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Q.1) Consider the following statements about 'National Index for Performance on Health Outcomes'

- 1. It is launched by NITI Aayog along with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- 2. Monitorable indicators that form a part of Sustainable Development Goal in Health have been included in order to align these initiatives

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Q.1) Solution (c)

A 'Performance on Health Outcomes' index, spearheaded by NITI Aayog along with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to nudge States towards transformative action in the Health sector.

Monitorable indicators that form a part of Sustainable Development Goal in Health have been included in order to align these initiatives. It is anticipated that this health index will assist in State level monitoring of performance, serve as an input for providing performance based incentives and improvement in health outcomes, thereby also meeting the citizens' expectations.

It includes indicators in the domains of health outcomes governance and information and a few key inputs and processes. This initiative is envisioned to bring about the much required improvements in social sector outcomes, which have not kept pace with the economic growth in this country. It will be used to propel action in the States to improve health outcomes and improve data collection systems.

In News - http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/niti-aayog-launches-performance-on-health-outcomes-index/article9441949.ece

Q.2) Recently the Centre has reconstituted a committee that was tasked with assisting the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB). It is headed by

- a) R.S. Bachawat
- b) A.K. Bajaj
- c) Markandey Katju

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d) T.S. Thakur

Q.2) Solution (b)

The Centre has reconstituted a committee that was tasked with assisting the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB).

It will be headed by A.K. Bajaj, former chairman of the Central Water Commission. Others on the board include Gopala Krishnan, R.P. Pandey, Pradeep Kumar Shukla and N.N. Rai.

The committee is tasked with assisting the Krishna River Management Board prepares a manual on how projects, common to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, ought to be handled. It also has to weigh in on how the Godavari waters ought to be transferred to the Krishna Basin in accordance with the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal Award.

In News - http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Centre-recasts-panel-helping-Krishna-Board/article16927253.ece

Q.3) 'India Pride Project' is concerned with

- a) Procuring lost treasure
- b) LGBT Community
- c) Women in Sports
- d) None of the above

Q.3) Solution (a)

In News - http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Web-of-smugglers-linked-to-New-York-art-gallery/article16934471.ece

Q.4) Consider the following statements about ICEGATE

- It is a portal that provides e-filing services to the trade and cargo carriers and other clients of Customs Department
- 2. It is an infrastructure project that fulfils Central Board of Excise and Custom's Electronic Commerce/Electronic Data interchange (EC/EDI) and data communication requirements

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Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Q.4) Solution (c)

ICEGATE stands for the Indian Customs Electronic Commerce/Electronic Data interchange (EC/EDI) Gateway. ICEGATE is a portal that provides e-filing services to the trade and cargo carriers and other clients of Customs Department (collectively called Trading Partner).

ICEGATE is an infrastructure project that fulfils the department's EC/EDI and data communication requirements. Through this facility the department offers a host of services, including electronic filing of the Bill of Entry(import goods declaration), Shipping Bills (export goods declaration) and related electronic messages between Customs and the Trading Partners using communication facilities (E-mail, Web-upload & FTP) using the communication protocols commonly used on the internet.

Read More - https://www.icegate.gov.in/about icegate.html

In News - http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/india-ease-of-doing-business-world-bank-report-4439182/

Q.5) Global Wage Rate for the year 2016-17 shows that globally wage rate has been declining and has even reached its four year lowest of 1.7% from 2.5%. It is released by

- a) United Nations Economic and Social Council
- b) Economic Policy Institute
- c) World Bank
- d) International Labour Organization

Q.5) Solution (d)

International Labour Organization (ILO) has recently released a report on Global Wage Rate for the year 2016-17.

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The report shows that globally wage rate has been declining and has even reached its four year lowest of 1.7% from 2.5%. Average economic growth in 2010-15, has reduced from 9.6 to 6.6% in Asia and as a result, real GDP rate has fallen from 5.7 to 5.4 in 2014-15.

There are multiple reason behind such a fall in wages globally:

- Lower wage growth in emerging and developing countries and the fall in the parameter is such that it cannot be compensated from a high growth of wage rate in developed countries which has reached its high level in 10 years.
- Gender pay gap: The percentage shortfall in the average wage of women relative to the average wage of men. In simple terms, very high gender inequality while distributing wages across the world.
- Excessive contribution of China in real growth in GDP as the report shows that in 2015, GDP growth without China was 0.9% but with China, the number rises to 1.7%
- Increasing inequality between enterprises as measured by differences in average wages among enterprises with high-skilled workers clustering in some enterprises and low-skilled workers clustering in others.
- Inequality within enterprises, a larger share of total wage inequality can be attributed to inequality within enterprises than to inequality between enterprises.

Along with the problems, solution to the wage rate is provided:

- Minimum wages concept
- Collective bargaining(Collective bargaining allows groups of workers to negotiate
 higher wages with employers, and this can have a particularly large impact for
 workers in the lower half of the distribution who may have less individual bargaining
 power.)
- Enterprise self-regulation
- Productivity growth, fiscal policy adoption and many more.

In News - http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/Pardon-the-gender-wage-gap-is-showing/article16921327.ece