

Q.1) Consider the following Statements with reference to the Rangarajan Committee report on Poverty.

1. Along with daily calorie intake, it also includes consumption of protein and fats.
2. Poverty line is estimated as Monthly Per Capita Expenditure of Rs. 1407 in urban areas and Rs. 972 in rural areas.

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 (c)

The Methodology recommended by the Expert Group (Rangarajan) for estimation of poverty is as follows:

The poverty line should be based on certain normative levels of adequate nourishment, clothing, house rent, conveyance and education, and a behaviorally determined level of other non-food expenses.

The Expert Group (Rangarajan) computed the average requirements of calories, proteins and fats based on ICMR norms differentiated by age, gender and activity for all-India rural and urban regions to derive the normative levels of nourishment. Accordingly, the energy requirement works out to 2,155 kcal per person per day in rural areas and 2,090 kcal per person per day in urban areas. For reasons elaborated in the text, the Expert Group (Rangarajan) views the Calorie norm not as a single number but as an average in a band of +/- 10 per cent of these values and with intakes even at the lower end still being adequate enough to not adversely affect health and work.

The protein and fat requirements have been estimated on the same lines as for energy. These requirements are 48 gms and 28 gms per capita per day, respectively, in rural areas; and 50 gms and 26 gms per capita per day in urban areas.

A food basket that simultaneously meets all the normative requirements of the three nutrients defines the food component of the poverty line basket proposed by the Expert Group (Rangarajan). These nutrient norms are met for persons located in the sixth fractile (25-30%) in rural areas and for those in the fourth fractile (15-20%) in urban areas in 2011-12. The average monthly per capita consumption expenditure on food in these fractile classes is Rs.554 in rural areas and Rs.656 in urban areas (NSS 68th Round).

The median fractile (45-50%) values of clothing expenses, rent, conveyance and education expenses are treated as the normative requirements of the basic non-food expenses of

clothing, housing, mobility and education of a poverty line basket. This works out to Rs.141 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs.407 in urban areas. The observed expenses of all other non-food expenses of the fractile classes that meet the nutrition requirements are considered as part of the poverty line basket. This works out to Rs.277 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs.344 in urban areas.

The new poverty line thus work out to monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs.972 in rural areas and Rs.1,407 in urban areas in 2011-12. For a family of five, this translates into a monthly consumption expenditure of Rs.4,860 in rural areas and Rs.7,035 in urban areas.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=108291>

Q.2) Consider the following statements with reference to Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana.

1. The scheme has a duration of ten years
2. It was launched by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

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.2) Solution (b)

Marking the 2nd Foundation Day of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Minister of State(I/C) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, , today launched the Pradhan Mantri YUVA Yojana, MSDE's flagship scheme on entrepreneurship education and training.

The scheme spans over five years (2016-17 to 2020-21) with a project cost of Rs. 499.94 crore, and will provide entrepreneurship education and training to over 7 lakh students in 5 years through 3050 Institutes. It will also include easy access to information and mentor network, credit, incubator and accelerator and advocacy to create a pathway for the youth.

Speaking on the occassion Shri Rudy said, with this the government has taken important strides to scale up entrepreneurship in the country. He said, Pradhan Mantri YUVA Yojana has national and international best practices of learning in entrepreneurship education.

He said, MSDE's two institutions dedicated to entrepreneur education and training – NIESBUD and IIE- have trained more than 7 lakh trainees including 2,600 persons from more than 125 countries in the field of entrepreneurial skills till date. After becoming a part of this

Ministry, these two institutes are now focusing on mentorship of budding entrepreneurs across the country. We have seen success so far and we are determined to create more opportunities of employment for our youth through this initiative,” he further added.

The institutes under the PM's YUVA Yojana include 2200 Institutes of Higher Learning (colleges, universities, and premier institutes), 300 schools, 500 ITIs and 50 Entrepreneurship Development Centres, through Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

The announcement on scheme was made at a day-long national conference of State Ministers on “Skilling with quality” which saw more than 80% of the States making their representations. The conference emphasised on the need for strengthening institutional mechanisms for skill development at the State level and bringing in a more robust framework ensuring quality output, outcome and impact on the youth of our country

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=153429>

Q.3) Consider the following statements with reference to the National Skill Development Mission

1. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) will be the nodal ministry for the mission.
2. It currently has 7 sub-missions.
3. It will cover only 15 States and 4 Union Territories

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.3) Solution (a)

The National Skill Development Mission was approved by the Union Cabinet on 01.07.2015, and officially launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 15.07.2015 on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day. The Mission has been developed to create convergence across sectors and States in terms of skill training activities. Further, to achieve the vision of 'Skilled India', the National Skill Development Mission would not only consolidate and coordinate skilling efforts, but also expedite decision making across sectors to achieve skilling at scale with speed and standards. It will be implemented through a streamlined institutional mechanism driven by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). Key institutional mechanisms for achieving the objectives of the Mission have been divided into three tiers, which will consist of a Governing Council for policy guidance at apex level, a

Steering Committee and a Mission Directorate (along with an Executive Committee) as the executive arm of the Mission. Mission Directorate will be supported by three other institutions: National Skill Development Agency (NSDA), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and Directorate General of Training (DGT) – all of which will have horizontal linkages with Mission Directorate to facilitate smooth functioning of the national institutional mechanism. Seven sub-missions have been proposed initially to act as building blocks for achieving overall objectives of the Mission. They are:

(i) Institutional Training, (ii) Infrastructure, (iii) Convergence, (iv) Trainers, (v) Overseas Employment, (vi) Sustainable Livelihoods, (vii) Leveraging Public Infrastructure.

The mission will cover all the states and UTs, to expedite the skilling process, existing educational facilities will be upgraded, new ITIs and new Vocational Centres will be opened.

Q.4) Consider the following statements with reference to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

1. It has 17 goals with 169 targets.
2. Reducing the world poverty by half the 1991 levels is one of the Goals of SDGs.

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 (a)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), officially known as “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” is a set of 17 "Global Goals" with 169 targets between them.

These included ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change, and protecting oceans and forests.

Q.5) Which of the following Millennium Development Goals was not achieved by India?

- a) Reducing the Poverty by half.
- b) Achieving Gender parity in school enrolment
- c) Reducing maternal Mortality by three quarters
- d) Achieving universal primary school enrollment and completion.

Q.5) Solution (d)

What are the Millennium Development goals?

The MDGs are a United Nations initiative that was adopted after the 2000 Millennium Summit. These represent a core people-oriented development agenda. They mapped out a plan to tackle, by 2015, many of the important issues facing the world. They are as follows:

Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education

Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women

Goal 4 Reduce child mortality

Goal 5 Improve maternal health

Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability

Goal 8 Develop a global partnership for development

How did India do in reaching the 2015 objectives of the MDGs?

India has made notable progress towards reaching the MDGs, but achievement across the goals varies and helping the weaker states emulate the good performers can improve performance. More specifically:

India has achieved the target for reducing poverty by half (Goal 1).

Gender parity has been achieved in primary school enrolment (Goal 3) and was close to being achieved in secondary and tertiary education by end 2015.

Hunger has been reduced by half (Goal 1);

Maternal mortality has been reduced by three quarters (Goal 5);

The spread of deadly diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis is being controlled (Goal 6);

Forest cover has increased, although there was a shift towards production of timber from a more multi-product approach (Goal 7).

The proportion of population without access to clean drinking water has been halved, but there are still big challenges on sanitation.

India's progress in controlling greenhouse gas emissions can be considered satisfactory in terms of carbon intensity of GDP, but not in terms of CO₂ emissions per person.

But India is lagging behind for:

Achieving by 2015 universal primary school enrolment and completion, and achieving universal youth literacy (Goal 2);

Empowering women through wage employment and political participation (Goal 3);

Reducing child and infant mortality (Goal 4);

Improving access to adequate sanitation to eliminate the massive open defecation problem (Goal 7).

Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to the Gini Coefficient.

1. It is a measure of income distribution.
2. A rich country and a poor country can have the same Gini coefficient.
3. A Gini coefficient of 1 represents perfect equality and 0 represents perfect inequality.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.6) Solution (b)

Gini Coefficient is a measure of income inequality. It is derived from the Lorenz Curve.

It gives how much of the nation's income and wealth is distributed between its population. Zero represents complete equality in distribution of income. And one represents complete inequality. However no country has a score of either zero or one, actual figures are somewhere in between.

A rich country and a poor country can have the same Gini-coefficient, as it does not measure the absolute income levels but the distribution of wealth.

Q.7) Consider the following statements with reference to MGNREGA.

1. At least one-third beneficiaries are to be women.

2. Use of heavy machinery is allowed for expediting the work.
3. It provides work for skilled workers in the rural areas.

Which of the above statements is incorrect?

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

Q.7) Solution (b)

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act:

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, notified in 200 districts in the first phase on Feb 2, 2006 was renamed Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on 02 Oct 2009. 130 districts were notified in 2007 and with the notification of the remaining districts on 01 April 2008, the entire country has been covered. Exception is given to district with a hundred percent urban population. The Act seeks to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year.

Salient Features:

Adult members of a rural household willing to do unskilled manual work are eligible to seek employment under the act.

Employment is to be given within 15 days of application for work, otherwise daily unemployment allowance has to be paid by the respective State.

Wages are to be paid according to Minimum Wages Act 1948 for agricultural labourers in the State unless otherwise notified by the centre

Equal wages are to be paid to both men and women.

At least one-third beneficiaries are to be women.

No contractors and heavy machinery is allowed.

Q.8) consider the following statements regarding Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana

1. PKVY will provide training and certify Indians who are seeking overseas employment in selected sectors.

2. It will be implemented by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in consultation with the Union Ministry of External Affairs and the Union Skill Development Ministry.

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.8) Solution (c)

Pravasi Kausal Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

This scheme was launched by the PM Modi on the inauguration programme of 4th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas convention which was held in India's IT hub Bengaluru, Karnataka. Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa was the Chief Guest of the event.

The Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is launched with an aim to provide training and certify Indians who are seeking overseas employment in selected sectors in line with international standards.

This scheme will be implemented by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) through its training partners and in consultation with the Union Ministry of External Affairs and the Union Skill Development Ministry.

This scheme will help for boosting the confidence of the Indian youth who want to work out of the country of their choice for vocation.

Q.9) Consider the following statements with reference to the Gender Inequality Index.

1. Gender empowerment in GII is calculated based on the Women's access to secondary and higher education
2. Gender Empowerment is calculated using Women's representation in Parliaments.

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.9) Solution (d)

The empowerment dimension is measured by two indicators: the share of parliamentary seats held by each sex, which is obtained from the International Parliamentary Union, and higher education attainment levels, which is obtained through United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Barro-Lee data sets. The GII index of higher education evaluates women's attainment to secondary education and above. Access to higher education expands women's freedom by increasing their ability to question and increases their access to information which expands their public involvement

Q.10) Recently the PMGDISHA was in news. It is related to?

- a) Rural Infrastructure.
- b) Women's education
- c) Digital Literacy.
- d) Welfare of Old-age citizens.

Q.10) Solution (c)

PMGDISHA- Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan is the project launched under "Skill India" scheme. The announcement made by our finance Minister Mr. Arun Jaitley in the Union Budget 2016-2017 on 1st Feb 2017. Then on 8. Feb 2017 the Union cabinet chaired by our honorable Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi has approved Pradhan Mantri Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA). The budget which has been taken for this project is Rs 2,351.38 crore to use it for digital literacy in rural India till March 2019. This project is expected to be one of the biggest project of the world in order to make 6 crore Indian houses digitally literate.

Digital Literacy- means the person would be able to operate digital devices like computer, tablets, smart phones, a person will be able to do send and receive e-mails, brows internet, obtained Government services, explore information, do online transactions and use Information Technology in order to participate in the growth of nation actively.

Target- The overall target is to trained 6 crore students till FY(Financial Year)2019 but 25 lakh candidates are going to trained in the year2016-2017, 275 lakh candidates are going to trained in year 2017-2018 and 300 candidates are going to be trained in the year 2018-2019.

Prior steps by the government- In order to reach the goal of teaching 6 crore students till 2019 the government has accepted 250,000 Gram Panchayats to register at least 200-300 candidates.

Purpose of the PMGDISHA(Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan): India has the largest number of youth in the world in order to provide technical and digital training to these youths specially the youths from the backward or rural area this project is launched.

To help the rural and the backward household by making them digitally literate by providing them quality training in both ways theoretical and practical in order to have economic, social and cultural advantages for them. When these rural household get digital training it will helpful for them in order to get better opportunities for being employed by companies in India and abroad and at the same time it will also remove the social gap between the rural and the urban area.

Q.11) Which of the following pairs are incorrectly matched?

Committee	:	Defined Poverty Line based on
1. Y.K Alagh Committee	:	calorie consumption.
2. Lakdawala Committee	:	Cost of living.
3. Suresh Tendulkar Committee	:	Consumption Expenditure.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below.

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

Q.11) Solution (c)

Alagh Committee (1979): In 1979, a task force constituted by the Planning Commission for the purpose of poverty estimation, chaired by YK Alagh, constructed a poverty line for rural and urban areas on the basis of nutritional requirements.

Lakdawala Committee (1993): In 1993, an expert group constituted to review methodology for poverty estimation, chaired by DT Lakdawala, made the following suggestions: (i) consumption expenditure should be calculated based on calorie consumption as earlier; (ii) state specific poverty lines should be constructed and these should be updated using the Consumer Price Index of Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) in urban areas and Consumer Price Index of Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL) in rural areas; and (iii) discontinuation of 'scaling' of poverty estimates based on National Accounts Statistics. This assumes that the basket of goods and services used to calculate CPI-IW and CPI-AL reflect the consumption patterns of the poor.

Tendulkar Committee (2009): In 2005, another expert group to review methodology for poverty estimation, chaired by Suresh Tendulkar, was constituted by the Planning Commission to address the following three shortcomings of the previous methods: (i) consumption patterns were linked to the 1973-74 poverty line baskets (PLBs) of goods and services, whereas there were significant changes in the consumption patterns of the poor

since that time, which were not reflected in the poverty estimates; (ii) there were issues with the adjustment of prices for inflation, both spatially (across regions) and temporally (across time); and (iii) earlier poverty lines assumed that health and education would be provided by the State and formulated poverty lines accordingly.

It recommended four major changes: (i) a shift away from calorie consumption based poverty estimation; (ii) a uniform poverty line basket (PLB) across rural and urban India; (iii) a change in the price adjustment procedure to correct spatial and temporal issues with price adjustment; and (iv) Incorporation of private expenditure on health and education while estimating poverty. The Committee recommended using Mixed Reference Period (MRP) based estimates, as opposed to Uniform Reference Period (URP) based estimates that were used in earlier methods for estimating poverty.

It based its calculations on the consumption of the following items: cereal, pulses, milk, edible oil, non-vegetarian items, vegetables, fresh fruits, dry fruits, sugar, salt & spices, other food, intoxicants, fuel, clothing, footwear, education, medical (non-institutional and institutional), entertainment, personal & toilet goods, other goods, other services and durables.

The Committee computed new poverty lines for rural and urban areas of each state. To do this, it used data on value and quantity consumed of the items mentioned above by the population that was classified as poor by the previous urban poverty line. It concluded that the all India poverty line was Rs 446.68 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs 578.80 per capita per month in urban areas in 2004-05.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin):

1. The target is to complete one crore houses by March 2019.
2. The beneficiaries will be selected using the Socio-economic caste census.
3. The beneficiary who takes a loan under the scheme would be provided interest subsidy for loan amount upto Rs. 5 Lakhs

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.12) Solution (a)

Prime Minister today formally launched “Housing for All” in rural areas under which the Government proposes to provide an environmentally safe and secure pucca house to every rural household by 2022. Named the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin), in its first phase the target is to complete one crore houses by March 2019. The unit cost for these houses has been significantly increased and now through convergence a minimum support of nearly Rs. 1.5 lakh to Rs. 1.6 lakh to a household is available. There is also a provision of Bank loan upto Rs. 70,000/-, if the beneficiary so desires. The selection of beneficiaries has been through a completely transparent process using the Socio Economic Census 2011 data and validating it through the Gram Sabha

The scheme would enable people in rural areas to construct new houses or add to their existing pucca houses to improve their dwelling units. The beneficiary who takes a loan under the scheme would be provided interest subsidy for loan amount upto Rs. 2 Lakhs.

National Housing Bank would implement the scheme. The Government would provide net present value of the interest subsidy of 3 percent to the National Housing Bank upfront which will, in turn, pass it to the Primary Lending Institutions (Scheduled Commercial Banks, NBFCs etc.). As a result the equated monthly installment (EMI) for the beneficiary would be reduced.

Under the scheme, the Government would also take necessary steps for proper convergence with PMAY-G including technical support to beneficiary through existing arrangements. The new scheme is expected to improve housing stock in the rural areas, as well as create employment opportunities in rural housing sector

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=153931>

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana

1. It is an income declaration scheme for the tax evaders.
2. 25% of the undisclosed income has to be deposited in PM Garib Kalyan Deposit Scheme for 4 years.
3. The government will pay 4% annual interest on such deposits.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.13) Solution (a)

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, 2016' (PMGKY) : The declarant under this regime shall be required to pay tax @ 30% of the undisclosed income, and penalty @10% of the undisclosed income. Further, a surcharge to be called 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Cess' @33% of tax is also proposed to be levied. In addition to tax, surcharge and penalty (totaling to approximately 50%), the declarant shall have to deposit 25% of undisclosed income in a Deposit Scheme to be notified by the RBI under the 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Deposit Scheme, 2016'. This amount is proposed to be utilised for the schemes of irrigation, housing, toilets, infrastructure, primary education, primary health, livelihood, etc., so that there is justice and equality.

Q.14) Which of the following is not a component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-Urban?

- a) Skill development
- b) Self-employment
- c) Education for urban poor
- d) Urban shelters

Q.14) Solution (c)

The Government today announced an overarching scheme for uplift of urban and rural poor through enhancement of livelihood opportunities through skill development and other means. The scheme has been named as 'Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana – DAY'. The announcement was made today by Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu, Minister of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation and Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Rural Development at a National Convention on Skills for Rural and Urban Poor.

The Minister further informed that under the current urban poverty alleviation programmes, only 790 cities and towns are covered and the government has decided to extend these measures to all the 4,041 statutory cities and towns, there by covering almost the entire urban population.

Announcing the details of urban component of DAY, Shri Venkaiah Naidu said, Rs.1,000 cr has been provisioned for urban poverty alleviation during 2014-15. Out of this, Rs.500 cr will be spent on skill development of over 5,00,000 urban poor. He said, for realizing the 'Make in India' objective, skill development is essential. He observed that "If India is to emerge as the manufacturing base to meet global needs, the only certain way is to empower every youth of the country with the necessary skills. Skill development has multiple outcomes including enhancing employment opportunities, stimulating economic growth and promoting self-worth of beneficiaries."

Shri Venkaiah Naidu informed that under the urban component of DAY, focus will be on:

1. Imparting skills with an expenditure of Rs.15, 000 – Rs.18, 000 on each urban poor;
2. Promotion of self-employment through setting up individual micro-enterprises and group enterprises with interest subsidy for individual projects costing Rs.2.00 lakhs and Rs.10.00 lakhs for group enterprises. Subsidized interest rate will be 7%;
3. Training urban poor to meet the huge demand from urban citizens by imparting market oriented skills through City Livelihood Centres. Each Centre would be given a capital grant of Rs.10.00 lakhs.
4. Enabling urban poor form Self-Help Groups for meeting financial and social needs with a support of Rs.10,000/- per each group who would in turn would be helped with bank linkages;
5. Development of vendor markets besides promotion of skills of vendors; and
6. Construction of permanent shelters for urban homeless and provision of other essential services.

Q.15) Which of the following currencies are not a part of SDR Basket of IMF?

- a) Chinese Renminbi.
- b) Indian Rupee.
- c) Japanese Yen.
- d) British Pound.

Q.15) Solution (b)

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced the launch of the new Special Drawing Right (SDR) valuation basket including the Chinese renminbi (RMB), and the new currency amounts that will determine the value of the SDR during the new valuation period.

As approved by the Executive Board of the IMF on November 30, 2015, effective October 1, 2016, the RMB is determined to be a freely usable currency and will be included in the SDR basket as a fifth currency, along with the U.S. dollar, the euro, Japanese yen, and the British pound. The Board also decided at that time that the weights of each currency would be 41.73 percent for the U.S. dollar, 30.93 percent for the Euro, 10.92 percent for the Chinese yuan, 8.33 percent for the Japanese yen, and 8.09 percent for the Pound sterling.

Q.16) _____ is a proposed epoch dating from the commencement of significant human impact on the Earth's geology and ecosystems.

- a) Pleistocene

- b) Pliocene
- c) Anthropocene
- d) Oligocene

Q.16) Solution (c)

The Anthropocene is a proposed epoch dating from the commencement of significant human impact on the Earth's geology and ecosystems. The Anthropocene thus includes, but also transcends, the duration of anthropogenic climate change.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/Anthropocene-why-this-naming-has-risen-in-the-earth%E2%80%99s-history/article14640054.ece>

Q.17) Under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, who shall be the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of individual or community forest rights or both?

- a) State Forest Department
- b) District Collector/Deputy Commissioner
- c) Tahsildar /Block Development Officer / Mandai Revenue Officer
- d) Gram Sabha

Q.17) Solution (d)

As per the Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA), the Gram Sabha has been assigned substantial role for implementation of the provisions of the Act.

Under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, the Gram Sabha has been assigned the following roles for implementing the provisions of the Act:

To initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of individual or community forest rights or both that may be given to the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers within the local limits of its jurisdiction under the Act by receiving claims, consolidating and verifying them and preparing a map delineating the area of each recommended claim in such manner as may be prescribed for exercise of such rights and then pass a resolution to that effect and thereafter forward a copy of the same to the Sub-Divisional Level Committee.

To recommend developmental projects managed by the Government which involve felling of trees not exceeding seventy-five trees per hectare, and which require diversion of forest land, under Section 3 (2) of the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

To consider the resettlement or alternative packages prepared by the State Governments for providing a secure livelihood to the affected individual forest rights holders and communities whose forest rights recognized under the Act in the critical wildlife habitats of National Parks and Sanctuaries are subsequently modified or resettled for the purposes of creating inviolate areas for wildlife conservation for providing free informed consent to the proposed resettlement and to the alternative package

To protect the wild life, forest , biodiversity, adjoining catchments areas, water sources, other ecological sensitive areas, preserve the habitat of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers from any form of destructive practices affecting their cultural and natural heritage etc. [Section 5];and

To pass a resolution against any higher authority by giving a notice of not less than sixty days to the State Level Monitoring Committee and the State Level Monitoring Committee does not proceed against such authority for enabling the Court to take cognizance of any offence under Section 7 of the Act [Section 8].

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/congress-govt-in-himachal-challenges-tribal-rights-in-sc-116090400413_1.html

Q.18) Consider the following statements about 25th World Conservation Congress

1. It was conducted by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Geneva
2. The theme was 'Develop peace on planet'

Select the correct code:

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

Q.18) Solution (d)

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) conducted its 25th World Conservation Congress in Hawaii. The last Congress was held in Jeju, South Korea in 2012.

US hosted the event for the first time.

Theme: The theme for this year's IUCN Congress is 'Planet at the crossroads'

Source: <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/GgQngTITi0emWDmXnXVQil/10day-IUCN-World-Conservation-Congress-begins.html>

Q.19) Consider the following statements about 'Majuli'

1. It is the largest river island in the world after Marajo Island in Brazil
2. It is the abode of the Assamese neo-Vaisnavite culture

Select the correct statements

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

Q.19) Solution (b)

Majuli Island, located amidst the river Brahmaputra in Assam, has recently been declared the largest river island in the world. It toppled Marajo Island in Brazil, according to Guinness World Records.

The river island covers an area of around 880 sq km.

The island is formed by the Brahmaputra in the south and the Kherkutia Xuti, an anabranch of the Brahmaputra, joined by the Subansiri River in the north.

The island was formed due to course changes by the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries, mainly the Lohit.

The island is inhabited by Mising, Deori and Sonowal Kachri tribes speaking Mising, Assamese and Deori language.

Majuli is the nerve centre of neo-Vaishnavite.

It has been included in the tentative list of World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/World-heritage-status-for-Majuli-soon/article14626783.ece>

Q.20) Consider the following statements about 'Scrub Typhus'

1. It is caused by fungal infection
2. Himachal Pradesh is one of the endemic areas for the disease

Select the correct statements

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

Q.20) Solution (b)

Scrub typhus, also known as bush typhus because the mites (*Leptotrombidium deliense*, commonly known as trombiculid mite) that cause it reside in vegetation predominantly comprising small shrubs, is an infectious disease with symptoms similar to any viral fever. However, it is not caused by a virus, but by a parasite called *Orientia tsutsugamushi*, which is transmitted by the bite of infected mite larvae in soil containing scrub vegetation. The disease is more common during the wet season when the mites lay eggs.

Himachal Pradesh is one of the endemic areas for the disease — it is also endemic in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Thailand, northern Australia, the Arabian peninsula and Japan. It is an occupational disease frequently found in people who work in the fields and are in the habit of gardening.

In Himachal Pradesh, the disease spreads most commonly during grass cutting operations in the orchards, and is alleged to have taken a serious turn this year due to laxity in controlling the mite.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/Centre-assures-support-to-H.P.-to-check-spread-of-scrub-typhus/article15003156.ece>

Q.21) Consider the following statements about Indian Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (ISEER)

1. It is an evolved rating methodology for air conditioners by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)
2. It is the ratio of the total annual amount of heat that the equipment can remove from the indoor air when operated for cooling in active mode to the total annual amount of energy consumed by the equipment during the same period.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.21) Solution (c)

Indian Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (ISEER) is an evolved rating methodology for air conditioners that factors in variance in higher temperature in India and rates air conditioners accordingly. ISEER measures energy efficiency of air conditioners based on a weighted average of the performance at outside temperatures between 24 and 43 degree C based on Indian weather data.

As per Indian Weather Data Handbook, 2014, weather profile of 54 major cities shows that 65% of the total number of hours in a year have a temperature above 24 deg C (5778 hours out of 8760). Air conditioners in India have hitherto been tested under the IS 1391 at a standard operating conditions of outside temperature of 35 degree C. Star rating is given to manufacturers based on the test results provided by them as tested on the above standard.

ISEER is the ratio of the total annual amount of heat that the equipment can remove from the indoor air when operated for cooling in active mode to the total annual amount of energy consumed by the equipment during the same period.

The method of evaluation of ISEER is based on bin hours of national climatic zone, bin temperature range of 24 - 43°C and 1600 operating hours for cooling per annum.

Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/panasonic-to-upgrade-refrigerant-but-sees-ac-s-becoming-costlier/article9100785.ece>

Q.22) Consider the following statements about Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)

1. It is headquartered at the Norwegian Institute for Public Health, in Oslo
2. Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, is the chairperson of the interim board of CEPI
3. It will be guided by WHO's R&D blueprint (2016), which lists eleven illnesses to focus on, including Chikungunya, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic fever

Select the correct statements

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

Q.22) Solution (d)

It is a public-private coalition, headquartered at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health in Oslo, that aims to derail epidemics by speeding development of vaccines. India is a key member of it. Dr K. Vijay Raghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, is the chairperson of the interim board of Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations. It grew out of the widespread conviction that vaccines languishing in R&D could have prevented the recent Ebola epidemic. The coalition will not focus on diseases that already have sufficient attention, but will be guided by WHO's R&D blueprint (2016), which lists eleven illnesses to focus on, including Chikungunya, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic fever etc.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/India-to-lead-global-coalition-to-fight-epidemics/article14637887.ece>

