INSIGHTS REVISION TEST – 5
(DAYS 21-25)

Question and Solution Booklet

For Insights Current Affairs;
PRELIMS 2017 REVISION MODULES etc.
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1. With reference to the Kakatiya dynasty, consider the following statements:

1. The Vijayanagara empire arose out of the ruins of the Kakatiya empire
2. The Koh-i-Noor Diamond, which is now among the jewels set in the British Crown, was mined and first owned by the Kakatiya Dynasty
3. Vijayawada was their capital city

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

Solution: c)

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The Kakatiya dynasty was a South Indian dynasty whose capital was Orugallu, now known as Warangal. It was eventually conquered by the Delhi Sultanate. The demise of Kakatiya dynasty resulted in confusion and anarchy under alien rulers for sometime. Three new fledgling kingdoms arose out of the ruins of the Kakatiya empire namely the Reddy kingdom, Padma Nayaka Velama kingdom and the great Vijayanagara Empire.

2. With reference to the Supreme Court of India, consider the following statements:

1. It is the final court of appeal under the Constitution of India
2. The law declared by the Supreme Court in not binding on all courts within 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: a)

Laxmikanth, Supreme Court

The fountain source of law in India is the Constitution which, in turn, gives due recognition to statutes, case law and customary law consistent with its dispensations. Statutes are enacted by Parliament, State Legislatures and Union Territory Legislatures. There is also a vast body of laws known as subordinate legislation in the form of rules, regulations as well as by-laws made by Central and State Governments and local authorities like Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, Gram Panchayats and other local bodies. This subordinate legislation is made under the authority conferred or delegated either by Parliament or State or Union Territory Legislature concerned. The decisions of the Supreme Court are binding on all Courts within the territory of India. As India is a land of diversities, local customs and conventions which are not against statute, morality, etc. are to a limited extent also recognised and taken into account by Courts while administering justice in certain spheres.

3. The Union Government has announced ‘Kamaladevi Chattopadhya National Awards’, for

(a) Women activists involved in environment protection
(b) Women agriculturists
(c) Women handloom weavers and women handicraft artisans
(d) Women bureaucrats

Solution: c)

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The Government has announced ‘Kamaladevi Chattopadhya National Awards’, a new category of awards specially for women handloom weavers and women handicraft artisans. The awards are being instituted from this year, so that women weavers and artisans receive due recognition and economic benefits associated with the Awards.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court came into being on August 15, 1947
2. The proceedings of the Supreme Court are conducted in English only
3. Provisions exist for retired Judges of the Supreme Court or High Courts to sit and act as Judges of that Court. Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   (a) 1, 2 and 3
   (b) 2 and 3 only
   (c) 1 and 3 only
   (d) 1 and 2 Only

Solution: b)

Laxmikanth, Supreme Court

On the 28th of January, 1950, two days after India became a Sovereign Democratic Republic, the Supreme Court came into being. The inauguration took place in the Chamber of Princes in the Parliament building. The Supreme Court of India comprises the Chief Justice and not more than 30 other Judges appointed by the President of India. Supreme Court Judges retire upon attaining the age of 65 years. In order to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court, a person must be a citizen of India and must have been, for at least five years, a Judge of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession, or an Advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession for at least 10 years or he must be, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist. Provisions exist for the appointment of a Judge of a High Court as an Ad-hoc Judge of the Supreme Court and for retired Judges of the Supreme Court or High Courts to sit and act as Judges of that Court.

The Constitution seeks to ensure the independence of Supreme Court Judges in various ways. A Judge of the Supreme Court cannot be removed from office except by an order of the President passed after an address in each House of Parliament supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of members present and voting, and presented to the President in the same Session for such removal on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity. A person who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court is debarred from practising in any court of law or before any other authority in India.

The proceedings of the Supreme Court are conducted in English only. Supreme Court Rules, 1966 are framed under Article 145 of the Constitution to regulate the practice and procedure of the Supreme Court.

5. Kurukh, an endangered tribal language spoken by the Oraon tribal community belongs to which of the language families?
   (a) Indo Aryan
   (b) Dravidian
   (c) Nicobarese
   (d) Tibeto-Burma

Solution: b)

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Kurukh a member of the North Dravidian subfamily of Dravidian languages, spoken by some 1.8 million people of the Oraon tribes of the Chota Nagpur plateau of east-central India. It is closely related to Sauria Paharia and Kumarbhar Paharia, which are often together referred to as Malto. The script is called Tolong Siki. The language is marked as being in a “vulnerable” state in UNESCO’s list of endangered languages. Jharkhand has recognised Kurukh as a language.

6. The Sangeet Natak Akademi recognizes eight classical dances. Which of the following is not one of them?
   (a) Sattriya
   (b) Manipuri
   (c) Mohiniyattam
   (d) Thirayattam

Solution: d)

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Thirayattam is a ritual performing Ethnic art form of South Malabar region in Kerala state, India. It blend of dance, theatre, music, satire, facial and body painting, masking, martial art and ritualistic function. This vibrant art form has a great resemblance to the traditions and customs of the ancient civilization.

The number of recognized classical dances range from eight to more, depending on the source and scholar. The Sangeet Natak Akademi recognizes eight – Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Odissi, Kathakali, Sattriya, Manipuri and Mohiniyattam.
7. Consider the following statements:

1. In 1934, he founded the Akhil Bharatiya Ravidas Mahasabha in Calcutta
2. He founded All India Depressed Classes League
3. He has also served as the deputy prime minister of India

Above statements refer to
(a) Morarji Desai
(b) Jagjivan Ram
(c) Charan Singh
(d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Solution: b)
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The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, paid tributes to Babu Jagjivan Ram on his death anniversary on 6th July. Jagjivan Ram was a crusader of social justice and champion of depressed classes. Jagjivan Ram had organized a number of Ravidas Sammelans and had celebrated Guru Ravidas Jayanti in different areas of Calcutta (Kolkata). In 1934, he founded the Akhil Bhartiya Ravidas Mahasabha in Calcutta and the All India Depressed Classes League. Through these Organizations he involved the depressed classes in the freedom struggle. In October 1935, Babuji appeared before the Hammond Commission at Ranchi and demanded, for the first time, voting rights for the Dalits. Inspired by Gandhiji, he entrenched himself deeply into the Civil Disobedience Movement and Satyagraha. He actively participated in the Quit India Movement. He has also served as the deputy prime minister of India.

8. Who is famous as the chief proponent of Vishishtadvaita subschool of Vedânta?
(a) Shankaracharya
(b) Madhvacharya
(c) Ramanuja
(d) None of the above

Solution: c)
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Ramanuja (1017–1137 CE) was a Hindu theologian, philosopher, and one of the most important exponents of the Sri Vaishnavism tradition within Hinduism. Râmânuja is famous as the chief proponent of Vishishtadvaita subschool of Vedânta. According to him, God, the soul, and the universe together formed one reality. His Vishishtadvaita (qualified monism) philosophy has competed with the Dvaita (theistic dualism) philosophy of Madhvâchârya.

9. Chenchus tribes are found in
(a) Arunachal Pradesh
(b) Assam
(c) Nagaland
(d) None of the above

Solution: d)
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The Chenchus are Adivasi, a designated Scheduled Tribe in the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Odisha. They are an aboriginal tribe whose traditional way of life has been based on hunting and gathering. The Chenchus speak the Chenchu language, a member of the Dravidian language family. In general, the Chenchu relationship to non-tribal people has been largely symbiotic. Some Chenchus have continued to specialize in collecting forest products for sale to non-tribal people. Many Chenchus live in the dense Nallamala forest of Andhra Pradesh.

10. Mahasthangarh, the 3rd century BC archaeological site, has been declared as the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) cultural capital for the year 2016-17. Where is it located?
(a) Pakistan
(b) Afghanistan
(c) India
(d) Bangladesh

Solution: d)
Insights Module on Art & Culture, Page 21

Mahasthangarh is one of the earliest urban archaeological sites so far discovered in Bangladesh. The village Mahasthan in Shibganj thana of Bogra District contains the remains of an ancient city which was called Pundranagara or Paundravardhanapura in the territory.
of Pundravardhana. A limestone slab bearing six lines in Prakrit in Brahmī script, discovered in 1931, dates Mahasthangarh to at least the 3rd century BC. The fortified area was in use till the 18th century AD. Together with the ancient and medieval ruins, the mazhar (holy tomb) of Shah Sultan Balkhi Mahisawar built at the site of a Hindu temple is located at Mahasthangarh. He was a dervish (holy person devoted to Islam) of royal lineage who came to the Mahasthangarh area, with the objective of spreading Islam among non-Muslims. He converted the people of the area to Islam and settled there.

11. The Kanishka stupa was a monumental stupa established by the Kushan king Kanishka during the 2nd century CE. The magnificent stupa was built during the Kushan era to house Buddhist relics, and would become perhaps the tallest buildings in the ancient world. Where is this stupa located?
   (a) Amaravathi
   (b) Sanchi
   (c) Bharhut
   (d) None of the Above

Solution: d)

12. Sajibu Nongma Pānba is the lunar new year festival celebrated in
   (a) Nagaland
   (b) Manipur
   (c) Mizoram
   (d) Sikkim

Solution: b)
15. Chapchar Kut, the most important traditional festival of the Mizos was celebrated across Mizoram and Mizo-inhabited areas in the neighbouring states. There are three Kuts celebrated in the state – Chapchar Kut, Mim Kut and Pawl Kut. All the three festivals are connected with
(a) New Year celebration
(b) Agricultural activities
(c) Worship of the Sun god
(d) None of the above

Solution: b)

16. The fundamental duties were added to the constitution on the recommendations of the
(a) First ARC report
(b) Sardar Hukam Singh Committee report
(c) Charan Singh Committee report
(d) None of the above

Solution: d)

The section “Fundamental Duties’ was not a part of the original constitution. These were added to the Constitution much later by the 42nd Amendment in 1976. The fundamental duties were added to the constitution on the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee. There were ten fundamental duties at the time of incorporation but the eleventh was inserted by the 86th Amendment in 2002. The idea behind incorporation of fundamental duties was to remind the citizens of the country that they have certain obligations towards the country and society. As the state offers them fundamental rights, it is the fundamental duty of each citizen of India to further national integration and contribute towards a better society. The fundamental duties are non-justifiable, that is no one can be punished in case of their violation or noncompliance. The fundamental duties are defined as the moral obligations of all citizens to help promote a spirit of patriotism and to uphold the unity of India.

17. Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir have reached out an agreement to resolve issues relating to the Shahpur Kandi Dam project, proposed to be built downstream Ranjit Sagar Dam (Thein Dam) on
(a) River Beas
(b) River Ravi
(c) River Jhelum
(d) River Chenab

Solution: b)

18. With reference to CAG, consider the following statements:
1. The CAG is also the external auditor of Government-owned corporations
2. The CAG can conduct supplementary audit of entities like SBI

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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CAG audits all receipts and expenditure of the Government of India and the state governments, including those of bodies and authorities substantially financed by the government. The CAG is also the external auditor of Government-owned corporations and conducts supplementary audit of government companies, i.e., any non-banking/ non-insurance company in which the state and Union governments have an equity share of at least 51% or subsidiary companies of existing government companies.

19. With reference to features of the National Health Policy, 2017, consider the following statements:

1. It intends to gradually increase public health expenditure to 2.5% of the GDP
2. It proposes introducing Yoga in more schools and offices to promote good health
3. It proposes free drugs, free diagnostics and free emergency and essential healthcare services in public hospitals

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

Solution: d)

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The government aims in shifting focus from “sick-care” to “wellness”, by promoting prevention and well-being. It intends on gradually increasing public health expenditure to 2.5% of the GDP. It aims to strengthen health systems by ensuring everyone has access to quality services and technology despite financial barriers. The policy proposes increasing access, improving quality and reducing costs. It proposes free drugs, free diagnostics and free emergency and essential healthcare services in public hospitals. It focusses on primary health care: The policy advocates allocating two-thirds (or more) of resources to primary care. It proposes two beds per 1,000 of the population to enable access within the golden hour (the first 60 minutes after a traumatic injury). It aims to reduce morbidity and preventable mortality of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by advocating prescreening. It promotes ‘Make in India’ initiative by using drugs and devices manufactured in the country. It highlights AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) as a tool for effective prevention and therapy that is safe and cost-effective. It proposes introducing Yoga in more schools and offices to promote good health. It proposes reforming medical education. The policy also lists quantitative targets regarding life expectancy, mortality and reduction of disease prevalence in line with the objectives of the policy.

20. Consider the following statements:

1. A Soil Health Card is used to assess the current status of soil health and, when used over time, to determine changes in soil health that are affected by land management
2. The card carries crop-wise recommendation of fertilisers

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

Solution: d)

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Both statements are correct.

A Soil Health Card is used to assess the current status of soil health and, when used over time, to determine changes in soil health that are affected by land management. A Soil Health Card displays soil health indicators and associated descriptive terms. The indicators are typically based on farmers’ practical experience and knowledge of local natural resources. The card lists soil health indicators that can be assessed without the aid of technical or laboratory equipment. The card, which will carry crop-wise recommendation of
fertilisers required for farm lands, will help farmers identify health of soil and judiciously use soil nutrients.

21. With reference to Indus Valley civilization, consider the following statements:
   1. According to experts, Harappa was peaceful in comparison with all other first civilisations cities because of its efficient water supply, proper sewage treatment and good drainage systems
   2. Harappa was the first site of the civilization to be excavated

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 Prelims Module Art & Culture, Page 21
According to Indus Valley Civilisation expert Jonathan Mark Kenoyer, Harappa was peaceful in comparison with all other first civilisations cities because of its urban planning. The efficient water supply, proper sewage treatment and good drainage systems in Harappa were main reason for conflict avoidance. Harappa was an Indus Valley civilization’s urban centre. It lies on an old bank of River Ravi in Punjab Province of Pakistan. It was the first site of the civilization to be excavated in 1921. The civilization had diversified social and economic system. It had a fortified citadel. Houses with kitchens and wells, tanks or water reservoirs were also found. Presence of wheel made pottery and practice of burying the dead is also seen. Its main feature was town planning. It had planned straight roads and a system of drainage. There was use of baked as well as sundried bricks.

23. Kambala is an annual traditional Buffalo Race held in which parts of Karnataka?
(a) Malenadu region
(b) Karavali region
(c) Bayaluseeme region
(d) None of the above

Solution: b)
Insights Prelims Module Art & Culture, Page 26
Kambala (Tulu & Kannada) is an annual Buffalo Race held traditionally under the sponsorship of local land lords and households, in coastal Karnataka, India. The Kambala season generally starts in November and lasts till March. Of late, Kambala Samithis are formed to arranged Kambala in a systematic way and 18 kambalas are being held under the banner of Kambala Samithi (Kambala Association). Currently, more than 45 races are held annually in Coastal Karnataka, including smaller remote villages like Vandaru, Gulvadi etc.

24. With reference to Bathukamma, a festival celebrated in Telangana, consider the following statements:
   1. It is a floral festival celebrated mainly by Hindu women
2. It is celebrated in March to welcome spring time.
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)
Insights Prelims Module Art & Culture, Page 27

Bathukamma is floral festival celebrated by the Hindu women of Telangana. Every year this festival is celebrated as per Shalivahana calendar for nine days starting Bhadrapada Amavasya (also known as Mahalaya Amavasya or Pitru Amavasya) till Durgashtami, usually in September–October of Gregorian calendar. Bathukamma is celebrated for nine days during Durga Navratri. It starts on the day of Mahalaya Amavasya and the 9-day festivities will culminate on “Saddula Bathukamma” or “Pedda Bathukamma” festival on Ashwayuja Ashtami, popularly known as Durgashtami which is two days before Dussehra. Bathukamma is followed by Bodemma, which is a 7-day festival. Bodemma festival that marks the ending of Varsha Ruthu whereas Bathukamma festival indicates the beginning of Sarad or Sharath Ruthu.

Dhanvantari is an avatar of Vishnu in Hinduism. He appears in the Vedas and Puranas as the physician of the gods (devas), and the god of Ayurveda. It is common practice in Hinduism for worshipers to pray to Dhanvantari seeking his blessings for sound health for themselves and/or others, especially on Dhanteras.

26. With reference to Ramon Magsaysay Award, consider the following statements:

1. The prize was established by the Parliament of Philippines through legislation.
2. The Ramon Magsaysay Award is an annual award established to perpetuate former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay’s example of integrity in governance, courageous service to the people, and pragmatic idealism within a democratic society.

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 Prelims Module Art & Culture, Page 32

The Ramon Magsaysay Award is an annual award established to perpetuate former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay’s example of integrity in governance, courageous service to the people, and pragmatic idealism within a democratic society. The prize was established in April 1957 by the trustees of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund based in New York City with the concurrence of the Philippine government.

27. With reference to the Vyas Samman award, consider the following statements:

1. It is awarded to person who has done outstanding literary work in Hindi, Sanskrit, Marathi and Gujarati languages.
2. It was instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation.

Solution: d)
28. With reference to the Muziris Heritage Project, consider the following statements:

1. Muziris was an ancient seaport on the Coromandel Coast in Tamil Nadu which served as one of the world’s greatest trading centre in West
2. The port has its name mentioned in the Sangam literature
3. The port was used for trade of goods ranging from spices to precious stones with Greeks, Romans and rest of the World during 3rd century BC to 4th century AD

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

29. Which of the following river valleys is largely associated with Buddhist sites?

(a) River Krishna
(b) River Godavari
(c) River Kaveri
(d) River Amaravathi

Solution: a)


30. Karakattam was displayed by Tamil Nadu in the recent tableaux in Republic Day Parade – 2017 in Delhi. Karakattam is a/an

(a) Form of painting
(b) Folk dance
(c) Tribal dance
(d) None of the Above

Solution: b)
Karakattam is an ancient folk dance of Tamil Nadu performed in praise of the rain goddess Mariamman. The performers balance a pot on their head. Traditionally, this dance is categorized into two types: Aatta Karakam is danced with decorated pots on the head and symbolizes joy and happiness. It is mainly performed to entertain the audience. The Sakti Karakam is performed only in temples as a spiritual offering.

31. The schemes ‘Seva Setu’ and ‘Pragati Setu’ launched by the Gujarat Government intend to provide

(a) E-monitoring mechanism to District headquarters for effective implementation of rural programmes
(b) Facility of Geo-tagging of assets created under several state government schemes
(c) Robust broadband connectivity infrastructure to panchayats and all public institutions in rural areas
(d) None of the Above

Solution: d)

Insights Tests 2017, Test 10, Q 3

They intend to provide On-spot resolution of citizen grievances and various services at the village level.

As a major relief to the common-folk living in rural areas of Gujarat, Gujarat Chief Minister had decided to implement two significant new initiatives ‘Seva Setu’ and ‘Pragati Setu’ for resolution of various issues at village level sparing them from the compulsion of visiting taluka or district headquarters. As a part of ‘Seva Setu’ minimum 2 camps will be organized by the Prant Officer of the taluka on monthly basis for people of surrounding 8-10 villages. Through a committee of officers, on the spot services such as income certificate, caste certificate, Aadhar card, ration card, creamy-layer certificate, widow assistance, land survey, to make new entry, Mukhyamantri Amrutam card and MA Vatsalya card etc to the people will be provided. Similarly, through ‘Pragati Setu’ camps under chairmanship of District Collector at taluka level in presence of different officials of various departments; will be organized to find an on the spot resolution regarding collective complaints/issues of the people of the area.

32. If cells in body lose the property of contact inhibition, this will result in

(a) Stunted growth
(b) Deformed body growth
(c) Cancer
(d) None of the above

Solution: c)

Insights Tests 2017, Test 10, Q 7

In our body, cell growth and differentiation is highly controlled and regulated. Normal cells show a property called contact inhibition by virtue of which contact with other cells inhibits their uncontrolled growth. Contact inhibition is a process of arresting cell growth when cells come in contact with each other. As a result, normal cells stop proliferating when they form a monolayer in a culture dish. Contact inhibition is a powerful anticancer mechanism that is lost in cancer cells. As a result of this, cancerous cells just continue to divide giving rise to masses of cells called tumors.

33. With reference to Krishna-Godavari basin, consider the following statements:

1. The basin is home to Olive Ridley turtles, a vulnerable species
2. The basin has vast deposits of petroleum which can be commercially exploited

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)

Insights Tests 2017, Test 10, Q 15

Krishna-Godavari Basin is a peri-cratonic passive margin basin in India. It is spread across more than 50,000 square kilometres in the Krishna River and Godavari River basins in Andhra Pradesh. The site is known for the D-6 block where Reliance Industries discovered the biggest natural gas reserves in India in 2002.
The basin is home to Olive Ridley turtles, a vulnerable species.

34. The partnership between nitrogen-fixing bacteria and leguminous plants is
   (a) Symbiotic relationship
   (b) Mutualism
   (c) Parasitism
   (d) Co-adaptation

Solution: b)
Insights Tests 2017, Test 10, Q 31

Mutualism, association between organisms of two different species in which each benefits. Mutualistic arrangements are most likely to develop between organisms with widely different living requirements.

Several well-known examples of mutualistic arrangements exist. The partnership between nitrogen-fixing bacteria and leguminous plants is one example. In addition, cows possess rumen bacteria that live in the digestive tract and help digest the plants the cow consumes.

Associations between tree roots and certain fungi are often mutualistic (see mycorrhiza). Intestinal flagellated protozoans and termites exhibit obligative mutualism, a strict interdependency, in which the protozoans digest the wood ingested by the termites; neither partner can survive under natural conditions without the other.

35. Bedaquiline and Delamanid are
   (a) Zika vaccines
   (b) AIDS medicine
   (c) anti-TB drugs
   (d) Malaria vaccine under clinical trial

Solution: c)
Insights Current Affairs, March 2017, Page 157

Bedaquiline and delamanid appear to be promising new anti-TB drugs. Due to a mechanism of action that is different from that of other available drugs, their efficacy has appeared optimal in cases of adults with resistant pulmonary TB. Although their pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic profiles seem optimal, potential cardiologic side effects such as QT-interval prolongation have been associated with their use. However, specific studies performed in the pediatric population are needed to confirm these results. This seems particularly important considering the long duration of TB treatment required for resistant TB as well as the potential interactions with other drugs included in anti-TB regimens or administered for an underlying comorbidity.

36. Which pair of chromosomes is affected in children suffering from Down Syndrome?
   (a) Chromosome 20
   (b) Chromosome 21
   (c) Chromosome 22
   (d) Chromosome 23

Solution: b)
Insights Current Affairs, March 2017, Page 60

In humans, each cell normally contains 23 pairs of chromosomes, for a total of 46. Twenty-two of these pairs, called autosomes, look the same in both males and females. The 23rd pair, the sex chromosomes, differ between males and females. Females have two copies of the X chromosome, while males have one X and one Y chromosome.

Down syndrome (DS or DNS), also known as trisomy 21, is a genetic disorder caused by the presence of all or part of a third copy of chromosome 21.

37. Why is March 15 celebrated as the World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD)?
   (a) It was on this day that UN passed its resolution affirming rights of consumers
   (b) It is inspired by President John F Kennedy, who gave an address to the US congress on this day in 1962, in which he formally addressed the issue of consumer rights
   (c) It was on this day that Consumers International, a collaborative body was set up
   (d) None of the above

Solution: b)
World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) is an opportunity to promote the basic rights of all consumers, demanding that those rights are respected and protected, and a chance to protest against the market abuses and social injustices which undermine those rights. WCRD was inspired by President John F Kennedy, who gave an address to the US congress on 15 March 1962, in which he formally addressed the issue of consumer rights. He was the first world leader to do so, and the consumer movement now marks that date every year as a means of raising global awareness about consumer rights. The first WCRD was observed on 15 March 1983, and has since become an important occasion for mobilising citizen action.

38. According to recent HDI report, which of the following country is not in top three position?
   (a) Australia  
   (b) Norway  
   (c) Switzerland  
   (d) Germany

Solution: d)

The world’s top three countries in HDI are Norway (0.949), Australia (0.939) and Switzerland (0.939). Germany is at fourth place.

39. The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) is established to provide IT infrastructure and services to the Central and State Governments, taxpayers and other stakeholders for implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). It is a
   (a) Non-Government, private limited company  
   (b) Public, government of India undertaking  
   (c) Special purpose vehicle entirely funded by Indian government  
   (d) None of the above

Solution: a)

40. With reference to International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN), consider the following statements:
   1. It is an agreement under International Energy Agency (IEA) and consists of representatives from 25 countries across the globe
   2. India is one of the founding Member of ISGAN and Joint Secretary (Distribution), Ministry of Power, is the member representative of 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: c)

ISGAN is an agreement under International Energy Agency (IEA) and consists of representatives from 25 countries across the globe.

India is one of the founding Member of ISGAN and Joint Secretary (Distribution), Ministry of Power, is the member representative of India. ISGAN creates a mechanism for multilateral government-to-government collaboration to advance the development and deployment of smarter electric grid technologies,
practices and systems. ISGAN facilitates dynamic knowledge sharing, technical assistance, and project coordination, where appropriate. ISGAN participants report periodically on progress and projects to the Ministers of the Clean Energy Ministerial, in addition to satisfying all IEA Implementing Agreement reporting requirements. Membership in ISGAN is voluntary, and currently includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States. Consistent with the IEA Framework for International Energy Technology Co-Operation, ISGAN is open to governments of IEA Member as well as non-Member countries, upon invitation of the ISGAN Executive Committee. Though the primary focus is on government-to-government cooperation, ISGAN is also open to entities designated by participating governments, and select private sector and industry associations and international organizations.

41. With reference to the ‘Office of profit’ in Indian polity, consider the following statements:

1. ‘Office of profit’ is not defined in the Constitution
2. The representatives cannot hold an office of profit under section 9 (A) of the Representation of People Act

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 Module on Polity, Page 5

The term is used in Article 102 (1)(A) of the Indian Constitution which bars a member of the Indian Parliament from holding an office that would give its occupant the opportunity to gain a financial advantage or benefit. It refers to a post under central/state government which yields salaries, perks and other benefits. The actual amount of profit gained during the violation has no bearing on its classification. India had the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1950, 1951, and 1953 exempting certain posts from being recorded as offices of profit. All these Acts were replaced by the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959. By virtue of section 3 of the said Act, certain offices did not disqualify their holders from being members of Parliament.

[1] The law was again amended in 2006.

[2] The representatives cannot hold an office of profit under section 9 (A) of the Representation of People Act and Article 191 (E) of the Constitution also.

42. Consider the following statements:

1. The Inner Line Permit is needed for other Indians to enter Manipur
2. The Inner Line Permit system was introduced by then British India government to protect indigenous tribal people from encroachment into their areas by outsiders

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 Polity, Page 6

The Inner Line Permit system (ILP) is a special pass or permit or quasi visa that is required by Indian citizens to enter protected/restricted area of state for a limited period.

- It was introduced by then British India government to protect indigenous tribal people from encroachment into their areas by outsiders. Later, they used it as an instrument to advance the commercial interest.
- Protected area/restricted area under ILP regime are notified by Union Government and ILP is issued by state governments under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873.
- This permit is presently operational in three north-eastern states viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram.
43. Consider the following statements:

1. The President has the right to pardon punishments of sentences given under Court Martial, whereas the governor does not have this power

2. The pardoning power of President is absolute

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)

Insights Module on Polity, Page 7

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

44. With reference to AFSPA, consider the following statements:

1. Army can use excessive force against militants who create internal disturbances in AFSPA regions without inviting criminal prosecution

2. Under AFSPA, security forces can “arrest without warrant” a person, who has committed or even “about to commit a cognizable offence” even on “reasonable suspicion”

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 Polity, Page 8

Supreme Court has ruled that armed personnel cannot just shoot to kill militants who create internal disturbances under the presumption that they are enemies, and would face criminal prosecution if found using excessive force even in areas where the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) is in force. The SC observed that there is no concept of absolute immunity from trial by a criminal court if an Army man has committed an offence.

What is AFSPA?

- AFSPA was enacted in 1958 amid the nascent Naga insurgency, gives powers to the army and state and central police forces to shoot to kill, search houses and destroy any property that is “likely” to be used by insurgents in areas declared as “disturbed area”.

- Governor of the State and Central Government are empowered to declare any part or full of any state as disturbed area.

- Security forces can “arrest without warrant” a person, who has committed or even “about to commit a cognizable offence” even on “reasonable suspicion”. It also protects them from legal processes for actions taken under the act.

45. Few states have enacted the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971. This Act has its genesis under

(a) Article 43(a) of the Indian Constitution

(b) Article 51(a) of the Indian Constitution

(c) Article 44 of the Indian Constitution

(d) Article 49 of the Indian Constitution

Solution: b

Insights Module on Polity, Page 9

The Supreme Court ruled that all cinemas in the country must play the national anthem prior to the screening of a film, with all doors closed. States that have already made it compulsory:

- Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Goa.

- The States have done this under the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971. The Act, which addresses insults to the Constitution, the national flag and the national anthem, has its genesis in Article 51 (a) of the Constitution, which enjoins a duty on every citizen of India to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the national flag and the national anthem.
46. Consider the following statements:
   1. The Constitution of India enables the Supreme Court to issue notice and punish anyone including Judges of the High Court for the contempt of court
   2. Scandalizing or lowering the authority of the Court amounts to criminal contempt of the court

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 Module on Polity, Page 11

Article 129 and Article 142 (2) of the Constitution enables the Supreme Court to issue notice and punish anyone including Judges of the High Court for the contempt of court.

Contempt under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971:

- Civil contempt as the wilful disobedience to any judgement, decree, direction, order or writ of the court.
- Criminal Contempt as the publication (by spoken words, written material, signs, visual representation or otherwise) or doing of any act which has any of the following effects: Scandalizing or lowering the authority of the Court. Tending to interfere with the due course of any judicial proceeding. Obstructing or tending to obstruct the administration of justice in any other manner.

47. Consider the following statements:
   1. An administrator of a union territory is an agent of the President
   2. An administrator of a union territory is like head of state like a governor with similar responsibilities

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only

Solution: c)

Insights Module on Polity, Page 13

Administration of Union Territories:

- Articles 239 to 241 in Part VIII of the Constitution deal with the union territories. Even though all the union territories belong to one category, there is no uniformity in their administrative system.
- Every union territory is administered by the President acting through an administrator appointed by him.
- An administrator of a union territory is an agent of the President and not head of state like a governor.
- The Union Territories of Puducherry (in 1963) and Delhi (in 1992) are provided with a legislative assembly and a council of ministers headed by a chief minister.

48. The Gadgil–Mukherjee formula is related to
   (a) Allowing developmental projects in ecologically sensitive zones
   (b) Allocation of resources to states
   (c) Allocation of funds to tribal regions
   (d) None of the Above

Solution: b)

Insights Module on Polity, Page 14

The Gadgil formula was formulated with the formulation of the fourth five-year plan for the distribution of plan transfers amongst the states. It was named after D. R. Gadgil, then deputy chairman of the Planning Commission.

49. The Supreme Court has reiterated the necessity to implement the Vote Verifier Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) in electronic voting machines (EVMs) to ensure 100% transparency in elections. With reference to VVPAT, consider the following statements:
1. VVPAT is a method of providing feedback to voters by giving them a printout of candidate details for whom they have voted

2. VVPAT helps in detecting possible election fraud or malfunction

3. In India, VVPAT is yet to be tried in elections conducted by the Election Commission of India

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

Insights Module on Polity, Page 22 – 23

Voter-verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) or verifiable paper record (VPR) is a method of providing feedback to voters using a ballotless voting system. A VVPAT is intended as an independent verification system for voting machines designed to allow voters to verify that their vote was cast correctly, to detect possible election fraud or malfunction, and to provide a means to audit the stored electronic results. It contains name of the candidate (for whom vote has been casted) and symbol of the party/individual candidate.

50. With reference to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), consider the following statements:

1. A sitting Minister is not eligible to be elected as a member of the Committee

2. The Committee is formed for a 5 years term

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)

Insights Module on Polity, Page 26

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is a committee of selected members of Parliament, constituted by the Parliament of India, for the auditing of the expenditure of the Government of India. The Committee is formed every year with strength of not more than 22 members of which 15 are from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha. The Chairman is appointed by the Speaker of Lok Sabha. Since 1967, the chairman of the committee is selected from the opposition. Earlier, it was headed by a member of the ruling party. Its chief function is to examine the audit report of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) after it is laid in the Parliament. CAG assists the committee during the course of investigation. A Minister is not eligible to be elected as a member of the Committee and if a member, after his election to the Committee, is appointed as a Minister, he ceases to be a member of the Committee from the date of such appointment. The term of office of members of the Committee does not exceed one year at a time.

51. The Union Government has recently waived the import duty on wheat to zero from 10 per cent for an indefinite period. This was done with a view of

1. Uncertainty over the wheat output this year

2. Cut down dumping by foreign producers

3. Adherence to the new commitments of India made at Nairobi conference of WTO

Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

Solution: d)

Statement 1: This move aims to improve domestic availability in the wake of rising prices and concerns about the wheat crop in 2016-17. The duty was waived because of uncertainty over the wheat output this year. Despite a rise in area sown, questions are raised over condition of the wheat crop, low fertiliser and pesticide use due to and fears of a warm winter.
52. In India, Rhododendrons are naturally found in
1. Uttarakhand
2. Jharkhand
3. Sikkim
4. West Bengal
Select the correct answer using the codes below.
(a) 1 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3
(c) 1, 3 and 4
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Solution: c)
- It is found both in eastern and western Himalayas.
- Rhododendrons can be found in nearly all Himalayan states like NE India, Sikkim, WB, Uttarakhand, J&K, HP etc.
- It is a state symbol of Sikkim and Uttarakhand.
- The flowering plants with variegated flowers are fast disappearing from this region because of being ruthlessly felled down with dual purpose of obtaining fuel and construction of houses.

53. Which among the following are important limitations of Human Development Index (HDI)?
1. It contains social exclusion and discrimination.
2. It does not take into account income inequality
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
Statement 1: Zinc is quite reactive. It can react with food items and make them unfit for consumption. Tin is used in place of zinc.
Statement 2: The botulinum toxin is produced in the food during anaerobic growth, not due to presence of Zinc. We have covered the toxin and related issues in a previous test.
55. ‘Project Insight’ will be launched by the government to
(a) Understand the complex climate change patterns caused due to melting of Himalayan Glaciers
(b) Gain Insights into pending Genetically Modified (GM) crop field trials
(c) Monitor high value transactions to curb black money
(d) None of the Above

Solution: c)

- The Income Tax department is planning to implement the first phase of ‘Project Insight’ from May 2017 to monitor high value transactions, with a view to curbing the circulation of black money.
- This project has been initiated for collection, collation and processing of such information for effective risk management with a view to widening and deepening tax base.
- It will use data mining, big data and analytics to scoop out tax evaders from social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The Permanent Account Number (PAN) will be the unique identifier is used by the Income Tax department to link and analyse various transactions relating to the tax payers.

56. The amara-nayakas in the Vijayanagara Empire
1. collected taxes and other dues from peasants, craftspersons and traders in the area.
2. served as military commanders who were given territories to govern

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

Solution: c)

- The amara-nayakas system was a major political innovation of the Vijayanagara Empire. It is likely that many features of this system were derived from the iqtas system of the Delhi Sultanate
- Amara-nayakas collected taxes and other dues from peasants, craftspersons and traders in the area.
- The amara-nayakas sent tribute to the king annually and personally appeared in the royal court with gifts to express their loyalty.
- They retained part of the revenue for personal use and for maintaining a stipulated contingent of horses and elephants.
- These contingents provided the Vijayanagara kings with an effective fighting force with which they brought the entire southern peninsula under their control.

57. Palghat joins which of the following states?
(a) Maharashtra and Gujarat
(b) Kerala and Tamil Nadu
(c) Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim
(d) Sikkim and West Bengal

Solution: b)

https://www.britannica.com/place/Palghat-Gap

58. The first oil well in India was dug at
(a) Naharkatiya
(b) Bombay High
(c) Moran
(d) Digboi

Solution: d)


59. The longest glacier in Nubra Valley
1. Has length of over 76 km
2. Is called Siachen Glacier

Select the correct answer using the codes below
60. Hallmarks are official marks used as a guarantee of purity or fitness of precious metal articles. In this context, consider the following statements:

1. Hallmarking Scheme is a voluntary scheme being operated by BIS under the BIS Act 1986
2. No hallmarking centre has been set up either by the Central Government or by the Bureau of Indian Standards

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

Solution: c

61. Hydrogen Peroxide

1. Is a colourless liquid which is more viscous than water
2. Is found in biological systems including human body
3. Is used as an anti-oxidizer

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

Anti-dumping duty likely on hydrogen peroxide

- Hydrogen peroxide is a colourless liquid, slightly more viscous than water.
- Hydrogen peroxide is the simplest peroxide.
- It is used as an oxidizer, bleaching agent and disinfectant. It is also used as a ripening agent.
- Concentrated hydrogen peroxide, or “high-test peroxide”, is a reactive oxygen species and has been used as a propellant in rocketry.
- Hydrogen peroxide is unstable and slowly decomposes in the presence of base or a catalyst. Because of its instability, hydrogen peroxide is typically stored with a stabilizer in a weakly acidic solution.
- Hydrogen peroxide is found in biological systems including the human body. Enzymes that use or decompose hydrogen peroxide are classified as peroxidases.

62. With reference to the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) programme

1. Program, brings together Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Myanmar and Sri Lanka in a project-based partnership to promote regional prosperity
2. The Asian Development Bank serves as the SASEC Secretariat

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

Current Affairs April 2017

- The South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program, set up in 2001, brings together Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Myanmar (Joined February 2017), Nepal and Sri Lanka in a project-based partnership to promote regional prosperity by improving cross-border connectivity, boosting trade among member countries, and strengthening regional economic cooperation.

- Since 2001, SASEC countries have implemented 46 regional projects worth more than $9 billion in the energy, economic corridor development, transport, trade facilitation, and information and communications technology sectors.

- The Manila, Philippines-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) serves as the Secretariat for the SASEC member countries, and is the lead financier of the SASEC programme.

63. Consider the following statements about chemical weapons
1. They are referred as 'Poor Man’s Bomb’
2. The most commonly used chemical weapons are mustard gas, phosgene, chlorine, and the nerve agents Sarin and VX.
3. Geneva Protocol and Chemical Weapons Conventions are among the international conventions against the use of chemical weapons

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

Solution: d

Current Affairs April 2017

- Chemical weapons been used in the Syrian war
- Chemical weapons are specialised munitions that deliver chemicals that inflict death or injury on humans through chemical actions. Because they are relatively cheap and easy to produce, chemical weapons are referred to as the “poor man’s bomb”.


64. Consider the following statements about UPSC
1. UPSC is consulted while making reservations of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens.
2. President, in respect to the all-India services and Central services and posts may make regulations specifying the matters in which, it shall not be necessary for UPSC to be consulted.

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

Solution: b

Laxmikanth, Constitutional Bodies

Limitations of UPSC:

The UPSC is not consulted on the following matters:

(1) While making reservations of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens.

(2) While taking into consideration the claims of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in making appointments to services and posts.

(3) With regard to the selections for chairmanship or membership of commissions or tribunals, posts of the highest diplomatic nature and a bulk of group C and group D services.

(4) With regard to the selection for temporary or officiating appointment to a post if the person appointed is not likely to hold the post for more than a year.
The president can exclude posts, services and matters from the purview of the UPSC. The Constitution states that the president, in respect to the all-India services and Central services and posts may make regulations specifying the matters in which, it shall not be necessary for UPSC to be consulted. But all such regulations made by the president shall be laid before each House of Parliament for at least 14 days. The Parliament can amend or repeal them. The Constitution visualises the UPSC to be the watch-dog of merit system in India.

65. Government’s primary lawyer in Supreme Court is
   (a) Attorney General
   (b) Auditor General
   (c) Solicitor General
   (d) Advocate General

Solution: a

The Attorney General for India is the Indian government’s chief legal advisor, and its primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India. He is appointed by the President of India under Article 76(1) of the Constitution and holds office during the pleasure of the President. He must be a person qualified to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court, also must have been a judge of some high court for five years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the President and must be a citizen of India.

66. Regarding Returning Officer,
   1. The Government of India nominates or designates an officer of the Government or a local authority as the Returning Officer for each of the assembly and parliamentary constituencies in consultation with the Election Commission
   2. The Returning Officer of a parliamentary or assembly constituency is responsible for the conduct of elections in the parliamentary or assembly constituency concerned as per the Representation of the People Act 1951.

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

Solution: b

The Election Commission of India nominates or designates an officer of the Government or a local authority as the Returning Officer for each of the assembly and parliamentary constituencies in consultation with the State Government/Union Territory Administration.

67. Consider the following statements about National Commission on Backward Classes
   1. Lok Sabha has passed Constitution 123rd Amendment Bill, 2017 which seeks to give constitutional status to National Commission for Backward Classes.
   2. The parliament passed National Commission for Backward Classes Act in 1993 and constituted the National Commission for Backward Classes as a statutory body.

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

Solution: c

Since the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 becomes irrelevant once this bill becomes an act; Lok Sabha has also passed a separate bill to repeal that act.

The Constitution (One Hundred Twenty-third Amendment) Bill, 2017:

1. Constitution of a Commission under Article 338B for socially and educationally backward classes by name of National Commission for Backward Classes; and
insertion of Clause (26C) under Article 366 with modified definition viz. “socially and educationally backward classes” means such backward classes as are so deemed under Article 342A for the purpose, this Constitution and

2. Introduce a Bill for:

a. Repeal of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 along with Savings Clause for namely the National Commission for Backward Classes (Repeal) Bill, 2017; and

b. Dissolution of the National Commission for Backward Classes with effect from such date as the Central Government may appoint in this behalf and the National Commission for Backward Classes constituted under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the said Act shall stand dissolved.

3. (a) Appropriation of the sanctioned 52 posts, along with incumbents wherever filled of the existing National Commission for Backward Classes in the proposed National Commission for Backward Classes to be constituted under Article 338B; and

(b) Retention of the office premises of the existing National Commission for Backward Classes at Trikut-1, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066, by the National Commission for Backward Classes to be constituted under Article 338B.

The above decisions will lead to overall welfare of socially and educationally backward classes.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 aims to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955 to make illegal migrants who belong to six communities viz. Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, eligible for citizenship of India. The bill also proposed to relax the requirements of citizenship by naturalization. Earlier the applicant must have resided in India for not less than 11 years before applying for citizenship. The Bill relaxes this not less than 11 year requirement to not less than six years for persons belonging to the same six religions and three countries.


69. Which among the following could cause flooding?

(a) Tsunamis

(b) Glacial melt water

(c) Tropical storms

(d) All of the Above

Solution: d

70. Which is/are the functions performed by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)

1. Organise Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes

2. Provide free legal services to weaker sections of society

3. Constitute State Legal Services Authority to give effect to its policies and directions

Solution: a

Insights Polity Module
Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Solution: a  
Insights Polity Module

Important functions performed by NALSA:

- NALSA organises Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes.
- NALSA identifies specific categories of the marginalised and excluded groups and formulates various schemes for the implementation of preventive and strategic legal service programmes.
- Free legal aid in civil and criminal matters for the poor and marginalised people who cannot afford the services of a lawyer in any court or tribunal.
- Free legal services include provision of aid and advice to beneficiaries to access the benefits under the welfare statutes and schemes and to ensure access to justice in any other manner.

72. Which among the following is the first state to implement e-Cabinet solution for the state cabinet members?

(a) Delhi  
(b) Arunachal Pradesh  
(c) Gujarat  
(d) Tamil Nadu

Solution: b  
Insights Polity Module, Pg44

Arunachal Pradesh has become the first state in the northeast to implement e-Cabinet solution for the state cabinet members. Implemented by the department of Information Technology and Communication, the solution lets Ministers prepare for cabinet meetings, conduct them and review minutes, entirely without paper.

73. With reference to Teesta river, consider the following statements

1. It originates from Pahunri glacier  
2. It flows through Bihar and West Bengal in India

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Solution: a  
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teesta_River

The Teesta River (or Tista River) is a 309 km (192 mi) long river flowing through the Indian states of West Bengal and Sikkim, before going to Bay of Bengal through Bangladesh. It carves out from the verdant Himalayas in temperate and tropical river valleys and forms the border between Sikkim and West Bengal. It flows through the cities of Rangpo, Jalpaiguri and Kalimpong and joins the Jamuna (Brahmaputra) in Bangladesh.
74. Which of the following statements is not correct?

(a) Metamorphic rocks are made by either heating up or squashing the earth’s crust
(b) Black cotton soil of north-west India was formed by weathering of basaltic lava rocks
(c) Sedimentary rocks are deposited in layers as strata, forming a structure called bedding
(d) Most of the Earth’s oceanic crust is made of sedimentary rocks

Solution: d

Igneous and metamorphic rocks make up 90–95% of the top 16 km of the Earth’s crust by volume. Igneous rocks form about 15% of the Earth’s current land surface. Most of the Earth’s oceanic crust is made of igneous rock.

75. Indian Standard Time

1. Is followed by India and Sri Lanka
2. Is calculated on the basis of 82.30° E longitude, in Shankargarh Fort, Mirzapur

Which of the above statement is/ are correct?

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

Solution: c


Indian Standard Time (IST) is the time observed throughout India and Sri Lanka, with a time offset of UTC+05:30. India does not observe daylight saving time (DST) or other seasonal adjustments. In military and aviation time IST is designated E* (“Echo-Star”).

Indian Standard Time is calculated on the basis of 82.30° E longitude, in Shankargarh Fort, Mirzapur (25.15°N 82.58°E) (in Mirzapur district in the state of Uttar Pradesh) which is nearly on the corresponding longitude reference line.

76. The landmark judgment in ‘Coelho case’ dealt with

(a) Inclusion of Ninth Schedule under the ambit of Judicial Review
(b) Limitations of the power of pardon to President and Governors
(c) Power of Parliament to amend the Preamble
(d) Conflict between certain minority religious practices and their fundamental rights

Solution: a

Insights Prelims Test Series 13

The first amendment to the Indian Constitution added the Ninth Schedule to it. It was introduced to address judicial review decisions especially about abridging certain fundamental rights.

The state wanted to pursue nationalisation, take away lands from the zamindars, re-distribute them, and make special provisions for the socially and economically backward. This would have violated certain FRs, thus the need for 9th schedule to shield executive and legislative actions from Judicial review.

I.R. Coelho by L.Rs. v. State of Tamil Nadu case raised the following questions:

- Is it permissible to make the 9th Schedule immunized from the Judicial Review of the Supreme Court?
- Whether the Basic Structure test would include Judicial Review of Ninth Schedule laws on the touchstone of Fundamental rights?

The court ruled that it is absolutely not permissible to make the Ninth Schedule immunized from the Judicial Review of the Constitution.

The court said that the Doctrine of Basic Structure is the very essence of the Constitution of India and therefore, there cannot be any act, rules or regulations which can overrule the Basic Structure doctrine.

77. Consider the following Conflict regions with the nation they are located in.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Aleppo</td>
<td>Syria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Ramadi : Iraq
3. Basque : Portugal

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

Solution: a

Insights Prelims Test Series 13

Statement 1: Aleppo was Syria’s largest city and commercial capital before the conflict broke out. The Battle of Aleppo lasted more than four years after fighting broke out in July 2012. Recently Syrian Army has officially liberated Aleppo after ousting rebels from their last bastions in the eastern part of the city.

Statement 2: ISIL forces have seized large parts of Iraq – Anbar province, including the cities of Fallujah, Al Qaim, Abu Gharib and half of Ramadi during the Anbar campaign.

Statement 3: The Basque conflict, also known as the Spain–ETA conflict, was an armed and political conflict from 1959 to 2011 between Spain and the Basque National Liberation Movement, a group of social and political Basque organizations which sought independence from Spain and France.

78. The Antarctic was called as the “Pole of Ignorance” because
1. It was difficult to survey Antarctica with the help of artificial space satellites.
2. Many regions beneath the thick ice cover of Antarctica were unknown to scientists for long.

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

Solution: c

79. Regarding Srinivas Ramanujan and his work, consider the following statements:
1. Hardy-Ramanujan number is smallest number which is the sum of two cubes.
2. National Science Day is observed every year on 22nd December to celebrate birth anniversary of Srinivas Ramanujan.

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

Solution: a

80. Consider the following statements:
1. El-nino is caused due to the occurrence of a warm current off the coast of Peru.
2. La-Nina is caused due to the occurrence of a cold current off the coast of Australia. Which of these is/are true?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
Solution: a

La Niña, “anti-El Niño” or simply “a cold event” is the cooling of water in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

http://www.insightsonindia.com/2014/06/26/understanding-el-nino-la-nina-phenomena-implication-india/

81. Which among the following are matched correctly?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Waterways</th>
<th>States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW1 :</td>
<td>Assam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW2 :</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW3 :</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW4 :</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select the correct answer using codes below:
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) None of the Above
Solution: b

China rejects the Shimla Accord, contending that the Tibetan government was not sovereign and therefore did not have the power to conclude treaties.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McMahon_Line
https://thewire.in/2108/how-mcmahon-drew-his-line-and-why-china-wants-it-changed/

82. The McMahon Line is a part of the Shimla Accord, a treaty signed in 1914. China rejects the Shimla accord because
1. It had been agreed to by Britain and Tibet and not by India and China.
2. Tibet was not sovereign so did not have the power to conclude treaties.
3. McMahon line was a British Inner Line to demarcate the revenue territories from non-revenue ones and not an international boundary
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) None of the Above
Solution: b

China rejects the Shimla Accord, contending that the Tibetan government was not sovereign and therefore did not have the power to conclude treaties.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McMahon_Line
https://thewire.in/2108/how-mcmahon-drew-his-line-and-why-china-wants-it-changed/

83. In polity, what do you mean by ‘Joint Trial’?
(a) Joint trial is the conduct of trial of two or more actions jointly, when a common question of law or fact exists in those actions
(b) Joint Trial is bringing together separate cases which cannot be tried together in a single indictment using extraordinary powers of the Supreme Court
(c) Both a and b
(d) Neither a nor b
Solution: a

Joint trial is the conduct of trial of two or more actions jointly, when a common question of law or fact exists in those actions. A court may order joint trial when separate cases can be tried together, as though brought in a single indictment, if all offenses and all defendants could be joined in a single indictment. While jointly
tried, actions will not be merged. They remain separate and distinct and may result in one or more verdicts and judgments.

84. With reference to, Pressurised Water Reactor, consider the following statements:

1. In a PWR, the primary coolant is pumped under high pressure to the reactor core where it is heated by the energy released by the fusion of atoms.
2. Pressure in the primary coolant converts the water into steam within the reactor.
3. PWR commonly uses Water as Coolant and Heavy Water as neutron moderator.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) All of the Above
(d) None of the Above

Solution: (d)

In a PWR, the primary coolant is pumped under high pressure to the reactor core where it is heated by the energy released by the fission of atoms.
Pressure in the primary coolant loop prevents the water from boiling within the reactor.
All LWRs use ordinary water as both coolant and neutron moderator.

85. Consider following statement with respect to Street Light National Programme

1. Electricity Distribution Company and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and Municipalities are jointly implementing the programme with 50:50 upfront investment price sharing.
2. Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) replaces the conventional street lights with LEDs.

3. LEDs do not have mercury and therefore, have no negative impact on environment.

Which of the above statement is/are incorrect?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) None of the Above

Solution: (a)

EESL replaces the conventional street lights with LEDs at its own costs and consequent reduction in energy and maintenance cost of the municipality is used to repay EESL over a period of time.

86. Mongolia

(a) is a landlocked monarchy in East Asia
(b) shares it borders with China, Russia and Kazakhstan
(c) has a joint military exercise with India named Nomadic Camel
(d) None of the Above

Solution: (d)

Mongolia is a landlocked unitary sovereign state in East Asia. Mongolia is sandwiched between China to the south and Russia to the north. While it does not share a border with Kazakhstan, Mongolia is separated from it by only 36.76 kilometers (22.84 mi).

Twelfth iteration of Indo-Mongolian Joint Military Exercise Nomadic Elephant is presently underway at Vairengte in Mizoram.

87. Consider the following statements

1. Ballast water is water carried in ships' ballast tanks to improve stability, balance and trim. It is taken
Ballast water is water carried in ships’ ballast tanks to improve stability, balance and trim. It is taken up or discharged when cargo is unloaded or loaded, or when a ship needs extra stability in foul weather.

2. Ballast water poses serious ecological, economic and health problems due to the multitude of marine species being carried in the process, including Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens.

3. According to International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 ships should exchange ballast water mid-ocean as an intermediate solution.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Ballast water is water carried in ships’ ballast tanks to improve stability, balance and trim. It is taken up or discharged when cargo is unloaded or loaded, or when a ship needs extra stability in foul weather.

When ships take on ballast water, plants and animals that live in the ocean are also picked up. Discharging this ballast water releases these organisms into new areas where they can become marine pests.


88. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Agro-textiles are used in weed and insect control
2. Geo-textiles are used in constructing roads and embankments

89. In India, expenditure on poverty alleviation programmes is considered a part of

(a) Capital expenditure as it augments the human resources of India
(b) Revenue expenditure as it is largely a consumptive expenditure
(c) Non-tax expenditure as such programmes must be financed from borrowing
(d) None of the Above

Solution: b

Insights Prelims Test Series 16

All expenditures incurred by the government are either of revenue kind or current kind or compulsive kind. The basic identity of such expenditures is that they are of consumptive kind and do not involve creation of productive assets.
They are either used in running of a productive process or running a government. A broad category of things that fall under such expenditures in India are:

- Interest payment by the government on the internal and external loans; Salaries, Pension and Provident Fund paid by the government to government employees; Subsidies forwarded to all sectors by the government; Defence expenditures by the government; Postal Deficits of the government; Law and order expenditures (i.e., police & paramilitary); Expenditures on social services (includes all social sector expenditures as education, health care, social security, poverty alleviation, etc.) and general services (tax collection, etc.); Grants given by the government to Indian states and foreign countries.

**90. Paika rebellion is a**

(a) armed rebellion against the British East India Company's rule in Odisha

(b) Juang tribal rebellion against the British East India Company's rule in Odisha

(c) Revolt of Chakra Bisoyi, the Kondh tribal leader in Orissa.

(d) None of the Above

**Solution:** a

The Paika Rebellion also called the Paika Rebellions was an armed rebellion against the British East India Company’s rule in Odisha in 1817. The Paiks rose in rebellion under their leader Bakshi Jagabandhu and, projecting Lord Jagannath as the symbol of Odia unity, the rebellion quickly spread across most of Odisha before being ruthlessly put down by the company's forces.

**91. With reference to the Election Commission of India, consider the following statements:**

1. The body administers elections to the office of the Vice President

2. The Election Commission has powers to put a lifetime ban on convicted politicians from contesting elections

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

The Election Commission does not have powers to put a lifetime ban on convicted politicians from contesting elections. It has requested the Supreme Court for the same.

ECI administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, state legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country.

**92. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Election Commission of India draws its power to issue Model Code of Conduct from the Constitution of India

2. The Model Code of Conduct comes into force one day before the scheduled date of voting

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

The Election Commission operates under the authority of Constitution per Article 324, and subsequently enacted Representation of the People Act. The Commission has the powers under the Constitution, to act in an appropriate manner when the enacted laws make insufficient provisions to deal with a given situation in the conduct of an election.

The Model Code of Conduct comes into force immediately on announcement of the election schedule by the commission for the need of ensuring free and fair elections.
93. With reference to the finance Commission, consider the following statements:

1. As per the Constitution, the commission is appointed every five years and consists of a chairman and four other members.

2. The Article 280 of Indian Constitution lays down rules regarding qualification and disqualification of members of the Commission, their appointment, term, eligibility and powers.

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)

Indian Polity, Constitutional Bodies

The first Commission for SC and ST was set up in August 1978 with Shri Bhola Paswan Shastri as Chairman and other four Members. In 1990 the Commission for SCs and STs was renamed as the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in 1987 and it was set up as a National Level Advisory Body to advise the Government on broad policy issues and levels of development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Consequent upon the Constitution (Eighty-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2003 the erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes has been replaced by

1. National Commission for Scheduled Castes and

It is chaired by a government appointee – former ministers and other politicians.

94. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) was established immediately after independence.

2. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) is chaired by the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.

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: d)

Indian Polity, Constitutional Bodies

The first CAG was set up in 1972 with Shri Bhola Paswan Shastri as Chairman and other four Members. In 1990 the Commission for SCs and STs was renamed as the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in 1987 and it was set up as a National Level Advisory Body to advise the Government on broad policy issues and levels of development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Consequent upon the Constitution (Eighty-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2003 the erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes has been replaced by

1. National Commission for Scheduled Castes and

It is chaired by a government appointee – former ministers and other politicians.

95. With reference to CAG, consider the following statements:

1. The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) is appointed by the President of India following a recommendation by the committee comprising of the Prime Minister, Finance Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

2. The CAG is chosen from senior most officers serving in the Indian Audit and Accounts Service.

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: d)

Indian Polity, Constitutional Bodies

The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India is appointed by the President of India following a recommendation by the Prime Minister.

There is no strict selection criteria to select CAG. He is chosen by incumbent government, mostly by the PM.
Almost always, CAG is from IAS pool. Deputy CAG and other senior officers are from Indian Audit and Accounts Service.

96. The CAG can be removed
   (a) In a similar manner as the Judge of the Supreme Court
   (b) Only on an address from both house of parliament on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity
   (c) Both a and b
   (d) Neither a nor b

Solution: c

Indian Polity, Constitutional Bodies
The CAG can be removed only on an address from both house of parliament on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity. The CAG vacates the office on attaining the age of 65 years age.

Art 148 – There shall be a Comptroller and Auditor-General of India who shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal and shall only be removed from office in like manner and on like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court.

97. UPSC shall be consulted
   1. On award of a pension in respect of injuries sustained by a person while serving under the Government of India
   2. In disciplinary matters relating to Civil Service Personnel

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

Solution: c

Indian Polity, Constitutional Bodies
The Union Public Service Commission or the State Public Service Commission, as the case may be, shall be consulted—
- on all matters relating to methods of recruitment to civil services and for civil posts;
- on the principles to be followed in making appointments to civil services and posts and in making promotions and transfers from one service to another and on the suitability of candidates for such appointments, promotions or transfers;
- on all disciplinary matters affecting a person serving under the Government of India or the Government of a State in a civil capacity, including memorials or petitions relating to such matters;
- on any claim by or in respect of a person who is serving or has served under the Government of India or the Government of a State or under the Crown in India or under the Government of an Indian State, in a civil capacity, that any costs incurred by him in defending legal proceedings instituted against him in respect of acts done or purporting to be done in the execution of his duty should be paid out of the Consolidated Fund of India, or, as the case may be, out of the Consolidated Fund of the State;
- on any claim for the award of a pension in respect of injuries sustained by a person while serving under the Government of India or the Government of a State or under the Crown in India or under the Government of an Indian State, in a civil capacity, and any question as to the amount of any such award

98. With reference to the UPSC, consider the following statements:
   1. According to the Constitution, there shall be a Chairman and nine other members appointed by the President of India
   2. As per the Constitution, all the members of the Commission should be Civil Servants (working or retired) with minimum ten years of experience either in Central or State services

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   (a) 1 only
99. The office of the National Commissioner Linguistic Minorities is a

(a) Statutory body
(b) Regulatory body
(c) Constitutional body
(d) None of the Above

Solution: c)

Indian Polity, Constitutional Bodies

The Constitution provides for the appointment by President of a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities. This Officer is known as National Commissioner Linguistic Minorities. It is his duty to investigate all matters relating to safeguards provided for the linguistic minorities and report to the President at such intervals as may be fixed.

100. With reference to the Attorney General for India, consider the following statements:

1. He must be a person qualified to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court
2. He must have been a judge of some high court for five years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the President

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)

Indian Polity, Constitutional Bodies

The Attorney General for India is the Indian government’s chief legal advisor, and its primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India. He is appointed by the President of India under Article 76(1) of the Constitution and holds office during the pleasure of the President. He must be a person qualified to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court, also must have been a judge of some high court for five years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the President and must be a citizen of India. The 14th and current Attorney General is Mukul Rohatgi. He was appointed by Pranab Mukherjee, the President of India. He was formally appointed as with effect from 19 June 2014 and shall have a tenure of 5 years.