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I. ECONOMY

(Q) GAFA tax recently seen in news is related to
   a) Tax on new start-ups with annual turn-over of more than 1 crore
   b) Tax on Renewable energy products
   c) Tax on large technology and internet companies
   d) None of the above

Solution: c

French finance minister Bruno Le Maire announced the introduction of a GAFA tax—named after Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon—on large technology and internet companies in France from 1 January 2019. The French proposal is set to target only those profitable companies that have heavy annual global revenue.

The rationale behind devising a separate framework to tax online service providers is this: existing tax norms that are framed envisaging brick and mortar business models are not suitable to regulate online services. This is because the digital economy is characterized by a unique system of value creation resulting from a combination of factors such as sales functions, algorithms and personal information of users. What distinguishes technology companies from traditional businesses is user participation in creating value, which, in turn, translates into revenue. Although using consumer data to improve businesses is not exclusive to the digital economy, the unique ability of digital businesses lies in their power to analyse big data collected via constant user interaction and data mining.

(Q) Under the Provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 RBI can
   1. Examine on oath any director or other officer of the bank
   2. Issue directions to banks for resolution of stressed assets
   3. Prohibit banks against entering into any particular transaction

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

Solution: d

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulates and supervises Public Sector and Private Sector Banks. The powers of RBI are wide-ranging and comprehensive to deal with various situations that may emerge in all banks, irrespective of ownership i.e. the Public Sector and the Private Sector owned Banks.


(Q) Recently Tokenisation was in news. It is related to
   a) Generating Virtual Aadhaar Number
   b) New Blockchain Technology
   c) Enhance the safety of the digital payments
   d) Electronic Voting Machines
Solution: c

The Reserve Bank of India has allowed **Tokenisation** of debit, credit and prepaid card transactions to enhance the safety of the digital payments ecosystem in the country. Tokenization will replace card details with a code, called a “token,” which will be specifically for the card, the token requestor and the device being used to pay. Instead of the card's details, the token will act as the card at point of sale (POS) terminals and quick response (QR) code payment systems. The goal of the process is to improve the safety and security of payments.


(Q) Recently Cabinet approved Bilateral Swap Arrangement between India and Japan. What are the advantages of Bilateral Swap Arrangement?

1. This facility will enable the agreed amount of capital being available to India on tap for use.
2. Prospects of Indian companies would improve in tapping foreign capital.
3. Would deter speculative attacks on the domestic currency.
4. Enhance the RBI's ability to manage exchange rate volatility.

Select the correct code:

a) 1, 2, 3
b) 2, 3, 4
c) 1, 2, 4
d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: d

The **BSA** is a very good example of mutual cooperation between **India and Japan** for strategic objective of assisting each other in times of difficulty and for restoring international confidence. This facility will enable the agreed amount of capital being available to India on tap for use. Also, with this arrangement in place, prospects of Indian companies would improve in tapping foreign capital as there would be greater confidence in stability of country's exchange rate. Availability of such swap line to tide over difficulties arising out of Balance of Payment (BOP) would deter speculative attacks on the domestic currency and greatly enhance the RBI's ability to manage exchange rate volatility.


(Q) Consider the following statements about the recommendations of FRBM Review Committee headed by **N.K. Singh**.

1. Debt to GDP ratio of 50% should be targeted with a 30% limit for the centre and 20% limit for the states.
2. The targeted debt to GDP ratio should be achieved by 2023.
3. The Committee proposed to create a Fiscal Council headed by Finance Secretary.
4. Under the FRBM Act, the government can deviate from the target.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 3
b) 2, 4
c) 1, 2, 3
d) 2, 3, 4
**Solution: b**

**Debt to GDP ratio:** The Committee suggested using debt as the primary target for fiscal policy. A debt to GDP ratio of 60% should be targeted with a 40% limit for the centre and 20% limit for the states. The targeted debt to GDP ratio should be achieved by 2023.

**Fiscal Council:** The Committee proposed to create an autonomous Fiscal Council with a Chairperson and two members appointed by the centre. To maintain its independence, it proposed a non-renewable four-year term for the Chairperson and members. Further, these people should not be employees in the central or state governments at the time of appointment.

**Deviations:** The Committee noted that under the FRBM Act, the government can deviate from the targets in case of a national calamity, national security or other exceptional circumstances notified by it.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)

1. The Appellate Tribunal shall be situated at Mumbai.
2. It would act as first appeal in GST laws and the first common forum of dispute resolution between Centre and States.
3. Presided over by its President and shall consist of one Technical Member from Centre and one Technical Member from State.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: b**

- Cabinet has approved creation of National Bench of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT).
- It shall be situated at New Delhi.

**Composition:** Presided over by its President and shall consist of one Technical Member (Centre) and one Technical Member (State).
- It is the forum of second appeal in GST laws and the first common forum of dispute resolution between Centre and States.

II. GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT

(Q) Consider the following statements about Mobilise Your City (MYC) programme

1. The MYC aims to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions related to urban transport
2. India and France have signed an implementation agreement on “MOBILISE YOUR CITY” (MYC)
3. It was launched at 24th Conference of Parties (COP24) meeting in Katowice, Poland.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 3
c) 2, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a

Mobilise Your City (MYC) was launched at 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) meeting in December, 2015. India and France have signed an implementation agreement on "MOBILISE YOUR CITY" (MYC).

The MYC aims to reduce the Green House Gas (GHG) emissions related to urban transport by implementing urban mobility plans at local level and to help India at national level to improve their sustainable transport policy.

(Q) Which of the following were the recommendations of Gadgil Committee on Western Ghats?

1. It proposed that entire Western Ghats area be designated as ecologically sensitive area (ESA).
2. Within this area, smaller regions were to be identified as ecologically sensitive zones (ESZ) I, II or III based on their existing condition and nature of threat.
3. No new thermal power projects, but hydro power projects allowed with restrictions.

Select the correct code:

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 3
c) 2, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a

What did the Gadgil Committee say?

• It defined the boundaries of the Western Ghats for the purposes of ecological management. It proposed that this entire area be designated as ecologically sensitive area (ESA).
• Within this area, smaller regions were to be identified as ecologically sensitive zones (ESZ) I, II or III based on their existing condition and nature of threat.
• It proposed to divide the area into about 2,200 grids, of which 75 per cent would fall under ESZ I or II or under already existing protected areas such as wildlife sanctuaries or natural parks.
• The committee proposed a Western Ghats Ecology Authority to regulate these activities in the area.
Recommendations of Kasturirangan Committee:

- A ban on mining, quarrying and sand mining.
- No new thermal power projects, but hydro power projects allowed with restrictions.
- A ban on new polluting industries.
- Building and construction projects up to 20,000 sq m was to be allowed but townships were to be banned.
- Forest diversion could be allowed with extra safeguards.

(Q) Blue Flag Certification is awarded to

a) Countries having Nuclear Submarine
b) Quality export of Fisheries products
c) Beaches with high environmental and quality standards
d) None of the above

Solution: c

Blue Flag certification — the tag given to environment-friendly and clean beaches, equipped with amenities of international standards for tourists. The Chandrabhaga beach on the Konark coast of Odisha is the first in Asia to get the Blue Flag certification.

(Q) Consider the following statements about PARIVESH

1. It is an environmental single window hub for Environment, Forest, and Wildlife clearances.
2. The system has been designed, developed and hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
3. Coastal Regulation Zone Clearances is absent.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a

PARIVESH (Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub) is an environmental single window hub for Environment, Forest, Wildlife and CRZ clearances from Central, State and district-level authorities.

The system has been designed, developed and hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, with technical support from National Informatics Centre, (NIC).

(Q) The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issues CYCLONE ALERT during

a) Issued 72 hours in advance with early warning about the development of a cyclonic disturbance
b) Issued at least 48 hours in advance of the expected commencement of adverse weather over the coastal areas.

The system has been designed, developed and hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, with technical support from National Informatics Centre, (NIC).
c) Issued at least 24 hours in advance of the expected commencement of adverse weather over the coastal areas.
d) At least 12 hours in advance of expected time of landfall.

Solution: b

The cyclone warnings are issued to state government officials in four stages.

- The First Stage warning known as "PRE CYCLONE WATCH" issued 72 hours in advance contains early warning about the development of a cyclonic disturbance.
- The Second Stage warning known as "CYCLONE ALERT" is issued at least 48 hrs. in advance of the expected commencement of adverse weather over the coastal areas.
- The Third Stage warning known as “CYCLONE WARNING” issued at least 24 hours in advance of the expected commencement of adverse weather over the coastal areas.
- The Fourth Stage of warning known as “POST LANDFALL OUTLOOK” is issued at least 12 hours in advance of expected time of landfall.

(Q) Consider the following statements on Gas hydrates

1. Gas hydrates are found in sea bed, glaciers.
2. Can be used as carbon sequestration and sea bed stability studies
3. Future source of Natural gas
4. It can be formed in deep space

Select the correct answer

a) 1, 2, 3 only
b) 1 & 3 only
c) 2 & 3 only
d) All of the above

Solution – D

Gas hydrates are formed when a gas such as methane gets trapped in well-defined cages of water molecules forming crystalline solids. In terrestrial conditions, gas hydrates are formed naturally under the sea bed and glaciers under high pressure, low temperature conditions. Methane hydrate is a potential source of natural gas.

IIT Madras – The methane and CO2 hydrates were produced in the lab at very low pressures (ten thousand billionth of atmospheric pressure) and temperature (as low as -263 degree C) to simulate the conditions of deep space.

Gas hydrates are found in equilibrium under conditions of high pressures and low temperatures. These conditions are found onshore under permafrost in the polar regions and offshore along the continental shelf margins.

(Q) Wild life trust of India is

1. Credited with recovering population of critically endangered species, translocation of species, reduce human animal conflict, rescue and rehabilitation of animals like elephants, tigers, leopards and one horned rhino and bear
2. A registered charity in India
Select the correct answer

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 & 2 only
d) None

Solution – C

Explanation

• WTI has been credited for achieving conservation milestones such as Recovering population of critically endangered species, Translocation of Species, Reducing Human-Animal Conflict, Rescue and Rehabilitation of Animals including Elephants, Tigers, Leopards, One-horned Rhino and Bears.
• WTI was formed in November 1998 in response to the rapidly deteriorating condition of wildlife in India. WTI is a registered charity in India (under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961).

(Q) Consider the following statements about Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES)

1. RIMES was established by United Nations Disaster Relief Organization.
2. RIMES operates from its regional early warning center located in New Delhi.
3. It provides early warning information for preparedness and response to trans-boundary hazards also.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) is an international and intergovernmental institution, owned and managed by its Member States, for the generation and application of early warning information. RIMES evolved from the efforts of countries in Africa and Asia, in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, to establish a regional early warning system within a multi-hazard framework for the generation and communication of early warning information, and capacity building for preparedness and response to trans-boundary hazards. RIMES was established on 30 April 2009, and was registered with the United Nations on 1 July 2009. RIMES operates from its regional early warning center located at the campus of the Asian Institute of Technology in Pathumthani, Thailand.

(Q) What could happen to earth if its magnetic poles flipped?

1. The life at the surface will be exposed to higher amounts of solar radiation.
2. Electric grid could collapse from the severe solar storms.
3. There will be very minimal effect on the satellites and astronauts.

Select the correct code:

a) 1, 2  
 b) 2, 3  
 c) 1, 3  
 d) 1, 2, 3
Scientists in recent years have predicted that Earth’s magnetic field could be gearing up to ‘flip’ – a shift in which the magnetic south pole would become magnetic north, and vice versa. Such an event could have catastrophic effects, wreaking havoc on the electric grid and leaving life at the surface exposed to higher amounts of solar radiation.

Electric grid collapse from severe solar storms is a major risk. As the magnetic field continues to weaken, scientists are highlighting the importance off-the grid energy systems using renewable energy sources to protect the Earth against a black out.

Very highly charged particles can have a deleterious effect on the satellites and astronauts.

The Earth’s climate could also change. A recent Danish study has found that the earth’s weather has been significantly affected by the planet’s magnetic field.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Graded Response Action Plan

1. This is the Air quality management for Delhi and NCR region.
2. It is in pursuant to the Supreme Court’s order in the matter of NGT vs. Union of India
3. Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) is the implementing agency.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  

b) 2, 3  

c) 1, 3  

d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c

In pursuant to the Hon’ble Supreme Court’s order dated December 02, 2016 in the matter of M. C. Mehta vs. Union of India regarding air quality in National Capital Region of Delhi, a Graded Response Action Plan has been prepared for implementation under different Air Quality Index (AQI) categories namely, Moderate & Poor, Very Poor, and Severe as per National Air Quality Index. A new category of “Severe+ or Emergency” has been added.

Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change has notified for implementation of Graded Response Action Plan through Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority.

(Q) Consider the following statements about National Clean Air Programme

1. It involves the participation of Central Ministries, State Governments, local bodies and other Stakeholders
2. The tentative target is 20%–30% reduction of PM2.5 and PM10 concentration by 2022.
3. 2017 is taken as the base year for the comparison of concentration.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  

b) 2, 3  

c) 1, 3  

d) 1, 2, 3
The objective of the NCAP is comprehensive mitigation actions for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution besides augmenting the air quality monitoring network across the country and strengthening the awareness and capacity building activities. The tentative national level target of 20%–30% reduction of PM2.5 and PM10 concentration by 2024 is proposed under the NCAP taking 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Methanol

1. Methanol can be used as transportation fuel and not as cooking fuel
2. Methanol is a clean-burning fuel that produces zero smog-causing emissions and can improve air quality and related human health issues.
3. It can be produced from renewable sources also.
4. As a high-octane vehicle fuel, methanol offers excellent acceleration and power.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 3, 4
c) 1, 2, 3
d) 2, 3, 4

Solution: b

• Methanol can be used as an energy producing fuel, transportation fuel and cooking fuel, cutting down India’s oil import bill by an estimated 20% over the next few years. Unlike CNG, using methanol as a transportation fuel would require minimal alteration in the vehicles.

• Methanol is a clean-burning fuel that produces fewer smog-causing emissions — such as sulphur oxides (SOx), nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particulate matter — and can improve air quality and related human health issues.

Source: [http://vikaspedia.in/energy/energy-basics/methanol-economy-in-india](http://vikaspedia.in/energy/energy-basics/methanol-economy-in-india)

(Q) Consider the following statements about Nitrogen pollution.

1. Since Nitrates cannot penetrate deep into the soil they pollute only surface water and not groundwater.
2. Nitrogen dioxide is a greenhouse gas.
3. Sewage and organic solid wastes form the second largest source of Nitrogen pollution in India.
4. Nitrous oxide (N₂O) is 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide but isn’t as prevalent in the atmosphere.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 3, 4
c) 1, 2, 3
d) 2, 3, 4

Solution: b
• The Assessment found that nitrates not only affected surface water but also polluted groundwater sources.
• Nitrous oxide (N\textsubscript{2}O) gas should not be confused with nitric oxide (NO) or nitrogen dioxide (NO\textsubscript{2}). Neither nitric oxide nor nitrogen dioxide are greenhouse gases. Nitrous oxide is a greenhouse gas.
• Sewage and organic solid wastes form the second largest source of N pollution in India.
• Nitrous oxide (N\textsubscript{2}O) is 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide but isn't as prevalent in the atmosphere.


(Q) Due to improper / indiscriminate disposal of old and used computers or their parts, which of the following are released into the environment as e-waste?

1. Beryllium
2. Cadmium
3. Chromium
4. Heptachlor
5. Mercury
6. Lead
7. Plutonium

Select the correct codes.

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

Solution: b

Heptachlor is an insecticide. Plutonium is radioactive and hence not used in day to day computer/electronic items.

Source: [https://www.who.int/ceh/risks/ewaste/en/](https://www.who.int/ceh/risks/ewaste/en/)

(Q) National Disaster Management Authority will involve in which of the following disasters?

1. Urban Floods
2. Heat Wave
3. Nuclear and Radiological Disaster
4. Chemical and Biological threat

Select the correct code:

a) 1, 2  
b) 1, 3, 4  
c) 1, 2, 3  
d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: d
On 23 December 2005, the Government of India enacted the Disaster Management Act, which envisaged the creation of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Prime Minister, and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by respective Chief Ministers, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management in India.

It involves in the following disasters

Natural Disaster:
- Earthquakes
- Floods
- Landslides
- Cyclones
- Tsunamis
- Urban Floods
- Heat Wave

Man-Made Disasters
- Nuclear and Radiological Disaster
- Chemical Disaster
- Biological Disaster

Source: [http://vikaspedia.in/social-welfare/disaster-management-1](http://vikaspedia.in/social-welfare/disaster-management-1)

(Q) Sharm El Sheikh Declaration, 2018, recently in news is related to

a) Peace treaty
b) Nuclear Disarmament
c) Biological Diversity
d) Ending Child Labour

Solution: c

The 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 14) was held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

**COP 14 Ministerial High Level Segment (HLS)**

Theme: "Mainstreaming of biodiversity in the energy and mining; processing industry; infrastructure and health sectors"

Declaration: “Sharm El Sheikh Declaration”.

Source: [https://www.cop14-egypt.com/](https://www.cop14-egypt.com/)

(Q) Consider the following statements about International Whaling Commission (IWC)

1. It is an Inter-governmental Organisation whose purpose is the conservation of whales and the management of whaling.
2. It was established in 1946, making it one of the first pieces of international environmental legislation.
3. Japan has announced its decision to withdraw from the International Whaling Commission (IWC).
4. India is not the member of IWC.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2, 4
b) 1, 2, 3
c) 2, 3, 4
d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: b

- The **International Whaling Commission** is an Inter-governmental Organisation whose purpose is the conservation of whales and the management of whaling. The legal framework of the IWC is the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. This Convention was established in 1946, making it one of the first pieces of international environmental legislation. All member countries of the IWC are signatories to this Convention. The IWC has a current membership of 89 Governments from countries all over the world.

- Membership of the IWC is open to any country in the world that formally adheres to the 1946 Convention. **India joined the commission in 1981**.

- Japan has announced its decision to withdraw from the International Whaling Commission (IWC). The withdrawal would enable Japan to resume commercial whaling activities. Japan has said that it would undertake commercial whaling from July 2019 limited to Japan's territorial waters and exclusive economic zones.

Source: [https://iwc.int/iwcmain](https://iwc.int/iwcmain)

(Q) Consider the following statements about Mission Innovation (MI)

1. Mission Innovation (MI) is a global initiative of 23 countries (which includes India) and the European Commission.
2. It is to accelerate global clean energy innovation with the objective to make clean energy widely affordable.
3. MI was announced at COP24 Katowice 2018.
4. The members have committed to seek to double public investment in clean energy RD&D.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

**Mission Innovation (MI)** is a global initiative of 23 countries and the **European Commission** (on behalf of the European Union) working to reinvigorate and accelerate global clean energy innovation with the objective to **make clean energy widely affordable**.

- MI was announced at **COP21** on November 30, 2015, as world leaders came together in Paris to commit to ambitious efforts to combat climate change.

- These 24 members have committed to seek to double public investment in clean energy RD&D and are engaging with the private sector, fostering international collaboration and celebrating innovators.

Source: [http://mission-innovation.net/about-mi/overview/](http://mission-innovation.net/about-mi/overview/)
(Q) Which of the following has been accredited by the Green Climate Fund as a national implementing entity for undertaking climate change related projects in India.

a) Reserve Bank of India
b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
c) National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change
d) Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Solution: b

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) got accredited by the Green Climate Fund as a national implementing entity for undertaking climate change related projects in India. In 2010 the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) had set Green Climate Fund (GCF) to help developing countries to finance clean energy projects, other mitigation efforts and adaptation to climate change.

- Accordingly NABARD is the only national implementing entity in the country for undertaking climate change projects.
III. GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND PROGRAMMES

(Q) Consider the following statements about Mahila Police Volunteers (MPVs)

1. It is a joint initiative with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and Union Ministry of Women & Child Development.
2. Kerala is the first state to adopt the initiative.
3. One Mahila Police Volunteer (MPV) is envisaged per Gram Panchayat across the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c

Originally conceived by the Union Ministry of Women & Child Development, Mahila Police Volunteer is a joint initiative with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Mahila Police Volunteers scheme envisages creation of a link between the police authorities and the local communities in villages through police volunteers who will be women specially trained for this purpose.

Their primary job will be to keep an eye on situations where women in the village are harassed or their rights and entitlements are denied or their development is prevented.

In order to provide a link between police and community and facilitate women in distress, one Mahila Police Volunteer (MPV) is envisaged per Gram Panchayat across the country.

Haryana is the first state to adopt the initiative at Karnal and Mahindergarh District on a pilot basis under Nirbhaya Fund during the financial year 2016-2017.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Indian Bridge Management System:

1. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has inventorized bridges/structures under Indian Bridge Management System (IBMS).
2. IBMS is the second largest platform in the world owned by a single owner.
3. Socio-Economic Bridge Rating Number is given which will decide the importance of the structure in relation to its contribution to daily socio-economic activity of the area in its vicinity.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c
The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has inventorized 1,72,517 bridges/structures under Indian Bridge Management System (IBMS). IBMS is the largest platform in the world owned by a single owner, with database that could exceed 1,50,000 bridge structures.

In addition to the structural rating, the bridges are also being assigned Socio-Economic Bridge Rating Number which will decide the importance of the structure in relation to its contribution to daily socio-economic activity of the area in its vicinity.

(Q) Consider the following statements about ‘Virtual ID’ for Aadhaar

1. The Virtual ID is a random 12-digit number.
2. The ID can be generated as many time as possible.
3. One’s Aadhaar number can be derived from the Virtual ID generated.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c

The Virtual ID is a random 16-digit number.

- The ID can be generated as many time as possible.
- The older ID gets automatically cancelled once a fresh one is generated.
- Users can go to the UIDAI website to generate their virtual ID which will be valid for a defined period of time, or till the user decides to change it.
- The ID, along with the biometrics of the user, would give any authorised agency, like a mobile company, limited details like name, address and photograph, which are enough for any verification.
- Agencies that undertake authentication would not be allowed to generate the Virtual ID on behalf of the user.
- UIDAI also introduced the concept of ‘limited KYC’, which will provide need-based or limited details of a user to an authorised agency providing a particular service.

One’s Aadhaar number cannot be derived from the Virtual ID that is generated.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Bharatmala Pariyojana

1. Bharatmala Project is the largest highways construction project in the country.
2. It includes development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement, Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal and Port connectivity roads and Green-field expressways.
3. One of the shortfall is the missing focus on connectivity in North East.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

a) 1, 2
b) 2 only
c) 3 only
d) 1, 3
Solution: d

- Bharatmala Project is the second largest highways construction project in the country since NHDP, under which almost 50,000 km or highway roads were targeted across the country.
- It includes development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement, Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal and Port connectivity roads and Green-field expressways.

Highlights:
- Improvement in efficiency of existing corridors through development of Multimodal Logistics Parks and elimination of choke point
- Enhance focus on improving connectivity in North East and leveraging synergies with Inland Waterways
- Emphasis on use of technology & scientific planning for Project Preparation and Asset Monitoring
- Delegation of powers to expedite project delivery – Phase I to complete by 2022
- Improving connectivity in the North East

(Q) Consider the following statements about Atal Solar Krishi Pump Yojana

1. Centre launched Atal Solar Krishi Pump Yojana to reduce losses due to non-payment of electricity bills and also promote solar energy.
2. The scheme provides a subsidy of up to 95% on solar pumpsets.
3. Two LED bulbs, a DC fan and a mobile charging socket will also be provided to the farmers.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: b

To reduce losses due to non-payment of electricity bills and also promote solar energy, Maharashtra state government has launched Atal Solar Krishi Pump Yojana.

Under the scheme, the government of Maharashtra has decided to give two LED bulbs, a DC fan and a mobile charging socket as freebies to farmers.

The scheme provides a subsidy of up to 95% on solar pumpsets. The State plans to install one lakh solar pumps.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Street Light National Programme

1. Government aims to install 3.5 crore energy efficient LED lights in the country.
2. Energy Efficiency Services Limited, under the administration of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, is the implementing agency for SLNP.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both
d) None
Solution: c

Street Light National Programme is an initiative of the Government to promote energy efficiency in the country. Government aims to replace 3.5 crore conventional street lights with energy efficient LED lights.

Energy Efficiency Services Limited, a Public Energy Services Company under the administration of Ministry of Power, Government of India (GoI) is the implementing agency for SLNP.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin

1. Scheme implemented in rural areas throughout India
2. Beneficiary entitled to 100 days of unskilled labour under MGNREGA
3. Beneficiary can avail a loan of Rs.70000/- for construction of house
4. Unit size is 25 sq mts.

Select the correct answer

a) 1, 2, 3 only
b) 2 & 3 only
c) 3 & 4 only
d) All of the above

Solution – C

Explanation

- In pursuance to the goal – Housing for all by 2022, the rural housing scheme Indira Awas Yojana has been revamped to Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin and approved during March 2016. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for construction of pucca house to all houseless and households living in dilapidated houses. It is proposed that one crore households would be provided assistance for construction of pucca house under the project during the period from 2016-17 to 2018-19. The scheme would be implemented in rural areas throughout India except Delhi and Chandigarh. The cost of houses would be shared between Centre and States.

- Under PMAY, the cost of unit assistance is to be shared between Central and State Governments in the ratio 60:40 in plain areas and 90:10 for North Eastern and hilly states.

- The unit assistance given to beneficiaries under the programme is Rs 1,20,000 in plain areas and to Rs 1,30,000 in hilly states/difficult areas /Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for Selected Tribal and Backward Districts. Presently the NE States, States of HP, J&K and Uttarakhand and all 82 LWE districts are identified as difficult and hilly areas.

- The unit size is 25 sq.m including a dedicated area for hygienic cooking.

- The beneficiary is entitled to 90 days of unskilled labour from MGNREGA.

- The beneficiary would be facilitated to avail loan of up to Rs.70,000/- for construction of the house which is optional.

- Funds will be transferred electronically directly to the account of the beneficiary.

(Q) Consider the following with respect to DNA technology bill

1. Bill provides DNA profiling for civil and criminal disputes
2. Written consent of individual is needed to collect DNA samples in all cases.
3. Seeks to establish regional DNA data bank one for each state only.
Select the correct answer

a) 1 & 2 only
b) 2 & 3 only
c) 1 only
d) All of the above

Solution – C

Explanation

• The Bill regulates the use of DNA technology for establishing the identity of persons in respect of matters listed in a Schedule. These include criminal matters (such as offences under the Indian Penal Code, 1860), and civil matters such as parentage disputes, emigration or immigration, and transplantation of human organs.

• The Bill establishes a National DNA Data Bank and Regional DNA Data Banks. Every Data Bank will maintain the following indices: (i) crime scene index, (ii) suspects’ or undertrials’ index, (iii) offenders’ index, (iv) missing persons’ index, and (v) unknown deceased persons’ index.

• The Bill establishes a DNA Regulatory Board. Every DNA laboratory that analyses a DNA sample to establish the identity of an individual, has to be accredited by the Board.

• Written consent by individuals is required to collect DNA samples from them. Consent is not required for offences with punishment of more than seven years of imprisonment or death.

• The Bill provides for the removal of DNA profiles of suspects on filing of a police report or court order, and of undertrials on the basis of a court order. Profiles in the crime scene and missing persons’ index will be removed on a written request.

• The central government will establish a National DNA Data Bank and Regional DNA Data Banks for each state, or two or more states, as it may deem necessary.

(Q) Consider the following statements with respect to Jawahar Navodaya vidyalaya

1. System of alternate schools for gifted students in India.
2. JNVs are fully residential and co-educational schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), New Delhi, with classes from VI to XII standard.
3. JNVs are established throughout the country

Select the correct answer

a) 2 & 3 only
b) 1 & 2 only
c) 3 only
d) All of the above

Solution – B

Explanation

• Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) are a system of alternate schools for gifted students in India. They are run by Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi, an autonomous organization under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

• JNVs are fully residential and co-educational schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), New Delhi, with classes from VI to XII standard.
• JNVs are specifically tasked with finding talented children in rural areas of India and providing them with an education equivalent to the best residential school system, without regard to their families’ socio-economic condition.

• The Navodaya Vidyalaya system is a unique experiment unparalleled in the annals of school education in India and elsewhere. Its significance lies in the selection of talented rural children as the target group and the attempt to provide them with quality education comparable to the best in a residential school system. Such children are found in all sections of society, and in all areas including the most backward.

• JNVs exist all over India, with the exception of Tamil Nadu, where anti Hind movements were widespread during past times.

(Q) Consider the following statements about MCA21

1. MCA21 is an e-Governance initiative of Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) that enables an easy and secure access of the MCA services to the corporate entities, professionals and citizens of India.
2. It helps faster and effective resolution of public grievances.
3. It provides easy access of public documents.

Select the correct code:

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d

• MCA21 is an e-Governance initiative of Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India that enables an easy and secure access of the MCA services to the corporate entities, professionals and citizens of India.

The MCA21 application offers the following.

• Enables the business community to register a company and file statutory documents quickly and easily.
• Provides easy access of public documents
• Helps faster and effective resolution of public grievances
• Helps registration and verification of charges easily
• Ensures proactive and effective compliance with relevant laws and corporate governance
• Enables the MCA employees to deliver best of breed services

(Q) Which of the following authority has the mandate of bulk procurement in Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) from Tribals in India?

a) Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)
b) Food Corporation of India (FCI)
c) State-level Tribal Cooperatives Societies and Federations
d) None of the above
Solution: C

- Under its revised mandate TRIFED has stopped bulk procurement in Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) from Tribals.
- This procurement is now done by the State-level Tribal Cooperatives Societies/Federations.
- TRIFED now functions as a ‘market developer’ for tribal products and as ‘service provider’ to its member federations.
- TRIFED is now engaged in the marketing development of tribal products (natural and organic products, handicrafts, ratification etc.) through its own shops (TRIBES India) and shops selling its products on consignment basis.

(Q) Consider the following with respect to National skill qualification framework

1. It is a competency based framework, grades the level of knowledge, aptitude and skill from one to twenty scale
2. NSFQ is implemented through national skill qualification committee

Select the correct answer

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both
d) None

Solution – B

- The National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) is a competency-based framework that organizes all qualifications according to a series of levels of knowledge, skills and aptitude. These levels, graded from one to ten, are defined in terms of learning outcomes which the learner must possess regardless of whether they are obtained through formal, non-formal or informal learning. NSQF in India was notified on 27th December 2013. All other frameworks, including the NVEQF (National Vocational Educational Qualification Framework) released by the Ministry of HRD, stand superceded by the NSQF.
- The NSQF is anchored at the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) and is being implemented through the National Skills Qualifications Committee (NSQC).

(Q) Consider the following with respect to The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 or COTPA, 2003.

1. The act gives effect to World health assembly resolution to protect non-smokers from involuntary exposure
2. Tobacco products cannot be sold to person below 14 year and places within 100 mts from educational institutions
3. Warning text on tobacco packets should be written in English

Select the correct answer

a) 1 ONLY
b) 2 only
c) 3 & 2 only
d) 1 & 2 only
Solution – A

Explanation

• The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 or COTPA, 2003 is an Act of Parliament of India enacted in 2003 to prohibit advertisement of, and to provide for the regulation of trade and commerce in, and production, supply and distribution of cigarettes and other tobacco products in India. This Act was enacted by the Parliament to give effect to the Resolution passed by the 39th World Health Assembly, urging the member states to implement measures to provide non-smokers protection from involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke.

• Tobacco products cannot be sold to person below the age of 18 years, and in places within 100 metres radius from the outer boundary of an institution of education, which includes school colleges and institutions of higher learning established or recognized by an appropriate authority.

• Cigarette packets are required to carry pictorial warnings of a skull or scorpion or certain prescribed pictorial warnings along with the text SMOKING KILLS and TOBACCO CAUSES MOUTH CANCER in both Hindi and English.

(Q) Sharada Prasad committee report is related to
a) Skill council
b) Health sector
c) Financial services for small businesses and low income household
d) None

Solution – A

Explanation

• Health sector – Bhore committee & others
• Financial services for small businesses and low income household – Nachiket Mor committee

(Q) Saksham (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav) an annual flagship event is under the aegis of which ministry
a) Ministry of Railways
b) Ministry of Civil Aviation
c) Ministry of Women and Child Development
d) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

Solution: d

• Saksham (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav) is an annual flagship event of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt. of India, with active involvement of the Oil & Gas PSUs along with other stakeholders like State Governments, for creating focused attention on fuel conservation through people centric activities and to sensitize the masses about the conservation and efficient use of petroleum products leading to better health and environment.
Consider the following statements about SWAYAM Platform

1. It is to take the best teaching learning resources to all
2. Courses delivered through SWAYAM are available free of cost
3. It does not cater to out-of-school education

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a

- SWAYAM is a programme initiated by Government of India and designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of Education Policy viz., access, equity and quality. The objective of this effort is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged. SWAYAM seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy.

- In order to ensure best quality content are produced and delivered, nine National Coordinators have been appointed. In that IGNOU is for out of the school students.

UNNATI programme is aimed at

a) Elimination of Tuberculosis (TB) by 2025 in India
b) Fostering growth through promotion of AI
c) Capacity building on Nanosatellites development
d) None of the above

Solution: c

- The Indian Space Research Organisation’s (ISRO) capacity-building programme on nanosatellite development, UNNATI, was inaugurated recently.

Consider the following statements about Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)

1. It is a non-profit organization under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
2. It helps the government in proposing policies and strategies for petroleum conservation.
3. PCRA aims at making oil conservation a national movement.
4. Establish linkages at the national & international levels in the areas of petroleum conservation

Select the correct code:

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 2, 3
c) 2, 3, 4
d) 1, 2, 3, 4
Solution: d

- Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) is a registered society set up under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India.
- As a non-profit organization, PCRA is a national government agency engaged in promoting energy efficiency in various sectors of economy.
- PCRA aims at making oil conservation a national movement.
- Establish synergistic institutional linkages at the national & international levels in the areas of petroleum conservation & environment protection.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Small Farmers’ Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC)

1. SFAC has pioneered the formation of Farmer Producer Organizations/Farmer Producer Companies.
2. It offers Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme to FPCs to improve availability of working capital.
3. It implements e-Nam

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 3
c) 2, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d

- SFAC is an exclusive Society focused on increasing incomes of small and marginal farmers through aggregation and development of agribusiness.
- SFAC has pioneered the formation and growth of Farmer Producer Organizations/Farmer Producer Companies.
- SFAC offers Schemes like Equity Grant and Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme to FPCs to improve availability of working capital and development of business activities.
- SFAC is also implementing the National Agriculture Market Electronic Trading (e-Nam) platform.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana

1. The Government pays the employers’ EPS contribution of 8.33%, for the new employees, for the first five years of their employment.
2. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.
3. New employees earning wages more than Rs 15,000/- per month are not eligible.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c
• The **PMRPY Scheme** aims to incentivise employers for employment generation by the Government paying the employers’ EPS contribution of 8.33%, for the new employees, for the first three years of their employment and is proposed to be made applicable for unemployed persons that are semi-skilled and unskilled. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and is operational since August, 2016.

• The PMRPY Scheme is targeted for employees earning wages less than Rs 15,000/- per month. Thus, new employees earning wages more than Rs 15,000/- per month will not be eligible.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)

1. It facilitates research collaboration between Indian research groups with research groups in the leading universities of the world in areas that are at the cutting edge of science.
2. It is an initiative of Ministry of Science and Technology.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both  
d) None  

Solution: a  

- Union Minister of Human Resource Development launches the web portal of the **Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)**.

- Under this Scheme, 600 joint research proposals will be awarded for 2 years to facilitate strong research collaboration between Indian research groups with the best in class faculty and renowned research groups in the leading universities of the world, in areas that are at the cutting edge of science or with direct social relevance to the mankind, specifically India.

(Q) Which of the following statements about Shaala Siddhi is correct?

a) Repository of good practices on elementary education.  
b) A single point repository of e-resources containing NCERT textbooks and various other learning resources.  
c) School Standards and Evaluation Framework.  
d) Improving quality of school education with use of latest technologies.  

Solution: c  

**Shaala Siddhi** is a comprehensive instrument for school evaluation leading to school improvement, which was launched in November, 2015.  

Source: [http://shaalasiddhi.nuepa.org/](http://shaalasiddhi.nuepa.org/)
(Q) Consider the following statements about Samagra Shiksha scheme

1. It comes under the aegis of Department of Higher education, Ministry of Human Resource Development.
2. Samagra Shiksha is an overarching programme that extends from pre-school to post-graduation.
3. Focus on enhancing Capacity Building of Teachers.

Select the correct code:

a) 1, 2
b) 3 only
c) 1, 3
d) None

Solution: b

- Samagra Shiksha is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 12. The scheme has been prepared with the broader goal of improving school effectiveness measured in terms of equal opportunities for schooling and equitable learning outcomes.
- It subsumes the three Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).
- It comes under the aegis of Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Source: http://samagra.mhrd.gov.in/about.html  http://vikaspedia.in/education/policies-and-schemes/samagra-shiksha

(Q) PAiSA – Portal for Affordable Credit & Interest Subvention Access, a centralized electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans is for

a) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)
b) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)
c) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana
d) Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin)

Solution: b

A centralized electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) named “PAiSA – Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access”, was launched recently.

Source: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=185954

(Q) Consider the following statements about Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme.

1. It is a scheme for attracting youth to cooperative business ventures.
2. The scheme is linked to Rs 1000 crore ‘Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF)’ created by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
3. It is an initiative of Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a  
Union Agriculture Minister launches National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)'s new scheme to promote young entrepreneurs in cooperatives.

The scheme is linked to Rs 1000 crore 'Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF)' created by the NCDC. It would have more incentives for cooperatives of North Eastern region, Aspirational Districts and cooperatives with women or SC or ST or PwD members.


(Q) The services that could be offered by Common Services Centres (CSC) include in the areas of

1. Agriculture  
2. Vocational Education  
3. Telemedicine  
4. Insurance  
5. Movies  
6. Bill Payments  
7. Internet Browsing

Select the correct code:

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

Solution: d  
- The CSC is a strategic cornerstone of the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP), approved by the Government in May 2006, as part of its commitment in the National Common Minimum Programme to introduce e-governance on a massive scale.
- The CSCs would provide high quality and cost-effective video, voice and data content and services, in the areas of e-governance, education, health, telemedicine, entertainment as well as other private services.

The CSC Guidelines envisage a wide variety of content and services that could be offered as listed below:

1. Agriculture Services (Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Veterinary)  
2. Education & Training Services (School, College, Vocational Education, Employment, etc.)  
3. Health Services (Telemedicine, Health Check-ups, Medicines)  
4. Rural Banking & Insurance Services (Micro-credit, Loans, Insurance)  
5. Entertainment Services (Movies, Television)  
6. Utility Services (Bill Payments, Online bookings)  
7. Commercial Services (DTP, Printing, Internet Browsing, Village level BPO).
(Q) UNNATI programme recently seen in news is related to

a) Skill training programme for the North-eastern parts of the country.
b) Nutrition programme to reduce the incidence of anaemia in the adolescent girls.
c) capacity-building programme on nanosatellite development
d) Scheme that aims to enrich Rural India

Solution: c

- **UNNATI** (Unispace Nanosatellite Assembly & Training) programme – The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) capacity-building programme on nanosatellite development.
- Launched to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space (UNISPACE 50), the programme aims to provide opportunities to the participating developing countries to become stronger in assembling, integrating and testing nanosatellites

IV. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(Q) Consider the following statements about rare disease

1. Rare disease is the one which occurs rarely during extreme weather conditions
2. Most rare diseases are genetic
3. The most common rare diseases recorded in India are Lysosomal storage disorders such as Pompe disease, Hirschsprung disease and Gaucher's disease

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

A rare disease, also referred to as an orphan disease, is any disease that affects a small percentage of the population.

Most rare diseases are genetic, and are present throughout a person's entire life, even if symptoms do not immediately appear.

The most common rare diseases recorded in India are Haemophilia, Thalassemia, sickle-cell anaemia and primary immuno deficiency in children, auto-immune diseases, Lysosomal storage disorders such as Pompe disease, Hirschsprung disease, Gaucher's disease, Cystic Fibrosis, Hemangiomas and certain forms of muscular dystrophies.

(Q) Consider the following statements with respect to leprosy

1. Caused by Mycobacterium leprae.
2. Occurs in the age group above 7yrs
3. Affects skin, peripheral nerves, upper respiratory tract, eyes and ears
4. Also known as Hansen disease.

Select the correct answer

a) 1, 2, 3 only
b) 1 & 3 only
c) 1 & 4 only
d) All of the above

Solution – C

Leprosy is one of the oldest diseases in recorded history. Also, known as Hansen's disease (HD), it is a chronic, progressive bacterial infection caused by the bacterium Mycobacterium leprae.

It primarily affects the nerves of the extremities, the skin, the lining of the nose, the upper respiratory tract and the eyes. The disease produces skin ulcers, nerve damage, and muscle weakness. If it isn’t treated, it can cause severe disfigurement and significant disability.
It is known to occur at all ages ranging from early infancy to very old age. It is common in many countries, especially those with a tropical or subtropical climate.

(Q) Reticulum is
1. Form of Millipede
2. Constellation in space

Select correct answer
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 & 2
d) None

Solution – B
Explanation
- HD 21749b orbits a dwarf star about 53 light years away in the constellation of Reticulum
- NASA’s latest planet-hunting probe has discovered a new world outside our solar system, orbiting a dwarf star 53 light years away.
- This is the third new planet confirmed by the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) since its launch in April last year.
- The planet, named HD 21749b, orbits a bright, nearby dwarf star about 53 light years away, in the constellation Reticulum, and appears to have the longest orbital period of the three planets so far identified by TESS.

(Q) Ultima thule is
1. Science fiction
2. Frozen relic of early solar system
3. Logistics service provider

Select the correct answer
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) 3 only
d) None

Solution – B
Explanation
- NASA spacecraft New Horizons recently flew past the most distant world ever studied by humankind, Ultima Thule, a frozen relic of the early solar system that could reveal how planets formed.

(Q) Consider the following with respect to formalin
1) It is derived from formaldehyde gas which is non flammable
2) It has varied industrial uses.
Select the correct answer

a) 1 ONLY
b) 2 only
c) 1 & 2
d) None

Solution – B

- Formalin is a toxic, colourless solution that is derived by dissolving formaldehyde gas in water.
- It is a cancer-inducing chemical used to preserve fish and is used as a disinfectant. It is used in the manufacture of pesticides, fertilisers, glue, paper and paint, among other products.
- Formalin causes irritation in the eyes, throat, skin and stomach. In the long run continued exposure causes harm to the kidneys, liver and can even cause cancers.
- Formaldehyde is a highly reactive, flammable gas, which means it can become a fire hazard when exposed to flame or heat.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Kyasanur Forest Disease

1. It is a tick-borne bacterial disease.
2. It is endemic in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu
3. More cases are reported during rainy season.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d

- **Kyasanur forest disease (KFD)** is a tick-borne viral haemorrhagic fever endemic (constant presence of disease) in Karnataka State, India.
- **Hard ticks** (Hemaphysalis spinigera) are the reservoir of the KFD virus and once infected, remain so for life.
- **Rodents, shrews, and monkeys** are common hosts for KFDV after being bitten by an infected tick. KFDV can cause epizootics with high fatality in primates.
- Seasonality is another important risk factor as more cases are reported during the dry season, from November through June.

(Q) CSIR developed “OneerTM” is related to

a) Blight resistant Samba Mahsuri variety
b) Salt fortified with iodine and iron having improved properties
c) Vaccine developed and commercialized for Johne’s disease affecting Sheep
d) Drinking Water Disinfection System
Solution: d

- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-IITR), Lucknow has developed an innovative technology for “Drinking Water Disinfection System” with Trade name “OneerTM”.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Lymphatic filariasis

1. It is a viral disease transmitted to humans through mosquitoes.
2. It can lead to contraction of body parts in children.
3. Over 40% of worldwide cases are found in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

- Lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as elephantiasis, is a neglected tropical disease. Infection occurs when filarial parasites are transmitted to humans through mosquitoes. Infection is usually acquired in childhood causing hidden damage to the lymphatic system.
- Lymphatic filariasis impairs the lymphatic system and can lead to the abnormal enlargement of body parts, causing pain, severe disability and social stigma.

Source: https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/lymphatic-filariasis

(Q) Zearalenone, recently seen in news is

a) Antibiotic used to treat tuberculosis
b) Fungal toxin infesting cereals
c) Plant Growth Regulator
d) New Rice variety

Solution: b

Zearalenone is a fungal toxin infesting cereals such as wheat, maize and barley. It attacks crops while they are growing, but can also develop when cereals are stored without being dried fully.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/the-lowdown-on-zearalenone-in-cereals/article26100813.ece

(Q) Technical textiles can be used for

1. Floor and Wall coverings
2. Umbrella cloth
3. Geonets
4. Sanitary napkins
5. Artificial implants
6. Contact lenses
Which of the above statements are correct.

a) All except 4 and 6  
b) All except 2 and 4  
c) All except 4  
d) All of them

Solution: d

Technical or engineered textiles are defined as products that are used for functional purposes. These textiles have applications in multiple areas of economic activity, such as aerospace, shipping, sports, agriculture, defense and health care.

Technical textiles are segregated into 12 major segments:

V. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

(Q) Consider the following statements about International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

1. IRRI is known for its work in developing rice varieties that contributed to the Green Revolution in the 1960s.
2. It aims to reduce poverty and hunger, improve the health of rice farmers and consumers.
3. It is the largest non-profit agricultural research center in Asia.
4. Recently the 6th International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), South Asia Regional Center (ISARC) was dedicated to the nation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 2, 3
c) 2, 3, 4
d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: d

The Prime Minister dedicated the 6th International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), South Asia Regional Center (ISARC) to the nation. The Institute is built at the campus of National Seed Research and Training Center (NSRTC) in Varanasi.

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is an international agricultural research and training organization known for its work in developing rice varieties that contributed to the Green Revolution in the 1960s.

Aim: The Institute, established in 1960 aims to reduce poverty and hunger, improve the health of rice farmers and consumers, and ensure environmental sustainability of rice farming.

It is also the largest non-profit agricultural research center in Asia.

(Q) Consider the following statements about UN-REDD and REDD+

1. UN-REED is a climate change mitigation solution being developed by parties to the UNFCCC.
2. REDD+ assists countries to keep their forests standing by offering results based payments for actions to reduce or remove forest carbon emissions.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both
d) None

Solution: c
**Panda Bonds**

Panda Bonds sometimes seen in news is related to which country?

- a) Pakistan
- b) South Korea
- c) Japan
- d) China

**Solution: d**

The government of Pakistan has decided to launch Panda Bonds to raise loans from Chinese capital markets. A Panda bond is a Chinese renminbi-denominated bond from a non-Chinese issuer, sold in the People's Republic of China. These bonds were first issued in 2005 by the International Finance Corporation and the Asian Development Bank.

**Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities**

Consider the following statements about Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between Pakistan and India

1. Both India and Pakistan exchange their list of nuclear installations biennially
2. The agreement was signed on December 31, 1950.
3. The agreement is also referred to as the Non-Nuclear Aggression Agreement.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: c**

The exchange is done each year on January 1, under the **Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities**, also referred to as the **Non-Nuclear Aggression Agreement**.

The agreement, which was signed on December 31, 1988, and entered into force on January 27, 1991, provides that the two countries inform each other of nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the pact on the first of January of every calendar year.

**Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA)**

Asia reassurance initiative act (ARIA) recently seen in news has been signed into law by which country?

- a) China
- b) Japan
- c) US
- d) Russia

**Solution: c**

U.S. President Donald J. Trump has signed into law the **Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA)**, which has already been passed by the U.S. Senate.

- The ARIA Act, specifically, calls for America's increased engagement in the Indo-Pacific region and strengthened support, including arms sales, for U.S. allies in the region.
The act develops a long-term strategic vision and a comprehensive, multifaceted, and principled United States policy for the Indo-Pacific region.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Sino-Indian Digital Collaboration Plaza (SIDCOP)
1. Sino-Indian Digital Collaboration Plaza (SIDCOP) was recently launched the Ministry of External Affairs, GOI.
2. It uses an AI enabled platform to bring Indian IT companies and Chinese enterprises closer to each other.
3. It offers a boundary-less marketplace for Chinese enterprises.
Select the correct code:
   a) 1, 2
   b) 1, 3
   c) 2, 3
   d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c
The Sino-Indian Digital Collaboration Plaza (SIDCOP) has been launched by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) in association with Municipal Governments of Guiyang and Dalian.
The initiative aims to bring Indian IT companies and Chinese enterprises closer to each other on a single AI enabled platform.
It offers a boundary-less marketplace for Chinese enterprises in order to assist them in operational optimization and adopting industry best practices in business solutions by connecting with Indian enterprises.

(Q) Consider the following statements about International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
1. It is an international non-profit organization that undertakes scientific research for development.
2. It is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.
3. Its approach is through partnerships and with an Inclusive Market Oriented Development.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1, 2
   b) 2, 3
   c) 1, 3
   d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c
The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is an international organization which conducts agricultural research for rural development, headquartered in Patancheru (Hyderabad) with several regional centers (Bamako (Mali), Nairobi (Kenya)) and research stations (Niamey (Niger), Kano (Nigeria), Lilongwe (Malawi), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Bulawayo (Zimbabwe)).
• Since its inception, host country India has granted a special status to ICRISAT as a UN Organization operating in the Indian Territory making it eligible for special immunities and tax privileges.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

1. It comprises of eight Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal.
2. It came into being through the Bangkok Declaration.
3. It is headquartered in Kathmandu, Nepal
4. In 2018, the 4th BIMSTEC Summit concluded in Kathmandu

Which of the above statements is/are **incorrect**?

a) 2, 4  
b) 1, 3  
c) 1, 2, 3  
d) 2, 3, 4

**Solution: b**

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity. This sub-regional organization came into being on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration. In 2018, the 4th BIMSTEC Summit concluded in Kathmandu.

(Q) Which of the following statements is correct with respect to Peace Mission 2018.

a) United Nations Mission to promote peace in West Asia.

b) Counter terrorism initiative of United States.

c) Space mission of Russian Federal Space Agency to control space wars.

d) Counter terrorism operations in urban scenario under the framework of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

**Solution: d**

Exercise Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Peace Mission 2018, the latest in ‘Peace Mission’ series formally started on 24 August 2018 at Chebarkul, Russia. The ceremony was conducted in Chebarkul, Russia with military contingents of the all eight SCO member nations participating in this exercise.

The exercise will provide an opportunity to the armed forces of SCO nations to train in counter terrorism operations in urban scenario in a multinational and joint environment.


(Q) The ‘Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)’ which was in news is related to.

a) Peace Agreement  
b) Environmental Agreement  
c) Trade Negotiation  
d) Nuclear Agreement
The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), known commonly as the Iran nuclear deal or Iran deal, is an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program reached in Vienna on 14 July 2015 between Iran, the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States—plus Germany), and the European Union. 


(Q) Reporters Without Borders, often in the news, is

a) An inter-governmental agency sponsored by European Union
b) A United Nations agency to help refugees of civil war
c) Non-governmental organization on issues relating to freedom of the press
d) United Nations organisation to regulate freedom of press.

Solution: c

Reporters Without Borders (RWB), or Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF), is an international non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Paris, France, that conducts political advocacy on issues relating to freedom of information and freedom of the press.

VI. POLITY

(Q) Consider the following statements
1. The Speaker of Lok Sabha can suspend the members of the house for disrupting the proceedings of the house.
2. The Speaker can also revoke the suspension if she desires.
3. In case of Rajya Sabha, the Chairman has the power to suspend the member.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1 only
   b) 1, 2
   c) 1, 3
   d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a

Among the tools available to the Speaker for ensuring discipline is the power to force a member to withdraw from the House (for the remaining part of the day), or to place him under suspension.

While the Speaker is empowered to place a member under suspension, the authority for revocation of this order is not vested in her. It is for the House, if it so desires, to resolve on a motion to revoke the suspension.

Unlike the Speaker, the Rajya Sabha Chairman does not have the power to suspend a member. In such a situation, the House may adopt a motion suspending the member from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session. The House may, however, by another motion, terminate the suspension.

(Q) According to the Citizenship Act (1955), an illegal immigrant is defined as a person
1. Who enters India without a valid passport
2. Stays in the country after the expiry of the visa permit.
3. The immigrant who uses false documents for the immigration process.
Select the correct code:
   a) 1, 2
   b) 2, 3
   c) 1, 3
   d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d

According to the Citizenship Act (1955), an illegal immigrant is defined as a person who enters India without a valid passport or stays in the country after the expiry of the visa permit. Also, the immigrant who uses false documents for the immigration process.
(Q) Consider the following statements about National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC)

1. NCDRC is a quasi-judicial commission in India
2. It is a non-statutory body
3. The commission is headed by a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), India is a quasi-judicial commission in India which was set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986. Its head office is in New Delhi. The commission is headed by a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Staff Selection Commission (SSC)

1. Staff Selection Commission (SSC) is a statutory body
2. It is an “attached body” under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both
d) None

Solution: b

A Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) has recommended that the Centre accord statutory status to the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), one of the largest recruitment agencies in the country.

The SSC was created to ease the burden of the UPSC by taking over the recruitment for posts below the Group ‘A’ level.

It has remained an “attached body” under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), and has to depend entirely on the government for all its needs, with no autonomy.

(Q) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to citizenship bill 2016

1. Grants citizenship status based on religion to illegal immigrants
2. Seeks to cancel registration of OCI cardholders for violation of any law

Select the correct answer

a) 1 only    b) 2 only
c) Both      d) None
Solution – C

The Bill amends the Citizenship Act, 1955 to make illegal migrants who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, eligible for citizenship.

Under the Act, one of the requirements for citizenship by naturalisation is that the applicant must have resided in India during the last 12 months, and for 11 of the previous 14 years. The Bill relaxes this 11 year requirement to six years for persons belonging to the same six religions and three countries.

The Bill provides that the registration of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders may be cancelled if they violate any law.

(Q) Judicial review on laws relating to 9th schedule was open to scrutiny in which of the following case

1. Coelho case
2. Waman rao case
3. Minerva mills case

Select correct answer

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) 3 only
d) None

Solution – A

I R Coelho case – If a law is included in the 9th schedule of the Indian constitution, it can still be examined and confronted in court.

Waman Rao Case – This case has facilitated in determining a satisfactory way of addressing grievances pertaining to the violation of fundamental rights.

Minerva mills case – Fortified the idea of the basic structure which was put forward earlier in the Keshavananda Bharti Case.

(Q) Consider the following statements with respect to CVC

1. Its establishment was recommended by Santhanam committee.
2. It is a constitutional body
3. It is a single member body appointed by President on the recommendation of 3 member committee

Select the correct answer

a) 1 & 2 only
b) 2 & 3 only
c) 1 only
d) 3 only

Solution – C
Explanation

- Santhanam committee on prevention of corruption 1962-64
- Statutory body from September 2003
- It is a multi-member body consisting of Chief vigilance officer and not more than 2 vigilance officer
- Appointed by president on the recommendation of 3 member committee consisting of PM, Union home minister and Leader of opposition in LS

(Q) Consider the following with respect to Bureau of Indian standards

1. It is working under Ministry of commerce
2. It is a signatory to Code of Good practice for preparation, adoption and application of standards under WTO-TBT agreement
3. It played important role in implementation of Gold monetisation scheme

Select the correct answer

a) 1, 2 & 3
b) 1 & 3 only
c) 2 & 3 only
d) 2 & 1 only

Solution – C

Explanation

- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the national Standards Body of India working under the aegis of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India.
- BIS is the National Standard Body of India established under the BIS Act 2016 for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- BIS, being a signatory to the ‘Code of Good Practice for the preparation, adoption and application of standards (Article 4 of WTO-TBT Agreement, Annex 3)’ has also accordingly aligned its standards formulation procedure.
- India had launched Gold Monetization Scheme on 5th Nov.2015. BIS played an important role in finalization and implementation of the Gold Monetization Scheme in association with Department of Economic Affairs and Reserve Bank of India. Under the Gold Monetization Scheme, Assaying & Hallmarking (A&H) Centres recognized by BIS have been qualified to act as Collection and Purity Testing Centres (CPTC).

(Q) National Health Resource Repository (NHRR) launched by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence is a comprehensive database which includes data on

1. Hospitals
2. Diagnostic labs
3. Patients
4. Doctors
5. Pharmacies
Select the correct code:

a) 1, 2, 3
b) 1, 2, 3, 4
c) 2, 3, 4, 5
d) 1, 2, 4, 5

**Solution: d**

Understanding the need of timely and accurate health resources data from both public and private sector, CBHI conceptualized the framework of making a National Health Resources Repository (NHRR), where both public and private sector data resides. A national census was conceptualized in order to make a robust and comprehensive database of national health resources i.e., both public and private which inter-alia includes, hospitals, diagnostic labs, doctors and pharmacies, etc.

(Q) Report of M.R. Rajagopal committee relates to

a) Tax reforms
b) Anti-corruption
c) Euthanasia
d) None

**Solution – C**

- Tax reforms – Vijay Kelkar committee
- Anti-corruption – Santhanam committee

(Q) Consider the following statements about Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Act, 2019

1. It does away with no detention policy
2. Detention of students will be left to will of individual schools
3. To do away with no detention was recommended by Malegam committee

Select the correct answer

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) 3 only
d) 1 & 2

**Solution – a**

Malegam Committee – Micro finance

**RTE amendment Bill- Key features:**

- The Bill seeks to amend the Right to Education (RTE) Act to abolish the “no-detention” policy in schools. Under the current provisions of the Act, no student can be detained up to class VIII.
- As per the amendment, it would be left to the states to decide whether to continue the no-detention policy.
• The bill provides for regular examination in classes V and VIII, and if a child fails, the amendment bill grants a provision to give her or him additional opportunity to take a re-examination within two months. Such children will be provided with two-month remedial teaching to perform better in the re-examinations. If the students still do not pass the exam, the state government may decide to detain them.

(Q) Justice Amitava Roy committee recently seen in news is constituted for the purpose of

a) Resolution of stressed assets of Public Sector Banks
b) Dealing with Sexual harassment at workplace
c) Reforms in tax laws
d) Prison Reforms

Solution: d

The Supreme Court formed a Committee on Prison Reforms chaired by former apex court judge, Justice Amitava Roy, to examine the various problems plaguing prisons in the country, from overcrowding to lack of legal advice to convicts to issues of remission and parole.

VII. HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

(Q) The kingdom of Khurda is mainly associated to which state
a) Maharashtra
b) Bihar
c) Odisha
d) West Bengal

Solution: c
Two-hundred years ago in 1817, a valiant uprising of soldiers led by Buxi Jagabandhu (Bidyadhar Mohapatra) took place in Khurda of Odisha. This is known as Paika rebellion.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Monuments of national importance
1. New Delhi has the highest number of Monuments of national importance in the list.
2. In India, any structure, sculpture, inscription, etc., which is in existence for not less than 100 years is termed ancient.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both
d) None

Solution: b
The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) recently declared that it has added six structures to the list of monuments of national importance, taking the total number to 3,693.

With 506 monuments under its belt, Karnataka continues to top the list in South India, followed by Tamil Nadu (413). Nationally too, Karnataka is in the second place after Uttar Pradesh, which has 745 such monuments.
According to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, any structure, sculpture, inscription, etc., which is in existence for not less than 100 years is termed ancient.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Hunar Haats
1. Hunar Haats provide a platform to artisans and craftsmen to display their rich heritage and skill.
2. Hunar Haats are organised by Ministry of Culture.
3. National Minority Finance Development Corporation provide financial aid to the artisans and craftsmen.
Select the correct code:
a) 1, 2
b) 1, 3
c) 2, 3
d) 1, 2, 3
Solution: b

- Hunar Haats are organised by Ministry of Minority Affairs under USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development) scheme.

- The USTTAD scheme aims at preserving & promoting the rich heritage of the traditional arts & crafts of the Minority communities.

- Hunar Haats provide a platform to master artisans and craftsmen to display their rich heritage and skill, on the other hand these exhibitions bring both domestic and international markets to the artisans and craftsmen, empowering them with various resources. The National Minority Finance Development Corporation also supports them with financial aid/loans etc.

(Q) Consider the following statements

1. Asia’s largest tulip garden is located at Srinagar
2. Chajja dance form of J&K and HP

Select the correct answer
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 & 2 only
d) None

Solution – C

- **Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip garden**, previously Model Floriculture Center, is a tulip garden in Srinagar, India. It is the largest tulip garden in Asia spread over an area of about 30 hectares. It is situated on the foothills of Zabarwan Range with an overview of Dal Lake. The garden was opened in 2007 with the aim to boost floriculture and tourism in Kashmir Valley.

- Chajja Dance, also called the peacock dance or ‘Dandaras’, is performed on the occasion of Lohri festival in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

- It is based on the popular belief that the peacock is ecstatic with the onset of the spring season. The dance features boys dancing to the beating of the drums along with ‘Chajjas’, a huge model of peacock elaborately decorated with colored paper and flowers, in a dancing procession along the street. Sweet tunes of ‘shehnai’, played along with the beating of drums, add to the pomp and merriment.

(Q) Recently Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai was declared as a World Heritage Property by UNESCO. Consider the following statements

1. This makes Mumbai city the third city in India after Delhi and Ahmedabad to be inscribed on the World Heritage List.
2. India stands second largest in number after China in terms of number of World Heritage properties in ASPAC (Asia and Pacific) region.
3. UNESCO’s World Heritage mission helps States Parties safeguard World Heritage properties by providing technical assistance and professional training.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 3
c) 2, 3
d) 1, 2, 3
India has been successful in securing the inscription of the “Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai” on UNESCO’s World Heritage List. This makes Mumbai city the second city in India after Ahmedabad to be inscribed on the World Heritage List. India stands second largest in number after China in terms of number of World Heritage properties in ASPAC (Asia and Pacific) region.

[https://whc.unesco.org/en/about/](https://whc.unesco.org/en/about/)

(Q) Consider the following statements about Aadi Mahotsav

1. The festival will feature exhibition-cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, art, paintings, fabric, jewellery and much more.
2. It also provides an opportunity for tribals to sell their produce through e-commerce platforms.
3. It is an initiative of Ministry of Commerce and TRIFED.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Aadi Mahotsav is an effort to scale up the livelihood and income generating opportunity for tribals by giving them the opportunity to interact and sell their goods directly to the customers. Ministry of Tribal affairs and TRIFED through Aadi Mahotsav’s provides them market access across the country.

The festival will feature exhibition-cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, art, paintings, fabric, jewellery and much more.

VIII. STATES

(Q) Khushi Scheme to provide free sanitary napkins to school girls across the state is of which state?
   a) Kerala
   b) Haryana
   c) Tamil Nadu
   d) Odisha

   Solution: d
   As part of its initiatives to empower women, the Odisha government, last year, launched this scheme to provide free sanitary napkins to school girls across the state.

(Q) The longest road bridge, Dhola-Sadiya Bridge is on which River
   a) Dibang
   b) Manas
   c) Subansiri
   d) Lohit

   Solution: d
   Dhola-Sadiya Bridge is the longest road bridge on Lohit River connecting the northeast states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Longest rail-road bridge is Bogibeel in Assam.

(Q) Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary is in which state
   a) Assam
   b) Meghalaya
   c) Arunachal Pradesh
   d) Tripura

   Solution: d
   The Sepahijala wildlife sanctuary carries the coveted ‘Clouded Leopard National Park’ tag since 2011 thanks to its successful breeding of the near-extinct animal. This is the only place where the endangered clouded leopard is bred and conserved.

   Tripura has three other sanctuaries, Trishna in South Tripura, Rowa in North Tripura and Gomati wildlife sanctuary in Gomati district. Among these, Trishna was declared as a bison reserve.

(Q) Mishmi is a tribe belonging to
   a) Arunachal Pradesh
   b) Manipur
   c) Meghalaya
   d) Mizoram
**Solution – A**

**Explanation**

- Arunachal Pradesh – Abor, Mishmi, Apatani etc
- Manipur – Sema, Tangkhul etc
- Meghalaya – Chakma, Garo etc
- Mizoram – Khasi, Jantia, Kuki etc

(Q) One family one job scheme which entitles one government job for every family was recently announced by which state

a) Uttar Pradesh  
b) Haryana  
c) Sikkim  
d) Madhya Pradesh

**Solution: c**

- Sikkim has announced the One family one job scheme to provide employment to the youth of Sikkim.
- The scheme entitles one government job for every family in the state.

(Q) Consider the following pairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GI Product</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shahi Litchi</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kadaknath chicken meat</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etikoppaka toys</td>
<td>Telangana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adilabad dokra</td>
<td>Telangana</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select the correct code:

a) 1, 3  
b) 1, 2, 4  
c) 2, 4  
d) 2, 3, 4

**Solution: c**

- Shahi Litchi – Bihar  
- Kadaknath chicken meat – Madhya Pradesh  
- Etikoppaka toys – Andhra Pradesh  
- Adilabad dokra – Telangana

(Q) Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project will be constructed on the river?

a) Godavari  
b) Krishna  
c) Son  
d) Yamuna
**Solution: d**

**Renukaji Multi Purpose Project:**
Three storage projects are proposed to be constructed on the river Yamuna and two of its tributaries – Tons and Giri in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh of Upper Yamuna Basin. These include Lakhwar project on river Yamuna in Uttarakhand, Kishau on river Tons in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and Renukaji on river Giri in Himachal Pradesh.


(Q) Which state recently declared Pakke Hornbill Fest as ‘state festival’

- a) Nagaland
- b) Assam
- c) Manipur
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

**Solution: d**

The government of Arunachal Pradesh declared the Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF)–the state’s only conservation festival, as a “state festival”.


(Q) Asia’s first ‘National Dolphin Research Centre’ will be setup in which state?

- a) Odisha
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Bihar
- d) Goa

**Solution: c**

National Dolphin Research Centre, India and Asia’s first, is to be set up on the banks of River Ganga in Patna University premises.

IX. DEFENCE & SECURITY

(Q) Which of the following is the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency in India
a) National Counter Terrorism Centre
b) Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)
c) National Investigation Agency (NIA)
d) Counter Terrorism and Counter Radicalization Division, MHA

Solution: c
Presently, NIA is functioning as the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency in India.

(Q) Father of All Bombs which is seen as counter to Mother of All Bombs is developed by
a) Russia
b) US
c) China
d) North Korea

Solution: a
China has developed a massive bomb, said to be the country's answer to the US-built 'Mother of All Bombs', the most powerful non-nuclear weapon.
It is dubbed as the Chinese version of the "Mother of All Bombs" due to its huge destruction potential that is claimed to be only second to nuclear weapons.
To match the U.S. weapon, Russia developed the "Father of All Bombs" which is both bigger and thermobaric, meaning it uses gas to create a huge fireball rather than a shockwave.

(Q) Consider the following statements about fugitive economic offenders’ law
1. A person can be named a fugitive economic offender for involvement in economic offences involving at least Rs. 50 crore or more
2. Till now more than 10 persons have been declared a fugitive offender under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act.
3. The investigating agencies have to file an application in a Special Court under the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002 for confiscation of properties of the offender.

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

Solution: c
Vijay Mallya has become the first person to be declared a fugitive offender under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act.

A person can be named an offender under this law if there is an arrest warrant against him or her for involvement in economic offences involving at least Rs. 100 crore or more and has fled from India to escape legal action.

The investigating agencies have to file an application in a Special Court under the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002 containing details of the properties to be confiscated, and any information about the person’s whereabouts.

(Q) The states which require the **Inner Line Permit** are

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Meghalaya
3. Mizoram
5. Nagaland

Select the correct code:

a) 2, 4, 5
b) 1, 2, 3, 4
c) 1, 3, 4, 5
d) 1, 3, 5

**Solution: d**

The states which require the **Inner Line Permit** are Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland. Indian citizens also need a Nagaland-issued ILP if entering Manipur by road via Dimapur or Kohima. An ILP was previously required for certain parts of the Leh district in Jammu and Kashmir. This requirement was abolished by a circular issued by district magistrate which took effect from 1 May 2014, although foreign nationals are required to get Protected Area Permit for this region.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Navika Sagar Parikrama

1. First ever circumnavigation of globe by all-women Indian crew of INSV Tarangini.
2. The six-member crew was led by Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi.
3. The crew also collected and updated meteorological, ocean and wave data.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

**Solution: b**

India’s Navy all six women crew of INSV Tarini who completed India’s first all-women circumnavigation expedition of the globe was conferred prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017. It was first ever circumnavigation of globe by all-women Indian crew.
The six-member crew was led by Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi. Besides, circumnavigating the globe, the crew also collected and updated meteorological, ocean and wave data on regular basis for accurate weather forecast by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).

Source: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179443

(Q) Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti is related to
a) Enhance the private sector participation in defence manufacturing.
b) Boost Export of India’s Defence production
c) Boost Intellectual Property Right (IPR) culture in indigenous defence industry
d) Invisible laser walls to bolster security along border with Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir

Solution: c
As part of the ongoing initiatives to enhance self-reliance in defence, the Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti aims to provide a boost to the IPR culture in indigenous defence industry.

Source: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=185978

(Q) Consider the following statements about Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS).
1. It is a voluntary initiative that brings together navies of littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region with the aim of increasing maritime cooperation and enhancing regional security.
2. It was launched by India in 2012.
3. It works to ensure speedy response to requirements of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in the IOR.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c
The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) is an inclusive and voluntary initiative that brings together navies of littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region with the aim of increasing maritime cooperation and enhancing regional security. It was launched by India in February 2008.

In addition to fostering maritime cooperation, other principle objectives of IONS were to promote a shared understanding of maritime issues facing the region, formulate strategies and cooperative mechanisms to enhance regional maritime security and strengthen capabilities to ensure speedy response to requirements of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in the IOR.
X. REPORTS & INDICES

(Q) Ease of Living Index is released by
a) NITI Ayog
b) World Bank
c) Ministry of Rural Development
d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Solution: d
Ease of Living Index is A Transformative Initiative of The Ministry to Help Cities Assess their Liveability Vis-À-Vis National & Global Benchmarks. "The 'Ease of Living' Index seeks to assist cities in undertaking a 360-degree assessment of their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats”.

(Q) Who releases Climate Change Performance Index
a) UNFCCC
b) UNEP
c) Germanwatch
d) World Bank

Solution: c
The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is an annual publication by Germanwatch, and Climate Action Network Europe. It evaluates the climate protection performance of 58 countries, responsible for over 90% of global energy-related CO2 emissions.

(Q) Ease of Doing Business Index on Attractiveness to Investors, Business Friendliness and Competitive Policies (EDB Index ABC) is released by
a) World Bank
b) NITI Ayog
c) BRICS
d) Asia Competitiveness Institute

Solution: d
Asia Competitiveness Institute's (ACI) has released its Ease of Doing Business Index on Attractiveness to Investors, Business Friendliness and Competitive Policies (EDB Index ABC).

Performance of Indian states: Andhra Pradesh has topped the list. It is followed by Maharashtra and Delhi.

Asia Competitiveness Institute at Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore was established as a research centre in 2006 with an aim to build intellectual leadership and network for understanding and developing competitiveness in the Asia region.
(Q) Consider the following statement with regard to 70 point performance grading index
1. Compiled by NITI Aayog
2. States performance assessed on 1000 point scale based on 70 indicators
Select the correct answer
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 & 2
d) None.

Solution – B
The union Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry is compiling this schooling index. The Index will assess states on a 1,000 point grading system with 10-20 points per parameter.
Areas: The 70 indicators will grade state schooling systems on areas like number of existing teacher vacancies, number of direct entry recruitments especially at leadership positions, school infrastructure and so on.
The NITI Aayog which was earlier developing its own School Education Quality Index, will be using 33 of the 70 criteria under the PGI for their own assessments.

(Q) Global Risks Report is released by
a) World Bank
b) UNDP
c) World Meteorological Organization
d) World Economic Forum

Solution: d
• The Global Risks Report 2019 has been released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

(Q) Global Commission on Future of Work is the initiative of
a) World Bank
b) United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
c) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
d) International Labour Organization (ILO)

Solution: d
• The formation of ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work marks the second stage in the ILO Future of Work Initiative.
• Its job is to undertake an in-depth examination of the future of work that can provide the analytical basis for the delivery of social justice in the 21st century.
• Its job also includes identifying the key challenges facing the world of work and making practical recommendations about how these may be addressed in the future.
(Q) World Development Report (WDR) is an annual report published by
a) World Trade Organisation (WTO)
b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
c) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
d) World Bank

Solution: d
The World Development Report (WDR) is an annual report published since 1978 by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) or World Bank. Each WDR provides in-depth analysis of a specific aspect of economic development. Past reports have considered such topics as agriculture, youth, equity, public services delivery, the role of the state, transition economies, labour, infrastructure, health, the environment, risk management, and poverty. The reports are the Bank’s best-known contribution to thinking about development.

The World Development Report 2019 studies the impact of technology on the nature of work.

XI. MAPS/ PLACES

(Q) Ross Island, Neil Island and Havelock Island are located in
   a) Lakshadweep
   b) Maldives
   c) Indonesia
   d) Andaman and Nicobar

Solution: d

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on December 30th, announced renaming of three islands of Andaman and Nicobar archipelago as a tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

The Ross Island was renamed as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep, the Neil Island as Shaheed Dweep and the Havelock Island as Swaraj Dweep.

(Q) Consider the following statements with respect to Galapagos island

1. Located in pacific ocean
2. Tropic of Capricorn passes through it
3. Equator passes through it
4. Located in Atlantic ocean

Select the correct answer
   a) 1 & 2 only
   b) 1 & 3 only
   c) 4 & 3 only
   d) 4 & 2 only

Solution – B
(Q) *Panj Tirath* recently declared as national heritage is in which country

a) Nepal  
b) Bhutan  
c) Bangladesh  
d) Pakistan

**Solution: d**

The provincial Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government in northwest Pakistan has declared the ancient Hindu religious site of *Panj Tirath* in Peshawar as national heritage.

(Q) Zagros mountain present in

a) Iran  
b) Afghanistan  
c) Turkmenistan  
d) Saudi Arabia

**Solution – A**
(Q) Which of the following are correctly matched

1. Ross island – Shaheed dweep
2. Havelock island – Swaraj dweep
3. Neil island – Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose island

Select the correct answer

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) 3 only
d) 2 & 3 only

Solution – B
Ross island – Netaji Subhash Chandra bose island
Havelock island – Swaraj dweep
Neil island – shaheed dweep

(Q) Consider the following with respect to Hemis national park

1. It is the largest national park in India
2. It lies on the bank of river Indus
3. The park contains metalled or motorable roads

Select the correct answer

a) 1 & 3 only
b) 1, 2 & 3 only
c) 1 & 2 only
d) 2 & 3 only

Solution – C

Explanation
- It is the only national park in India that is north of the Himalayas, the largest notified protected area in India (largest National park) and is the second largest contiguous protected area, after the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve and surrounding protected areas.
- The park is bounded on the north by the banks of the Indus River
- No metalled or motorable roads traverse the park.

(Q) Pakke tiger reserve is located in

a) West Bengal
b) Assam
c) Arunachal Pradesh
d) Manipur

Solution – C
Explanation
West Bengal – Buxa tiger reserve
Assam – Kaziranga
Arunachal Pradesh – pakke tiger reserve
Manipur – Keibul Lamjao National Park

(Q) Rhode island belongs to
a) USA
b) UK
c) Canada
d) Germany

Solution – A
Explanation
- UK – Gibraltar
- Canada – British Colombia
- Germany – Bavaria

(Q) Consider the following countries
1. Albania
2. Bosnia Herzegovian
3. Croatia
4. Macedonia
Which of the following have borders with Adriatic sea
a) 1 & 2  b) 1, 2, & 3 only
c) 4 only  d) 3 & 4 only

Solution – B
Explanation
(Q) Arrange the following seas from east to west
1. Java sea
2. Flores sea
3. Banda sea
4. Arafura sea
Select the correct answer
a) 1-3-4-2
b) 4-3-2-1
c) 2-1-4-3
d) 4-1-3-2

Solution – B
Explanation

(Q) Arrange the following seas from west to East
1. Kara sea
2. Laptev sea
3. Chukchi sea
4. East Siberian sea
Select the correct options
a) 1-2-4-3  b) 1-4-2-3
c) 2-1-3-4  d) 2-3-1-4
(Q) Gulf of Riga is present in
a) North Sea  b) Baltic sea
c) Norwegian sea  d) None

Solution – B
(Q) Mukundra hill tiger reserve is located in
   a) Chhattisgarh
   b) Madhya Pradesh
   c) Jharkhand
   d) Rajasthan

Solution – D
Explanation
- Chhattisgarh – Indravati tiger reserve
- Madhya Pradesh – Kanha tiger reserve
- Jharkhand – Palamau tiger reserve

(Q) Satkosia Tiger Reserve is in which state?
   a) Andhra Pradesh
   b) Madhya Pradesh
   c) Jharkhand
   d) Odisha

Solution: d
Satkosia Tiger Reserve is a tiger reserve located in the Angul district of Odisha. It is located where the Mahanadi River passes through a 22 km long gorge in the Eastern Ghats mountains. The tiger reserve is located in the Eastern Highlands moist deciduous forests ecoregion.

Two trained elephants will be used to patrol Odisha’s Satkosia Tiger Reserve. The two elephants are being brought from the Similipal Tiger Reserve. This step has been undertaken for resuming the ambitious tiger reintroduction programme in Satkosia.


(Q) Sabang, a strategic location for India is located across?
   a) Strait of Hormuz
   b) Bab-el-Mandeb
   c) Strait of Malacca
   d) Johore Strait

Solution: c
India and Indonesia have agreed to develop a naval port in Sabang, a strategic location at the entrance of Malacca Strait.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/a-maritime-stretch/article24027337.ece
(Q) Consider the following statements

1. Established in the year 1936 as Hailey National Park
2. It is the place where Project Tiger was first launched in 1973.
3. Its whole area comprises of hills, marshy depressions, riverine belts, grasslands and large lake.
4. The park has sub-Himalayan belt geographical and ecological characteristics.

The above statements refer to which of the following national parks?

a) Balphakram National Park
b) Dudhwa National Park
c) Manas National Park
d) Jim Corbett National Park

Solution: d

Jim Corbett National Park is the oldest national park in India and was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park to protect the endangered Bengal tiger. It is located in Nainital district of Uttarakhand and was named after Jim Corbett who played a key role in its establishment. The park was the first to come under the Project Tiger initiative.

The park has sub-Himalayan belt geographical and ecological characteristics. An ecotourism destination.

XII. Miscellaneous

(Q) Consider the following statements

1. Worldskills founded in 1950 is a global hub for skill excellence and development
2. Worldskills has 75 members and regions working with youth, educators, govt and industry to prepare future workforce
3. 45th World skill competition to be held in Russia – 2019
4. Indiaskills competition conducted by MSDE and NSDC is an annual competition

Select the correct answer

a) 1, 2, 3 only
b) 2, 3, 4 only
c) 2, 3, 1 only
d) All of the above

Solution – A

• India skills competition is a biennial event.
• Founded in 1950, WorldSkills is the global hub for skills excellence and development. WorldSkills brings youth, industries, and educators together to give youth the chance to compete, experience, and learn how to become the best in their skill of choice. From the traditional trades to multi-skilled technology careers in the industry and service sectors, supported by partners, industries, governments, volunteers, and educational institutions, WorldSkills vision is to improve the world through the power of skills. It has 75 Member countries and regions, all working with youth, educators, governments, and industries to help prepare the workforce and talent of today for the jobs of the future

(Q) Consider the following about Gandhi peace prize

1. Selected by the jury under the chairmanship of President of India
2. 2018 Gandhi peace prize was conferred to Prime minister Narendra Modi
3. Award is given once in every 2 yrs.

Select the correct answers

a) 1 & 2 only
b) 2 & 3 only
c) All
 d) None

Solution: d

• The Gandhi Peace Prize was instituted in the year 1995 on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
• This annual award is given to individuals and institutions for their contributions towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violence and other Gandhian methods.
• The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 crore, a citation and a Plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item.
• The Award for every year is selected by a Jury under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister.
• Shri Yohei Sasakawa for the year 2018 for his contribution in Leprosy Eradication in India and across the world.

(Q) Consider the following statements about India’s First Global Mobility Summit 2018
1. It was organized by NITI Aayog.
2. The summit announced the creation of a UK-India Tech Hub with the focus on future mobility.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both
   d) None

Solution: b

• MOVE: India’s ever first Global Mobility Summit was organized by NITI Aayog. The focus of the summit is on raising awareness about various aspects of Mobility and bringing various stakeholders involved in enhancing mobility across different platforms.
• India-UK List of MOUs/Agreements/Initiatives during the visit of Prime Minister to London, UK (April 18, 2018)
• UK-India Tech Hub: The UK announced the creation of a UK-India Tech Hub. Based in the British High Commission in New Delhi the Tech Hub will include a network of people and programmes designed to facilitate ideas, investment and prosperity for India and the UK. It will focus on the fastest growing sectors, including: cybersecurity, AI/data, future mobility, digital manufacturing, healthcare, electric vehicles and digital identity. (Hence Statement 2 is incorrect).

Source: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183295

(Q) Consider the following statements about Pravasi Bhartiya Divas
1. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated every year to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India.
2. Selected overseas Indians are also honored with Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award.
3. The first chapter of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas was held in 2000.

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

Solution: c
• Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated once in every two years to strengthen the engagement of
the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots.
During the Convention, selected overseas Indians are also honored with the prestigious Pravasi
Bharatiya Samman Award to recognize their contributions to various fields both in India and abroad.

• The 15th annual Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) is held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The first chapter of
Pravasi Bhartiya Divas was held in 2003 to recognise the contributions of NRIs in academic and
professional fields across the world.