

Q.1) Consider the following statements with reference to the Famine Commission of 1880.

1. It was appointed by Lord Rippon.
2. It was headed by Richard Starchey.
3. The First famine code was formulated based on the commission's report.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above.

Q.1) Solution (b)

In 1880 the Governor General of India Lord Lytton appointed a Famine commission headed by Sir Richard Starchey. It recommended providing employment to the able bodied persons, and to provide relief to the physically infirmed, It suggested that the famine relief should be primary responsibility of the Provincial governments with the centre's help wherever necessary.

Based on the recommendations of the committee, First Famine Code was formulated in 1883.

The second Famine Commission was appointed by Lord Curzon in 1901, after the draught of 1899-1900.

Source: A New Look At the Modern Indian History by B.L. Grover and Alka Mehta.

Q.2) Which of the following pairs is matched correctly?

1. Mayo's resolution on financial decentralization : 1870
2. The Royal Commission on Decentralization : 1905
3. Ripon's Resolution on Decentralization : 1882

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

Lord Ripon is known to have granted the Indians first taste of freedom by introducing the Local Self Government in 1882. His scheme of local self-government developed the Municipal institutions which had been growing up in the country ever since India was occupied by the British Crown. He led a series of enactments in which larger powers of the Local self-government were given to the rural and urban bodies and the elective people received some wider rights. Lord Ripon is known as Father of Local Self Government in India.

Mayo's Resolution of 1870The Indian Council of Act of 1861 introduced the policy of legislative devolution and Mayo's Resolution of 1870 on financial decentralisation was its likely consequence. Administrative suitability and financial severity instigated the Imperial Government to reassign to the management of provincial governments specific departments of administration, which, along with others, incorporated education, medical services and roads. The Indian Council of Act of 1861 introduced the policy of legislative devolution and Mayo's Resolution of 1870 on financial decentralisation was its likely consequence. Administrative suitability and financial severity instigated the Imperial Government to reassign to the management of provincial governments specific departments of administration, which, along with others, incorporated education, medical services and roads.

The Royal Commission upon Decentralisation was appointed in 1907 under the chairmanship of Sir Henry William Primrose. It was a six-member body including the Chairman, other five members being Frederic Lely, Steyning Edgerley, Romesh Chunder Dutt, William Meyer and William Hichons.

The Royal Commission upon Decentralization in India was appointed on 12 September 1907 to inquire into the relations now existing for financial and administrative purposes between the Supreme Government (i.e., the Government of India) and the various Provincial Governments in India, and between the Provincial Governments and the authorities subordinate to them and to report whether, by measures of decentralization or otherwise, those relations can be simplified and improved, and the system of Government better adapted both to meet the requirements and promote the welfare of the different provinces and, without improving its strength and unity, to bring the executive power into closer touch with local conditions'. The Commission submitted its report in February 1909.

Source: A New Look At the Modern Indian History by B.L. Grover and Alka Mehta.

Q.3) Consider the following statements about the Deccan Riots of 1875.

1. It was a peasant uprising against the confiscation of tribal lands by the Government.
2. It was a peasant uprising against the Marwari and Gujrati money lenders.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.3) Solution (b)

The Deccan riots of 1875 were directed mainly against the Marwari and Gujrati moneylenders.

A combination of excess land revenue demands by the government and the world cotton prices slump due to the American Civil War had pushed the peasants into deep indebtedness. The Moneylenders had confiscated the lands of the local peasants. The Rioting peasants targeted the Bonds they had signed with the moneylenders, the entire Poona district was ablaze in June 1875. The government had to call in the army to control the situation.

Source: A New Look At the Modern Indian History by B.L. Grover and Alka Mehta.

Q.4) Which of the following events are not attributed to Curzon's tenure Governor-General of India?

- a) Appointment of the University Commission.
- b) Appointment of Police Commission
- c) Ancient Monuments Act
- d) Surat Split in Congress

Q.4) Solution (d)

Police Commission {Sir Andrew Frazer} Lord Curzon set up a Police Commission under Sir Andrew Frazer in 1902-03. On the basis of recommendation of this commission, a basic structure of Indian domestic intelligence developed and remained almost same till 1947. He attached Department of Criminal Intelligence (DCI) to the Government of India while set up the Criminal Investigation Departments (CIDs) in the provinces of British India. In 1903, the Thugi and Dakaiti Department was abolished.

Raleigh Commission the Indian Universities and the colleges were slowly becoming cradle of propaganda against the Government. To bring the universities under control, Lord Curzon appointed Raleigh Commission under Sir Thomas Raleigh. The Raleigh Commission had only one Indian member, Syed Hussain Belgrami. When Hindus protested about this, Justice Guru Das Banerjee was called from the High Court of Calcutta and made a member. This commission submitted its report in 1902 and this followed introduction of a Bill called

Raleigh Bill. The Raleigh Bill when became an act, it was called Indian Universities Act 1904. Indian Universities Act 1904 This Act reorganised the constitution of the Syndicates; provided for the official inspection of the colleges and placed the final decision concerning the affiliation and disaffiliation of colleges in the hands of the Government of India. This act was severely criticized by scholars like Gopal Krishna Gokhle. The first provision of this act was that the governing bodies of the universities were to be reconstituted and the size of the Senates was reduced. Now the number in the senate could be minimum 50 and maximum 100. Each of them would hold the office for 6 years. For the Universities of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, the elected fellows were to be 50 and for rest of the universities, the number was fixed 15. This act allowed the Government to appoint a majority of the fellows in a university. The Governor General was now empowered to decide a University's territorial limits and also affiliation between the universities and colleges. The Indian Universities Act made the universities and colleges completely under the Government control. However, for better education and research a grant of Rs. 5 Lakh per year for 5 years was also accepted. This was the beginning of university grants in India which later became a permanent feature in the structure of India education.

Ancient Monuments Preservation Act 1904 one of the most remarkable acts passed during the times of Lord Curzon was the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act of 1904. This act made any injury to the protected monuments an offence punishable under the law. This act also established the Archaeological Department which was to collect the historical documents and importance, conduct excavations and bring the ancient historical information into light.

Q.5) Who among the following was/were economic critic/critics of colonialism in India?

1. Dadabhai Naoroji
2. M.G. Ranade
3. R. C. Dutt

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) All of the above.

Q.5) Solution (d)

Dadabhai Naoroji, R. C. Dutt, Ranade, Gokhale, G. Subramania Iyer, were among those who grounded Indian nationalism firmly on the foundation of anti-imperialism by fashioning the world's first economic critique of colonialism, before Hobson and Lenin.

The drain theory was established by Dadabhai Naoroji. Increased poverty and lower wages were among the indirect products of colonial rule according to Dutt.

Q.6) Which of the following was/were the main objectives of Queen Victoria's Proclamation (1858)?

1. To disclaim any intention to annex Indian States
2. To place the Indian administration under the British Crown.
3. To regulate East India Company's trade with India

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Q.6) Solution (a)

The Company as a commercial entity ceased to exist after the Proclamation of 1858. Hence statement (3) is incorrect. The Proclamation intended to create a group of local kingdoms and provinces which could be used to safeguard the Indian territories if a revolt like 1857 happened again. This was the beginning of Policy of Subordinate Union which lasted till 1935. The Queen's proclamation also transferred all the Company's territories and their administration into the hands of British Government.

Q.7) Which of the following statements regarding The Ilbert Bill is correct?

- a) European nationals could be judged by Indian Magistrates.
- b) Imposition of restrictions on newspapers and magazines published in Indian languages.
- c) Imposition restrictions the Indians of certain to carry arms by Indians.
- d) Imposition of additional tax on the land revenue during Famine.

Q.7) Solution (a)

The 'Ilbert Bill' was a bill introduced in 1883 under the reign of the Viceroy Lord Ripon (who earned the epithet Ripon-The good) which was written by Sir C.P Ilbert (The law member of the Viceroy's Council). According to the said Act, Indian judges could try a European accused.

This led to organised lobbying and opposition by all Europeans in India. And an amendment was brought as a compromise. As per amendment- Indian judges could preside over cases involving Europeans BUT the Europeans got right to demand trial by jury, where atleast half of the jury would be White Europeans.

This completely defeated the purpose of the original Ilbert Bill. Though the educated Indians had also protested against the amendments, but they realized that to pressurise the government, all India organisation and more coordination amongst Indians to press for equal treatment. This is why Ilbert Bill controversy is seen as an important precursor to the formation of the INC.

Source: A New Look At the Modern Indian History by B.L. Grover and Alka Mehta.

From Plassey to Partition by Sekhar Bandyopadhyay

Q.8) Which of the following Political Associations did not belong to the Bengal Province?

- a) Zamindar Association.
- b) Indian League.
- c) Indian Association.
- d) Madras Mahajan Sabha.

Q.8) Solution (d)

The Zamindari Association or Landlord's society was founded in 1838 to safeguard the interests of the landlords of Bengal for stimulating sense of nationalism among the people

Indian League was founded by Sisir Kumar Ghosh in 1875.

Indian Association was founded by Anand Mohan Bose and Surendranath Banerjee.

Madras Mahajan Sabha was founded in 1884 to co-ordinate the local associations.

Source: A New Look At the Modern Indian History by B.L. Grover and Alka Mehta.

From Plassey to Partition by Sekhar Bandyopadhyay

Q.9) Consider the following statements with reference to the Shyamji Krishna Varma.

1. He Published a Monthly Journal called The Indian Sociologist.
2. He founded the India House in England
3. He instituted Scholarships for Indians studying in foreign countries.

Which of the above questions is/are correct?

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

Q.9) Solution (b)

Shyamji Krishna Varma was an Indian revolutionary fighter, lawyer and journalist who founded the Indian Home Rule Society, India House and The Indian Sociologist in London.

In 1905 he founded the India House and The Indian Sociologist, which rapidly developed as an organised meeting point for radical nationalists among Indian students in Britain at the time and one of the most prominent centres for revolutionary Indian nationalism outside India. Most famous among the members of this organisation was Veer Savarkar. Krishna Varma moved to Paris in 1907, avoiding prosecution. He died in 1935

Later in 1905, Shyamji attended the United Congress of Democrats held at Holborn Town Hall as a delegate of the India Home Rule Society. His resolution on India received an enthusiastic ovation from the entire conference. Shyamji's activities in England aroused the concern of the British government: He was disbarred from Inner Temple and removed from the membership list on 30 April 1909 for writing anti-British articles in The Indian Sociologist. Most of the British press were anti-Shyamji and carried outrageous allegations against him and his newspaper. He defended them boldly. The Times referred to him as the "Notorious Krishnavarma". Many newspapers criticised the British progressives who supported Shyamji and his view. His movements were closely watched by British Secret Services, so he decided to shift his headquarters to Paris, leaving India House in charge of Vir Savarkar. Shyamji left Britain secretly before the government tried to arrest him.

Source: A New Look At the Modern Indian History by B.L. Grover and Alka Mehta.
From Plassey to Partition by Sekhar Bandyopadhyay.

Q.10) "Home Charges" constituted a major thread in the economic critique of the British government. Which of the following funds constituted "Home Charges"?

1. Funds used to support the India office in London.
2. Funds used to pay salaries and pensions of British personnel engaged in India.
3. Funds used for waging wars outside India by the British.

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only

- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) All of the above.

Q.10) Solution (a)

It is clear from Economic History of India by RC Datt: " The Indian Tribute whether weighted in the scales of justice or viewed in the light of our interest, will be found to be at variance with humanity, with the commonsense and with the received maxims of economical science. It would be true wisdom then to provide for the future payment of such of the Home Charges of the Indian Government as really from the tribute out of Indian Exchequer. These charges would be probably found to be the dividends on East India Stock, interest in Home debt, the salaries of the officers, establishments of the and building connected with the Home Department of Indian Government, furlough and retired pay to members of the Indian Military and Civil Services when at Home, Charges of all descriptions paid in this country connected with the British troops serving in India and portion of the cost of transporting the British troops to and from India".

Source: A New Look At the Modern Indian History by B.L. Grover and Alka Mehta.

Q.11) Which of the Following pairs is correctly matched?

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------|
| 1. The Santhal Rebellion | : | 1875. |
| 2. Bengal Indigo Cultivators revolt | : | 1860. |
| 3. Moplah Uprising | : | 1921. |

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Q.11) Solution (b)**The Santhal Revolt:**

The Santhals of Santhal Pargana raised the banner of revolt in 1856-57 under the leadership of Kanu and Sidhu. The Santhals were generally peace-loving people who worked under primitive agricultural conditions. The simple and peaceful life of the Santhals was disturbed by the effects of the alien civilisation. Besides, the contractors, money-lenders, revenue-collectors and other agencies exercised a variety of tyrannies upon the timid Santhal tribesmen.

Redressal of the grievances through the machinery of law being of no avail the Santhals themselves took up arms against the oppressors. Under the leadership of Sidhu and his elder brother Kanu of Bhavnadihi, about ten thousand Santhals armed with primitive weapons rose in revolt in 1855. The Santhal rebellion for some months swept the British rule out of existence in the region.

Strike of Bengal indigo cultivators 1860:

Bengal projected the first strike in the history of the peasant movement in India. The European planters in Bengal forced the local peasants to resort to indigo cultivation and earned a good deal of profit. The peasants suffered a lot in 1860.

The peasants of the districts of Pabna and Nadia and Barasat sub-division went on strike and refused to cultivate indigo. Soon, the news spread and peasants of Dacca, Malda, Jessore, Khulna, Rajsahi and several other places followed their path.

The British Government was alarmed and issued order to different police stations to take due caution in protecting the peasants from the clutches of indigo planters. In an Act of 1862, it was decided that the planters can go to the court of law. This law freed the peasants from the clutches of the planters who left Bengal and ultimately went to Bihar and U. P

The Moplah uprising, 1921-22:

In 1921 the Muslim peasants of the Malabar districts of Kerala known as the Moplahs rose against their landlords, the Namboodris and Nairs. These upper classes exploited the peasants. The Moplahs had no security of their tenure.

The renewal of fees, high rents and other extractions by the zamindars, broke the backbone of the Moplahs. They became united and made armed attacks on the Namboodris, Nair's and other higher castes. The British Government became active and suppressed them.

Source: A New Look At the Modern Indian History by B.L. Grover and Alka Mehta.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the Subsidiary Alliance System:

1. Indian State was to surrender its External Relations to the East India Company.
2. Indian State was to accept a British Resident at its Headquarters
3. The company had the right to interfere in the Internal Matters of the Indian State.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only

d) All of the above

Q.12) Solution (a)

Subsidiary Alliance System was initiated by Warren Hastings under this the Company entered into an agreement with the Indian State, Under which the Indian State was to surrender the foreign/external relations to the company. It could not wage war against any other state without the permission from the Company. A British Resident was to stay in the headquarters of the Indian State as the representative of the Company.

A small British force was to be stationed in the Headquarters of the Indian State ostensibly to protect the State. The expenses of the force were to be defrayed from the Indian State. As per the agreement the Company could not interfere in the internal affairs of the State, but in practice the Company interfered in the internal affairs on the flimsiest of reasons.

Source: A New Look At the Modern Indian History by B.L. Grover and Alka Mehta.

Q.13) Which of the following Governor General took action against the Pindaris?

- a) Wellesley
- b) Hastings
- c) Cornwallis
- d) Dalhousie

Q.13) Solution (b)

Pindari, historically, an irregular horseman, plunderer, or forager attached to a Muslim army in India who was allowed to plunder in lieu of pay. The name is Marathi and probably derives from two words, meaning “bundle of grass” and “who takes.”

The Pindaris followed the Maratha bands who raided Mughal territory from the late 17th century. With the collapse of the Mughal Empire in the 18th century, these camp followers organized themselves into groups, each usually attached to one of the leading Maratha chiefs. But as those chiefs themselves grew weak at the end of the century, the Pindaris became largely a law unto themselves and conducted raids from hideouts in central India. The majority of their leaders were Muslims, but they recruited from all classes.

Lord Hastings after getting permission from the British government waged wars against the Pindaris which resulted in the Suppression of Pindaris.

Source: A New Look At the Modern Indian History by B.L. Grover and Alka Mehta.

Q.14) Consider the following statements with reference to the Harijan Sevak Sangh

1. It was started by Mahatma Gandhi.
2. It was headquartered at Bombay.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Q.14) Solution (b)

All India Anti-Untouchability league was organized by Mahatma Gandhi in 1932 which was later renamed as Harijan Sevak Sangh. It was headquartered at Delhi.

Source: A New Look At the Modern Indian History by B.L. Grover and Alka Mehta.

Q.15) Which of the following events is not related to tenure of Lord Lytton as the Governor General of India?

1. Creation of Statutory Civil Services.
2. The Second Afghan War.
3. Passing of the Vernacular Press Act.
4. Passing of First Factory Act

Q.15) Solution (d)

The First Factory Act was passed in 1881 by lord Ripon, Successor of Lord Lytton. The Statutory Civil Services was created in 1878-89. Under this the Government could employ some Indians of "good family and standing" to the SCC on the recommendation of the Provincial Governments, subject to the final approval of the Secretary of States for India.

The vernacular press Act was passed in 1878 to control the publications in oriental/Vernacular languages. Under this a magistrate was empowered to call for any publisher to furnish a bond undertaking not to publish content considered as degrading the British Government. He could demand security and forfeit it, and could seize the printing equipment.

Source: A New Look At the Modern Indian History by B.L. Grover and Alka Mehta.

Q.16) Aarambh Initiative is

- a) An online complaint management system for reporting sexual offences against children
- b) India's first-ever hotline to curb sexual abuse of children through the Internet and to remove child pornographic content online
- c) A scheme to address the specific vulnerability of women in difficult circumstances through a home-based holistic and integrated approach
- d) A programme aimed at sensitising society on violence faced by women and children and creating awareness about their legal rights

Q.16) Solution (b)

About

- It is the country's first-ever hotline to curb sexual abuse of children through the Internet and to remove child pornographic content online unveiled.
- To eliminate the scourge of online child pornography and further the cause of child protection in online spaces.
- It is a network of organizations and individuals working on child protection in the country, has collaborated with the U.K.-based Internet Watch Foundation (IWF).
- The hotline in India will be hosted on aarambhindia.org and will enable users to report child sexual abuse images and videos in a safe and anonymous environment.
- It is a simple, accessible form (available in Hindi & English) that any informed user who stumbles across sexually explicit imagery of a child on the public internet can use to report the content. Latter it will be started in other languages.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Hotline-to-curb-child-pornography/article14636764.ece>

Q.17) Consider the following statements about "Meenakshi Temple"

1. It is dedicated to Parvati and her consort Shiva
2. It was built by Thirumalai Nayak
3. It has the tallest *goupuram* in the world

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.17) Solution (d)

NAYAKA or MADURAI STYLE, 17th Century AD

Nayakas succeeded Vijayanagara Empire.

The major architectures achievements are the shrine at Tiruvannamalai and the Great Temple at Madurai. Other significant architectural wonders included that of the Temple at Rameswaram (famous for its long corridors) and the Subramanya Temple at Thanjavur District.

Nayak architectural style was characterized by elaborate hundred-and thousand-pillared mandapas, the high gopurams with painted stucco statues – of both gods and demons – on the surface, and long corridors. The immense courtyards surrounding the central shrine of these temples were designed to accommodate the crowds who would gather to see the processions, when the Gods, would be taken from their shrines and displayed to the masses.

Their most famous architectural achievement was in form of Meenakshi Temple of Madurai or Sundereswara Temple built by **Thirumalai Nayak**, dedicated to **Parvati and Lord Shiva**. It was actually not built by the Nayakas, they only refurbished the temple by building new larger gopurams and other changes in temple.

- It has two shrines one dedicated to Shiva/Sundereswara and other dedicated to his wife parvati/Meenakshi.
- A large water tank in the temple is one of the distinct features of the temple.
- Parakramas or roofed ambulatory paths are another distinguishing features of Meenakshi Temple apart from other **Dravidian features**.
- A thousand pillared Mandapam is another unique feature of this temple.
- This temple is also known for its highly impressive gopuram, which is perhaps more impressive than the temple itself and it totally dwarfs the central shrines. The Meenakshi temple in Madurai has **the tallest gopuram in the world**.

For all the innovation of its massive but unsystematic plan – including the large gopurams and huge courtyards, the architecture of Madurai, under the Nayak dynasty represented only an exaggeration of already established forms in every detail of its structure, rather than a new development as it is best exemplified by the Meenakshi temple which was a Pandya temple, later modified by Nayakas.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/features/metroplus/Voices-and-music-bring-alive-the-past/article15004000.ece>

Q.18) Consider the following statements about Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

1. India is an original state party to the Chemical Weapons Convention and as a possessor state it has fully completed the destruction of its chemical weapons in accordance with the Convention.
2. It is administered by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
3. Israel has signed but has yet to ratify the convention.

Select the correct statements

- a) Only 2
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 2 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.18) Solution (d)

India is an original state party to the Chemical Weapons Convention and as a possessor state it has fully completed the destruction of its chemical weapons in accordance with the Convention.

India has offered the services of its experts to help in the destruction of Damascus' chemical weapons arsenal and related facilities.

India has also decided to offer a contribution of 1 million dollars for use in the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons and related facilities by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

India has found support from Russia for its participation in an international conference called Geneva-II which seeks to bring together all warring parties, domestic and international, to stabilise Syria.

India would also offer the services of its experts to be used by the OPCW in the destruction verification activity as well as training slots for personnel participating in the UN/OPCW mission for the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons.

India has welcomed the progress on the time-bound safeguarding and destruction of Syria's chemical weapons and its accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

It is a multilateral treaty that bans chemical weapons and requires their destruction within a specified period of time. The treaty is of unlimited duration and is far more comprehensive than the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which outlaws the use but not the possession of chemical weapons.

CWC negotiations started in 1980 in the UN Conference on Disarmament. The convention was opened for signature on January 13, 1993, and entered into force on April 29, 1997.

The CWC is open to all nations and currently has 192 states-parties. Israel has signed but not ratified the agreement, while three other UN member states (Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan) have neither signed nor acceded to the treaty. Most recently, Angola deposited its instrument of accession to the CWC on 16 September 2015.

The CWC is implemented by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which is headquartered in the Hague. The OPCW receives States-parties' declarations detailing chemical weapons-related activities or materials and relevant industrial activities. After receiving declarations, the OPCW inspects and monitors states-parties' facilities and activities that are relevant to the convention, to ensure compliance.

Source; <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/%E2%80%98Chemical-weapons%E2%80%99-used-in-Iraq/article14995022.ece>

Q.19) 'Golden Crescent' and 'Golden Triangle' are Asia's two principal areas of illicit opium production. Consider the following statements

1. The Golden Crescent comprises of Myanmar, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam
2. The Golden Triangle comprises of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan

Select the correct statements

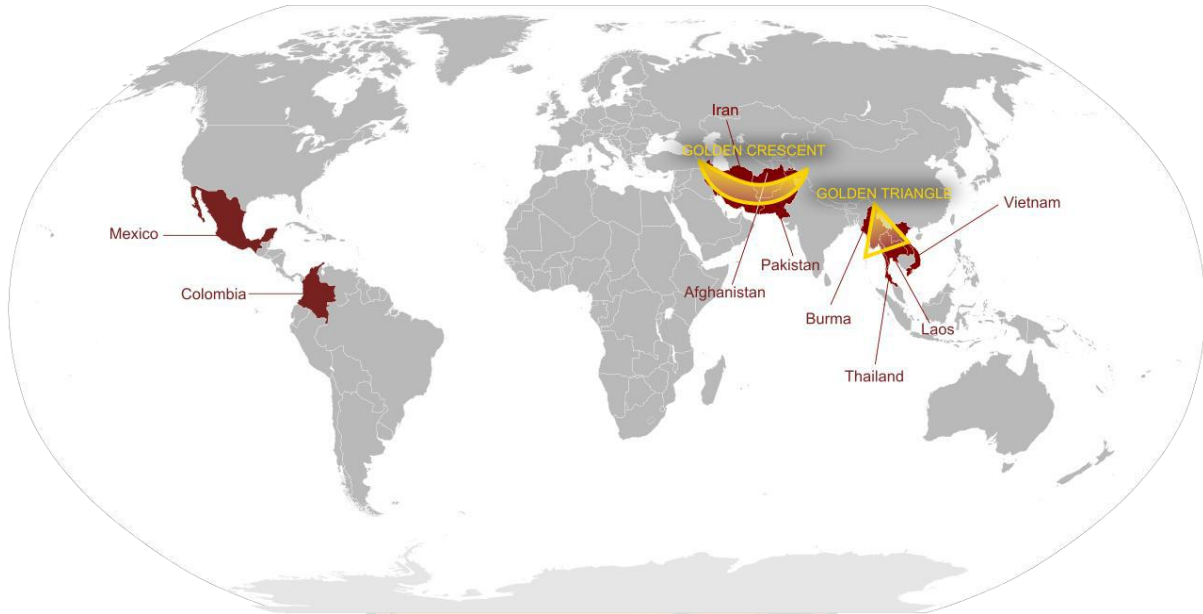
- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.19) Solution (d)

The Golden Triangle - Myanmar, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam

The Golden Crescent - Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan





Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/kalgidhar-trust-in-chandigarh-urges-people-to-join-fight-against-drug-addiction-3038401/>

Q.20) Which of the following countries is/are members of South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC)?

1. Maldives
2. Myanmar
3. Pakistan
4. Bhutan
5. Sri Lanka

Select the correct code:

- a) 1, 2, 4 and 5
- b) 2, 3, 4 and 5
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 5
- d) All of the above

Q.20) Solution (a)

The South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program, set up in 2001, brings together Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka in a project-based partnership to promote regional prosperity by improving cross-border connectivity,

boosting trade among member countries, and strengthening regional economic cooperation.

The Manila, Philippines-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) serves as the Secretariat for the SASEC member countries.

SASEC Operational Plan (OP) 2016-2025

- The SASEC OP is the program's first comprehensive long-term plan to promote greater economic cooperation among the member countries.
- The plan in the next ten years is to extend physical linkages not only within SASEC, but also with East and Southeast Asia.
- The SASEC OP identifies regional road and rail links aligned closely with trade routes toward the east. Planned measures to streamline and harmonize trade procedures will cover both land-based and sea-based routes. This will open opportunities for the SASEC countries to participate more actively in regional value chains that are more advanced in Southeast Asia. The SASEC OP also promotes the development of economic corridors within and between the member countries.
- The energy strategy under the SASEC OP aims to diversify the energy mix in the SASEC countries to cope with the projected increase in demand. The immediate priority is to improve energy infrastructure that will allow countries to access commercial sources of energy and diversify their fuel mix.
- The SASEC OP identified over 200 potential transport, trade facilitation and energy projects, which will require over \$120 billion in investments for the next five years, out of which 74 projects have been identified in India with an estimated project cost of over \$60 billion. Majority of these projects are located in North East or Eastern part of the country.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=151132>

Q.21) Recently Trinamool Congress was recognised as a national Party by Election Commission. Consider the following statements

1. To become a national party a political party has to become a state party in at least 4 states
2. The status of national party is reviewed every 5 years

Select correct statement(s)

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.21) Solution (a)

Trinamool Congress has satisfied one of the conditions mentioned in the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 to be recognised as a national party — having been recognised as a State party in at least four States

It is a recognised State party in West Bengal, Manipur, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh

Now, India has seven recognised national parties — the Congress, the BJP, the BSP, the CPI, the CPI (M), the NCP and the All India Trinamool Congress

Recognition as a national or a State party ensures that the election symbol of that party is not used by any other political entity in polls across India. Other registered but unrecognised political parties have to choose from a pool of “free symbols” announced by the commission from time to time

Besides, these parties get land or buildings from the government to set up their party offices. They can have up to 40 ‘star campaigners’ during electioneering. Others can have up to 20 ‘star campaigners’

The poll panel had on August 22, 2016 amended a rule whereby it will now review the national and State party status of political parties every 10 years instead of the five.

Had the rule not been amended, Trinamool Congress would not have been recognised as a national party as it had not performed well in the Arunachal Pradesh Assembly polls and would have lost the State party status there.

The amendment in the rule had also come as a major reprieve for the BSP, the NCP and the CPI as they were facing the prospect of losing their national party status after their dismal performance in the 2014 Lok Sabha election. The EC had served them notices in 2014 on the issue.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/trinamool-congress-recognised-as-national-party/article9066266.ece>

Q.22) Project Iceworm is

- a) A UN project to protect Greenland ice sheets
- b) A top-secret United States Army program during the Cold War to build a network of mobile nuclear missile launch sites under the Greenland ice sheet

- c) A project in response to the April 1912 sinking of the Titanic
- d) None of the above

Q.22) Solution (b)

Project Iceworm was the code name for a top-secret United States Army program during the Cold War to build a network of mobile nuclear missile launch sites under the Greenland ice sheet. The ultimate objective of placing medium-range missiles under the ice — close enough to strike targets within the Soviet Union — was kept secret from the Danish government. To study the feasibility of working under the ice, a highly publicized "cover" project, known as Camp Century, was launched in 1960. However, unsteady ice conditions within the ice sheet caused the project to be cancelled in 1966.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/melting-greenland-ice-threatens-to-expose-cold-war-waste/article9151507.ece>

