

Q.1) Consider the following statements with reference to the evolution of Public Sector Undertakings (PSU's) in India

1. PSU's were developed as an instrument for self-reliant economic growth
2. Initially the PSU's were focused on manufacturing of Consumer Goods

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.1) Solution (a)

Post-Independence, India was grappling with grave socio-economic problems, such as inequalities in income and low levels of employment, regional imbalances in economic development and lack of trained manpower, weak industrial base, inadequate investments and infrastructure facilities, etc.

Hence, the roadmap for Public Sector was developed as an instrument for self-reliant economic growth. The country adopted the planned economic development policies, which envisaged the development of PSUs.

Initially, the public sector was confined to **core and strategic industries**. The second phase witnessed nationalization of industries, takeover of sick units from the private sector, and entry of the public sector into new fields like manufacturing consumer goods, consultancy, contracting and transportation etc.

The Industrial Resolution 1948 outlined the importance of the economy and its continuous growth in production and equitable distribution. In this process, the policy envisaged active engagement of the State in development of industries.

Q.2) Consider the following statements with reference to the Section 25 companies under the Companies Act, 1956

1. These companies promote commerce, art, science, religion, charity or any other useful purpose
2. Section 25 companies do not have any profit motive
3. No PSU's can be registered as a section 25 company

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.2) Solution (a)

A “Section 25” company is registered under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956. This section provides an alternative to those who want to promote charity without creating a Trust or a Society for the purpose. It allows the formation of a company, which will exist as a legal entity in its own right, separate from the person promoting it. The crucial bit, however, is that any company under this section must necessarily re-invest any and all income towards promoting the said object or charity. In essence, unlike a regular company, where owners and shareholders can make profits or receive dividends, no money gets out of a Section 25 company.

Public Sector Enterprises having objects to promote commerce, art, science, religion, charity or any other useful purpose and not having any profit motive can be registered as non-profit company under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956.

This section empowers the Central Government to grant a licence directing that such an association may be registered as a company with limited liability, without the addition of the words ‘Limited’ or ‘Private Limited’ to its name. Such companies are also called as the Non-profit or ‘No Profit - No Loss’ companies.

Q.3) Conferring of the status on PSU’s such as Miniratna and Maharatna is done by

- a) Department of Disinvestment
- b) Department of Economic Affairs
- c) Department of Heavy Industries
- d) Department of Public Enterprises

Q.3) Solution (d)

The status of Maharatna, Navratna, Miniratna to CPSEs is conferred by the Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. These prestigious

titles provide them greater autonomy to compete in the global market. The classification is done on factors like the networth, annual turnover, listing status and strategic importance etc. This also provides certain autonomy to the PSU's in making business decisions

Q.4) Consider the following statements with reference to the National Manufacturing Policy 2011

1. Objective is to increase the contribution manufacturing to at least 25% of the National GDP by 2022
2. It aims to create 100 million jobs by 2022

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.4) Solution (c)

Government of India decided to bring out the National Manufacturing Policy to bring about a quantitative and qualitative change with the following six objectives:

- i. Increase manufacturing sector growth to 12-14% over the medium term to make it the engine of growth for the economy. The 2 to 4 % differential over the medium term growth rate of the overall economy will enable manufacturing to contribute at least 25% of the National GDP by 2022.
- ii. Increase the rate of job creation in manufacturing to create 100 million additional jobs by 2022.
- iii. Creation of appropriate skill sets among the rural migrant and urban poor to make growth inclusive.
- iv. Increase domestic value addition and technological depth in manufacturing.
- v. Enhance global competitiveness of Indian manufacturing through appropriate policy support.
- vi. Ensure sustainability of growth, particularly with regard to the environment including energy efficiency, optimal utilization of natural resources and restoration of damaged/ degraded eco-systems.

Source:

http://dipp.nic.in/English/Policies/National_Manufacturing_Policy_25October2011.pdf

Q.5) Consider the following statements with reference to the National Capital Goods Policy

1. One of the objectives is to increase the direct employment in Capital Goods industry to 5 million by 2025
2. Increase the share of domestic production in India's capital goods demand from 60% to 80% by 2025 is another stated objective

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.5) Solution (c)

This is first ever policy for Capital Goods sector with a clear objective of increasing production of capital goods from Rs.2,30,000 crore in 2014-15 to Rs.7,50,000 crore in 2025 and raising direct and indirect employment from the current 8.4 million to 30 million.

Increase total production: To create an ecosystem for a globally competitive capital goods sector to achieve total production in excess of Rs. 750,000 Cr by 2025 from the current Rs. 230,000 Cr.

Increase employment: To increase direct domestic employment from the current 1.4million to at least 5 million and indirect employment from the current 7 million to 25 million by 2025, thus providing additional employment to over 21 million people.

Increase domestic market share: To increase the share of domestic production in India's capital goods demand from 60% to 80% by 2025 and in the process improve domestic capacity utilization to 80-90%.

The policy also aims to facilitate improvement in technology depth across sub-sectors, increase skill availability, ensure mandatory standards and promote growth and capacity building of MSMEs.

The Policy will help in realising the vision of 'Building India as the World class hub for Capital Goods'. It will also play a pivotal role in overall manufacturing as the pillar of strength to the vision of 'Make in India'.

The objectives of the policy will be met by the Department of Heavy Industry in a time bound manner through obtaining approval for schemes as per the roadmap of policy interventions.

Q.6) Consider the following statements with reference to the proposed 'Start-up Center for Capital Goods Sector'

1. It will be set up by Department of Heavy Industries and Private sector capital goods industry
2. The costs will be shared in a 50 : 50 ratio
3. It will provide financing as well as technical assistance to promising startups

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.6) Solution (b)

The Cost of proposed 'Start-up Center for Capital Goods Sector' will be shared by Department of Heavy Industries and CG industry/ Industry association in a 80:20 ratio to provide end to end support to promising start-ups in both the manufacturing and services space, including:

- i. Pre-incubation, Incubation and Post-Incubation phases of a start-up's growth to ensure that a robust foundation is established
- ii. Management guidance, technical assistance, and consulting tailored to young, growing rural ventures,
- iii. Facilities and facility-based services including appropriate rental space and flexible leases, shared business services and equipment, technology support services, and
- iv. Assistance in obtaining financing necessary for venture growth.

Source: <http://dhi.nic.in/writereaddata/Content/NationalCapitalGoodsPolicy2016.pdf>

Q.7) Consider the following statements with reference to Fame India Scheme

1. It will be implemented by the Department of Heavy Industries

2. The scheme is aimed at incentivizing all vehicle segments to adopt hybrid and Electric Technologies

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.7) Solution (c)

Government of India has notified FAME India Scheme [Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India] for implementation with effect from 1st April 2015, with the objective to support hybrid/electric vehicles market development and Manufacturing eco-system. The scheme has 4 focus areas i.e. Technology development, Demand Creation, Pilot Projects and Charging Infrastructure. The phase-I of the scheme is being implemented for a period of 2 years i.e. FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17 commencing from 1st April 2015.

The FAME India Scheme is aimed at incentivising all vehicle segments i.e. 2 Wheeler, 3 Wheeler Auto, Passenger 4 Wheeler Vehicle, Light Commercial Vehicles and Buses. The scheme covers Hybrid & Electric technologies like Mild Hybrid, Strong Hybrid, Plug in Hybrid & Battery Electric Vehicles.

During the Financial Year 2015-16, an amount of Rs. 75 Crore was allocated for this scheme, which was almost fully utilised. In the current financial year 2016-17, Rs. 91 Crore (approx) has already been utilised out of the budget allocation of Rs. 122.90 Crore.

Under this scheme, about 99000 hybrid/electric vehicles (xEVs) have been given direct support by way of demand incentives since the launch on 1st April 2015. Department has also approved pilot projects, charging infrastructure projects and technological development projects aggregating to nearly Rs. 155 Crores.

Q.8) Consider the following statements about the Maharatna status given to PSUs

1. To be eligible a company must have an annual turn-over of 20,000 crores
2. It empowers the companies to make investment decisions up to Rs 10,000 crore without seeking Government's approval

3. The Maharatna status empowers mega CPSEs to expand their operations and emerge as global giants

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.8) Solution (b)

Maharatna: A company qualifying for the Maharatna status should have an average annual turnover of Rs 20,000 crore during the last three years against Rs 25,000 crore prescribed earlier. The average annual net worth of the company should be Rs 10,000 crore.

The Maharatna status empowers mega CPSEs to expand their operations and emerge as global giants. The coveted status empowers the boards of firms to take investment decisions up to Rs 5,000 crore as against the present Rs 1,000 crore limit without seeking government approval. The Maharatna firms would now be free to decide on investments up to 15% of their net worth in a project, limited to an absolute ceiling of Rs 5,000 crore.

Source: http://www.archive.india.gov.in/spotlight/spotlight_archive.php?id=78

More info: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=107091>

Q.9) Consider the following statements with reference to the Corporate Social Responsibility Rules in India

1. It applies only to the Private sector companies having a net worth of 500 crores or more
2. Contributions made to the political parties are considered as a part of CSR activities
3. Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 lists the activities which are considered as CSR eligible

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.9) Solution (c)

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has notified Section 135 and Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 as well as the provisions of the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014.

With effect from April 1, 2014, every company, private limited or public limited, which either has a net worth of Rs 500 crore or a turnover of Rs 1,000 crore or net profit of Rs 5 crore, needs to spend at least 2% of its average net profit for the immediately preceding three financial years on corporate social responsibility activities. The CSR activities should not be undertaken in the normal course of business and must be with respect to any of the activities mentioned in Schedule VII of the 2013 Act. Contribution to any political party is not considered to be a CSR activity and only activities in India would be considered for computing CSR expenditure.

Q.10) Consider the following statements with reference to the National Energy Efficient Agriculture Pumps Programme

1. Under this programme SIM card enabled agricultural pump sets will be made available to the farmers
2. The pumps will be given free of cost to the farmers
3. The programme was launched in Vijaywada

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.10) Solution (d)

In order to make country more energy efficient, the Union Government today launched two schemes namely National Energy Efficient Agriculture Pumps Programme and National Energy Efficient Fan Programme in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. The programme was launched by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu during the inaugural session of the two-day International workshop on energy efficient lighting. These

Schemes will be implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a JV of PSUs under Ministry of Power.

Under the National Energy Efficient Agriculture Pumps Programme, farmers can replace their inefficient pumps free of cost with the new BEE star rated energy efficient agricultural pump-sets. These pumps will come enabled with smart control panel and a SIM card, giving farmers the flexibility to remotely control these pumps from their mobile phones and from the comfort of their homes. EESL will distribute 200,000 BEE star rated pump-sets to the farmers under this programme, which will lead to 30% of energy savings by 2019. This translates into an annual savings of approximately Rs 20,000 crore on agricultural subsidies or a saving of 50 billion units of energy every year.

Q.11) Consider the following statements with reference to the classification of MSMEs in India

1. The MSMEs are defined in the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006
2. In service sector an enterprise is considered small enterprise if the investment is less than 10 lakhs

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.11) Solution (a)

Definitions of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises In accordance with the provision of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) are classified in two Classes:

Manufacturing Enterprises- he enterprises engaged in the manufacture or production of goods pertaining to any industry specified in the first schedule to the industries (Development and regulation) Act, 1951) or employing plant and machinery in the process of value addition to the final product having a distinct name or character or use. The Manufacturing Enterprise are defined in terms of investment in Plant & Machinery.

Service Enterprises :-The enterprises engaged in providing or rendering of services and are defined in terms of investment in equipment.

Criteria of classification:

Manufacturing Sector:

Enterprises : Investment in plant & machinery

Micro Enterprises : Does not exceed twenty-five lakh rupees

Small Enterprises : More than twenty-five lakh rupees but does not exceed five crore rupees

Medium Enterprises: More than five crore rupees but does not exceed ten crore rupees

Service Sector:

Enterprises : Investment in equipments

Micro Enterprises : Does not exceed ten lakh rupees:

Small Enterprises : More than ten lakh rupees but does not exceed two crore rupees

Medium Enterprises: More than two crore rupees but does not exceed five crore rupees

The second statement is incorrect as enterprise with less than 10 lakh investment will be considered Micro enterprise and not small enterprise

Source: http://www.dcmsme.gov.in/ssiindia/defination_msme.htm

Q.12) Consider the following statements about DIPAM

1. It is a department under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
2. Listing, disinvestment and dividend policy of CPSEs is decided by DIPAM

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.12) Solution (b)

The Department of Disinvestment was set up as a separate Department on 10th December, 1999 and was later renamed as Ministry of Disinvestment from 6th September, 2001. From 27th May, 2004, the Department of Disinvestment is one of the Departments under the **Ministry of Finance**.

The Department of Disinvestment has been renamed as Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) from 14th April, 2016.

Mandate of DIPAM covers:

1. All matters relating to management of Central Government investments in equity including disinvestment of equity in Central Public Sector Undertakings.
2. All matters relating to sale of Central Government equity through offer for sale or private placement or any other mode in the erstwhile Central Public Sector Undertakings.
3. Decisions in matters relating to Central Public Sector Undertakings for purposes of Government investment in equity like capital restructuring, bonus, dividends, disinvestment of government equity and other related issues.
4. Advise the Government in matters of financial restructuring of the Central Public Sector Enterprises and for attracting investment in the said Enterprises through capital market.

Source: <http://dipam.gov.in/mandate>

Q.13) The Assembly Elections in Go and Manipur produced an inconclusive verdict. As a result, there were hung assemblies. Consider the following statements

1. The Constitution of India does not mandate any procedure to be followed by the Governor, in case of hung assembly.
2. Punchhi Commission recommends that Governor should invite the leader of —'a pre-poll alliance commanding the largest number' or the —'largest single party' to form the government in case no party or pre-poll coalition has a clear majority.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.13) Solution (c)

Punchhi Commission

- The Justice M.M. Punchhi Commission on Centre-State Relations in 2010 laid down some guidelines to be followed in the appointment of a chief minister by a governor.
- It also said the governor should invite the leader of —a pre-poll alliance commanding the largest number|| or the —largest single party|| to form the government in case no party or pre-poll coalition has a clear majority.
- According to Bommai judgment, such a CM must prove the majority on the floor of the assembly.

The Constitution of India does not mandate any procedure to be followed by the Governor, in case of hung assembly.

Sarkaria Commission

The convention of inviting the single largest party in such a case has been outlined by the Sarkaria Commission, which studied Centre-state relations in the 1980s.

It specifically dealt with the situation where no single party obtained absolute majority

It provided the order of preference the Governor should follow in selecting a CM in such a situation –

1. An alliance of parties that was formed prior to the elections.
2. The single largest party staking a claim to form the government with the support of others, including independents.
3. A post-electoral coalition of parties, with all the partners in the coalition joining the government.
4. A post-electoral alliance of parties, with some of the parties in the alliance forming a government and the remaining parties, including independents, supporting the government from outside.

How a Prime Minister is appointed when there is a hung Parliament? -

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/How-is-a-Prime-Minister-appointed-when-there-is-a-hung-Parliament/article16594721.ece>

Q.14) Narikurava belong to which of the following state?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Tamil Nadu

- c) Odisha
- d) Maharashtra

Q.14) Solution (b)

The Narikuravar is an indigenous community from Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

To avail of the benefits of being accorded ST status, communities try to prove themselves as meeting the criteria. One such community is the Narikuravar, a semi-nomadic tribe, originating in Northern India before migrating south to Tamil Nadu about half a millennia ago. Traditionally hunters, their origin stories tell of their tribe being associated with upper castes, mostly providing security for kings.

However, once invaders took over the territories they inhabited, Narrikurovars, like many others, became nomadic and retreated into forests, where they preserved their traditions and freedoms. When hunting became illegal, so did their forefathers' tradition. Since then, the Narikuravars have lived at the margins of the society in dire poverty, making and selling beads and other small ornaments in local markets and temples.

Narikuravar share religious, cultural, and political characteristics with many of the Roma groups in Europe. It is likely that they share similar origins in India's North West and scattered in different directions when successive invasions took place there.

The Narikuravar community struggles with high levels of illiteracy, multiple health challenges, and unemployment. Currently, there are about 8,500 Narikuravar families (30,000 people) in Tamil Nadu, less than 0.1 per cent of the State's population. The government classifies them as a Most Backward Class community.

This leads to erroneous assumptions about this population. For example, in 2005, the percentage of STs below the poverty line in rural Tamil Nadu was 32.1 per cent (below the national ST average of 47.3 per cent), but that of rural Other Backward Classes (OBC) and others was only 19 per cent. Classifying Narikuravars as OBCs leads to the assumption that they have a higher chance of being above the poverty line than communities recognised as STs.

Further, by being classified as MBCs, the Narikuravars have been competing for access to government benefits with nineteen other larger communities with higher socio-economic status and greater political clout.

Over the last three decades, the Narikuravars have viewed themselves as 'Adivasi' and have been attempting to gain ST status. When asked why they should be recognised as such, they answer, "because our community needs it," and point to their poor living, economic, and social conditions.

Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/sts-and-the-politics-of-exclusion/article9583825.ece>

Q.15) Consider the following statements about 'Electoral Bond'

1. It cannot be purchased by paying cash
2. The bond bearer will earn an interest of 2% per annum
3. It can used to saved tax under section 80C of IT Act

Select the *incorrect* statements

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

Q.15) Solution (b)

Electoral Bond is a financial instrument for making donations to political parties. These are issued by Scheduled Commercial banks upon authorisation from the Central Government to intending donors, but only against cheque and digital payments (it cannot be purchased by paying cash). These bonds shall be redeemable in the designated account of a registered political party within the prescribed time limit from issuance of bond.

Electoral Bonds - neither get you a tax exemption nor earn you interest.

The bonds will likely be bearer bonds and the identity of the donor will not be known to the receiver.

The party can convert these bonds back into money via their bank accounts. The bank account used must be the one notified to the Election Commission and the bonds may have to be redeemed within a prescribed time period.

But this does not sound like a bond, you say? What's the principal and where's the interest? The electoral bond is more like a bail-bond than a Government or corporate bond. Electoral bonds are essentially like bearer cheques. The issuing bank will remain the custodian of the

donor's funds until the political party redeems the bond. So, only the RBI will most likely be allowed to issue these bonds, to be sold through notified banks.

Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/explaining-electoral-bonds-in-india/article9524904.ece>

Q.16) Consider the following pairs

1. Corbett National Park - Kosi
2. Kaziranga National Park - Brahmaputra
3. Silent Valley National Park – Krishna

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Q.16) Solution (a)

Silent Valley National Park

- The Kuntipuzha River drains the entire 15 km length of the park from north to south into the Bharathapuzha River. Kuntipuzha River divides the park into a narrow eastern sector of width 2 kilometers and a wide western sector of 5 kilometers. The river is characterized by its crystal clear water and perennial nature. The main tributaries of the river, Kunthancholapuzha, Karingathodu, Madrimarathodu, Valiaparathodu and Kumbaathanthodu originate on the upper slopes of the eastern side of the valley. The river is uniformly shallow, with no flood plains or meanders. Its bed falls from 1,861 m to 900 m over a distance of 12 km, the last 8 km being particularly level with a fall of only 60 m. Kuntipuzha is one of the less torrential rivers of the Western Ghats, with a pesticide-free catchment area.

Corbett National Park

Ramganga River:

- Ramganga River is the Lifeline for Corbett National Park. We cannot imagine the existence of Corbett without Ramganga. It is the largest of all the precious water bodies in the park. We can imagine the importance of this river with evidence that it

was named Ramganga National Park for a brief period from 1954-1957 before it was named Corbett National Park. The river is fed by rain and originates from the Gairsain region in Lesser Himalayas. The river flows around a stretch of near about 100 kilometers before you get inside the park near Marchula. Approximately, it flows 40 Kms east to west inside the park till Kalagarh where it meets plains. It collects water from the Palain, Mandal and Sonanadi rivers during this run through the park and finally drains into River Ganga near Farrukhabad in Uttar Pradesh.

Kosi:

- The Kosi is a perennial river that servers major portion of the Corbett's wild as the Corbett wild use the Kosi river to quench their thirst. Eastern periphery of the park is fed by Kosi that flows from Mohan till Ramnagar via Dhikuli. Though, the Kosi does not enter the park boundary.

Sonanadi:

- This gorgeous river is the significant tributary of Ramganga River. The river has been named after the Sonanadi wildlife Sanctuary that adjoins Corbett National Park and held as an crucial part of Corbett Tiger Reserve. It enters the Corbett from the North-West direction and merges into the Ramganga River at its reservoir.

Kaziranga National Park

- Kaziranga is a vast stretch of tall elephant grass, marshland and dense tropical moist broadleaf forests crisscrossed by four main rivers — Brahmaputra, Diphlu, Mora Diphlu and Mora Dhansiri and has numerous small water bodies.

Q.17) Consider the following statements about Miyar Hydroelectric Project

1. It is located in Jammu and Kashmir
2. Miyar Nallah is a right bank tributary of Chenab River

Select the correct statements

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

Q.17) Solution (b)

Miyar Hydroelectric Project is located in District Lahaul and Spiti, Himachal Pradesh on the Miyar Nallah which is a major tributary (right) of Chenab River.



Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-pak-to-review-miyar-project/article17566276.ece>

Q.18) Global Enabling Trade Report 2016 was released by

- a) World Bank
- b) World Trade Organisation
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) United Nations

Q.18) Solution (c)

The 'Global Enabling Trade Report 2016' -- published by WEF and the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation -- assesses the performance of 136 economies by way of Enabling Trade Index (ETI).

India has improved its ranking by four places to 102nd position among 136 economies in terms of enabling cross border trade, with Singapore leading the list.

The index assesses the extent to which economies have in place the factors facilitating the free flow of goods over borders and to their destinations. It takes into consideration various factors, including domestic and foreign market access, border administration, transport and digital infrastructure and operating environment.

With regard to India, the report said most problematic factors for import include high cost or delays caused by domestic transportation, crime and theft, corruption on the border and burdensome import procedures.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/india-ranked-102nd-on-enabling-cross-border-trade-wef-116113000871_1.html

Q.19) Titu Mir led the

- a) Wahabi Movement
- b) Faraizi Movement
- c) Narkelberia uprising
- d) Mappila uprising

Q.19) Solution (c)

Peasant leader who led the Narkelberia Uprising in 1831 against zamindars and British colonial authorities

The Narkelberia uprising is often considered as the first armed peasant uprising against the British.

He constructed a fort of bamboo at Narkelberia and declared independence from the British administration.

He also fought against Hindu landlords who imposed beard-tax on the Farizis.

The Faraizi Movement was founded in 1818 by Haji Shariatullah to give up un-Islamic practices and act upon their duties as Muslims. The movement protected the rights of tenants.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/titu-mir-returns-to-roil-bengal-190-years-after-his-fall-in-war/article17665261.ece>

Q.20) Consider the following statements about Biotech-KISAN

1. It is a Farmer centric scheme launched by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

2. The scheme includes the Mahila Biotech- KISAN fellowships, for training and education in farm practices, for women farmers

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.20) Solution (b)

Biotech- KISAN (Krishi Innovation Science Application Network) Empowering Small- and Women- Farmers with Science Implementation

Biotech-KISAN is a new programme that empowers farmers, especially women farmers. Cash crops and horticulture can be a major source of income but the vagaries of climate, disease and market often prevent this. Farmers are eager to use scientific tools that can mitigate these factors. The Department of Biotechnology is partnering to stimulate these exciting directions.

The Scheme is for farmers, developed by and with farmers, it empowers women, impacts locally, connects globally, is Pan-India, has a hub-and spoke model and stimulates entrepreneurship and innovation in farmers.

Biotech-KISAN is:

For Farmers: The Biotech-KISAN is a Farmer centric scheme launched by of the Department of Biotechnology, where scientists will work in sync with farmers to understand problems and find solutions.

By Farmers: Developed in consultation with the farmers. Soil, Water, Seed and Market are some key points that concern small and marginal farmers. Biotech-KISAN aims to link farmers, scientists and science institutions across the country in a network that identifies and helps solve their problems in a cooperative manner.

Empower women. The woman farmer is often neglected. It is important to empower the women farmer, help her meet her concerns for better seed, storage of seed and protection of the crops from disease and pest. The women farmer is also the prime caretaker of livestock and she is eager to combine traditional wisdom in handling the livestock and with current best practices, especially in the context of emerging livestock disease. The scheme includes the Mahila Biotech- KISAN fellowships, for training and education in farm practices,

for women farmers. The Scheme also aims to support the women farmers/ entrepreneur in their small enterprises, making her a grass root innovator.

Connects Globally. Biotech-KISAN will connect farmers to best global practices; training workshops will be held in India and other countries. Farmers and Scientists will partner across the globe.

Impacts Locally. The scheme is targeted towards the least educated marginalised farmer; Scientists will spend time on farms and link communication tools to soil, water seed and market. The aim is to understand individual problems of the smallholding farmers and provide ready solutions.

Across India. Biotech KISAN will connect farmers with science in the 15 agro-climatic zones of the country in a manner, which constantly links problems with available solutions.

Hubs and Spoke. In each of these 15 regions, a Farmer organisation will be the hub connected to different science labs, Krishi Vigyan Kendra and State Agriculture Universities co-located in the region. The hub will reach out to the farmers in the region and connect them to scientists and institutions.

Farmers as Innovators. The hub will have tinkering lab, communication cell and will run year-long training, awareness, workshops and which will act as education demonstration units to encourage grass root innovation in the young as well as women farmers.

Communicating Best Practises There will be a communication set-up to make radio and TV programmes for local stations, as well as daily connectivity through social media.

Q.21) Recently 'LEEP' was in news. It is concerned with

- a) Bharatmala Pariyojana
- b) Start-up India
- c) Make in India
- d) Digital India

Q.21) Solution (a)

Under a programme entitled 'Logistic Efficiency Enhancement Programme' (LEEP) aimed to enhance the freight transportation in India through improving cost, time, tracking and transferability of consignments through infrastructure, procedural and Information Technology (IT) interventions.

NHAI initiates DPRS for Logistic Efficiency Enhancement Programme (LEEP) under Bharatmala Pariyojna.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=153623>

