

Q.1) Consider the following statements about Innovate in India (i3)

1. It is a mission to accelerate biopharmaceutical development in India
2. It will be implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.1) Solution (c)

Ministry of Science and Technology have launched its \$250-million program to promote the production of biological drugs.

It will focus on development of new vaccines, bio-therapeutics, diagnostics and medical devices to cater to India's rising disease burden.

The government aims to use i3 to create a globally competitive biopharmaceutical industry that improves access to affordable healthcare, according to the ministry's Department of Biotechnology (DBT). The flagship program is expected to bolster collaboration between academia and the country's biopharma industry.

The program will be implemented by DBT's Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) in collaboration with the World Bank.

The Ministry has received a loan of \$125 million (over Rs 800 crore) from the World Bank for its "Innovate in India" (i3) program, hopes it will soon help India capture 5% of the global biopharma market from 3% now.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=166951>

Q.2) Mizoram shares its border with which of the following states?

1. Meghalaya
2. Assam
3. Tripura
4. Nagaland
5. Manipur

Select the correct code:

- a) 2, 3 and 5
- b) 1, 3, 4 and 5
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) 1, 4 and 5

Q.2) Solution (a)

Tripura, Assam, Manipur

It also borders with the neighbouring countries of Bangladesh and Myanmar



Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/mizoram-celebrates-31st-anniversary-of-mizo-peace-accord/article19187194.ece>

Q.3) Terms like WannaCry, Petya and Locky were in news recently. They are associated with

- a) Bitcoins
- b) Ransomware
- c) Operating Systems
- d) Server less computing

Q.3) Solution (b)

Ransomware is malicious code that is used by cybercriminals to launch data kidnapping and lockscreen attacks. The motive for ransomware attacks is monetary, and unlike other types of attacks, the victim is usually notified that an exploit has occurred and is given instructions for how to recover from the attack. Payment is often demanded in virtual currency to protect the criminal's identity.

Ransomware kits on the deep web have allowed cybercriminals with little or no technical background to purchase inexpensive ransomware-as-a-service (RaaS) programs and launch attacks with very little effort. Attackers may use one of several different approaches to extort digital currency from their victims. For example:

- The victim may receive a pop-up message or email warning that if the ransom is not paid by a certain date, the private key required to unlock the device or decrypt files will be destroyed.
- The victim may be duped into believing he is the subject of an official inquiry. After being informed that unlicensed software or illegal web content has been found on his computer, the victim is given instructions for how to pay an electronic fine.
- The attacker encrypts files on infected computed devices and makes money by selling a product that promises to help the victim unlock files and prevent future malware attacks.

To protect against ransomware attacks and other types of cyberextortion, experts urge users to backup computing devices on a regular basis and update software -- including anti-virus software -- on a regular basis. End users should beware of clicking on links in emails from strangers or opening email attachments and victims should do all they can to avoid paying ransoms.

Read More - <http://www.computerworlduk.com/security/ransomware-explained-how-digital-extortion-turns-data-into-silent-hostage-3642085/>

Q.4) Consider the following statements about The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)

1. It is associated with the United Nations

2. It was adopted at the Inaugural International Conference on Financing for Development

Select the correct statements

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

Q.4) Solution (a)

The Monterrey Consensus was the outcome of the 2002 Monterrey Conference, the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development, in Monterrey, Mexico. It was adopted by Heads of State and Government on 22 March 2002.

The Monterrey Consensus was updated at Doha, Qatar in 2008, and again at Addis Ababa in 2015.

Since its adoption the Monterrey Consensus has become the major reference point for international development cooperation. The document embraces six areas of Financing for Development:

- Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development.
- Mobilizing international resources for development: foreign direct investment and other private flows.
- International Trade as an engine for development.
- Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development.
- External Debt.
- Addressing systemic issues: enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development.

The Third International Conference on Financing for Development was held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015. It adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)

AAAA - <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd3/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2015/07/DESA-Briefing-Note-Addis-Action-Agenda.pdf>

Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/india-gives-100000-to-un-tax-fund-1st-country-to-contribute/article9741222.ece>

Q.5) Consider the following statements about International Securities Identification Number (ISIN)

1. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is authorized to issue the ISIN number to the securities other than G-Secs.
2. Securities to which ISINs can be issued does not include debt securities and derivatives

Select the correct statement

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

Q.5) Solution (a)

The International Securities Identification Number (ISIN) is a code that uniquely identifies a specific securities issue. The organization that allocates ISINs in any particular country is the country's respective National Numbering Agency (NNA).

An International Securities Identification Number (ISIN) uniquely identifies a security. Its structure is defined in ISO 6166. Securities for which ISINs are issued include bonds, commercial paper, stocks and warrants. The ISIN code is a 12-character alpha-numerical code that does not contain information characterizing financial instruments but serves for uniform identification of a security through normalization of the assigned National Number, where one exists, at trading and settlement.

Securities to which ISINs can be issued include debt securities, shares, options, derivatives and futures. ISIN cannot specify a particular trading location in this case, and another identifier, typically MIC (Market Identifier Code) or the three-letter exchange code, will have to be specified in addition to the ISIN. The Currency of the trade will also be required to uniquely identify the instrument using this method.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is authorized to issue the ISIN number to the securities For Government Securities or G-Secs RBI is authorized to issue ISIN.

Source: http://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/jun-2017/specifications-related-to-international-securities-identification-number-isins-for-debt-securities-issued-under-the-sebi-issue-and-listing-of-debt-securities-regulations-2008_35215.html

Q.6) Doklam is a disputed territory claimed by

- a) China and Nepal
- b) Bhutan and China
- c) India and Pakistan
- d) Nepal and Bhutan

Q.6) Solution (b)

It is a narrow plateau lying in the tri-junction of Bhutan, China and India. It is a disputed territory claimed by both Bhutan and China. It is situated roughly 15 kilometers from the Nathu La pass that separates India and China. Doklam is part of the Chumbi Valley that lies primarily in Tibet. Doka La is a pass connecting the Indian state of Sikkim with Tibet in China.

Source: 2017 Doka La China-India stand-off is in news recently.

Q.7) Consider the following statements about Kaleshwaram project

1. It is a Lift Irrigation Project
2. It is located in Andhra Pradesh
3. It has the longest tunnel to carry water in Asia, running up to 81 km

Select the correct statements

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

Q.7) Solution (c)

The Project

- In 2007, when Andhra Pradesh was not divided Pranahitha-Chevella Lift Irrigation Scheme taken up to utilise the water of Pranhita tributary of Godavari river.
- After the formation of Telangana in 2014, the present government redesigned the project.
- The reason they stated for doing it was that the original plan had too many environmental obstacles and had very low water storage provision.

- After conducting Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) survey, the government separated the project into two.
- The original component serving the Adilabad area was called the Pranahitha project.
- The rest was renamed as Kaleshwaram by redesigning the head works, storage capacity and the canal system.
- The Kaleshwaram project has provision for the storage of about 148 tmc ft with plans of utilising 180 tmc ft by lifting at least 2 tmc ft water every day for 90 flood days.

Importance

- It has the longest tunnel to carry water in Asia - 81 km between the Yellampally barrage and the Mallannasagar reservoir.
- It has the estimated cost of Rs.80,500 crore, the costliest irrigation project to be taken up by any State.
- The project is designed to irrigate around 7.4 lakh hectares lands.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tehangana/in-tehangana-a-unique-irrigation-project/article19194414.ece>

Q.8) Consider the following statement about 'Tirupati Varaha'

1. It is the product of cross breeding between indigenous pigs and Large White Yorkshire (LWY)
2. It is developed by All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP), a unit of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.8) Solution (c)

The All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Pigs, executed in the College of Veterinary Science here since 1971, has successfully conducted the cross breeding of indigenous pigs and Large White Yorkshire (LWY) for efficiency of feed conversion, production and reproduction.

The AICRP, a unit of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), developed the LWY pig during 1971-80, indigenous breed during 1981-87 and took up cross breeding during 1987-2007. For the next 10 years, the stability of the cross breed was tested for 21 generations.

It is the new cross-bred pig which suits the agro-climatic conditions of Andhra Pradesh.

The Tirupati Varaha is of 75% LWY and 25% indigenous inheritance.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/new-cross-bred-pig-to-hit-market-today/article19190742.ece>

Q.9) Consider the following statements about 'Aaykar Setu'

1. It is developed by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) under Project SAKSHAM
2. It will allow entities track TDS, pay taxes, apply for permanent account number (PAN) and help people link their 12-digit Aadhaar with PAN card

Select the correct statements

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

Q.9) Solution (b)

FM launched a new desktop service and a corresponding Android-based application 'Aaykar Setu' that will allow entities track TDS, pay taxes and apply for permanent account number (PAN). It will also help people link their 12-digit Aadhaar with PAN card.

This e-initiative would help in reducing physical interface between assesses and tax assessing authorities and thereby minimising the chances of any tax harassment.

This app is in the series of actions taken by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to provide better taxpayer services and reduce grievances. It is also a step by the Income Tax department to directly communicate with the taxpayers on multiple informative and useful tax services aimed at providing tax information at their fingertips.

Aaykar Setu compiles various tax tools, live chat facility, dynamic updates, and important links to various processes within the Income Tax Department in a single module. The taxpayers will also be able to receive regular updates regarding important tax dates, forms

and notifications on mobile numbers registered with the ITD. All taxpayers who wish to receive such SMS alerts need to register their mobile numbers in the Aaykar Setu module.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167286>

Q.10) Consider the following statements about INAM-Pro+

1. It is designed by National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL)
2. It will include A to Z of construction materials, equipment/machinery and services

Select the correct statements

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

Q.10) Solution (c)

INAM-Pro+ is an upgraded version of INAM-Pro, the web portal launched by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

INAM Pro is a common platform to bring cement buyers and sellers together and made it very convenient for the buyers to procure cement at reasonable rates in a transparent manner.

The revamped website, INAM-Pro+, the first of its kind in the country, will include the A to Z of construction materials, equipment/machinery and services, which would include purchase/hiring/lease of new or used products and services in various domains, including construction materials, infrastructure machinery, intelligent transport system, road furniture and haulage vehicles, among others.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=163320>

Q.11) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- | Pass | Location |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Shipki La | Himachal Pradesh |
| 2. Nathu La | Sikkim |

3. Dihang Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct code:

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

Q.11) Solution (d)

All are correctly matched.

Read More –

<http://www.mapsofindia.com/mountains/passes/>

<https://syskool.com/2016/02/mountain-pass-india.html>

Q.12) Consider the following statements about DART Mission

- 1. It is part of the Asteroid Impact and Deflection Assessment (AIDA) mission concept
- 2. It is developed by European Space Agency
- 3. It will demonstrate the kinetic impactor technique — striking the asteroid to shift its orbit

Select the correct statements

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

Q.12) Solution (c)

The Asteroid Impact and Deflection Assessment (AIDA) mission concept is an international collaboration among the European Space Agency (ESA), NASA, Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur (OCA), and the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU/APL).

AIDA will be the first demonstration of the kinetic impact technique to change the motion of an asteroid in space. AIDA is a dual-mission concept, involving two independent spacecraft – NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART), and ESA's Asteroid Impact Mission (AIM).

AIDA is a science-driven test of one of the technologies for preventing the Earth impact of a hazardous asteroid: the kinetic impactor. AIDA's primary objective is to demonstrate, and to measure the effects of, a kinetic impact on a small asteroid.

The target for DART is an asteroid that will have a distant approach to Earth in October 2022, and then again in 2024.

The asteroid is called Didymos — Greek for "twin" — because it is an asteroid binary system that consists of two bodies: Didymos A, about 780 metres in size, and a smaller asteroid orbiting it called Didymos B, about 160 metres in size.

DART would impact only the smaller of the two bodies, Didymos B. The Didymos system has been closely studied since 2003. The primary body is a rocky S-type object, with composition similar to that of many asteroids.

The composition of its small companion, Didymos B, is unknown, but the size is typical of asteroids that could potentially create regional effects should they impact Earth.

The kinetic impact technique works by changing the speed of a threatening asteroid by a small fraction of its total velocity, but by doing it well before the predicted impact so that this small nudge will add up over time to a big shift of the asteroid's path away from Earth.

Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/nasa-developing-first-asteroid-deflection-mission/article9745241.ece>

Read More - <https://www.nasa.gov/planetarydefense/aida>

Q.13) Consider the following statements about Chief Election Commissioner of India

1. He is appointed by the President
2. He has tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier

Select the correct statements

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

Q.13) Solution (c)

The President of India (based on a recommendation from incumbent Govt of India) appoints the Chief Election Commissioner. Conventionally, senior-most Election Commissioner is appointed as CEC. He has tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. He enjoys the same official status, salary and perks as available to judges of the Supreme Court of India and High court. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed only through impeachment by the Parliament.

The Chief Election Commissioner heads the Election Commission of India, a body constitutionally empowered to conduct free and fair elections to the national and state legislatures. Chief Election Commissioner of India is usually a member of the Indian Civil Service and mostly from the Indian Administrative Service. It is very difficult to remove the authority of the Chief Election Commissioner once elected by the president, as two-thirds of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha need to vote against him for disorderly conduct or improper actions.

Read More - http://eci.nic.in/eci_main1/the_setup.aspx

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/achal-kumar-joti-to-be-the-next-chief-election-commissioner/article19209802.ece>

Q.14) Which of the following cesses are abolished post GST rollout?

1. Krishi Kalyan Cess
2. Cesses on petroleum products
3. Cesses on tobacco and tobacco products
4. Swachh Bharat Cess

Select the correct code

- a) 1, 3 and 4
- b) 1 and 4
- c) 2, 3 and 4
- d) 2 and 3

Q.14) Solution (b)

The cesses that have been abolished from July 1 by the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act include the Krishi Kalyan Cess and Swachh Bharat Cess that were levied along with service

tax, as well as education cess on excisable goods and also little known cesses such as those on tea, sugar and jute.

However, according to officials, seven cesses will continue as they relate to customs or goods that are not included in the GST. These include education cess secondary and higher education cess on imported goods.

Similarly, cesses on petroleum products will also continue as these are outside GST. These include the cess on crude petroleum oil under the Oil Industry Development Act, 1974, the road cess or additional duty of excise on motor spirits and high speed diesel oil, special additional duty of excise on motor spirit and the NCCD on tobacco and tobacco products and crude petroleum oil.

Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/centre-abolishes-13-cesses-along-with-gst-rollout/article9747204.ece>

Q.15) MERIT app is associated with

- a) Coal block allocation
- b) Cement procurement
- c) Tracking power distribution
- d) APMCs

Q.15) Solution (c)

'MERIT app (Merit Order Despatch of Electricity for Rejuvenation of Income and Transparency - <http://meritindia.in/>)'

The advantages of MERIT app are as follows:

- Empowerment of the Consumer and participative governance
- Transparent information dissemination pertaining to marginal variable cost and source wise purchase of electricity
- Promotes economy and efficiency in operations
- Helps understand the utility portfolio and its complexity
- Optimization of the power procurement costs
- Facilitates renewable integration and handling of the variability and uncertainty of renewables
- Indication of supply side reliability, adequacy, and co

- The flexibility in utilization of domestic coal scheme envisages transferring coal to more efficient IPPs generating stations, leading to lower generation costs and ultimately lesser cost of electricity for the consumers.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167149>

Q.16) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Supply of wheat, rice and other cereals, when put up in unit container and bearing a registered brand name attracts 2.5% CGST rate
2. An item is be deemed to be 'branded' if it carries a brand name or trade name that is registered under the Trade Marks Act, 1999

Select the correct statements

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

Q.16) Solution (c)

The Central GST (CGST) rate on supply of certain goods, such as chena or paneer, natural honey, wheat, rice and other cereals, pulses, flour of cereals and pulses, other than those put up in unit container and bearing a registered brand name, is NIL. Supply of such goods, when put up in unit container and bearing a registered brand name attracts 2.5% CGST rate.

MoF clearly defines "registered brand name" as brand name or trade name, which is registered under the Trade Marks Act, 1999.

Trade Marks Act, 1999 provide that a registered trade mark means a trade mark which is actually on the Register of Trade Marks and remaining in force.

Unless the brand name or trade name is actually on the Register of Trade Marks and is in force under the Trade Marks Act, 1999, CGST rate of 5% will not be applicable on the supply of such goods.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/meaning-of-registered-brand-name-in-the-context-of-gst-rates-117070500476_1.html

Q.17) Consider the following statements about 'JIGYASA'

1. It is an apprenticeship promotion Scheme
2. It is implemented by Director General of Training (DGT) under Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)

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.17) Solution (d)

It is a student- scientist connect programme by Ministry of HRD and Ministry of Science and Technology.

It focuses on connecting school students and scientists so as to extend student's classroom learning to research laboratory based learning by visiting CSIR laboratories and by participating in mini-science projects.

CSIR and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) are collaborating to implement this programme.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167194>

Q.18) Gresham's law suggests

- a) the share of a country's economic output that is given to employees as compensation for their work, remains constant over time
- b) that bad money tends to drive good money out of circulation when both are full legal tender
- c) that as income rises, the proportion of income spent on food falls, even if absolute expenditure on food rises
- d) that aggregate production necessarily creates an equal quantity of aggregate demand

Q.18) Solution (b)

Gresham's law is a monetary principle stating that "bad money drives out good." In currency valuation, Gresham's Law states that if a new coin ("bad money") is assigned the same face value as an older coin containing a higher amount of precious metal ("good money"), then the new coin will be used in circulation while the old coin will be hoarded and will disappear from circulation.

We have one-rupee notes and one-rupee coins. Both are forms of legally good money. Yet, the public sometimes prefer one form of a particular denomination to another, e.g., they may prefer the rupee coin to the paper note. If there is such a preference for one form of money rather than another, it is an example of Gresham's Law in operation.

"bad money tends to drive good money out of circulation when both are full legal tender".

The term "bad money" does not mean counterfeit coins. It means worn out, clipped or underweight coins.

When "bad money" and "good money" are both in circulation people will use the "bad money" when making purchases and the "good money" will be hoarded. The natural human tendency is to retain the better coins and pass on into circulation the comparatively old and worn out coins.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/greshams-law/article19225829.ece>

Q.19) Which of the following cities is a World Heritage City?

- a) Ahmedabad
- b) Udaipur
- c) Gangtok
- d) Delhi

Q.19) Solution (a)

The Walled City of Ahmedabad, founded by Sultan Ahmed Shah in the 15th century, has been declared India's first World Heritage City.

The walled city of Ahmedabad on the eastern banks of Sabarmati river presents a rich architectural heritage from the sultanate period, notably the Bhadra citadel, the walls and gates of the Fort city and numerous mosques and tombs, as well as important Hindu and Jain temples of later periods.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ahmedabad-is-indias-first-world-heritage-city/article19245644.ece>



Q.20) Gomira Mukha Nach is from

- a) West Bengal
- b) Assam
- c) Odisha
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

Q.20) Solution (a)

Gomira is a socio religious festival that is celebrated in worship of Chandi and Kali in order to attain divine blessings from the goddess. The festival is celebrated mostly at the end of Bengali year. Gomira is actually an animistic tradition in which the primitive people pay their homage to different Gods in order to attain security. The Gomira dance has extensive use of wooden masks. The artists wear various masks which depicts various incarnations of Kali, Nrisingha and ghosts.

Though Gomira is celebrated in jalpaiguri and Dinajpur, it originated from Malda. Traditionally the Gomira starts four days prior to the end of Chaitra and ends in the first day of Baisakh. However the tradition is not followed strictly now a days and it starts on the last day of chaitra at Kushmundi. The Gomeera festival starts with Ghot bhora which is the ritual of collecting water in an earthen pot from the nearby pond or river. The following saturday is celebrated in worship and dance in the local field. After nine days they have the Gomeera nach or Gomeera dance wherein the artists dressed up in Godly attires and wooden masks.

The wooden masks are the symbol of the richness of the craftsmanship of the local people. Masks of various forms of kali, the rakshashas (demons) animals are used. Nrisingha masks are very common. Pigeons are sacrificed and their blood is fed to the dancer who have the the Bhor (trance). It is interesting to know that Narasinghee a figure of Chandi is transformed into Narasingha a figure of vishnu in course of time and so oftentimes a mass choras of krishna naam (Hare krishna) is heard during Gomeera which otherwise is a contradiction to the Hindu rituals as Krishna and kali could never be worshipped at the same time. For the ease of use paper mache masks are also used now days, which are less durable.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/last-of-the-gomira-mask-makers-see-silver-lining/article19242786.ece>

Q.21) Consider the following statements about Wholesale and Long-Term Finance (WLTF) banks

1. It will be exempted from the statutory liquidity ratio
2. It will focus primarily on lending to infrastructure sector and small, medium & corporate businesses

Select the correct statements

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

Q.21) Solution (c)

The report of the Committee on Comprehensive Financial Services for Small Businesses and Low Income Households, chaired by Dr. Nachiket Mor ('Nachiket Mor Committee Report') had envisaged a class of differentiated banks called Wholesale Banks. Extending the committee's recommendations on Wholesale Banks, the Wholesale and Long-Term Finance (WLTF) banks will focus primarily on lending to infrastructure sector and small, medium & corporate businesses. They will also mobilize liquidity for banks and financial institutions directly originating priority sector assets, through securitization of such assets and actively dealing in them as market makers.

They may also act as market-makers in securities such as corporate bonds, credit derivatives, warehouse receipts, and take-out financing etc. These banks will provide refinance to lending institutions and shall be present in capital markets in the form of aggregators.

WLTF banks may also offer services related to equity / debt investments, and forex / trade finance to their clients. These services, although similar in nature to the services offered by financial institutions traditionally known as 'Investment Banks', would be ancillary to the primary activities of WLTF banks, which is deposits / loan products for wholesale clients and financing of infrastructure sector and core industries.

Primary sources of funds for WLTF banks could be a combination of term deposits, debt / equity capital raised from primary market issues or private placement, and term borrowings from banks and other financial institutions. According to the Nachiket Mor Committee Report, since the primary role of the Wholesale Banks is lending and not the provision of retail deposit services, they may be permitted to accept deposits only above a large threshold amount. Same may be applicable in the context of WLTF Banks. Therefore, they may have negligible retail segment exposure on their balance sheet.

The banks will have to maintain the cash reserve ratio, but would be exempted from the statutory liquidity ratio, or mandatory bond holding. There could also be relaxation regarding liquidity risk and compliance with liquidity ratios such as liquidity coverage ratio.

The pros and cons of licensing differentiated banks focusing on wholesale and long-term financing are:

Pros

- Differentiated banks concentrating on wholesale and long-term financing could act as steady and additional source of funding for small, medium and large businesses, and infrastructure sector over a longer term.
- Entry of such banks as market makers in debt, equity, forex, securitization, and other markets would further expand the markets and encourage product innovation, appropriate price discovery and superior market liquidity.
- WLTF banks may ease up the pressure of long maturity loan assets on the books of commercial banks, and in turn, moderate their asset-liability mismatch as these banks are expected to finance infrastructure projects, participate in take-out financing and securitize such assets to generate liquidity.
- Large ticket, long term lending requires superior expertise and skill in project appraisal and credit monitoring; and impeccable risk management systems that go beyond the traditional domain knowledge of commercial banking. It is expected that WLTF banks would acquire and maintain high quality assets on their portfolio to be able to generate enough revenues. They would, therefore, help build such expertise through selection of skilled manpower, training and suitable compensation.

Cons

- Raising of long term deposits and debt at competitive cost would not be easy, and funding of long term and infrastructure projects at higher interest costs could make the projects economically unviable.
- Lack of access to savings and other retail deposits would push the cost of funds for the WLTF banks upwards.
- Reputed and well-rated corporates would prefer to access the debt markets directly at comparatively lower interest rates than those offered by WLTF banks.
- WLTF banks could be subject to ALM mismatches, which may be difficult to manage, whereas commercial banks would have more flexibility in their asset liability structure.
- Cyclical nature of industrial activities / performance could place enhanced risk of non-performing assets on the books of wholesale banks, which may not have the cushion of sustained earnings that retail credit portfolios normally provide, in times of economic downturn.

- Lack of enabling market infrastructure and issues such as absence of secondary markets in securitized assets, low demand for long-tenor instruments, and small investor base for such assets among others could be impediments for the WLTF banks.
- Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) in the past had played a similar role in filling the gap in meeting the financing needs of medium and large enterprises, industry and infrastructure sector. However, due to change in the operating environment coupled with dearth of low cost long term funds as a result of withdrawal of Government guarantee for bond issuance and resultant non-SLR status of their bonds, high level of concentration risk caused serious stress to their financial position.
- Given the constraints and limited scope for raising long term funds without sovereign guarantees, financing of infrastructure and commercial projects could be a challenge for the WLTF banks and their viability could be an issue for debate.

Read More -

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/PublicationReportDetails.aspx?UrlPage=&ID=866>

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/rbi-proposes-wholesale-long-term-finance-banks-117040800041_1.html

Q.22) Consider the following statements about sustainable development goals index

1. Singapore is the only Asian country in top 10
2. It is produced by Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.22) Solution (b)

India is ranked 116th on the index with a score of 58.1, behind countries such as Nepal, Iran, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and China. Pakistan is ranked 122.

It is produced by Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

Sweden leads the list, followed by Denmark and Finland.

IN THE RACE

The 2017 Sustainable Development Goals Index

Rank	Country	Score
1	Sweden	85.6
2	Denmark	84.2
3	Finland	84
4	Norway	83.9
5	Czech Republic	81.9
6	Germany	81.7
7	Austria	81.4
8	Switzerland	81.2
9	Slovenia	80.5
116	India	58.1

Source: SDG Index and Dashboards Report

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/2017-sustainable-development-goals-index-india-ranked-117-of-157-countries-117071301204_1.html

Q.23) The recently launched 'Nivaran' portal is launched by

- Ministry of Railways
- Ministry of Consumer Affairs
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Ministry of Finance

Q.23) Solution (a)

It is the grievance redressal portal launched by the Ministry of Railways.

It is the first IT application to be launched on the Rail Cloud.

RailCloud is a virtual server with an inbuilt security system that will enable faster connectivity at a reduced cost.

RailCloud has been developed by rail public sector unit (PSU) RailTel at an cost of about Rs 53 crore.

RailCloud has been equipped with security features as per the latest government guidelines. The security features can be updated in one go for all the applications hosted on the Cloud, resulting in enhanced security and stability with less expenditure and effort.

Source:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/railways/railways-making-efforts-to-bring-railway-system-on-digital-platform-suresh-prabhu/articleshow/59565217.cms>

Q.24) Caspian Sea is bordered by

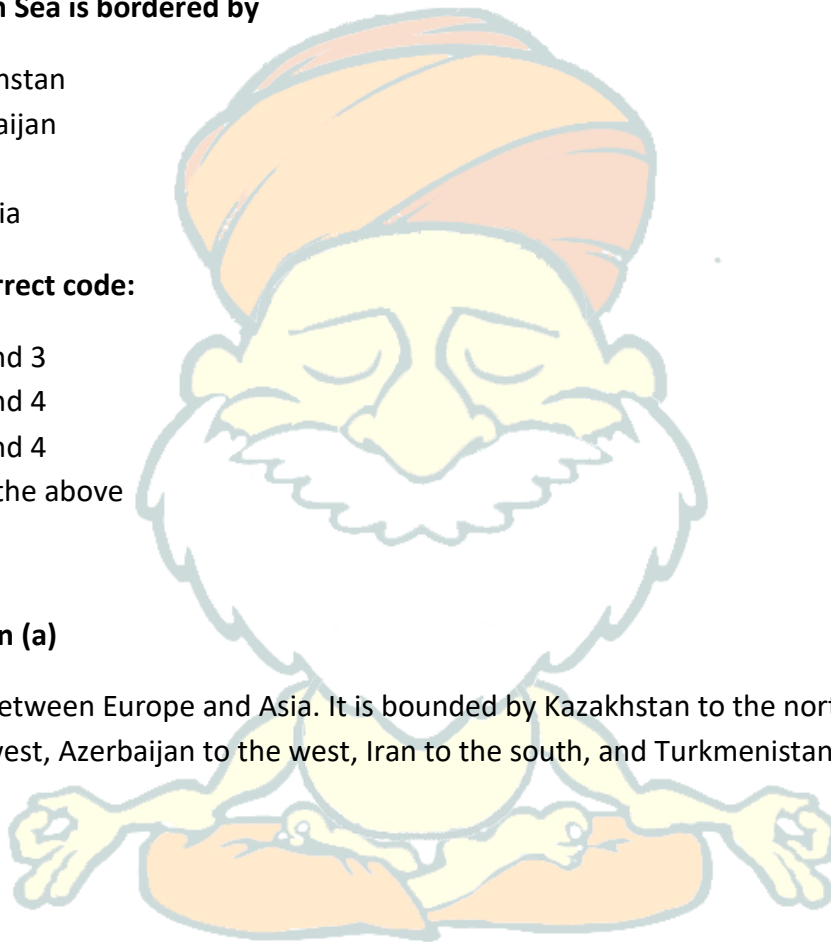
1. Kazakhstan
2. Azerbaijan
3. Iran
4. Georgia

Select the correct code:

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

Q.24) Solution (a)

It is located between Europe and Asia. It is bounded by Kazakhstan to the northeast, Russia to the northwest, Azerbaijan to the west, Iran to the south, and Turkmenistan to the southeast.





Q.25) Consider the following statements about Falun Gong

1. It is identified with the qigong movement in China
2. It is banned in India

Select the correct statements

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



Q.25) Solution (a)

It is a holistic system of coordinated body posture and movement, breathing, and meditation used for health, spirituality, and martial arts training. With roots in Chinese medicine, philosophy, and martial arts, qigong is traditionally viewed as a practice to cultivate and balance qi (chi), translated as "life energy".

It is banned in China.

The Falun Dafa Association of India has been campaigning for months to familiarise the challenges faced by the followers in china.

The association decided for a peace parade this month, to spread the message of Falun Gong and focus on persecution against practitioners in Beijing.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/india-to-celebrate-falun-gong/article19260879.ece>

Q.26) Consider the following statements about Ramanuja

1. He is the main proponent of Vishishtadvaita philosophy
2. His ideas are one of three sub schools in Vedānta

Select the correct statements

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

Q.26) Solution (c)

Rāmānuja's philosophical foundation was qualified monism, and is called Vishishtadvaita in the Hindu tradition. His ideas are one of three subschools in Vedānta, the other two are known as Ādi Shankara's Advaita (absolute monism) and Madhvāchārya's Dvaita (dualism).

Vishishtadvaita is one of the most popular schools of the Vedanta school of Hindu philosophy. Vedanta literally means the end of the Vedas. VishishtAdvaita (literally "Advaita with uniqueness; qualifications") is a non-dualistic school of Vedanta philosophy. It is non-dualism of the qualified whole, in which Brahman alone exists, but is characterized by multiplicity. It can be described as qualified monism or qualified non-dualism or attributive monism. It is a school of Vedanta philosophy which believes in all diversity subsuming to an underlying unity.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/lets-talk-to-the-book-1000th-birth-anniversary-of-ramanuja-the-great-vaishnava-theologian-4751082/>

Q.27) Consider the following statements about National Human Rights Commission of India

1. The Chairperson should be retired Chief Justice of India

2. The Chairperson and the Members of the Commission are appointed by the Prime Minister of India

Select the correct statements

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

Q.27) Solution (a)

The Rights Commission (NHRC) of India is an autonomous public body constituted on 12 October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Ordinance of 28 September 1993. It was given a statutory basis by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (TPHRA). The NHRC is the National Human Rights Commission of India, responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights, defined by the Act as "rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants".

"Human Rights" means the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the constitution or embodied in the International covenants and enforceable by courts in India.

The Chairperson and the Members of the Commission are appointed by the President of India, on the recommendations of a Committee consisting of:

- The Prime Minister (chairperson)
- The Home Minister
- The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha
- The Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha
- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha

The NHRC consists of:

- A Chairperson, should be retired Chief Justice of India
- One member who is, or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court of India
- One member who is, or has been, the Chief Justice of a High Court
- Two members to be appointed from among persons having knowledge of, or practical experience in, matters relating to human rights

- In addition, the Chairpersons of four National Commissions (Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women and Minorities) serve as ex officio members.

The sitting Judge of the Supreme Court or sitting Chief Justice of any High Court can be appointed only after the consultation with the Chief Justice of Supreme Court.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/scant-respect-for-nhrc-norms-sc/article19281973.ece>

Q.28) Khawthlangtuipui River flows through

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Nagaland
- c) Manipur
- d) Mizoram

Q.28) Solution (d)

The Khawthlangtuipui also known as the Karnaphuli is a river of Mizoram, northeastern India. It is said to "represent the drainage system of the whole south western part of Mizoram." The source of the river is at Saitah village in Mamit district. It flows in a southerly direction along the border with Bangladesh.

Source: <http://www.firstpost.com/india/india-bangladesh-to-construct-bridge-over-river-in-mizoram-to-improve-trade-3789659.html>

Q.29) Consider the following statements about Global Foreign Exchange Committee (GFXC)

1. The committee has been set up under the guidance of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS)
2. It will promote and maintain the FX Global Code

Select the correct statements

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

Q.29) Solution (c)**FX Global Code**

- The FX Global Code (Global Code) is a set of global principles of good practice in the foreign exchange market, developed to provide a common set of guidelines to promote the integrity and effective functioning of the wholesale foreign exchange market. It was developed by a partnership between central banks and Market Participants from 16 jurisdictions around the globe.
- The purpose of the Global Code is to promote a robust, fair, liquid, open, and appropriately transparent market in which a diverse set of Market Participants, supported by resilient infrastructure, are able to confidently and effectively transact at competitive prices that reflect available market information and in a manner that conforms to acceptable standards of behaviour.
- The Global Code does not impose legal or regulatory obligations on Market Participants, nor does it substitute for regulation, but rather it is intended to serve as a supplement to any and all local laws, rules and regulations by identifying global good practices and processes.

New Global Foreign Exchange Committee (GFXC)

- Public and private sector representatives from the foreign exchange committees of 16 international FX trading centres met in London on 24 May 2017 and agreed to form a Global Foreign Exchange Committee (GFXC).
- One of the core objectives of the GFXC will be to promote and maintain the FX Global Code, by ensuring that the guidance set out remains relevant and taking into account good practices for supporting adherence. The GFXC welcomes the publication of the complete FX Global Code and supports its adoption by market participants.
- More broadly, the GFXC will seek to promote collaboration and communication among local foreign exchange committees and other jurisdictions with significant FX markets. It will also provide a forum for the exchange of views on market trends and developments.

Additional background

- The GFXC, which will meet regularly, replaces a more informal commitment from eight foreign exchange committees (those from Australia, Canada, Euro Area, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, UK and the US). A record of the most recent global meeting of foreign exchange committees can be found [here](#).

- The expanded, formalised GFXC will also now include representatives from existing, or soon to be established, foreign exchange committees or similar structures in Brazil, China, India, South Korea, Mexico, South Africa, Sweden (representing the Scandinavian market), and Switzerland.

Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/forex/india-to-join-new-global-foreign-exchange-committee/article9756342.ece>

Q.30) Consider the following statements about Gonorrhoea

1. It is a cardiovascular disease
2. It can spread from a mother to a child during birth

Select the correct statements

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

Q.30) Solution (b)

Gonorrhoea, also spelled gonorrhoea, is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by the bacterium *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

Gonorrhoea is spread through sexual contact with an infected person. It can also spread from a mother to a child during birth.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/antibiotic-resistance-making-gonorrhoea-treatment-harder-who/article19246026.ece>

Q.31) Consider the following statements about International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

1. It is headquartered in Philippines
2. A South Asia regional centre of the global rice research institute IRRI will be set up in Varanasi

Select the correct statements

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.31) Solution (c)

IRRI is an international agricultural research and training organization with headquarters in Los Baños, Philippines. It is also the largest non-profit agricultural research centre in Asia.

The Institute, established in 1960 aims to reduce poverty and hunger, improve the health of rice farmers and consumers, and ensure environmental sustainability of rice farming. It advances its mission through collaborative research, partnerships, and the strengthening of the national agricultural research and extension systems of the countries IRRI works in.

IRRI is known for its work in developing rice varieties that contributed to the Green Revolution in the 1960s which preempted the famine in Asia.

IRRI is one of 15 agricultural research centers in the world that form the CGIAR Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers, a global partnership of organizations engaged in research on food security. It is also the largest non-profit agricultural research center in Asia.

The Union Cabinet has approved establishment of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) set up a regional centre International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), a global rice research institute. It will be named as IRRI South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC) and will be set up at campus of National Seed Research and Training Centre (NSRTC) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/modi-pm-constituency-cabinet-gives-nod-for-irris-regional-centre-in-varanasi-4747369/>

Q.32) Consider the following statements about Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISC) which is being set up in Punjab.

1. It will be set up by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
2. The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) is designated as the National Focal Point for the TISC national network

Select the correct statements

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.32) Solution (c)**Technology and Innovation Support Centers**

The WIPO Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) program provides innovators in developing countries with access to locally based, high quality technology information and related services, helping them to exploit their innovative potential and to create, protect, and manage their intellectual property (IP) rights.

Services offered by TISCs may include:

- Access to online patent and non-patent (scientific and technical) resources and IP-related publications;
- Assistance in searching and retrieving technology information;
- Training in database search;
- On-demand searches (novelty, state-of-the-art and infringement);
- Monitoring technology and competitors;
- Basic information on industrial property laws, management and strategy, and technology commercialization and marketing.

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) had signed an agreement to establish India's first Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) in Punjab. The DIPP signed the institutional agreement with Punjab State Council of Science and Technology to establish the TISC at Patent Information Centre, Punjab, under the World Intellectual Property Organisation's (WIPO) TISC programme.

The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) is designated as the National Focal Point for the TISC national network. As the national focal point, CIPAM shall identify potential host institutions, assess their capacities and support them in joining the TISC programme.

CIPAM will also act as the main intermediary between WIPO and TISC host institutions and coordinate all the activities of the National TISC network.

CIPAM plans to establish TISCs in universities, state science councils and research and development institutions. TISC will give an impetus to knowledge sharing, sharing of best practices among the TISCs, capacity building, generation and commercialization of IPs.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-miscellaneous/tp-others/un-agency-sets-up-support-centre-in-punjab/article19288002.ece>

Q.33) The drainage basin of the Godavari river is present in

1. Maharashtra
2. Telangana
3. Andhra Pradesh
4. Odisha
5. Madhya Pradesh

Select the correct code:

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

Q.33) Solution (d)

The Godavari is the second longest river in India after the river Ganges having its source at Triambakeshwar, Maharashtra. It starts in Maharashtra and flows east for 1,465 kilometres (910 mi) emptying into Bay of Bengal draining the Indian states Maharashtra (48.6%), Telangana (18.8%), Andhra Pradesh (4.5%), Chhattisgarh (10.9%), Madhya Pradesh (10.0%), Odisha (5.7%), Karnataka (1.4%) and Puducherry (Yanam)[5] through its extensive network of tributaries.

Measuring up to 312,812 km² (120,777 sq mi), it forms one of the largest river basins in the Indian subcontinent, with only the Ganges and Indus rivers having a drainage basin larger than it in India. In terms of length, catchment area and discharge, the Godavari river is the largest in peninsular India and had been dubbed as the 'Dakshina Ganga' – the South Ganges river.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/sensor-network-to-map-and-predict-pollution-effluents-in-godavari/article19260863.ece>

Q.34) Ottan Thullal and Chakyar koothu are folk dances of

- a) Karnataka
- b) Kerala
- c) Assam
- d) Tamil Nadu

Q.34) Solution (b)

Ottan Thullal is a dance and poetic performance form of Kerala, India. It was introduced in the 18th century by Kunchan Nambiar, one of the Prachina Kavithrayam (three famous Malayalam language poets). It is accompanied by a mridangam (a barrel shaped double headed drum) or an idakka (drum and cymbal).

Chakyar Koothu is a performance art from Kerala, South India. It is primarily a type of highly refined monologue where the performer narrates episodes from Hindu epics (such as the Ramayana and the Mahabharata) and stories from the Puranas. Sometimes, however, it is also a traditional equivalent of the modern stand-up comedy act, incorporating commentary on current socio-political events (and personal comments directed at the members of the audience).

Q.35) The folk music named 'Bhatiali' hails from which state?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Karnataka
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) None of the above

Q.35) Solution (d)

Bhatiali or bhatiyali is a form of folk music in both Bangladesh and West Bengal, India. Bhatiali is known as river song (or related with river as metaphor) mostly sung by boatmen while going down streams of the river. The word bhatiyali comes from bhata meaning "ebb" or downstream.

It is mostly sung in several parts of greater riparian Bengal delta. Researchers [who?] have claimed Mymensingh District along the Brahmaputra River or the Bhati (lower region of a river) area as its place of origin. Bhatiali lyrics are traditionally about boating, fishing and rivers. Among the 14 subjects of folk music in Bangladesh, that includes Deha-tatva (about the body) and Murshid-tatva (about the guru), Bhatiali deals with Prakriti-tatva (about nature).

Q.36) BCG vaccine is commonly given to infants to immunize them against which particular disease?

- a) Measles
- b) Polio
- c) Diphtheria
- d) Tuberculosis

Q.36) Solution (d)

Bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) vaccine is a vaccine primarily used against tuberculosis. It is on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines, the most effective and safe medicines needed in a health system.

In countries where tuberculosis is common, one dose is recommended in healthy babies as close to the time of birth as possible.

Q.37) Joint Interpretative Notes (JIN) was in news recently. It is concerned with

- a) Investment treaties
- b) P-Notes
- c) Malabar Exercise
- d) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Q.37) Solution (a)

Joint Interpretative Statements in general play an important supplementary role in strengthening the investment treaty regime. With increasing Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) disputes, issuance of such statements is likely to have strong persuasive value before tribunals. Such pro-active approach by States can foster a more predictable and coherent reading of treaty terms by arbitration tribunals.

The JIN would impart clarity to the interpretation of the existing Agreement between India and Bangladesh for the Promotion and Protection of Investments (BIPA). The JIN includes interpretative notes to be jointly adopted for many clauses, including, the definition of investor, definition of investment, exclusion of taxation measures, Fair and Equitable Treatment (FET), National Treatment (NT) and Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment, expropriation, essential security interests and Settlement of Disputes between an Investor and a Contracting Party.

Q.38) Asia-Africa Growth Corridor is an economic cooperation agreement between

1. India

2. Japan
3. South Africa
4. United Arab Emirates

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 1, 3 and 4
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) 2, 3 and 4

Q.38) Solution (a)

Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC), in partnership with Japan.

The Asia-Africa Growth Corridor highlights the growing importance of Africa in Indian foreign policy and also signals India's willingness to partner with like-minded countries, such as Japan, in this region.

During the Africa Development Bank meeting, India unveiled the Vision Document of the Asian Africa Growth Corridor. The vision document was prepared jointly by Indian and Japanese think tanks, i.e. Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries (RIS), Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), and Institute for Development Economics - Japan External Trade Organisation (IDE-JETRO), in consultation with other think tanks in Asia and Africa.

The main objective of the corridor is to enhance growth and connectivity between Asia and Africa. The corridor will focus on four areas: Development Cooperation Projects, Quality Infrastructure and Institutional Connectivity, Enhancing Skills, and People-to-People Partnership. Agriculture, health, technology, and disaster management have been identified as the main areas of development cooperation. According to the vision document, AAGC will focus on enhancing skills and research and development capacities in Africa. It will also strive to develop institutional, industrial and transport infrastructure in the Asia -Africa region. The corridor will facilitate greater people-to-people exchanges amongst the participating countries.

Q.39) The Investment Facilitation Mechanism (IFM) will allow for a close coordination between India and

- a) Japan
- b) United States of America

- c) Mauritius
- d) European Union

Q.39) Solution (d)

India and EU announced the establishment of an Investment Facilitation Mechanism (IFM) to promote investments from European Union.

This agreement builds on the joint statement of the 13th EU-India Summit held in Brussels in March 2016, where EU had welcomed India's readiness to establish such a mechanism and leaders from both sides had reaffirmed their shared commitment to oppose protectionism and to work in favour of a fair, transparent and rule-based trade and investment environment.

As part of the IFM, the EU Delegation to India and the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) agreed to hold regular high level meetings to assess and facilitate "ease of doing business" for EU investors in India.

This will include identifying and putting in place solutions to procedural impediments faced by EU companies and investors in establishing or running their operations in India.

The EU is the largest foreign investor in India and this initiative helps ensuring a more robust, effective and predictable business environment for the EU investors

Invest India, the official Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency, will also be part of the Mechanism, which will create a single-window entry point for EU companies that need assistance for their investments at the central or state level.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/india-eu-establish-investment-facilitation-mechanism-117071401104_1.html

Q.40) A person with fever is usually prescribed with _____ by medical doctor.

- a) Anti-Pyretic
- b) Anti-Coagulant
- c) Anti-Helminthic
- d) Analgesic

Q.40) Solution (a)

Antipyretic are substances that reduce fever. Antipyretics cause the hypothalamus to override a prostaglandin-induced increase in temperature. The body then works to lower the temperature, which results in a reduction in fever.

Q.41) Consider the following statements about Vector-borne diseases

1. Vector-borne diseases are infections transmitted by the bite of infected arthropod species
2. Japanese encephalitis is a vector-borne disease

Select the correct statements

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

Q.41) Solution (c)

Vector-borne diseases are infections transmitted by the bite of infected arthropod species, such as mosquitoes, ticks, triatomine bugs, sandflies, and blackflies (1). Arthropod vectors are cold-blooded (ectothermic) and thus especially sensitive to climatic factors. Weather influences survival and reproduction rates of vectors (2), in turn influencing habitat suitability, distribution and abundance; intensity and temporal pattern of vector activity (particularly biting rates) throughout the year; and rates of development, survival and reproduction of pathogens within vectors. However, climate is only one of many factors influencing vector distribution, such as habitat destruction, land use, pesticide application, and host density. Vector-borne diseases are widespread in Europe and are the best studied diseases associated with climate change.

Key facts

- Vector-borne diseases account for more than 17% of all infectious diseases, causing more than 1 million deaths annually.
- More than 2.5 billion people in over 100 countries are at risk of contracting dengue alone.
- Malaria causes more than 400 000 deaths every year globally, most of them children under 5 years of age.
- Other diseases such as Chagas disease, leishmaniasis and schistosomiasis affect hundreds of millions of people worldwide.
- Many of these diseases are preventable through informed protective measures.

Mosquitoes are the best known disease vector. Others include ticks, flies, sandflies, fleas, triatomine bugs and some freshwater aquatic snails.

Mosquitoes

Aedes

- Chikungunya
- Dengue fever
- Rift Valley fever
- Yellow fever
- Zika

Anopheles

- Malaria

Culex

- Japanese encephalitis
- Lymphatic filariasis
- West Nile fever

Sandflies

- Leishmaniasis
- Sandfly fever (phlebotomus fever)

Ticks

- Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever
- Lyme disease
- Relapsing fever (borreliosis)
- Rickettsial diseases (spotted fever and Q fever)
- Tick-borne encephalitis
- Tularaemia

Triatomine bugs

- Chagas disease (American trypanosomiasis)

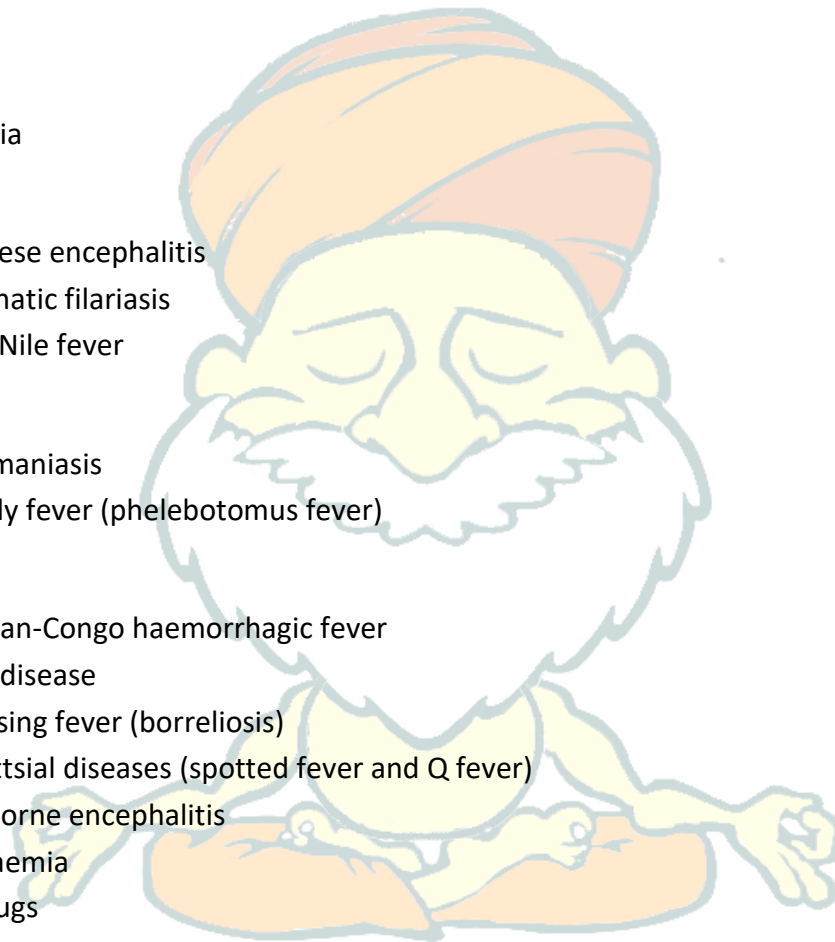
Tsetse flies

- Sleeping sickness (African trypanosomiasis)

Fleas

- Plague (transmitted by fleas from rats to humans)
- Rickettsiosis

Black flies



- Onchocerciasis (river blindness)

Aquatic snails

- Schistosomiasis (bilharziasis)

Source: <http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/Kc9UZIGOkuDkfpkLpvFhP/The-rising-challenge-of-vectorborne-diseases.html>

Q.42) Consider the following statements about Pant-Mirza Agreement

1. It facilitates visits by nationals of India and Pakistan to mutually agreed list of religious shrines in each other's country
2. It is under 'Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines' signed in 1974

Select the correct statements

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

Q.42) Solution (c)

Pant-Mirza Agreement

Visits by nationals of India and Pakistan to mutually agreed list of religious shrines in each other's country are facilitated under the 'Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines' signed in September 1974.

This includes visits to shrines of Hazrat Moinuddin Chishti (Ajmer), Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya (Delhi), Hazrat Amir Khusro (Delhi), Hazrat Mujaddid Alf Sani (Sirhind Sharif) and Hazrat Khwaja Alauddin Ali Ahmed Sabir (Kalyar Sharif) in India and Shadani Darbar (Hyat Pitafi), Shri Katasraj Dham (Lahore), Gurudwaras of Shri Nankana Sahib (Rawalpindi), Shri Panja Sahib (Rawalpindi) and Shri Dera Sahib (Lahore) in Pakistan.

Under the Protocol it is the obligation of the concerned country to make every effort to ensure that the places of worship in the agreed list of shrines under the Protocol are properly maintained and their sanctity preserved. Government of India ensures that these Shrines in India are properly maintained and their sanctity preserved.

Q.43) Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is located in

- a) Maharashtra

- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Gujarat
- d) Rajasthan

Q.43) Solution (a)

Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is a tiger reserve in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra state in central India. It is notable as Maharashtra's oldest and largest national park. It is one of India's 50 "Project Tiger" - tiger reserves.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/eco-bridges-for-the-movement-of-tigers/article19297462.ece>

Q.44) Consider the following statements about Arafura Sea

1. It lies between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan
2. It is a landlocked sea

Select the correct statements

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

Q.44) Solution (d)

The Arafura Sea lies west of the Pacific Ocean overlying the continental shelf between Australia and Indonesian New Guinea.

The Arafura Sea is bordered by Torres Strait and through that the Coral Sea to the east, the Gulf of Carpentaria to the south, the Timor Sea to the west and the Banda and Ceram seas to the northwest.

Q.45) Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana

1. It is a pension scheme
2. The Scheme can be purchased offline as well as online through all Life Insurance companies operating in India
3. It provides an assured return of 8% p.a. payable monthly (equivalent to 8.30% p.a. effective) for 10 years

Select the correct statements

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

Q.45) Solution (c)

As per the scheme, on payment of an initial lump sum amount ranging from a minimum purchase price of Rs 1,50,000 for a minimum pension of Rs 1000 per month to a maximum purchase price of Rs 7,50,000 for a maximum pension of Rs 5,000 per month, subscribers will get an assured pension based on a guaranteed rate of return of 8% per annum, payable monthly.

1. The Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana is a pension scheme announced by the Government of India exclusively for senior citizens. It will be available from 4th May, 2017 to 3rd May, 2018.
2. One can subscribe to the PMVVY Pension Scheme offline as well as online through the Life Insurance Corporation of India.
3. PMVVY Pension Scheme provides an assured return of 8% p.a. payable monthly (equivalent to 8.30% p.a. effective) for 10 years.
4. Pension is payable at the end of each period, during policy term of 10 years, on monthly/ quarterly/ half-yearly/ yearly basis as chosen by the pensioner.
5. Death Benefit: On the death of the pensioner during the policy term of 10 years, the purchase price shall be refunded to the beneficiary.
6. Maturity Benefit: On survival of the pensioner to the end of the policy term of 10 years, purchase price along with final pension installment shall be payable.
7. Eligibility Conditions and Other Restrictions:

Minimum Entry Age: 60 years (completed)

Maximum Entry Age: No limit

Policy Term: 10 years

Minimum Pension: Rs 1,000 per month

- Rs 3,000 per quarter

- Rs 6,000 per half year
- Rs12,000 per annum

Maximum Pension: Rs 5,000 per month

- Rs 15,000 per quarter
- Rs 30,000 per half year
- Rs 60,000 per annum

8. Payment of Purchase Price

The scheme can be purchased by payment of a lump sum purchase price. The pensioner has an option to choose either the amount of pension or the purchase price.

The minimum and maximum purchase price under different modes of pension will be as under:

Mode of Pension	Minimum Purchase Price	Maximum Purchase Price
Yearly	Rs. 1,44,578/-	Rs. 7,22,892/-
Half-yearly	Rs. 1,47,601/-	Rs. 7,38,007/-
Quarterly	Rs. 1,49,068/-	Rs. 7,45,342/-
Monthly	Rs. 1,50,000/-	Rs. 7,50,000/-

9. Loan: Loan facility is available after completion of 3 policy years. The maximum loan that can be granted shall be 75% of the purchase price.

The rate of interest to be charged for loan amount shall be determined at periodic intervals. For the loan sanctioned in Financial Year 2016-17, the applicable interest rate is 10% p.a. payable half-yearly for the entire term of the loan.

Loan interest will be recovered from pension amount payable under the policy. The loan interest will accrue as per the frequency of pension payment under the policy and it will be due on the due date of pension. However, the loan outstanding shall be recovered from the claim proceeds at the time of exit.

10. Taxes: Statutory Taxes, if any, imposed on this plan by the Government of India or any other constitutional Tax Authority of India shall be as per the tax laws and the rate of tax as applicable from time to time. The amount of tax paid shall not be considered for the calculation of benefits payable under the plan.

Q.46) Consider the following statements about World Customs Organization (WCO)

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation based in Geneva
2. The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System is developed and maintained by the WCO

Select the correct statements

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

Q.46) Solution (b)

The World Customs Organization (WCO) is an intergovernmental organization headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. The WCO is noted for its work in areas covering the development of international conventions, instruments, and tools on topics such as commodity classification, valuation, rules of origin, collection of customs revenue, supply chain security, international trade facilitation, customs enforcement activities, combating counterfeiting in support of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), drugs enforcement, illegal weapons trading, integrity promotion, and delivering sustainable capacity building to assist with customs reforms and modernization. The WCO maintains the international Harmonized System (HS) goods nomenclature, and administers the technical aspects of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements on Customs Valuation and Rules of Origin.

The Harmonized System (HS) nomenclature was developed by the WCO and entered into force on 1 January 1988 through a Convention. Although Article II of the GATT (Schedules of Concessions) does not establish a specific nomenclature to be used by Members in this respect, and despite the fact that other nomenclatures such as the BTN and CCCN were used in the past, the HS has become the de facto standard for Members in this respect. The HS has also been used by WTO Members as a tool to define the products which are covered by certain agreements, the most important of which is probably Annex 1 of the Agreement on Agriculture. This Annex defines, in terms of Chapters, headings and subheadings of the 1992 version of the HS, which are the agricultural products. Therefore, changes in the HS have important legal implications for WTO Members, in particular with respect to their schedules.

The Harmonized System Committee of the WCO undertakes a periodic review of the HS to take account of changes in technology and patterns in international trade, and recommends amendments to the HS.

Read More - https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/coher_e/wto_wco_e.htm

<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/about-us/what-is-the-wco.aspx>

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/wco-backs-indias-trade-facilitation-plan/article19326517.ece>

Q.47) Recently National Dairy Development Board “NDDB’s” Quality Mark “Logo” was launched. Consider the following statements

1. It is launched by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
2. The ‘Logo’ signifies safe and quality milk and milk products from dairy cooperatives
3. It proposes additional system for Food Safety and Quality Management

Select the *incorrect* statements

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

Q.47) Solution (c)

NDDB Quality Mark “Logo” is being launched as an umbrella brand identity. This “Logo” signifies safe and quality milk and milk products from dairy cooperatives. This reinforces the consumers’ recognition that the Quality Mark is synonymous with good quality.

It will provide dairy cooperatives and producer institutions the much-needed brand identity and a competitive edge. This will also contribute to building consumer confidence in dairy cooperative brands

It is aimed at bringing about process improvement in the entire value chain from producer to the consumers to ensure availability of quality milk and milk products.

This initiative does not propose any new/additional system for Food Safety and Quality Management but lays down the processes required for ensuring quality and safety.

It is launched by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=168694>

Q.48) Consider the following statements about Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)

1. Article 148 provides for post of CAG of India
2. Life Insurance Corporation of India and State Bank of India are totally audited by CAG
3. It upholds the Constitution of India and the laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 and 2

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

Q.48) Solution (c)

Article 148 provides for an independent office of the CAG.

SBI and LIC are totally subjected to private audit. Their audit is done exclusively by private professional auditors and the CAG does not come into picture at all. They submit their annual reports and accounts directly to the Parliament.

The organisations subject to the audit of the CAG are:-

- All the Union and State Government departments including the Indian Railways, Defence and Posts and Telecommunications.
- About 1500 public commercial enterprises controlled by the Union and State governments, i.e. government companies and corporations.
- Around 400 non-commercial autonomous bodies and authorities owned or controlled by the Union or the States.
- Bodies and authorities substantially financed from Union some of the local bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions which are critical grass root agencies for implementation of developmental programmes and delivery of services.

The Audit Reports of the CAG submitted to the Parliament and State Legislatures consist of compliance and performance audit reports covering revenue collection and expenditure of Government, separate audit reports on the functioning of certain autonomous bodies as provided by legislation, reports on the Financial position of Central and State Governments and reports on the adherence to the Appropriation Acts passed by Parliament and Legislatures. The CAG also submits the certified annual accounts of the States, known as the Finance and Appropriation Accounts, to the State Legislatures.

Note – Revise Chapter on CAG from Laxmikanth

Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/railways/after-bad-quality-food-cag-raps-railways-over-dirty-linen-management-issues/articleshow/59723745.cms>

Q.49) Gulf of Darien is lies

- a) Between Colombia and Panama
- b) Southeast coast of Cuba

- c) North of Australia
- d) Eastern part of the North Island of New Zealand

Q.49) Solution (a)

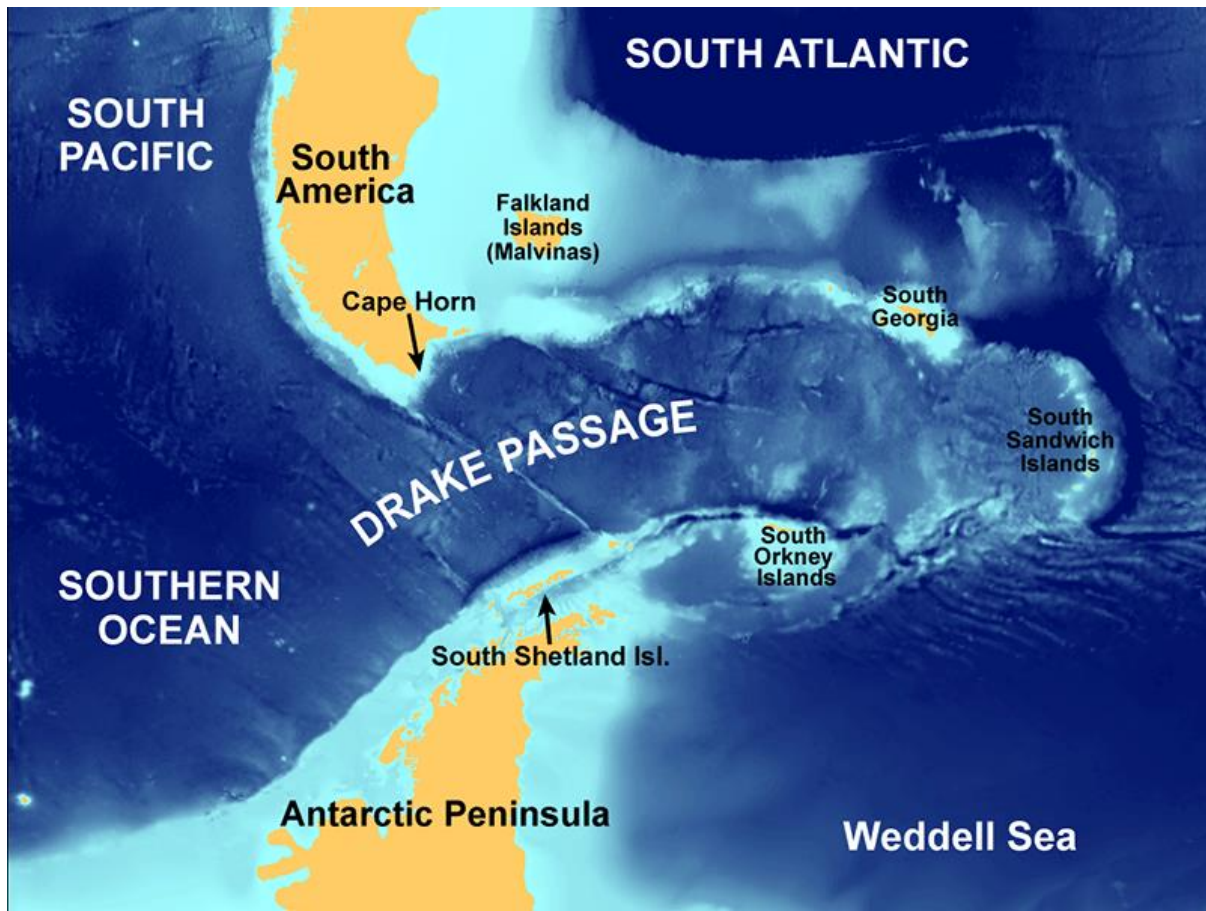
Gulf of Darién, Spanish Golfo De Darién, triangular southernmost extension of the Caribbean Sea, bounded by Panama on the southwest and by Colombia on the southeast and east. The inner section, which is called the Gulf of Urabá, is a shallow, mangrove-lined arm lying between Caribana Point and Cape Tiburón, Colombia. The delta of the Atrato River protrudes into the gulf.

Q.50) Drake Passage separates

- a) European and Asiatic Turkey
- b) Denmark and Sweden
- c) South America and Antarctica
- d) Southeast England and France

Q.50) Solution (c)

It is the body of water between South America's Cape Horn and the South Shetland Islands of Antarctica. It connects the southwestern part of the Atlantic Ocean (Scotia Sea) with the southeastern part of the Pacific Ocean and extends into the Southern Ocean.



Q.51) Consider the following statements about “Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)”

1. It is a sub-scheme under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)
2. It will provide an alternative source of livelihoods to members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) facilitating them to operate public transport services in backward rural areas

Select the correct statements

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

Q.51) Solution (c)

The Ministry of Rural Development will launch a new sub-scheme under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) which will be named as “Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)”.

The main objectives of AGEY are to provide an alternative source of livelihoods to members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) under DAY-NRLM by facilitating them to operate public transport services in backward rural areas.

This will provide safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services like e-rickshaws, 3 and 4 wheeler motorised transport vehicles to connect remote villages with key services and amenities including access to markets, education and health for the overall economic development of the area.

The sub-scheme will be implemented in 250 blocks in the country on a pilot basis for a period of 3 years from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

One of the options proposed to be given under the sub-scheme is that the Community Based Organisation (CBO) will provide interest free loan from its own corpus to Self Help Group member for purchase of the vehicle.

The Government is implementing DAY-NRLM across the country in all States and Union Territories (except Delhi and Chandigarh). Under DAY-NRLM, till date, 34.4 lakh women SHGs have been promoted under the programme. The financial support under the programme is mainly in the form of Revolving Fund and Community Investment Funds, given as grants to the Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their federations.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=168693>

Q.52) Consider the following statements about 'Sohum'

1. It is a device which uses brainstem auditory evoked response to check for hearing response in a new-born
2. It is developed under Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology

Select the correct statements

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

Q.52) Solution (c)

Sohum"- An innovative Newborn hearing screening Device

The indigenously developed newborn hearing screening device SOHUM was launched.

The newborn hearing screening device developed by School of International Biodesign (SIB) startup M/s Sohum Innovation Labs India Pvt. Ltd.

This innovative medical device has been developed under Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India supported (SIB). SIB is a flagship Program of the DBT aimed to develop innovative and affordable medical devices as per unmet clinical needs of India and to train the next generation of medical technology innovators in India, it is a valuable contribution to the Make in India campaign of the Government. This Program is implemented jointly at AIIMS and IIT Delhi in collaboration with International partners. Biotech Consortium India Limited manages techno-legal activities of the Program.

Sohum is a low cost and unique device which uses brainstem auditory evoked response, the gold standard in auditory testing to check for hearing response in a newborn. As of now, this technology is prohibitively expensive and inaccessible to many. Start-up Sohum has made the technology appropriate for the resource constrained settings and aims to cater to nearly 26 million babies born every year in India.

Source: <http://www.dbtindia.nic.in/dbt-launched-%E2%80%9Csohum%E2%80%9D-an-innovative-newborn-hearing-screening-device/>

Q.53) Consider the following statements about AT1 bond

1. These bonds have no maturity date
2. The issuing bank has the option to call back the bonds or repay the principal after a specified period of time

Select the *incorrect* statements

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

Q.53) Solution (d)

Basel III introduced tighter capital requirements in comparison to Basel I and Basel II. Banks' regulatory capital is divided into Tier 1 and Tier 2, while Tier 1 is subdivided into Common Equity Tier 1 and additional Tier 1 capital. The distinction is important because security instruments included in Tier 1 capital have the highest level of subordination. Common Equity Tier 1 capital includes equity instruments that have discretionary dividends and no maturity, while additional Tier 1 capital comprises securities that are subordinated to most

subordinated debt, have no maturity, and their dividends can be cancelled at any time. Tier 2 capital consists of unsecured subordinated debt with an original maturity of at least five years.

These bonds have no maturity date. Technically they can continue to pay the coupon forever. The issuing bank has the option to call back the bonds or repay the principal after a specified period of time. The attraction for investors is higher yield than secured bonds issued by the same entity. But this comes with a two-fold risk.

- First, the issuing bank has the discretion to skip coupon payment. Under normal circumstances it can pay from profits or revenue reserves in case of losses for the period when the interest needs to be paid.
- Second, the bank has to maintain a common equity tier I ratio of 5.5%, failing which the bonds can get written down. In some cases there could be a clause to convert into equity as well. Given these characteristics, AT1 bonds are also referred to as quasi-equity.

What is Additional Tier 1 Capital (AT1)?

Additional Tier 1 or AT1 consists of capital instruments that are continuous, in that there is no fixed maturity including:

- Preferred shares
- High contingent convertible securities

These perpetual instruments must contain no incentive for the issuer to redeem them.

Contingent convertible securities (often referred to as CoCos) are a major component of AT1 and their structure is shaped by their primary purpose as a readily available source of capital for a firm in times of crisis.

As such, they characteristically absorb losses prior to, or at, the point of insolvency and the activation of this absorption must be a function of the capitalisation levels of the issuing firm.

CoCos can absorb losses either by:

- Converting into common equity; or
- Suffering a principal write-down.

Basel III - <http://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/basel-iii.asp>

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/pnb-bob-syndicate-to-raise-rs-7-000-crore-via-at-1-bonds-11707240022_1.html

Q.54) Consider the following statements about 'Phobos'

1. It is the smaller and outer of the two natural satellites of the planet Mars
2. It orbits Mars below the synchronous orbit radius

Select the correct statements

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

Q.54) Solution (b)

Phobos is the innermost and larger of the two natural satellites of Mars, the other being Deimos.

Phobos orbits Mars below the synchronous orbit radius, meaning that it moves around Mars faster than Mars itself rotates.

Therefore, from the point of view of an observer on the surface of Mars, it rises in the west, moves comparatively rapidly across the sky (in 4 h 15 min or less) and sets in the east, approximately twice each Martian day (every 11 h 6 min). Because it is close to the surface and in an equatorial orbit, it cannot be seen above the horizon from latitudes greater than 70.4° . Its orbit is so low that its angular diameter, as seen by an observer on Mars, varies visibly with its position in the sky.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/phobos-imaged-by-hubble-space-telescope/article19331838.ece>

Q.55) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Baja Peninsula – Mexico
2. Jaffna – Sri Lanka
3. Ungava Peninsula – Denmark

Select the correct code

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

Q.55) Solution (a)

Baja Peninsula is a peninsula in Northwestern Mexico. The peninsula is separated from mainland Mexico by the Gulf of California and the Colorado River. There are four main desert areas on the peninsula: the San Felipe Desert, the Central Coast Desert, the Vizcaíno Desert and the Magdalena Plain Desert.

Q.56) 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.56) 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.57) 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
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.57) 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.58) 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.58) 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 Janmurti 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.59) 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.59) 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.60) 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.60) Solution (d)

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.

Q.61) Rabies is caused by a

- a) Virus and it affects the nervous system
- b) Virus and it affects the cardiovascular system
- c) Bacteria and it affects the nervous system
- d) Bacteria and it affects the cardiovascular system

Q.61) Solution (a)

Rabies is a viral disease that causes inflammation of the brain in humans and other mammals. The virus enters the peripheral nervous system. It then travels along the afferent nerves toward the central nervous system.

Read More - <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs099/en/>

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/researchers-find-evidence-of-rabies-virus-in-indian-bats/article17763897.ece>

Q.62) Which of the following metals is extracted from the Monazite sand found in plenty in India?

- a) Gold
- b) Uranium
- c) Thorium

d) Copper

Q.62) Solution (c)

Monazite is a reddish-brown phosphate mineral containing rare earth metals. It occurs usually in small isolated crystals.

Monazite is an important ore for thorium, lanthanum, and cerium.

It is often found in placer deposits. India, Madagascar, and South Africa have large deposits of monazite sands. The deposits in India are particularly rich in monazite.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/beached-by-illegal-sand-mining/article19246822.ece>

Q.63) Unemployment which occurs when workers move from one job to another job is known as

- a) Seasonal unemployment
- b) Frictional unemployment
- c) Technological unemployment
- d) Cyclical unemployment

Q.63) Solution (b)

Frictional unemployment is a temporary phenomenon.

It may take place in various ways. When some workers are temporarily out of work while changing jobs, it is called "frictional unemployment." Similarly, strikes and lockouts may result in the suspension of work, and there may exist some frictional unemployment for the time being. To some extent, frictional unemployment is also caused by the imperfect mobility of labour. Factors inhibiting the geographical or occupational movement of unemployed workers into vacant jobs, thus, cause frictional unemployment.

According to economists like Keynes and Lerner frictional unemployment is a kind of unemployment which is quite consistent with the condition of full employment in an economy. Frictional unemployment is due to difficulties in getting workers and vacancies together.

Hence the problem of frictional unemployment should be dealt with by some special devices for overcoming the mobility of labour such as spread of information about job

opportunities, arrangement for jobs through employment exchanges, improvement in transport facilities etc., can help reduce the magnitude of frictional unemployment.

Types of Unemployment found in Modern Societies -

<http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/employment/9-types-of-unemployment-found-in-modern-societies/24850/>

Source: <https://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2017/01/economist-explains-19>

Q.64) World Economic Outlook is released by

- a) IMF
- b) WTO
- c) World Bank
- d) UNDP

Q.64) Solution (a)

The World Economic Outlook (WEO) is a survey conducted and published by the International Monetary Fund. It is published biannually and partly updated two times a year. It portrays the world economy in the near and medium context, with projections for up to four years into the future. WEO forecasts include key macroeconomic indicators, such as GDP, inflation, current account and fiscal balance of more than 180 countries around the globe. It also deals with major economic policy issues.

Source: <http://www.livemint.com/Industry/aX59TrzyhLG1sOTtcS5e8I/IMF-keeps-India-growth-unchanged-at-72-in-FY18-and-77-in.html>

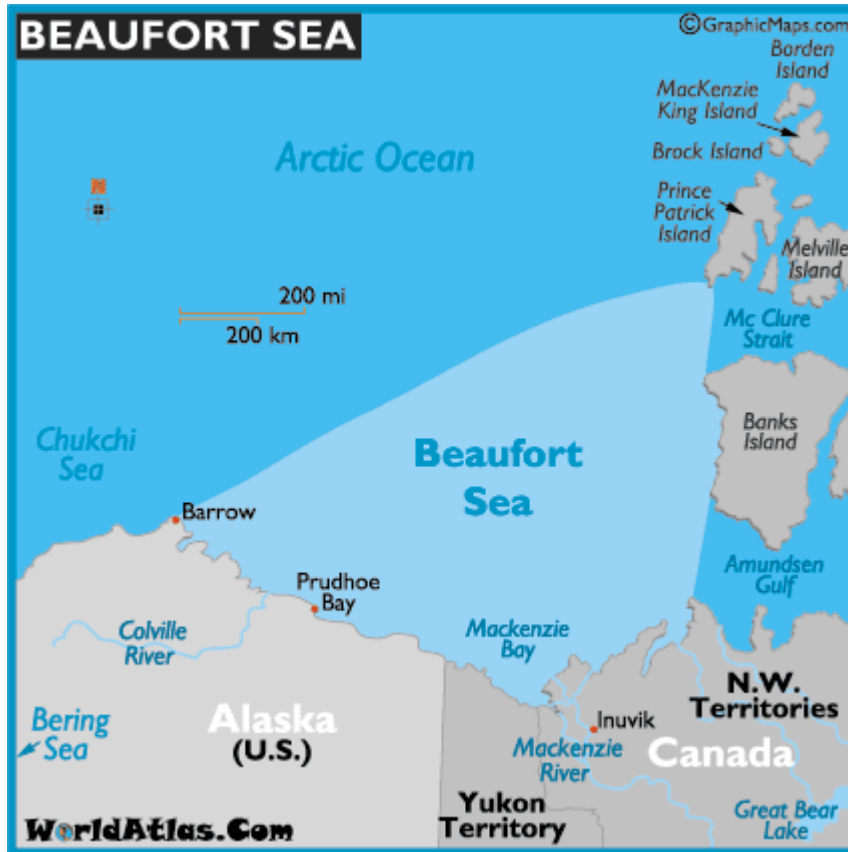
Q.65) Beaufort Sea is a part of

- a) Arctic Ocean
- b) Atlantic Ocean
- c) Indian Ocean
- d) Pacific Ocean

Q.65) Solution (a)

Beaufort sea is a marginal sea of the Arctic Ocean, located north of the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, and Alaska, west of Canada's Arctic islands. The sea is named after

hydrographer Sir Francis Beaufort. The major Mackenzie River empties into the Canadian part of the sea, west of Tuktoyaktuk, which is one of the few permanent settlements on the sea shores.



Source: <http://www.dnaindia.com/world/report-arctic-animals-at-threat-as-us-allows-oil-drilling-in-alaska-waters-2501595>

Q.66) The only land-locked country in South-east Asia is

- a) Laos
- b) Thailand
- c) Malaysia
- d) Cambodia

Q.66) Solution (a)

Laos is a landlocked country in the heart of the Indochinese peninsula of Mainland Southeast Asia, bordered by Myanmar (Burma) and China to the northwest, Vietnam to the east, Cambodia to the southwest, and Thailand to the west and southwest.



Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/chinas-gateway-to-southeast-asia/article19285474.ece>

Q.67) Consider the following statements with respect to Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

1. It is the main UN international body concerned with the setting of international food standards
2. It is jointly funded by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO)

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.67) Solution (c)

The Codex Alimentarius (Latin for "Food Code") is a collection of internationally recognized standards, codes of practice, guidelines, and other recommendations relating to foods, food production, and food safety.

Its name is derived from the Codex Alimentarius Austriacus. Its texts are developed and maintained by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, a body that was established in early November 1961 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), was joined by the World Health Organization (WHO) in June 1962, and held its first session in Rome in October 1963. The Commission's main goals are to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the international food trade. The Codex Alimentarius is recognized by the World Trade Organization as an international reference point for the resolution of disputes concerning food safety and consumer protection.

The Codex Alimentarius covers all foods, whether processed, semi-processed or raw. In addition to standards for specific foods, the Codex Alimentarius contains general standards covering matters such as food labeling, food hygiene, food additives and pesticide residues, and procedures for assessing the safety of foods derived from modern biotechnology. It also contains guidelines for the management of official i.e. governmental import and export inspection and certification systems for foods.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/cac-adopts-codex-norms-for-three-spices/article19365587.ece>

Q.68) The title given by British Government to Mahatma Gandhi which, he surrendered during the Non-Cooperation Movement, was

- a) Hind Kesari
- b) Kaiser-e-Hind
- c) Rai Bahadur
- d) Rt.Honorable

Q.68) Solution (b)

The Kaiser-i-Hind Medal for Public Service in India was a medal awarded by the British monarch to civilians of any nationality who rendered distinguished service in the advancement of the interests of the British Raj.

Mahatma Gandhi was awarded the Kaiser-i-Hind in 1915 by The Lord Hardinge of Penshurst

Gandhi returned the medal in 1920 as part of the national campaign protesting the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Source: <http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-all-you-need-to-know-about-the-horrific-jallianwala-bagh-massacre-2400304>

Q.69) Mekedatu dispute is concerned with

- a) Karnataka and Tamil Nadu
- b) Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh
- c) Karnataka and Goa
- d) Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

Q.69) Solution (a)

Karnataka intends to build a reservoir across river Cauvery near Mekedatu in Kanakapura taluk. It was first proposed along with Shivanasamudra hydro power project at Shimsa in 2003 with an intention to use the water for a hydro power station and supply drinking water to Bengaluru city.

However, Tamil Nadu objected saying Karnataka had not sought prior permission for the project. Its argument was that the project would affect the flow of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

Read More - http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/what-is-the-mekedatu-project-115041800544_1.html

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/mekedatu-proposal-karnataka-replies-to-cwc/article19361242.ece>

Q.70) Montague-Chelmsford reforms or the Councils Act of 1919 was based on which of the following:

- a) Duke memorandum
- b) Nehru Report
- c) Congress Working Committee report
- d) Mueller report

Q.70) Solution (a)

Duke Memorandum is associated with Sir William Duke, a member of the English Round Table Group and he had formulated a scheme which eventually became the basis of Joint Report of Montague and Chelmsford.

Source: <http://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/Civil-Services/2017-04-14/Historical-background-of-the-Constitution/293518>

Q.71) Consider the following statements:

The nation-wide 'Soil Health Card Scheme' aims at

1. expanding the cultivable area under irrigation
2. enabling the banks to assess the quantum of loans to be granted to farmers on the basis of soil quality
3. checking the overuse of fertilizers in farmlands

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.71) Solution (b)

Soil Health Card (SHC) is a Government of India's scheme promoted by the Department of Agriculture & Co-operation under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. It is being implemented through the Department of Agriculture of all the State and Union Territory Governments. A SHC is meant to give each farmer soil nutrient status of his/her holding and advice him/her on the dosage of fertilizers and also the needed soil amendments, that s/he should apply to maintain soil health in the long run

SHC is a printed report that a farmer will be handed over for each of his holdings. It will contain the status of his soil with respect to 12 parameters, namely N,P,K (Macro-nutrients); S (Secondary- nutrient); Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn, Bo (Micro - nutrients); and pH, EC, OC (Physical parameters). Based on this, the SHC will also indicate fertilizer recommendations and soil amendment required for the farm.

Read More - <http://vikaspedia.in/agriculture/policies-and-schemes/crops-related/krishi-unnati-yojana/scheme-on-soil-health>

Source: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/govt-to-review-e-nam-soil-health-card-schemes-tomorrow/1/994205.html>

Q.72) The office of the 'Whip' is mentioned in:

- a) Constitution of India
- b) Rules of the House
- c) In a separate Parliamentary Statute
- d) None

Q.72) Solution (d)

WHIP is that mechanism and instrument by which political parties in Indian Parliament practically exercise their influence by consolidating their numbers in the Parliament. It is not impossible that each and every member elected to Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha possesses a different view from that of the leadership of that political party and in that case at the time of voting or while supporting a particular bill he may deviate from his party's stand. So this tool of WHIP ensures that any member of a political party does not contravenes the stand taken by his political party on the floor of the house.

Though the offices of the leader of the House and the leader of the Opposition are not mentioned in the Constitution of India, they are mentioned in the rules of the House and Parliamentary Statute respectively. The office of 'WHIP', on the other hand, is mentioned neither in the Constitution of India nor in the Rules of the House nor in a Parliamentary Statute. It is based on the conventions of the parliamentary government.

Every Political Party, whether ruling or opposition has its own WHIP in the Parliament. He is appointed by the political party to serve as an assistant floor leader. He is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the attendance of his party members in large numbers and securing their support in favour of or against a particular issue. He regulates and monitors their behaviour in Parliament. The members are supposed to follow the directives given by the WHIP otherwise against them disciplinary action can be initiated.

Source: <http://www.huffingtonpost.in/2017/07/26/is-it-time-to-let-indias-mps-and-mlas-vote-freely-a-23046452/>

Q.73) 'Sagar Vani' was launched recently. It is concerned with

- a) Missing and vulnerable children
- b) Rural electrification
- c) Postal Technology
- d) None of the above

Q.73) Solution (d)

The 'Sagar Vani' is a software platform where various dissemination modes are integrated on a single central server. The App has provisions of multi-lingual SMS, Voice Call, Audio Advisory, Social Media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and Digital Display Boards for dissemination of information.

The system also has facility to provide access to various stakeholders (NGOs, State Fishery Departments and Disaster Management Authorities) so that they too will be able to further disseminate these ocean-related information and alerts to the user community - residents of coastal areas and fishermen.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=169162>

Q.74) Consider the following statements about Poland

1. It is a land-locked country
2. It is bordered by Germany and Czech Republic

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.74) Solution (b)



Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/international-business/liberal-foes-ahead-of-polands-ruling-euro-sceptics-poll/articleshow/59810779.cms>

Q.75) Which one of the following is the most fundamental difference between Mahayana Buddhism and Hinayana Buddhism?

- a) Emphasis on ahimsa
- b) Casteless society
- c) Worship of gods and goddesses
- d) Worship of stupa

Q.75) Solution (c)

Buddhism the most fostered religion of the world is further divided into two major schools of thoughts: Hinayana or the lesser vehicle and Mahayana or the greater vehicle. The division originated in Prajnaparamita Sutras (the formulations on achieving the ultimate awareness). Both the sects have a profusion of differences between them.

Hinayana

It is an ancient version of Buddhism, without any noticeable change in it. It contains preachings as Buddha himself had instructed. Bodhisattvas are the compassionate human beings who aspire to attain Buddhahood for the benefit of sentient beings. No such concept exists in Hinayana. Hinayana includes eighteen schools and the most important of them are Sarvastivada and Theravada. Sarvastivada were widespread in Northern India when the Tibetans started to travel over the region while Theravada was dominant in Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia.

They don't believe in idol worship and believe in salvation through self-discipline and meditation. In Hinayana, Buddha is portrayed in human form. Asoka was the patron of Hinayana and Pali was the language used by Hinayana scholars. There are only symbols related to Buddha- circle, animals related to Buddha's life like lion- symbol of Mahabhinishkraman (Sanskrit term for "the great departure"), elephant- symbol of birth, et al. The stories of Hinayana tend to believe that when Buddha's mother was conceiving him, she dreamt of a white elephant entering her womb. The aim of a Hinayana devotee is to get Nirvana which can be achieved with life. When the person becomes free of all sangyas and asangyas (all worldly attractions and distractions), the person is said to have achieved Nirvana.

Mahayana

It originated in first century A.D. after it split from Theravada. It is a modified version of Buddhism in which some liberties are awarded to the devotees. Mahayana Buddhism is prevalent in India, China, Japan, Vietnam, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Nepal, Bhutan, and Mongolia. Mahayana doctrine was based on the possibility of universal liberation from suffering for all being and hence named as the greater vehicle. It affirms the existence of Bodhisattvas and their language is Sanskrit.

Buddha is presumed in divine form, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu and they started to profess idol worship. It allows salvation to be alternatively obtained through the grace of Buddha by having faith and devoting oneself to mindfulness of Buddha. They believe in mantras (chanting). After getting Nirvana, the person has to help other people to attain nirvana.

Source: <http://www.dnaindia.com/lifestyle/report-celebrating-buddha-s-teachings-on-vesak-across-the-world-2429732>

