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Q.1) Consider the following statements about Hamari Dharohar scheme

1. It is under the aegis of Ministry of Culture
2. It is a 100% Central Sector Scheme and will be implemented directly through selected Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.1) Solution (b)

Ministry of Minority Affairs has been mandated to look after all issues related with minorities except Law and Order as per Allocation of Business. Therefore going with the priority of the Government, Ministry of Minority Affairs intends to launch a new scheme "HamariDharohar" to preserve rich culture and heritage of minority communities of India.

Objectives:

- To curate rich heritage of minorities under overall concept of
- Indian Culture
- Curating iconic exhibitions
- Preservation of literature/ documents etc
- Support and promotion of calligraphy etc
- Research and Development

This is a 100% Central Sector Scheme and will be implemented by the Ministry directly through selected PIAs.

Assistance under the scheme will be provided in form of Recurring grants and Non-recurring grants including the capital cost for infrastructure development, with a view to address areas critical for conservation and propagation of all forms of rich heritage of minorities and curating them.

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2017

1. It will amend The Banking Regulation Act 1949
2. It will give RBI the authority to refer NPA cases to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board

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3. Government can authorise the Reserve Bank of India to issue directions to banks in order to initiate insolvency resolution in case of a default

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (d)

The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2017 will amend The Banking Regulation Act 1949, giving the government power to authorise the Reserve Bank of India to issue directions to banks in order to initiate insolvency resolution in case of a default.

Under the provisions of the Bill, the government can also authorise the RBI to issue directions to banks with regard to resolution of stressed assets and allow it to name one or more committees to provide them with advice in order to do so.

Before the Bill was introduced in Parliament, the NPA ordinance amended The Banking Regulation Act 1949 in the same way. Ordinances, however, have to be approved by Parliament within six weeks of session following the introduction.

Apart from empowering the RBI in the above-mentioned ways, the Bill will also give RBI the authority to refer NPA cases to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code provides for a time-bound resolution of defaults and stressed assets, either by restructuring a loan or liquidating the borrower's assets.

The RBI in June identified 12 defaulters all over the country, who accounted for 25 percent of all bad loans in the banking system and is currently focusing on resolving their cases.

Q.3) The Gorkhaland movement is a long-standing quest for a separate State of Gorkhaland in

- a) West Bengal
- b) Sikkim
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Assam

Q.3) Solution (a)

The crisis in Gorkhaland has been brewing for many decades and stems from language. Gorkhaland consists of Nepali-speaking people of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong and other hilly districts. The people belonging to these areas hardly have any connection with the Bengali community and are different in ethnicity, culture and language.

In 1780, the Gorkhas captured Sikkim and most part of North Eastern states that includes Darjeeling, Siliguri, Simla, Nainital, Garhwal hills, Kumaon and Sulej, that is, the entire region from Teesta to Sulej. After 35 years of rule, the Gorkhas surrendered the territory to British in the Treaty of Segoulee in 1816, after they lost the Anglo-Nepal war.

However, though British handed over Darjeeling to Sikkim, it was taken back for political reasons in 1835. Before 1905, when Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon directed the partition of Bengal, Darjeeling was a part of Rajshahi division, which now falls in Bangladesh. For a short period from 1905-1912, it was even a part of Bhagalpur division.

Timeline of the Gorkhaland crisis

1907- The first demand for Gorkhaland is submitted to Morley-Minto Reforms panel. After that on several occasions demands were made to the British government and then government of Independent India for separation from Bengal.

1952- The All India Gorkha League submits a memorandum to then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru demanding separation from the state of Bengal.

1955- Daulat Das Bokhim, the President of District Shamik Sangh submits a memorandum to the chairman, State Reorganisation Committee demanding the creation of separate state consisting of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar district.

1977- 81: The West Bengal government passes a unanimous resolution supporting the creation of an autonomous district council consisting Darjeeling and related areas. The bill is forwarded to Central Government for consideration of this matter. In 1981, the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi receives a memorandum from Pranta Parishad, demanding a separate state.

1980-90: The demand for Gorkhaland was intensified in the 1980s under the leadership of Gorkha National Liberation Front supremo Subhas Ghising. The movement turns violent during the period of 1986-88, and around 1,200 people are killed. After a two-year long protest, the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) is finally formed in 1988.

2007- At the last phase of left front's regime, the mass movement for Gorkhaland takes place under the leadership of Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) supremo Bimal Gurung. The 2007 Gorkha uprising intensifies, following the 2005 Centre and state government initiative

for a permanent solution of this region by bringing it to the sixth schedule of the constitution giving some degree of autonomy to a predominantly tribal area. But the Gorkhas opposed this sixth schedule and demand statehood gains pace. The four-year long movement comes to an end after new CM Mamata Banerjee's declaration of Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) and Gurung is made its leader.

With the formation of Telangana on July 20, 2013, the movement for Gorkhaland state again intensifies. Gurung resigns from the head of GTA, says people have lost all faith. However, in a making her stand clear, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has said: "Bengal cannot suffer the pain of yet another partition."

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/whats-brewing-in-darjeeling/article19346738.ece>

Q.4) Which one of the following is known as the Marshall Plan?

- a) US post-war economic assistance to Europe
- b) US military intervention in Vietnam
- c) Marshal Tito's advocacy for Non-alignment
- d) US assistance to post-colonial regimes in sub-Saharan Africa

Q.4) Solution (a)

The Marshall Plan, also known as the European Recovery Program, channeled over \$13 billion to finance the economic recovery of Europe between 1948 and 1951. The Marshall Plan successfully sparked economic recovery, meeting its objective of 'restoring the confidence of the European people in the economic future of their own countries and of Europe as a whole.' The plan is named for Secretary of State George C. Marshall, who announced it in a commencement speech at Harvard University on June 5, 1947.

Q.5) To whom can the idea of 'Development as Freedom' be credited?

- a) J.M. Keynes
- b) M. Gorbachev
- c) Jawaharlal Nehru
- d) Amartya Sen

Q.5) Solution (d)

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He argues that economic development entails a set of linked freedoms:

- political freedoms and transparency in relations between people
- freedom of opportunity, including freedom to access credit; and
- economic protection from abject poverty, including through income supplements and unemployment relief.

A state of poverty will generally be characterised by lack of at least one freedom (Sen uses the term unfreedom for lack of freedom), including a de facto lack of political rights and choice, vulnerability to coercive relations, and exclusion from economic choices and protections. From this, Sen concludes that real development cannot be reduced to simply increasing basic incomes, nor to rising average per capita incomes. Rather, it requires a package of overlapping mechanisms that progressively enable the exercise of a growing range of freedoms.

