separated from Madras and organized into a separate union territory for administrative purposes. It is also known as the coral group of islands of India:
   (a) Minicoy
   (b) Lakshadweep
   (c) Andaman
   (d) Nicobar

Solution: b)

There are no conclusive theories about the formation of these coral atolls. The most accepted theory is given by the English Evolutionist Sir Charles Darwin. He concluded in 1842 that the subsidence of a volcanic island resulted in the formation of a fringing reef and the continual subsidence allowed this to grow upwards. When the volcanic island became completely submerged the atoll was formed encircling the lagoon where, with the action of the wind, waves, reef to currents and temperature, the coral islands were formed.

6. The Second Administrative Reforms Commission (SARC) describes which of these as “the master key to good governance”?
   (a) Building social capital
   (b) Establishing e-governance
   (c) Inculcating ethics in Governance
   (d) Right to information (RTI)

Solution: d)

Learning: Good governance has four elements – transparency, accountability, predictability and participation.
- Transparency refers to availability of information to the general public and clarity about functioning of governmental institutions.
- RTI opens up government’s records to public scrutiny, thereby arming citizens with a vital tool to inform them about what the government does and how effectively, thus making the government more accountable.
- Access to information can empower the poor and the weaker sections of society to demand and get information about public policies.
- Without good governance, no amount of developmental schemes can bring improvements in the quality of life of the citizens.
- It has been rightly been seen as the key to strengthening participatory democracy and ushering in people centred governance.

7. Consider the following about important Buddhist Heritage sites that are under consideration for UNESCO World Heritage Site list.

1. Nagarjunakonda is known for hosting master pieces of Ikshvaku art and architecture in the form of well
sculptured ayaka-slabs and Buddhist art.

2. Bojjannakonda is a unique Buddhist site which has exclusively preserved Theravada Buddhism in its purest form.

Which of the above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) None

Solution: a)

Justification: Buddhist Heritage sites at Salihundam (Srikakulam district) and Sankaram near Anakapalle in Visakhapatnam district, in addition to Lepakshi (Anantapur district) and the Nagarjunakonda International Museum (Guntur district) are likely to find a place in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Statement 1: Nagarjunakonda is a great religious and educational centre of Brahmanism and Buddhism. Nagarjunakonda gets its name from the noted Buddhist scholar and philosopher Acharya Nagarjuna who is said to have founded the Madhyamika school of Mahayana Buddhism which greatly influenced the masses in Andhra Pradesh of those days. You may read details here (not necessary however)
http://asi.nic.in/asi_museums_nagarjunakonda.asp

Statement 2: Sankaram, also known as Bojjannakonda, which was excavated under the aegis of Alexander Rim in 1906 features all the three phases of Buddhism: Hinayana, Mahayana and Vajrayana. So, 1 is wrong.

8. The national income of a nation is best defined as the
(a) Annual revenue of the government
(b) Total earnings from abroad including exports
(c) Surplus generated by public sector enterprises
(d) Sum total of factor incomes

Solution: d)

Learning: National income measures the monetary value of the flow of output of goods and services produced in an economy over a period of time. There is an income method that is used to estimate the National income.

Only those incomes that come from the production of goods and services are included in the calculation of GDP by the income approach. It is basically Rent + Wages + Profits + Interest (earned on capital goods). These correspond to four factors land, labour, entrepreneurship and capital goods respectively.

9. Project Brahma Initiative is a community driven initiative towards
(a) Finding Universal truth
(b) Building rural communities in North-eastern India
(c) Building India’s biodiversity knowledge base
(d) Sourcing detailed street maps for crowded urban areas

Solution: c)

Learning: The Biodiversity of India (BOI) website, part of the Project Brahma Initiative, is an open-source, community driven project, much like Wikipedia, where anyone - regardless of their religion, nationality, language, expertise - can contribute their knowledge of India’s biodiversity. It aims to highlight the intricate associations between Indian biodiversity and local cultural practices & mythology. It will also create and compile tools such as online learning modules to educate the public about biodiversity.

10. Vikramasenavijaya is a famous work on
(a) The conquests of Emperor Vikramaditya in Patliputra
(b) Poetry written during the reign of Rashtrakutas
(c) A collection of strategic military doctrines of Northern Indian empires
(d) Folklore praising deeds of courage and wisdom in the times of pandyas

Solution: b)
Learning: The Kannada literature saw its beginning during the period of the Rashtrakutas.

- Amogavarsha’s Kavirajamarga was the first poetic work in Kannada language.
- Pampa was the greatest of the Kannada poets. His famous work was Vikramasena-vijaya.
- Ponna was another famous Kannada poet and he wrote Santipurana.
- The Rashtrakutas widely patronized the Sanskrit literature. There were many scholars in the Rashtrakuta court.
- Trivikrama wrote Nalachampu and the Kavirahasya was composed by Halayudha during the reign of Krishna III.
- The Jain literature flourished under the patronage of the Rashtrakutas.

11. The Joint Lender’s Forum (JLF), recently seen in news, was conceived to tackle
   (a) Stressed assets
   (b) Disaster management funding
   (c) Sovereign debt
   (d) International taxation disputes

Solution: a)

Learning: Under the stressed asset norms of RBI that took effect in 2014, as soon as interest payments on a loan are delayed by 60 days, a JLF comprising all lenders must be put in place. And within 45 days, the JLF must come up with a corrective action plan (CAP) and decide whether the debtor merely needs some hand-holding, or if the forum should opt for debt restructuring or recovery. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has tightened the rules around making the Joint Lenders’ Forum (JLF) more effective, directing banks not to break any rules and to meet all deadlines.

12. Consider the following statements about literary sources in Ancient India.

1. The accounts of Ratnavali and Nagananda provide useful information about the kingdom of Harsha.

   Solution: a)

Learning: The Parliament of India can modify the list of notified scheduled castes, which upon receiving the

2. Jatakas provide information about the Mauryas.

3. The Sangam Tamil literature mentions about the Mauryan invasion of the far south.

Select the correct answer using the codes below
   (a) 1 Only
   (b) 3 Only
   (c) 1 and 2 only
   (d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution: d)

Justification: Statement 1: The chief sources for tracing the history of Harsha and his times are the Harshacharita written by Bana and the Travel accounts of Huen Tsang. Bana was the court poet of Harsha.
- Besides these two sources, the dramas written by Harsha, namely Ratnavali, Nagananda and Priyadarsika also provide useful information.
- The Banskhera inscription contains the signature of Harsha. Statement 2 and 3: The Puranas and the Buddhist literature such as Jatakas provide information on the Mauryas. The Ceylonese Chronicles Dipavamsa and Mahavamsa throw light on the role Asoka in spreading Buddhism in Sri Lanka. Taranatha, the Tibetan monk states that Bindusara conquered 16 states comprising ‘the land between the two seas’. The Sangam Tamil literature also confirms the Mauryan invasion of the far south.

13. The constitution of India empowers which of these authorities to modify the list of notified scheduled castes as first notified by the President of India?

   (a) Parliament
   (b) National Commission for SCs
   (c) Chairman, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
   (d) Cabinet Secretary

Solution: a)

Learning: The Parliament of India can modify the list of notified scheduled castes, which upon receiving the
assent of the President of India can be notified as Scheduled Castes.

• Under the provision of Article 341, list of SCs in relation to a states/UT is to be issued by a notified Order of the President after consulting concerned state Government.

• Any subsequent inclusion in or exclusion from the list of Scheduled Castes can be effected only through an Act of Parliament.

• Recently Sualgiri and Swalgiri communities of Odisha have been notified as Scheduled Castes after President gave his assent to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Act, 2017.

14. Cold seep ecosystems are found where

1. White water corals are found in abundance in the vicinity of a rich phytoplankton population
2. Sulphur and methane emerge from seafloor sediments without an appreciable temperature rise

Which of the above is/are correct?
(a) 1 Only
(b) 2 Only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) None

Solution: b)

Justification: These are areas of the seafloor where gases and fluids are released without incurring a significant temperature rise in the surrounding environment.

• Seeps form by a variety of processes related to overpressuring (e.g. of sediments, or from mineral dehydration reactions and gas hydrate dynamics).

• These are among the most recently discovered marine habitats: the first such system was found in the Gulf of Mexico; highest number occurring within active subduction zones in the Pacific Ocean.

• Learning: The habitat created by seeps is linked to the chemicals (e.g. sulphide) they release. These chemicals support a number of chemosynthetic species.

15. A positive GDP deflator implies that

1. Economy must be experiencing acceleration of growth year on year
2. Economy must be experiencing inflation

Which of the above is/are correct?
(a) American economist
(b) Irish parliamentarian and philosopher
(c) American political philosopher
(d) None of the above

Solution: d)

Justification: GDP Deflator simply means nominal GDP divided by real GDP. Nominal GDP takes care of inflation, which real GDP does not. GDP deflator is always positive, since GDP cannot be negative. So, if GDP deflator is greater than one, economy was experiencing inflation.

Statement 1: We cannot make anything out of growth figures from GDP deflator numbers, since increased nominal GDP may be caused entirely due to inflation, and not growth.

Statement 2: This would happen if GDP deflator was greater than one. Since it is always positive, nothing can be said about the economic situation.
16. The Korea Plus initiative recently in news intends to
   (a) Ward off threats of nuclear attacks from North Korea
   (b) Attract South Korean investments in India
   (c) Tackle maritime expansionism in the South China Sea
   (d) Include South Korea as a part of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Cooperation (RCEP) agreement with ASEAN nations

Solution: b)

Learning: India and Korea have unveiled a Korea Plus initiative to promote and facilitate Korean investments in India. Korea Plus comprises of a representative each from the Korean ministry of industry, trade and energy, Korea Trade Investment and Promotion Agency as well as three representatives from Invest India—the national investment promotion and facilitation agency of India. It includes supporting Korean enterprises entering the Indian market for the first time, looking into issues faced by Korean companies doing business in India.

17. GRAPES-3 experiment located at Ooty in India is designed to
   1. Study Cosmic rays
   2. Detect solar storms
   3. Astronomy of gamma rays from neutron stars

Select the correct answer using the codes below.
   (a) 2 only
   (b) 2 and 3 only
   (c) 1 only
   (d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution: d)

Justification: It was started by Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and the Japanese Osaka City University. It aims to probe acceleration of cosmic rays in certain astrophysical settings. It will focus on the study of origin, acceleration and propagation of cosmic rays in the galaxy and beyond of certain energy range and their production and/or acceleration. It will also study sun, which is the closest astrophysical object, accelerator of energetic particles and its effects on the Earth.

18. The e-Pragati project of this state is considered a model in e-governance for executing a state-wide enterprise architecture, and has received an award recently in the National Conference on E-Governance. The state is?
   (a) Kerala
   (b) Maharashtra
   (c) Gujarat
   (d) Andhra Pradesh

Solution: d)

Learning: The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has approved the implementation of the ₹2,400-crore e-Pragati project, a comprehensive e-governance project simplifying the process of delivery of government and citizen services.

- According to the government, with e-Pragati, Andhra Pradesh becomes the first State to conceive and execute a state-wide enterprise architecture.
- This project is a model in Government Enterprise Architecture in India as per the state Chief Minister, and is being widely followed by other states in India.
- The Andhra Pradesh government received three gold awards at the 20th National Conference on E-Governance that concluded here on Tuesday.
- The first award was for excellence in government process re-engineering in loan charge creation model, the second was for outstanding creation of Aadhaar-linked public distribution system and the third was for Aadhaar-linked cashless payments

19. Why the Indian policymakers want African countries to relax their commitment to the Pelindaba Treaty?
   (a) To source nuclear fuel more easily
   (b) To evacuate refugees from war prone zones with minimal intervention
   (c) To bring foreign direct investment in sensitive zones
(d) To increase official development assistance without the need for legislative approval

Solution: a)

Topic: The Pelindaba Treaty, also known as the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty, aims at preventing nuclear proliferation and preventing strategic minerals of Africa from being exported freely.

Justification: For e.g. India and Namibia signed two MoUs on Cooperation in the field of geology and mineral resources and Cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy in 2009. But, Namibia’s membership of the Pelindaba Treaty has prevented it from ratifying the agreements (Namibia is the fourth largest producer of uranium). Hence, relaxation of the provisions of the treaty is vital for securing African nuclear supplies for India.

20. Consider the following with regard to the relationship between the President, Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers.

1. In normal circumstances, the advice of the council of Ministers is constitutionally binding on the President.
2. The nature of advice tendered by ministers to the President can be enquired by higher court to ascertain malpractices in administration.
3. The council of ministers ceases to hold office immediately after the dissolution of the Lok Sabha by the President.

Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

Solution: b)

Justification: Statement 1: Article 74 provides for a council of ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President in the exercise of his functions. The 42nd and 44th Constitutional Amendment Acts have made the advice binding on the President.

Statement 2: Further, the nature of advice tendered by ministers to the President cannot be enquired by any court. This provision emphasises the intimate and the confidential relationship between the President and the ministers.

Statement 3: In 1971, the Supreme Court held that ‘even after the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, the council of ministers does not cease to hold office.

Article 74 is mandatory and, therefore, the president cannot exercise the executive power without the aid and advise of the council of ministers.

• Any exercise of executive power without the aid and advice will be unconstitutional as being violative of Article 74.

Again in 1974, the court held that ‘wherever the Constitution requires the satisfaction of the President, the satisfaction is not the personal satisfaction of the President but it is the satisfaction of the council of ministers with whose aid and on whose advice the President exercises his powers and functions’.

21. With reference to Preamble to the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. The preamble is based on the Objectives which was drafted and moved in the Constituent Assembly by Jawaharlal Nehru on 13 December 1946.
2. As per Supreme Court judgement (Beru Bari case), the preamble is not an integral part of the Indian constitution.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

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Laxmikanth, Indian Polity, Preamble

The preamble is based on the Objectives which was drafted and moved in the Constituent Assembly by Jawaharlal Nehru on 13 December 1946. The preamble-page, along with other pages of the original Constitution
of India, was designed and decorated solely by renowned painter Beohar Rammanohar Sinha of Jabalpur who was at Shantiniketan with acharya Nandalal Bose at that time. Nandalal Bose endorsed Beohar Rammanohar Sinha’s artwork without any alteration whatsoever. As such, the page bears Beohar Rammanohar Sinha’s short signature Ram in Devanagari lower-right corner.

That the preamble is not an integral part of the Indian constitution was declared by the Supreme Court of India in BerurBari case therefore it is not enforceable in a court of law. However, Supreme Court of India has, in the Kesavananda case, overruled earlier decisions and recognised that the preamble may be used to interpret ambiguous areas of the constitution where differing interpretations present themselves. In the 1995 case of Union Government Vs LIC of India also, the Supreme Court has once again held that Preamble is the integral part of the Constitution.

22. Which of the following words doesn’t figure in the Preamble to Indian Constitution?

1. Faith
2. Worship
3. Status
4. Opportunity
5. Political

Select the correct answer using codes below
(a) 3 Only
(b) 3 and 4 Only
(c) 3, 4 and 5 Only
(d) All the words figure in Preamble

Solution: b)

Laxmikanth, Indian Polity, Preamble

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN, SOCIALIST, SECULAR, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, social, economic and political;
LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;
EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION

23. With reference to Solar Mamas, consider the following statements:

1. They are group of African women trained by UNDP to fabricate, install, use, repair and maintain solar lanterns and household solar lighting systems in their villages
2. Solar Mamas are trained in India

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

Solution: b)

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Solar Mamas, a group of rural women solar engineers from African countries who have been trained under India’s developmental support for harnessing solar energy. They have been trained to fabricate, install, use, repair and maintain solar lanterns and household solar lighting systems in their villages.

The ‘Solar Mamas’, who come from across Africa, are trained at Barefoot college in Rajasthan’s Tilonia village or the centre in Tanzania


24. With reference to H1B visa, consider the following statements

1. It is a non-immigrant visa in the United States that allows companies to employ foreigners
2. H1B visa holders are not allowed to apply for permanent residency in the
US as well as buy or sell property in the country

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

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The H1B visa is a non-immigrant visa in the United States that allows companies to employ foreigners for a period of up to six years under the Immigration and Nationality Act. The minimum salary for an employee holding the H1B visa is set at $60,000 per year. H1B visa holders are allowed to apply for permanent residency in the US as well as buy or sell property in the country. Every year, the US government grants 65,000 H1B visas, while an additional 20,000 are given to foreign students who have completed their masters course from a US university. If a foreign worker in H1B status quits or is dismissed from the sponsoring employer, the worker must either apply for or be granted a change of status to another non-immigrant status, find another employer or leave the United States.

25. Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTT) is a multi-modal transport project involving shipping, Inland Water and road transport stretches. When materialized, it will lower the distance of movement from

(a) Kolkata to Dubai
(b) Kolkata to Singapore
(c) Kolkata to Mizoram
(d) Sittwe and Singapore

Solution: c)

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KMTT is a multi-modal transport project involving shipping, Inland Water and road transport stretches. The longest among them is shipping segment from Kolkata to Sittwe port in Myanmar. Significance of this is mainly to lower the cost and distance of movement from Kolkata to Mizoram and beyond. It also reduces dependency on Chicken’s Neck corridor in West Bengal.

26. India had signed a deal with the United Arab Emirates that allows the Gulf OPEC country to fill half of an underground crude oil storage facility in India. Where is this facility located?

1. Mangalore
2. Vishakapatnam
3. Padur
4. Vadodara
5. Jamnagar

Select the correct answer using codes below:

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

Solution: a)

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The Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve (ISPR) is an emergency fuel store of total 5 MMT (million metric tons) or 36.92 MMbbl of strategic crude oil enough to provide 10 days of consumption which are maintained by the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited. Strategic crude oil storages are at 3 underground locations in Mangalore, Visakhapatnam and Padur (nr Udupi). All these are located on the east and west coasts of India which are readily accessible to the refineries. These strategic storages are in addition to the existing storages of crude oil and petroleum products with the oil companies and serve in response to external supply disruptions.

27. Shangri-La Dialogue is mainly focused on which of the following matters?

(a) Defense and security matters
(b) World trade
(c) Environment protection
(d) Human rights violations

Solution: (a)
Solution: a)
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The IISS Asia Security Summit: The Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD) is a “Track One” inter-governmental security forum held annually by an independent think tank, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) which is attended by defense ministers, permanent heads of ministries and military chiefs of 28 Asia-Pacific states. The forum gets its name from the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore where it has been held since 2002. The summit serves to cultivate a sense of community among the most important policymakers in the defence and security community in the region. Government delegations have made the best out of the meeting by holding bilateral meetings with other delegations on the sidelines of the conference. While primarily an inter-governmental meeting, the summit is also attended by legislators, academic experts, distinguished journalists and business delegates.

28. With reference to The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction or Hague Abduction Convention, consider the following statements:

1. India is its member and has ratified the convention
2. The Convention applies only to children under the age of 16.

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

Solution: b)
Insights Module on International Relations, Page 21

The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction or Hague Abduction Convention is a multilateral treaty developed by the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH). It provides an expeditious method to return a child internationally abducted by a parent from one member country to another. The Convention was drafted to ensure the prompt return of children who have been wrongfully retained in a contracting state not their country of habitual residence. The Convention applies only to children under the age of 16. The United States has urged India to join ‘Hague Abduction Convention’ to safeguard the rights of children born to Indian-American couples.

The Union government has decided that India will not ratify the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. Signing the convention would require all those women who have escaped bad marriages abroad to send back their child to the country of father’s residence.

29. With reference to Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), consider the following statements:

1. India recently joined MTCR as its 35th member
2. China is not a member of MTCR.
3. Admission to the MTCR would open the way for India to buy highend missile technology

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

Solution: a)
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MTCR was established by G-7 countries in 1987. The voluntary MTCR aims to limit the spread of ballistic missiles and other unmanned delivery systems that could be used for chemical, biological, and nuclear attacks. The MTCR regime urges its 34 members, which include most of the world’s key missile manufacturers, to restrict their exports of missiles and related technologies capable of carrying a 500-kilogram payload at least 300 kilometers or delivering any type of weapon of mass destruction. India became the 35th full member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). China is not a member of MTCR.

Benefits for India:

India’s entry into the MTCR is a step closer to its Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) membership.
The entry into this group will shape the future of India’s engagement with not just the MTCR but also the broader global non-proliferation community.

Admission to the MTCR would open the way for India to buy high-end missile technology.

30. Which of the following countries is not a member of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)?
   (a) South Africa
   (b) Kenya
   (c) Ethiopia
   (d) Somalia

Solution: c)

Insights Module on International Relations, Page 34

The Association comprises 21 member states and 7 dialogue partners, the Indian Ocean Tourism Organisation and the Indian Ocean Research Group has observer status.

Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Somalia, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

31. India is not a member of which of the following groups?
   1. Australia Group
   2. Wassenaar Arrangement
   3. ASEAN

Select the correct answer using codes below:
   (a) 1 Only
   (b) 1 and 2 Only
   (c) 1, 2 and 3
   (d) India is member of all three groups

Solution: d)

Insights Module on International Relations, Page 40 – 43

India is not a member of any of these three groups.

32. With reference to Sariska Tiger Reserve, consider the following statements:
   1. It is part of the Aravalli Range
   2. It is rich in mineral resources, such as copper
   3. It is known for Bengal tigers

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

Solution: d)

Insights Tests 2017, Test 1, Q 2

Sariska Tiger Reserve is a national park and tiger reserve located in the Alwar district of the state of Rajasthan, India. The topography of the protected area comprises scrub-thorn arid forests, rocky landscapes, dry deciduous forests, rocks, grasses and hilly cliffs. This area was a hunting preserve of the Alwar state and it was declared a wildlife reserve in 1955. It was given the status of a tiger reserve making it a part of India’s Project Tiger in 1978. The wildlife sanctuary covers an area of 866 km² (334 sq mi). The Sariska Tiger Reserve was declared a national park in 1982 with a total area of about 273.8 km² (105.7 sq mi). The park is situated 106 km (66 mi) away from Hindaun, 107 km (66 mi) from Jaipur and 200 km (120 mi) from Delhi. The Sariska Tiger Reserve is a part of the Aravalli Range and rich in mineral resources.
resources, such as copper. In spite of the Supreme Court’s 1991 ban on mining in the airarea, marble mining continues to threaten the environment. A notable feature of this reserve are its Bengal tigers. It is the first tiger reserve in the world to have successfully relocated tigers.

33. Which of the following statements is/are correct with reference to Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats?

1. The Eastern Ghats are older than the Western Ghats
2. Western Ghats are continuous whereas Eastern Ghats are discontinuous and broken at several places.
3. Western Ghats are at a higher average elevation than Eastern Ghats

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a) All are correct.

Insights Tests 2017, Test 29, Q 5

The Eastern Ghats are older than the Western Ghats, and have a complex geologic history related to the assembly and breakup of the ancient supercontinent of Rodinia and the assembly of the Gondwana supercontinent.

34. It is a soil bacterium that works as a natural genetic engineer and causes tumour in plants. It is?

(a) Streptococcus
(b) Proteobacteria
(c) Agrobacterium tumefaciens
(d) Pseudomonas

Solution: c)

Insights Tests 2017, Test 29, Q 21

Agrobacterium is a genus of Gram-negative bacteria established by H. J. Conn that uses horizontal gene transfer to cause tumors in plants. Agrobacterium tumefaciens is the most commonly studied species in this genus. Agrobacterium is well known for its ability to transfer DNA between itself and plants, and for this reason it has become an important tool for genetic engineering.

35. A spot market is a

(a) Public financial market where delivery of financial instruments or commodities are due at a later date
(b) A market for financial instruments such as commodities and securities which are traded immediately
(c) Place where futures are traded without supervision of regulators
(d) None of the above

Solution: b)

Insights Tests 2017, Test 1, Q 7

The spot market or cash market is a public financial market in which financial instruments or commodities are traded for immediate delivery. It contrasts with a futures market, in which delivery is due at a later date. In a spot market, settlement normally happens in t+2 working days, i.e., delivery of cash and commodity must be done after two working days of the trade date. A spot market can be through an exchange or over-the-counter (OTC). Spot markets can operate wherever the infrastructure exists to conduct the transaction.

36. Bioremediation refers to

(a) Using biological organisms to solve an environmental problem
(b) Using biological organisms to change genetic behaviour in target organisms to treat diseases
(c) Using bacteria to improve agricultural productivity
(d) None of the above

Solution: a)

Insights Tests 2017, Test 29, Q 54
Bioremediation is a waste management technique that involves the use of organisms to neutralize pollutants from a contaminated site. According to the United States EPA, bioremediation is a “treatment that uses naturally occurring organisms to break down hazardous substances into less toxic or non toxic substances”. Technologies can be generally classified as in situ or ex situ. In situ bioremediation involves treating the contaminated material at the site, while ex situ involves the removal of the contaminated material to be treated elsewhere. Some examples of bioremediation related technologies are phytoremediation, bioventing, bioleaching, landfarming, bioreactor, composting, bioaugmentation, rhizofiltration, and biostimulation.

37. The Archaeological Ruins of the location comprise the first great urban centre of the Indus civilization with burnt brick structures. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is?
   (a) Burzahom
   (b) Inamgaon
   (c) Lothal
   (d) None of the above

Solution: d)
Insights Tests 2017, Test 1

38. In India, rocks of which of the following regions was formed the earliest?
   (a) Khasi hills
   (b) Lower Shiwaliks
   (c) Indo-Gangetic plain
   (d) Deccan Traps

Solution: d)

39. Denmark Strait separates
   (a) Denmark and Belgium
   (b) Iceland and Greenland
   (c) Denmark and Sweden
   (d) Denmark and Norway

Solution: b)
Insights Tests 2017, Test 1 Q 22

40. Which of the following is/are local winds?
   1. Easterlies ad Westerlies
   2. Sirocco
   3. Monsoon winds
   4. Sea Breeze
   5. Chinook

Select the correct answer using codes below:
   (a) 1, 2 and 5 Only
   (b) 2 and 5 Only
   (c) 1, 2, 4 and 5 Only
   (d) 2, 4 and 5 Only

Solution: d)
Permanent winds – The trade winds, westerlies and easterlies are the permanent winds.

Seasonal winds – These winds change their direction in different seasons. For example monsoons in India.

Local winds – These blow only during a particular period of the day or year in a small area. For example, land and sea breeze, and loo

41. The term ‘State’, when used in the context of India, refers most appropriately to which of the following?
(a) Government of India at all federal levels
(b) Territory of India including Union territories and other occupied areas
(c) The Political institution that represents sovereign people of India occupying a definite territory
(d) Any institution that ultimately works towards public welfare

Solution: c)

Insights Prelims 2017, Test 2

The term ‘State’ as such does not refer to state governments.
• Rather when we use State, we are trying to distinguish it from ‘government’.
• ‘Government’ is responsible for administering and enforcing laws. The government can change with elections.
• The State on the other hand refers to a political institution that represents a sovereign people who occupy a definite territory. We can, thus, speak of the Indian State, the Nepali State etc.
• The Indian State has a democratic form of government. The government (or the executive) is one part of the State. The State refers to more than just the government and cannot be used interchangeably with it.

42. In the production of silk, silkworm cocoons are boiled to kill the silkworms. Why the silkworms are not allowed to survive?
(a) If silkworms survive, no silk can be produced.
(b) The enzymes secreted by animal reduce the length of silk fibres.
(c) The natural colour of silk fibre cannot be retained if worms are allowed to survive.
(d) They make the silk toxic in nature.

Solution: b)

Justification: If the animal is allowed to survive after spinning its cocoon and through the pupal phase of its lifecycle, it releases proteolytic enzymes to make a hole in the cocoon so it can emerge as an adult moth.

These enzymes are destructive to the silk and can cause the silk fibers to break down from over a mile in length to segments of random length, which seriously reduces the value of the silk threads.

• To prevent this, silkworm cocoons are boiled. The heat kills the silkworms and the water makes the cocoons easier to unravel. Often, the silkworm itself is eaten.

Learning: As the process of harvesting the silk from the cocoon kills the larvae, sericulture has been criticized by animal welfare and rights activists.

• Mahatma Gandhi was critical of silk production based on the Ahimsa philosophy “not to hurt any living thing”. This led to Gandhi’s promotion of cotton spinning machines, an example of which can be seen at the Gandhi Institute.

• He also promoted Ahimsa silk, wild silk made from the cocoons of wild and semiwild silk moths.

• Ahimsa silk is promoted in parts of southern India for those who prefer not to wear silk produced by killing silkworms.

43. Consider the following about the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC).
1. All West Asian states, except Iran, hold the membership of OIC.
2. India has been blocked by OIC on the “Kashmir Issue”.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Justification: Statement 1: The OIC is an international organization founded in 1969. It consists of 57 member states including Iran and Pakistan. Administrative centre (headquarters) is in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. So, 1 is incorrect.

Statement 2: In this organisation, India is a blocked country, though it has about 12% of the world’s Muslim population. India has been blocked by Pakistan from joining the OIC over Kashmir issue. OIC regard parts of Kashmir as “occupied by India”.

Learning: Its Objectives: (i) Raise the collective voice of the Muslim world. (ii) Collectively work to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony. OIC has permanent delegations to United Nations and the European Union.

44. Major Mineral oil reserves are found in which of the following countries?
   1. Venezuela
   2. Argentina
   3. Russia
   4. Qatar

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

Solution: d)

Learning: According to current estimates, more than 80% of the world’s proven crude oil reserves are located in OPEC Member Countries, with the bulk of OPEC oil reserves in the Middle East, amounting to 65% of the OPEC total. Countries like Venezuela, Iraq and Kuwait are key members of OPEC with large soil reserves and production

45. Which of the following will be the first expressway between India and China?

(a) Xinjiang Economic Corridor
(b) Kaladan Multimodal transport project
(c) India Trilateral Highway
(d) BCIM Economic Corridor

Solution: d)

Learning: The proposed corridor will cover 1.65 million square kilometres, encompassing an estimated 440 million people in China’s Yunnan province, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Bihar in Northern India through the combination of road, rail, water and air linkages in the region.

- This interconnectedness would facilitate the cross-border flow of people and goods, minimize overland trade obstacles, ensure greater market access and increase multilateral trade
- The multi-modal corridor will be the first expressway between India and China and will pass through Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- India’s isolated eastern and north-eastern states also stand to gain by higher trade and connectivity with China and the rest of Asia the corridor will run from Kunming to Kolkata, linking Mandalay in Myanmar as well as Dhaka and Chittagong in Bangladesh.

46. Which of the following will reduce Global Warming in the short-term?

(a) Increased rice cultivation
(b) Greater promotion of cattle breeding in developing countries
(c) Melting of permafrost In the Arctic region
(d) Major and sustained volcanic explosions

Solution: d)

Justification:
Option A: Rice fields are wetlands that release methane which is a GHG accelerating global warming.

Option B: Cattle breeding also release methane. So, B is wrong.

Option C: Permafrost contains carbon that was trapped since ages, and its release after melting accelerates global warming. The concept has been covered in an earlier test. Option D: Suspended particles from volcanic ash, when spread in the atmosphere, reduce solar insolation and help cool off the earth.

47. “Global Financial Development Report” is published by
(a) International Monetary Fund
(b) World Economic Forum
(c) United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC)
(d) World Bank

Solution: d)

Learning: The recently published report suggests a key role for longterm finance:

• Use of long-term finance is more limited in developing countries, particularly among smaller firms and poorer individuals.

• Where it exists, the bulk of long-term finance is provided by banks; use of equity, including private equity, is limited for firms of all sizes.

• The global financial crisis of 2008 has also led to a reduction in leverage and use of long-term debt for developing country firms.

• Market failures and policy distortions have a disproportionate effect on long-term finance, suggesting an important role for policies that address these failures and distortions.

• Sustainably extending the maturity structure of finance is a key policy challenge since long-term finance can be an important contributor to economic growth and shared prosperity.

48. Which of these do not form part of a marine ecosystem?
(a) Ocean minerals which is an abiotic element
(b) Coral reefs which are biotic elements
(c) Energy flow within the trophic levels which is an abiotic element
(d) All the above biotic and abiotic elements form part of the marine ecosystem.

Solution: d)

Justification: An ecosystem is a community of living organisms in conjunction with the nonliving components of their environment (things like air, water and mineral soil), interacting as a system. These biotic and abiotic components are regarded as linked together through nutrient cycles and energy flows. So, OPTION D is the most appropriate response. Energy, water, nitrogen and soil minerals are essential abiotic components of an ecosystem.

49. Anthropogenic sources of Mercury emission include
1. Coal-fired power plants
2. Mines engaged in gold production
3. Cement production
4. Manufacture of batteries

Select the correct answer using the codes below.
(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Solution: d)

Justification:

Statement 1: These plants emit harmful pollutants, including mercury, non-mercury metallic toxics, acid gases, and organic air toxics such as dioxin.

Statement 2: Toxic gold mine waste includes dangerous chemicals such as arsenic, lead, mercury, petroleum byproducts, acids, cyanide etc.
Statement 3: The cement sector is one of the largest industrial sources of pollution, emitting pollutants like mercury and harmful gases like sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and carbon monoxide.

50. The End of Train Telemetry (EoTT) system to be introduced by Indian Railways will be instrumental in

(a) Increasing night and fog visibility of trains
(b) Ensuring automation of communication between driver and wagons within the train
(c) Developing an anti-collision system for train wagons
(d) Providing seamless internet connectivity to all passengers

Solution: b)

Learning: The Indian Railways has planned to acquire the End of Train Telemetry (EoTT) equipments to run nearly one thousand trains without guards in the current fiscal.

The EoTT system is designed in such a way that it will perform the guard’s job.

How it works: EoTT system comprises two units, namely, ‘cab display unit’ (CDU) which is fitted on the locomotive and ‘sense and brake unit’ (SBU) which is fitted on the last coach of the train.

• The units will be fitted with radio transmitter which can communicate with each other. The transmitter will send signals at regular intervals to the last coach to ensure that the train is running intact.

• The EoTT system will help in establishing communication between the locomotive driver and the last wagon of the train and ensure that the train is running as a complete unit.

51. The government has released a revised Index of industrial production (IIP) recently. The revision has been made on which of these lines?

(a) Base year has been revised to 2011-12.
(b) It will now include technology items like smart phones and tablets.
(c) Small and Medium enterprises (SMEs) that were excluded earlier have been included now.
(d) Both (a) and (b)

Solution: d)

Justification: The new IIP and WPI series has been released by Chief Statistician of India and Secretary, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, and Secretary, DIPP to usher in greater accuracy and improved synchronisation leading to better policies.

Option A: Instead of the earlier 2004-05, base year for the IIP and the WPI will be 2011-12. Already, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and gross value addition etc., have 2011-12 as the base year. The common base year of 2011-12 is aimed at reducing discrepancies.

Option B: The new series of IIP will include technology items like smart phones, tablets, LED television etc. A technical review committee has also been established to identify new items by ensuring that the series remains relevant. The committee is slated to meet at least once a year.

Option C: Their production was already included in the IIP data earlier.

52. Which of these Non-governmental organizations does not primarily work towards safeguarding human rights?

(a) Amnesty International
(b) International Committee of the Red Cross
(c) UN Watch
(d) Greenpeace

Solution: d)

Justification: Option B: It directs and coordinates international relief and works to promote and strengthen humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Option C: N Watch is a non-governmental organization based in Geneva whose mandate is to monitor the performance of the United Nations by the yardstick of its own Charter.

Greenpeace is Environmental NGO.
53. The Battle held at Plassey is often mentioned in India’s colonial history. How did the place Plassey get its name from?
(a) The water structures that surrounded large forts
(b) Highly fertile soil found there
(c) Series of battles fought at it
(d) None of the above

Solution: d)
Derived from Palash tree that grow there.

Learning: Battle of Plassey was fought between the Company and Sirajuddaulah asked the Company to stop meddling in the political affairs of his dominion, stop fortification, and pay the revenues. Plassey is an anglicised pronunciation of Palashi and the place derived its name from the palash tree known for its beautiful red flowers that yield gulal, the powder used in the festival of Holi.

54. Russian membership of G8 was suspended in view of
(a) Its violation of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) rules
(b) Its growing proximity with China and North Korea
(c) Its annexation of Crimea in the Ukraine issue
(d) Its refusal to toe the USA lines on the Syrian crisis

Solution: c)

Learning: A communiqué of G8 said that Mr. Putin’s actions in Ukraine were inconsistent with the “shared beliefs” of the G8. The G7 could not tolerate Russian transgression of international laws. Russia is only suspended not expelled from G8 membership. The prospect of readmission is open if it agrees to “abide by international rules” as per G8. This action was taken because it was difficult to put economic sanctions on Russia since many European nations rely on Russia for energy supplies, and have bilateral trading relationships far more valuable than those of the US.

55. Chauth and Sardeshmukhi levied by the Marathas were related to
(a) Pottery and crafts
(b) Recovery charges on state led industrial development
(c) Land revenue
(d) Fines on defeated kingdoms

Solution: c)

Learning: By the 1730s, the Maratha king was recognised as the overlord of the entire Deccan peninsula.

- He possessed the right to levy chauth and sardeshmukhi in the entire region.
- Chauth was 25 per cent of the land revenue claimed by zamindars. In the Deccan this was collected by the Marathas.
- Sardeshmukhi was 9-10 per cent of the land revenue paid to the head revenue collector in the Deccan.

56. The ‘Keynesian revolution’ is against
(a) A mixed economic system
(b) Blind capitalism
(c) Existence of Public sector in the economy
(d) Economic Planning

Solution: b)

Learning: He argued that free market system, led by absolute capitalism, does not always lead to full employment, economic stability and welfare of citizens. He advocated the intervention of government in the economy for stabilizing prices, employment and output. A key element of this revolution was fiscal stimulus and the role of investment in reviving demand. This was against the laissez fairez free market system advocated by Adam Smith.
57. A microbial fuel cell (MFC) is a device that converts
   (a) Chemical energy to electrical energy by the action of microorganisms
   (b) Potential energy into chemical energy by the decomposition action of microorganisms
   (c) Kinetic energy to heat energy by the action of microorganisms
   (d) Heat energy into potential energy by metabolic action of microorganisms

Solution: a)

Justification: It is a bio-electrochemical system that drives an electric current by using bacteria and mimicking bacterial interactions found in nature.

- These electrochemical cells are constructed using either a bioanode and/or a biocathode.
- Most MFCs contain a membrane to separate the compartments of the anode (where oxidation takes place) and the cathode (where reduction takes place).

Learning: Virtually any organic material could be used to feed the fuel cell, including coupling cells to wastewater treatment plants. MFCs are a clean and the best method of energy production.

- The current generated from a microbial fuel cell is directly proportional to the energy content of wastewater used as the fuel. MFCs can measure the solute concentration of wastewater (i.e., as a biosensor).
- MFCs are attractive for power generation applications that require only low power, but where replacing batteries may be impractical, such as wireless sensor networks.

58. Which of the following nations touch Caspian Sea?
   (a) Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan
   (b) Georgia, Armenia and Ukraine
   (c) Turkey, Syria and Iraq
   (d) Romania, Russia and Turkey

Solution: a)

Refer world map.

59. Seasonal migration of men and animals from lower to higher altitudes during the summer is known as
   (a) Pastoralism
   (b) Ex-Migration
   (c) Nomadism
   (d) Transhumance

Solution: d)

Learning: The migration usually happens from plains to pastures on mountains during summers and again from mountain pastures to plain areas during winters.

- Movement in search of pastures is undertaken either over vast horizontal distances or vertically from one elevation to another in the mountainous regions.
- In mountain regions, such as Himalayas, Gujjars, Bakarwals, Gaddis and Bhotiyas perform transhumance.
- Similarly, in the tundra regions, the nomadic herders move from south to north in summers and from north to south in winters.
60. Which of these states is not a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)?

(a) Saudi Arabia
(b) Iraq
(c) Iran
(d) Kuwait

Solution: b)

Learning: It is a political and economic union consisting of all Arab states of the Persian Gulf, except for Iraq. Its member states are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. All current member states are monarchies, including three constitutional monarchies (Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain). In order to reduce their dependence on oil in the future, the GCC states are pursuing unprecedented structural reform initiatives.

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

1. He is elected by the representatives of the people through an Electoral College
2. The electoral college doesn’t consist of elected members of the Legislative Assembly of Delhi state
3. Like the President of USA, the President of India is elected by the system of proportional representation, by the single transferable vote

Select the correct answer using codes below:

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

Solution: a)

Laxmikanth, Indian Polity, The President

Article 52 states that there shall be a President of India. The executive powers of the Union shall be vested in the President. He, as the head of a state, symbolises the nation. In some democratic systems, the head of the state is also the head of the government and, therefore, he will also be the head of the political executive. The US Presidency represents this form. In Britain, the monarch is the symbolic head, representing the British nation. The powers of the Government are vested in the political office of the Prime Minister. In Indian Parliamentary democracy we have adopted the latter form. The President of India is the first citizen and represents the Indian nation and does not, therefore, belong to any particular political party. He is elected by the representatives of the people through an Electoral College.

Article 54 of the constitution says:

“The President shall be elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of—

(a) The elected members of both Houses of Parliament and

(b) The elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States (including National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Pondicherry vide the Constitution 70th amendment Act, 1992).”

Thus in the election of the President the citizens play no direct part and he is elected indirectly by the representatives or the people, like the American President but no special electoral college is elected, as in the case of America. Another point of difference that may be noted is that the election of the President of India is by the system of proportional representation, by the single transferable vote, as provided by Article 55(3) of the Constitution, while the American President is elected by the straight vote system.

62. With reference to the office of the Indian President, consider the following statements:

1. President can be removed by the Supreme Court for committing electoral malpractices and upon ceasing to possess the requisite qualifications to be president
2. President has constitutional immunity for his unconstitutional, mala fides activities during his/her tenure

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c) Laxmikanth, The President
Both are correct.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Prime minister / Union cabinet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The duties of President under his oath is to protect, defend and preserve the constitution and the law</td>
<td>Swears allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, swears to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India and swears to do right to all manner of people without fear or favour, affection or ill-will (Third Schedule of the constitution)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oath is taken in the presence of the Chief Justice</td>
<td>In the presence of the President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elected in an extensive manner indirectly by the members of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and state legislative assemblies in a secret ballot conducted by the Election Commission</td>
<td>Elected indirectly by the Lok Sabha members and secret ballot is not mandatory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impeachment by Parliament with majority of not less than two-thirds of the total membership of each House of the Parliament for violation of the Constitution as per Article 61</td>
<td>Steps down upon losing majority support in Lok Sabha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President can be removed by the Supreme Court per Article 71(1) for committing electoral malpractices and upon ceasing to possess the</td>
<td>Similar to Prime minister and ministers also.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

requisite qualifications to be president
An individual heads the autonomous institution of President

Union cabinet with Prime minister as its chief is collectively responsible.

President being head of Parliament, Executive and supreme commander of armed forces is fully empowered by the constitution to fulfil his judicial responsibility. He can also take the expert advise of Attorney General and also Chief Justice in performing his judicial role. It is President’s duty to ensure that every state’s governance is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the constitution under Articles 355 and 356

Rest of the governance of the union and reporting to the President on all important matters. Being leader of the majority/ ruling party in the Parliament, union cabinet takes lead in law making by the parliament needed for policy finalisation on various aspects, annual budgets finalisation, planning and implementation, etc.

Prime minister /union cabinet shall aid and advise the President who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice as long as not unconstitutional. Prime minister shall communicate to the President all decisions of the Council of Ministers relating to the administration of the affairs of the Union and proposals for legislation and on President’s desire submit related information. No minister shall decide on any matter without the council of ministers/union cabinet approval per Article 78.
President has constitutional immunity for his unconstitutional, mala fides activities during his/her tenure but liable for judicial action / punishment for his unconstitutional activity after the term of presidency

The union cabinet has constitutional immunity from legal proceedings in any court for their mala fide and unconstitutional advice tendered by union ministers to the President per Article 74 (2).

President can not escape from his constitutional duty by citing constitutional amendment to Article 74 (para 2 of 1) which makes him to abide by the union cabinet advice after sending for reconsideration. As clarified by the Supreme Court, the object of Article 74 (2) is only to make the question whether the President had followed the advice of the union cabinet or acted contrary thereto, non-justiciable. Refer page Article 74#Court cases for more clarity

The union cabinet may escape from the punishment or responsibility for implementing unconstitutional laws citing Article 74 (2).

Prime minister/ union cabinet can not be recalled by the people of India for not fulfilling his constitutional duties in case parliament is not impeaching the President or removed by the Supreme Court or resigns on his own on moral grounds

63. Which of the following persons is the first Bengali to become President of India?

(a) Zakir Husain
(b) Mohammad Hidayatullah
(c) Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed
(d) Pranab Mukherjee

Solution: d)

Laxmikanth, The President

- The 13th and current President Pranab Mukherjee, is the first Bengali to be elected as President.
- Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed was Assamese.
- Zakir Husain was born in Telangana (then Andhra Pradesh), but grew up in UP.
- Mohammad Hidayatullah is from UP

64. With reference to the powers of The Indian President, consider the following statements:

1. The decisions involving pardoning and other rights by the President are independent of the opinion of the Prime Minister or the Lok Sabha majority but not absolute.
2. The President can ask the Attorney General to attend the parliamentary proceedings and report to him any unlawful functioning if any

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Laxmikanth, The President

The decisions involving pardoning and other rights by the President are independent of the opinion of the Prime Minister or the Lok Sabha majority. In most cases, however, the President exercises his executive powers on the advice of the Prime Minister and the cabinet.

The pardoning power of President is NOT absolute. It is governed by the advice of the Council of Ministers.

Attorney General for India who is the Indian government’s chief legal advisor, is appointed by the President of India under Article 76(1) and holds office during the pleasure of the President. If the President considers a question of law or a matter of public importance has arisen, he can also ask for the advisory opinion of the Supreme Court per Article 143. Per Article
88. President can ask the Attorney General to attend the parliamentary proceedings and report to him any unlawful functioning if any.

65. The President of India receives his/her monthly emoluments as per the
   (a) Second Schedule of the Constitution
   (b) Third Schedule of the Constitution
   (c) Fourth Schedule of the Constitution
   (d) Rules created by the Parliament

Solution: a)

The President of India used to receive ₹10,000 (US$200) per month per the Second Schedule of the Constitution. This amount was increased to ₹50,000 (US$800) in 1998. On 11 September 2008 the Government of India increased the salary of the President to ₹1.5 lakh (US$2,300). However, almost everything that the President does or wants to do is taken care of by the annual ₹225 million (US$3.5 million) budget that the Government allots for his or her upkeep. Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President’s official residence, is the largest Presidential Palace in the world.

66. To be eligible for membership in the Lok Sabha, a person
   1. Must be a citizen of India
   2. Must be 25 years of age or older
   3. Must be mentally sound,
   4. Should not be bankrupt
   5. Should not be criminally convicted

Which of the above conditions is/are correct?
   (a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 Only
   (b) 1, 2 and 5 Only
   (c) 1, 2, 3 and 5 Only
   (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Solution: d)

If you considered option 4 as wrong, you are wrong. Here bankrupt means he/she must not be an undischarged insolvent [Article 102(1) (c) of the Constitution]

67. With reference to dates of sessions of the Parliament of India, which of the following is/are correctly matched?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parliament Session</th>
<th>Respective months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Budget session</td>
<td>: February to May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Monsoon session</td>
<td>: July to September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Winter session</td>
<td>: November to December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Solution: a)

From 2017, budget session has started from January month, which is likely to continue in future.

Hence, only 2 and 3 are correct.

In 2016, Budget session of Parliament started from February 23, 2016.

In 2017, Budget session of Parliament started from January 31, 2017.

68. The Finance Minister, in his 2017 Budget Speech has announced Rs 500 cr for setting up Mahila Shakti Kendras. They will be set up at

   (a) Taluk level in the BDO Office
   (b) Village level in each Anganwadis
   (c) District level in each District Collector’s office
   (d) Village level in each Gram Panchayat office

Solution: b)

Insights Current Affairs, Feb 2017, Page 9
For one, the scheme proposes to attach a Mahila Shakti Kendra to each of the country’s 14 lakh anganwadis, or centres that provide basic healthcare and nutrition to mothers and children from low-income households. However, Rs 500 crore divided amongst 14 lakh anganwadis in the country amounts to just Rs 3,571 for each Mahila Shakti Kendra. This is insufficient. Also, anganwadi workers are already overburdened with duties beyond their primary jobs, such as working for the census and other government schemes. Often, they are paid less than minimum wage.

69. Tasmantis has recently been given the status of a continent by several geologists who say that the long lost continent is submerged under water. It is located in

(a) Pacific Ocean
(b) Indian Ocean
(c) Atlantic Ocean
(d) Arctic Ocean

Solution: a)

Insights Current Affairs, Feb 2017, Page 10

Zealandia also known as the New Zealand continent or Tasmantis, is a nearly submerged mass of continental crust that sank after breaking away from Australia 60–85 Ma (million years) ago in the Pacific Ocean, having separated from Antarctica between 85 and 130 Ma ago. It has variously been described as a continental fragment, a microcontinent and a continent. The name and concept for Zealandia were proposed by Bruce Luyendyk in 1995.

70. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of India is a statutory organisation under the

(a) Ministry of urban development
(b) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
(c) Ministry of commerce and industries
(d) Ministry of heavy industries and public enterprises

Solution: b)

Insights Current Affairs, Feb 2017, Page 21

Questions like this are simple and straightforward. Some might overthink and opt other options. Don’t overthink in prelims. For some questions, go by instinct.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of India is a statutory organisation under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). It was established in 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of pollution) Act, 1974. CPCB is also entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. It Co-ordinates the activities of the State Pollution Control Boards by providing technical assistance and guidance and also resolves disputes among them.

71. Recently, the union government amended which of the following Acts to provide legislative support for extinguishing the central bank and government’s liability on the demonetised banknotes that are not returned?

(a) Negotiable Instrument Act, 1881
(b) The Banking Regulation(Companies) Rules, 1949
(c) The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
(d) The Subsidiary Banks General Regulation, 1959

Solution: c)

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The main objectives of the ordinance were to provide clarity and finality to the liability of the RBI and the Government of India for the specified bank notes (of 1,000 and 500); to provide an opportunity to those persons who were unable to deposit the SBNs within the time provided; and to declare holding, transferring or receiving SBNs as illegal, with provisions for penalty for contravention of any of the provisions of the Ordinance.

72. Why do you think India opted not to elect its President directly as in USA? Consider the following reasons:

1. Direct election would generate political feelings and the elected...
candidate will have strong affiliation to a political party.

2. In a direct election, it would be impossible to provide an electoral machinery for the purpose of smooth and successful Presidential election.

3. A directly elected Chief Executive who is a nominal head, might cultivate dictatorial tendencies.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

The process of election of the President of India is original and no other Constitution contains a similar procedure. The question was considerably debated in the Constituent Assembly. It was argued by many members that the electoral college consisting of the elected members of Central Legislature as well as those of the Legislative Assemblies of the States was not sufficiently representative of Peoples’ will. Some members, therefore, favoured the system of direct election by the people instead of an indirect round-about method, because such a system would be most democratic and it would make the President a direct choice of the nation. This was, however, not accepted.

The main reasons which influenced the deliberations of the Constituent Assembly for determining indirect Presidential election are:

(1) Firstly, in a country following the Cabinet system of Government, the office of titular Chief Executive is a technical one, to the extent that its duties are largely prescribed by other authorities (usually by the Legislature), which requires specific competence for the performance of its duties from the incumbent. Very few voters can be competent to judge wisely of the technical abilities of the candidates for any particular office of this type, having specific, limited and defined functions.

(2) Secondly, if the direct election of the President were adopted, the Presidential candidate who has to carry on an election campaign from one corner of the country to another will certainly be put up by some party or the other, which may cause political excitement and generate party feelings. Thus the man elected to the Presidential office through this means will never be able to forget his party affiliations. So the ideal of getting a non-party man outside the turmoil of party passions and reasonably respected by all factions to assume the role of the head of the State will be defeated. Further, as India is almost a sub-continent with crores of enfranchised citizens, it would be impossible to provide an electoral machinery for the purpose of smooth and successful Presidential election.

(3) Lastly, a directly elected Chief Executive may not be content with his position of a mere constitutional head and can claim to derive his authority directly from the people. So, if he wanted to assume real power, it would lead to a constitutional deadlock and an inevitable clash with the Cabinet or real executive. This would definitely produce a confusion of responsibility.

Such a contingency had happened when under the French Constitution of 1848 the President of the French Republic, Louis Napoleon, was elected by the direct vote of the people, and by exploiting this system, he had overthrown the Republic to establish the empire with himself as emperor. To prevent the recurrence of such a contingency, the French people in their later constitutions discredited and abandoned the system of electing the head of State by the direct vote of the people.

http://pib.nic.in/archieve/others/pr.html

73. With reference to the Pre-conception & Prenatal Diagnostics Techniques (PC & PNDT) Act, 1994, consider the following statements:

1. The main purpose of enacting the act is to ban the use of sex selection techniques before or after conception.

2. The act of sale, distribution, supply, renting etc. of any ultra sound machine or any other equipment capable of detecting sex of the foetus is punishable under this Act.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
74. The Global Harmonization Task Force (GHTF) is related to,
   
   (a) Convergence of regulatory practices related to the safety, performance and quality of medical devices
   
   (b) Convergence of various disciplines involved in cancer research around the world
   
   (c) Regulation of sex determination around the world
   
   (d) Regulation of use of generic pharmaceuticals around the world

Solution: a)

Insights Current Affairs, Feb 2017, Page 37

The Global Harmonization Task Force (GHTF) was founded in 1993 by the governments and industry representatives of Australia, Canada, Japan, the European Union, and the United States of America. The purpose of the GHTF is to encourage a convergence in standards and regulatory practices related to the safety, performance and quality of medical devices. The GHTF also promotes technological innovation and facilitates international trade. The primary means by which its goals are accomplished is via the publication and dissemination of harmonized guidance documents for basic regulatory practices.

75. What is the function of messenger RNAs (mRNAs)?

   (a) They carry message from nucleus to DNA replication site to synthesise new DNA
   
   (b) They carry message for production of RNA molecules
   
   (c) They carry codes from the DNA in the nucleus to the sites of protein synthesis in the cytoplasm (the ribosomes)
   
   (d) None of the above

Solution: c)

Insights Current Affairs, Feb 2017, Page 39

Messenger RNA (mRNA), molecule in cells that carries codes from the DNA in the nucleus to the sites of protein synthesis in the cytoplasm (the ribosomes). The molecule that would eventually become known as mRNA was first described in 1956 by scientists Elliot Volkin and Lazarus Astrachan. In addition to mRNA, there are two other major types of RNA: ribosomal RNA (rRNA) and transfer RNA (tRNA).

76. Algorithmic trading refers to

   (a) Using computers to trade fast and generate more profits than humans could do
   
   (b) Using advanced algorithms in stock exchanges to monitor trading
   
   (c) Using advanced algorithms to regulate and predict risks in financial markets
   
   (d) None of the above

Solution: a)

Insights Current Affairs, Feb 2017, Page 53

Algorithmic trading (automated trading, black-box trading, or simply algo-trading) is the process of using computers programmed to follow a defined set of instructions for placing a trade in order to generate profits at a speed and frequency that is impossible for a human trader. The defined sets of rules are based on timing, price, quantity or any mathematical model. Apart from profit opportunities for the trader, algo-trading makes markets more liquid and makes trading
more systematic by ruling out emotional human impacts on trading activities.

Read more: Basics of Algorithmic Trading: Concepts and Examples | Investopedia

77. Bahrain, which historically served as a gateway between East and West, is planning to enhance air connectivity with India and other Asian countries. With reference to this news and Bahrain itself, consider the following statements:
   1. It is a monarchy
   2. It is located in the Persian Gulf
   3. It is an island country
   4. Bahrain International Airport (BIA) is located in Manama, its capital city

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   (a) 1, 2 and 3 Only
   (b) 2, 3 and 4 Only
   (c) 1, 3 and 4 Only
   (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Solution: a)
Insights Current Affairs, Feb 2017, Page 63

Yes, nobody expects you to know answer to this question (unless you have been to Bahrain). Treat it as new fact that you learnt today.

Bahrain International Airport is the international airport of Bahrain, located in Muharraq, an island about 7 km (4.3 mi) northeast of the capital Manama. It serves as the hub for the national carrier Gulf Air.

78. China is constructing its first overseas military base in Djibouti. Which of the following countries will be more worried with this development?
   (a) India
   (b) USA
   (c) Saudi Arabia
   (d) England

Solution: b)
Insights Current Affairs, Feb 2017, Page 70

China is constructing its first overseas military base in Djibouti — just a few miles from Camp Lemonnier, one of the Pentagon’s largest and most important foreign installations. With this, United States and China will become neighbours in this sun-scorched patch of East African desert.

Why is US worried?

Established after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Camp Lemonnier is home to 4,000 personnel. Some are involved in highly secretive missions. U.S. strategists worry that a naval port so close to Camp Lemonnier could provide a front-row seat to the staging ground for U.S. counterterrorism operations in the Arabian Peninsula and North Africa. The base, which is run by the Navy and Djibouti’s international airport, is the only permanent U.S. military installation in Africa.

79. With reference to International Finance Corporation (IFC), consider the following statements:
   1. It is a member of the World Bank Group
   2. It invests in private companies

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

Solution: c)
Insights Current Affairs, Feb 2017, Page 74

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is an international financial institution that offers investment, advisory, and asset management services to encourage private sector development in developing countries. It is a member of the World Bank Group and is headquartered in Washington, D.C., United States. It was established in 1956 as the private sector arm of the World Bank Group to advance economic development by investing in strictly for-profit and commercial projects that purport to reduce poverty and promote...
development. The IFC is owned and governed by its member countries, but has its own executive leadership and staff that conduct its normal business operations. It is a corporation whose shareholders are member governments that provide paid-in capital and which have the right to vote on its matters.

80. With reference to Sovereign Gold Bond scheme, consider the following statements:
1. The gold bond can be used as collateral to avail a loan
2. At time of exit the bond can be redeemed at market rate of gold
3. Capital gain tax will be exempted on redemption.
4. There is no limit to amount of gold for an individual to invest in this scheme
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1,2 and 4 Only
(b) 2,3 and 4 Only
(c) 1,2 and 3 Only
(d) 1 and 2 Only

Solution: c)

Salient features: Minimum investment under the Gold Bond scheme is one gm. Maximum investment under the Gold Bond scheme is 500 gm. Interest to be obtained under the Gold Bond scheme is at a fixed rate of 2.75 per cent payable every six months. The Gold Bond scheme is available in DEMAT and paper form. The Gold Bond scheme has a tenure of eight years, with exit options in the 5th, 6th and 7th year. At time of exit the bond can be redeemed at market rate of gold. The gold bond can be used as collateral to avail a loan. Can be used as collateral for loans. Capital gain tax will be exempted on redemption.

81. The artists of Bhimbetka used many colours, including various shades of white, yellow, orange, red ochre, purple, brown, green and black. If red colour was derived from haematite, what was the source of green colour for them?
(a) Green plants
(b) Chalcedony
(c) Emerald
(d) None of the above

Solution: b)

NCERT Class XI, Art & Culture, Page 5
The artists of Bhimbetka used many colours, including various shades of white, yellow, orange, red ochre, purple, brown, green and black. But white and red were their favourite colours. The paints were made by grinding various rocks and minerals. They got red from haematite (known as geru in India). The green came from a green variety of a stone called chalcedony. White might have been made out of limestone. The rock of mineral was first ground into a powder. This may then have been mixed with water and also with some thick or sticky substance such as animal fat or gum or resin from trees.

82. Which of the following Indus Valley Sites is/are not located in present day India?
1. Chanhudaro
2. Harappa
3. Sutkagan Dor
4. Dholavira
5. Banawali
Select the correct answer using codes below:
(a) 1,2 and 4 Only
(b) 1 and 2 Only
(c) 2 and 5 Only
(d) 1, 2 and 3 Only

Solution: d

NCERT Class XI, Art & Culture, Page 9
It’s a long list
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Indus_Valley_Civilisation_sites

83. Consider the following statements:
1. The art of bronze-casting was practised on a wide scale by the Harappans
2. The famous Pashupati Seal found in an Harappa site is made up of bronze
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

NCERT Class XI, Art & Culture, Page 10 – 11

The standard Harappan seal was a square plaque 2×2 square inches, usually made from the soft river stone, steatite.

84. Yaksha worship was very popular before and after the advent of Buddhism. With reference to Yaksha, consider the following statements:

1. They were benevolent nature spirits and caretakers of the natural treasures hidden in the earth and tree roots
2. They appear in Hindu, Jain and Buddhist texts

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

NCERT Class XI, Art & Culture, Page 19

Yaksha are a broad class of nature-spirits, usually benevolent, but sometimes mischievous and sexually aggressive or capricious caretakers of the natural treasures hidden in the earth and tree roots. They appear in Hindu, Jain and Buddhist texts, as well as ancient and medieval era temples of South Asia and Southeast Asia as guardian deities. The feminine form of the word is yakṣī or Yakshini (yakṣīṇī). In Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist texts, the yakṣa has a dual personality. On the one hand, a yakṣa may be an inoffensive nature-fairy, associated with woods and mountains; but there is also a darker version of the yakṣa, which is a kind of ghost (bhuta) that haunts the wilderness and waylays and devours travelers, similar to the rakṣasas.

85. The main events associated with the Buddha’s life which were frequently depicted in Jatakas were events related to the birth, renunciation, enlightenment, dhammachakrapravartana, and mahaparinibbana (death). Dhammachakrapravartana refers to

(a) His choosing of life of a sage
(b) Codification of Buddha’s teachings
(c) His first sermon
(d) Conversion of Buddha’s teachings into religion

Solution: c)

NCERT Class XI, Art & Culture, Page 20, 23 and 26

It refers to his first sermon.

86. Consider the following statements:

1. It is located in Aurangabad District of Maharashtra State
2. It is the only surviving example of painting of the first century BCE and the fifth century CE
3. It has large chaityaviharas and is decorated with sculptures and paintings

To which of the following locations does above description refer?

(a) Ajanta
(b) Ellora
(c) Elephanta
(d) Amaravathi

Solution: a)

NCERT Class XI, Art & Culture, Page 37

The most famous cave site is Ajanta. It is located in Aurangabad District of Maharashtra State. Ajanta has twenty-nine caves. It has four chaitya caves datable to the earlier phase, i.e., the second and the first century BCE (Cave Nos. 10 and 9) and the later phase, i.e., the fifth century CE (Cave Nos. 19 and 26). It has large
chaityaviharas and is decorated with sculptures and paintings. Ajanta is the only surviving example of painting of the first century BCE and the fifth century CE. The caves at Ajanta as well as in western Deccan in general have no precise chronology because of the lack of known dated inscriptions.

87. The Elephanta Caves are mainly sites of
(a) Buddhism and Jainism
(b) Jainism and Vaishnavism
(c) Buddhism and Vaishnavism
(d) Buddhism and Shaivism

Solution: d)
NCERT Class XI, Art & Culture, Page 44

The Elephanta Caves located near Mumbai, were originally a Buddhist site which was later dominated by the Shaivite faith. It is contemporary with Ellora, and its sculptures show slenderness in the body, with stark light and dark effects. The other noteworthy cave site is Bagh located near Indore in Madhya Pradesh.

88. The theme of Mara Vijaya has been painted in the caves of Ajanta. The panel shows the image of the Buddha in the centre surrounded by Mara’s army along with his daughter. With reference to this painting, consider the following statements:
1. Mara represents desire
2. The event is part of the enlightenment of Siddhartha

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

Solution: c)
NCERT Class XI, Art & Culture, Page 57

The theme of Mara Vijaya has been painted in the caves of Ajanta. This is the only sculptural representation sculpted on the right wall of Cave No. 26. It is sculpted near the colossal Buddha image of Mahaparinibbana. The panel shows the image of the Buddha in the centre surrounded by Mara’s army along with his daughter. The event is part of the enlightenment. It is a personification of the commotion of mind which the Buddha went through at the time of enlightenment. Mara represents desire. According to the narrative, there is a dialogue between the Buddha and Mara, and the Buddha is shown with his right hand indicating towards earth as a witness to his generosity. This relief sculptural panel is highly animated and shows a very matured sculptural style at Ajanta.

89. The pithoro paintings found in which of the following regions?
(a) Gujarat
(b) Assam
(c) Andhra Pradesh
(d) Uttarakhand

Solution: a)
NCERT Class XI, Art & Culture, Page 66

Pithoro called Babo Pithoro by the tribals is one of the many deities worshipped in the region and this Pithoro style of folk painting is a way of appeasing the Gods and not a decorative wall piece. The walls of the houses are painted by professional artists belonging to the Rathawa caste. The owner of the house prays for deliverance from evil and bad times (be it illness, lack of rains, low harvest yields) with the promise of getting a pithoro painted.

90. Consider the following statements:
1. Unlike the nagara temple, the dravida temple is enclosed within a compound wall
2. Whereas at the entrance to the North Indian temple’s garbhagriha, it would be usual to find images such as mithunas and the river goddesses, in the south one will generally find sculptures of fierce dvarapalas
3. In the south Indian temples, the outermost is the newest, while the tower right in the centre housing the garbhagriha is the oldest
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

NCERT Class XI, Art & Culture, Page 82

Unlike the nagara temple, the dravida temple is enclosed within a compound wall. The front wall has an entrance gateway in its centre, which is known as a gopuram. The shape of the main temple tower known as vimana in Tamil Nadu is like a stepped pyramid that rises up geometrically rather than the curving shikhara of North India. In the South Indian temple, the word ‘shikhara’ is used only for the crowning element at the top of the temple which is usually shaped like a small stupika or an octagonal cupola— this is equivalent to the amlak and kalasha of North Indian temples. Whereass at the entrance to the North Indian temple’s garbhagriha, it would be usual to find images such as mithunas and the river goddesses, Ganga and Yamuna, in the south you will generally find sculptures of fierce dvarapalas or the door-keepers guarding the temple. It is common to find a large water reservoir, or a temple tank enclosed within the complex. Subsidiary shrines are either incorporated within the main temple tower, or located as distinct, separate small shrines beside the main temple. The North Indian idea of multiple shikharas rising together as a cluster was not popular in South India. At some of the most sacred temples in South India, the main temple in which the garbhagriha is situated has, in fact, one of the smallest towers. This is because it is usually the oldest part of the temple. With the passage of time, the population and size of the town associated with that temple would have increased, and it would have become necessary to make a new boundary wall around the temple. This would have been taller that the last one, and its gopurams would have been even loftier. So, for instance, the Srirangam temple in Tiruchirapally has as many as seven ‘concentric’ rectangular enclosure walls, each with gopurams. The outermost is the newest, while the tower right in the centre housing the garbhagriha is the oldest.

91. Most of the information about Nalanda is based on the records of

(a) Xuan Zang
(b) Faxian
(c) Song Yun
(d) Zheng He

Solution: a)

NCERT Class XI, Art & Culture, Page 92

Most of the information about Nalanda is based on the records of Xuan Zang—previously spelt as ‘Hsuan-tsang’— which states that the foundation of a monastery was laid by Kumargupta I in the fifth century CE; and this was carried forward by the later monarchs who built up a fantastic university here. There is evidence that all three Buddhist doctrines— Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana—were taught here and monks made their way to Nalanda and its neighbouring sites of Bodh Gaya and Kurkihar from China, Tibet and Central Asia in the north and Sri Lanka, Thailand, Burma and various other countries from the south-eastern parts of Asia. Monks and pilgrims would take back small sculptures and illustrated manuscripts from here to their own countries. Buddhist monasteries like Nalanda, thus, were prolific centres of art production that had a decisive impact on the arts of all Buddhist countries in Asia.

92. Amalaka is found in which of the following architecture styles?

(a) Nagara style
(b) Dravida style
(c) Deccani architecture
(d) Mughal architecture

Solution: a)

NCERT Class XI, Art & Culture, Page 126

It is a Ribbed, lenticular or globoid part resembling the amalaka (Indian gooseberry fruit) crowning the top of the North Indian style shikhara.
93. US-based Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (HTT) is in talks with five Indian states to build a high-speed travel network and will also raise $100 million to invest in the country. The hyperloop concept is a brainchild of

(a) Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook
(b) Jeff Bezos of Amazon
(c) Elon Musk of Tesla
(d) Sergey Brin of Google

Solution: c)

Insights Current Affairs, Feb 2017, Page 90

It is a transportation system where a pod-like vehicle is propelled through a near-vacuum tube connecting cities at speeds matching that of an aircraft. The hyperloop concept is a brainchild of Tesla founder Elon Musk. US-based Hyperloop Transport Technology (HTT) claimed it costs $40 million per kilometre to build a hyperloop system while building a high-speed train line would cost almost twice. The hyperloop system is being designed to transport passengers and freight.

94. Recently, TAMRA portal was simultaneously launched across 12 states. The objective of this portal is to

(a) Speed up copper mining in 12 states
(b) Speed up mining activity in India with fast clearances
(c) Speed up export of minerals
(d) None of the above

Solution: b)

Insights Current Affairs, Feb 2017, Page 115

TAMRA portal was recently simultaneously launched across 12 mineral rich states. The portal is developed by the ministry of Mines. TAMRA is a step to speed up mining activity in India and facilitate all the stakeholders to track the status of the statutory clearances associated with blocks for getting mines to reach till operationalisation for the same. It will be an interactive platform for all the stakeholders to compress the timeline for statutory and other clearances as it is expected to help minimise the gestation period for starting production. TAMRA covers block-, state-, and mineral-wise information of the blocks to be auctioned, monitors various statutory clearances and also highlights the additional resources generated through e-auction. In case of delay in obtaining any clearances, TAMRA will send out triggers to the authority concerned so that the remedial steps can be taken immediately. The mines ministry will also receive triggers generated by TAMRA, which will facilitate expediting clearances in case the timelines set against each of the statutory clearances are not met.

95. Recently, rumba dance has been added to UNESCO's coveted list of “intangible” heritage. This dance form originated in

(a) Brazil
(b) Spain
(c) Portugal
(d) Cuba

Solution: d)

Insights PT Module on Art and Culture, Page 7

Rumba is a rhythmic dance with Spanish and African elements, originating in Cuba.

96. Salihundam is a historically noted village and panchayat in Gara Mandal of Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh. It is famous for

(a) It is famous for GI tagged cuisine
(b) It is a famous Buddhist Remnants sites
(c) It is famous for prehistoric caves
(d) None of the above

Solution: b)

Insights PT Module on Art and Culture, Page 7

Salihundam is a historically noted village and panchayat in Gara Mandal of Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh, India. It is a famous Buddhist Remnants site situated on the south bank of River Vamsadharra at a distance of 5 kilometers west of Kalingapatnam and 18 kilometers from Srikakulam town. It was known as “Salivatika” (meaning rice emporium). But many called it “Salyapetika” (meaning box of bones or relics). There are a number of Buddhist stupas and a huge monastic complex on a hillock amidst scenic surroundings. The
site was second rediscovered by Ponnana Simhachalam in 2013. During excavations, relic caskets, four stupas, a Chaityagriha, structural temples and a number of sculptures reflecting the three phases of Buddhism—Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana were found dating back to about 2nd century BC to 12th century AD. The statues of ‘Tara’ and Marichi were discovered at this site and from here Buddhism spread to Sumatra and other far-eastern countries through River Vamsadhara and Kalingapatnam Port.

97. Which of the following National Parks was added to the UNESCO ‘mixed’ heritage site category of the list i.e. which exhibits qualities of both natural and cultural significance?

(a) Kaziranga National Park  
(b) Khangchendzonga National Park  
(c) Bandipur National Park  
(d) Keoladeo National Park

Solution: b)
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Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP):

KNP was added to the ‘mixed’ heritage site category of the UNESCO list i.e. it exhibits qualities of both natural and cultural significance.

- It becomes the first ‘mixed’ heritage site from India to make it to the list.

- KNP covers 25% of Sikkim and is home to a significant number of endemic, rare and threatened plant and animal species including large number of bird and mammal species.

- The park combines the religious and cultural practices of Buddhism as well as the ecological significance of the region.

- It signifies an outstanding example of traditional knowledge and environmental preservation.

- It is home to the world’s third highest peak, Mt. Khangchendzonga.

- The park also has few Lepcha tribal settlements. Lepcha is an indigenous tribal community of Sikkim.

98. With reference to Humayun’s Tomb, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in Agra  
2. The structure is built using marble  
3. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)
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Humayun’s tomb is the tomb of the Mughal Emperor Humayun in Delhi, India. The tomb was commissioned by Humayun’s first wife and chief consort, Empress Bega Begum (also known as Haji Begum), in 1569-70, and designed by Mirak Mirza Ghiyas, a Persian architect chosen by her. It was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent, and is located in Nizamuddin East, Delhi, India, close to the Dina-panah Citadel, also known as Purana Qila (Old Fort), that Humayun founded in 1533. It was also the first structure to use red sandstone at such a scale. The tomb was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993, and since then has undergone extensive restoration work, which is complete. Besides the main tomb enclosure of Humayun, several smaller monuments dot the pathway leading up to it, from the main entrance in the West, including one that even precedes the main tomb itself, by twenty years; it is the tomb complex of Isa Khan Niyazi, an Afghan noble in Sher Shah Suri’s court of the Suri dynasty, who fought against the Mughals, constructed in 1547 CE.

99. Consider the following statements:

1. He founded the Indian Home League Society of America and wrote a book called “Young India”  
2. In 1921, He founded Servants of the People Society, a non-profit welfare organisation, in Lahore

Who is the ‘He’ in the above statement?

(a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak  
(b) Lala Lajpat Rai  
(c) Tej Bahadur Sapru  
(d) Mahadev Govind Ranade
He joined the Arya Samaj founded by Swami Dayanand Saraswati. He founded the Indian Home League Society of America and wrote a book called “Young India”. Lala Lajpat Rai led the Punjab protests against the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre and the Non-Cooperation Movement. He became Congress President in 1920. In 1921, He founded Servants of the People Society, a non-profit welfare organisation, in Lahore. Lala Lajpat Rai died on November 17, 1928 due to lathi charge in the procession against Simon Commission.

100. With reference to Vasudev Balwant Phadke, consider the following statements:

1. He is regarded as father of armed struggle against the British in India
2. He led the Ramoshi movement against the British
3. According to some historians, he is the inspiration behind Bankim Chandra Chatterjee’s famous novel Anandmath

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

Solution: (d)

The arms movement against the British Raj gained momentum in the late 1870s with the Ramoshi movement, spearheaded by Vasudev Balwant Phadke in and around Pune district. Maharashtra was the first state in India to start militant revolutionary activities in order to overthrow the British rule. Long before the foundation of Anusilan Samity in Calcutta a secret society was formed in Maharashtra under the leadership of Vasudev Balwant Phadke

http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/vasudev-balwant-phadke/1/598114.html