

**2018**

**IASBABA**



## **[ 60 DAY PLAN- SOLUTION FULL MOCK 1 ]**

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Q.1) Solution (d)

Mudumalai- Tamilnadu

## In News

The Bodi West Hills (Theni, Tamilnadu), near the Western Ghats in Idukki district, **was selected for India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO)** after the MoEF denied permission to set up the observatory at Singara in Nilgiri district as it is close to the **Mudumalai National Park**.

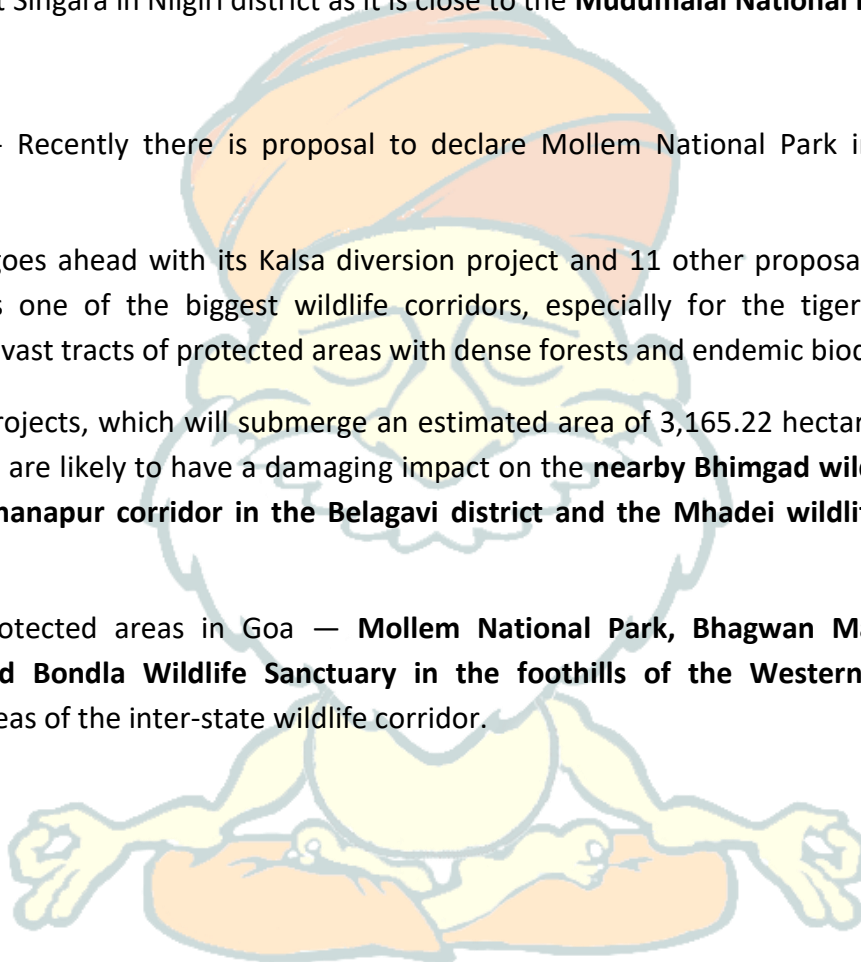
## In news:

Mollem- Goa- Recently there is proposal to declare Mollem National Park in Goa as Tiger Reserve.

If Karnataka goes ahead with its Kalsa diversion project and 11 other proposals in the region considered as one of the biggest wildlife corridors, especially for the tiger, it may prove disastrous for vast tracts of protected areas with dense forests and endemic biodiversity.

Karnataka's projects, which will submerge an estimated area of 3,165.22 hectares in the lap of the Sahyadris, are likely to have a damaging impact on the **nearby Bhimgad wildlife sanctuary, Sharavathy-Khanapur corridor in the Belagavi district and the Mhadei wildlife sanctuary in Goa**.

The other protected areas in Goa — **Mollem National Park, Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary and Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary in the foothills of the Western Ghats** — are contiguous areas of the inter-state wildlife corridor.





## Do you know?

- Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary is the northern most in Kerala.

## Q.2) Solution (b)

### Bonn Challenge

- Global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.
- By the **Government of Germany and IUCN in 2011**, and later endorsed and extended by the New York Declaration on Forests at the 2014 UN Climate Summit.
- **Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) approach**- aims to restore ecological integrity at the same time as improving human well-being through multifunctional landscapes.

The Bonn Challenge is not a new global commitment but rather a practical means of realizing many existing international commitments, including the CBD Aichi Target 15, the UNFCCC REDD+ goal, and the Rio+20 land degradation neutrality goal.

It is an implementation vehicle for national priorities such as water and food security and rural development while contributing to the achievement of international climate change, biodiversity and land degradation commitments.

Q.3) Solution (c)

In news- French President's visit to India

**Megha-Tropiques** is a joint satellite mission involving ISRO and CNES (France) to study the water cycle in the tropical atmosphere in the context of climate change.

**The Trishna satellite mission** aims to address eco-system stress and water-use monitoring.

Read this for more regarding India- France Space Collaboration and Partnership- [Click Here](#)

Q.4) Solution (d)

All are correctly matched





# Strait of Dover



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Strait\\_of\\_Dover\\_map.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Strait_of_Dover_map.png)

Q.5) Solution (b)

It is bordered by **Turkey** to the west, **Georgia** to the north, the de facto independent Republic of Artsakh and **Azerbaijan** to the east, and **Iran** and Azerbaijan's exclave of Nakhchivan to the south.



Q.6) Solution (b)

## In News

- Cyclone Ockhi-Category 3, Srilanka, India and Maldives
- **Cyclone Mora- Category 1, Srilanka, India, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Bhutan**

- Cyclone Maarutha- Andaman, Myanmar and Bangladesh-Weak Cyclone
- Cyclone Raonu-Srilanka and Bangladesh-Weak Cyclone
- **Cyclone Vardha- Category 2, Severe, Malay Peninsula**
- Cyclone GITA- Category 4- South Pacific-Tonga, Fiji side
- **Cyclone Nora- Category 2- Australia**
- Cyclone Marcus- Category 5- Australia
- Cyclone Kelvin- Category 1- Australia
- Hurricane Irma-Category 5- North and Central America
- Hurricane Maria-Category 5- North America and Europe, Central America
- Hurricane Harvey-Category 4- North and Central America
- Hurricane Jose- Category 4- Bahamas, Florida etc
- Typhoon- Damrey- Category 2- Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia etc
- Typhoon- Hato- Category 3- Philippines, Taiwan, South China
- Typhoon Nesat- Category 1

Q.7) Solution (d)

**Banni Grasslands Reserve or Banni grasslands** form a belt of arid grassland ecosystem on the outer southern edge of the **desert of the marshy salt flats of Rann of Kutch in Kutch District, Gujarat State, India.**

They are known for rich wildlife and biodiversity and are spread across an area of 3,847 square kilometres.

They are currently legally protected under the status as a protected or reserve forest in India. Though declared a protected forest more than half a century ago Gujarat state's forest department has recently proposed a special plan to restore and manage this ecosystem in the most efficient way.

In dark nights an unexplained strange dancing light phenomena known locally as Chir Batti (Ghost lights) is known to occur here in the banni grasslands, its seasonal marshy wetlands and in the adjoining desert of the marshy salt flats of Rann of Kutch.

Q.8) Solution (b)



Madagascar is the answer.

Recently, the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind visited Madagascar.

Q.9) Solution (c)

"**Bhabha-tron**"- a cancer therapy machine, was gifted to Madagascar for improving healthcare facilities by President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

<http://mea.gov.in/outgoing-visit-detail.htm?29637/Press+Release+on+State+Visit+of+President+to+Madagascar+March+1415+2018>

Q.10) Solution (d)

The Wiesbaden Process was initiated by the Government of Germany in 2012 to strengthen the implementation of **UNSC 1540** through Government-Industry partnerships.

**The UN Security Council Resolution 1540** (2004) establishes legally binding obligations on all States to adopt and enforce appropriate and effective measures to prevent the proliferation to non-State actors of **nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons** and their delivery systems. It requires, therefore that States implement appropriate and effective measures to prevent non-state actors such as terrorists, from obtaining access to weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

Recently,

The Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, in cooperation with the Government of Germany and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) hosted the India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018 on April 16-17, 2018, in The Federation House, Tansen Marg, New-Delhi.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) was the industry partner for the event.

The title of the Conference was '**Securing Global Supply Chains through Government-Industry Partnerships towards Effective Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540**'.



[http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29816/India\\_Wiesbaden\\_Conference\\_2018\\_April\\_1617\\_2018](http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29816/India_Wiesbaden_Conference_2018_April_1617_2018)

Q.11) Solution (d)

All the statements are for Hemis National Park.

**Remember-** It is the only National Parks in India that is north of the Himalayas.

The park is home to a viable breeding population of about 200 snow leopards, especially in the Rumbak catchment area.

The prey base for the apex predator in the Central Asian Highlands is primarily supported in Hemis by Argali (Great Tibetan Sheep), Bharal (Blue Sheep), Shapu (Ladakhi Urial), and livestock.

A small population of the Asiatic ibex is also present in Hemis. Hemis is the only refuge in India containing the Shapu.

The Tibetan wolf, the Eurasian brown bear (endangered in India), and the red fox are also present in Hemis.

Q.12) Solution (b)

Historically, the price of petrol and diesel in India was regulated, i.e. the government was involved in the deciding the retail price. The government deregulated the pricing of petrol in 2010 and diesel in 2014. This allowed oil marketing companies to determine the price of these products, and revise them every fortnight.

**Starting June 16, 2017, prices for petrol and diesel are revised on a daily basis.** This was done to with the idea that daily revision will reduce the volatility in retail prices, and protect the consumer against sharp fluctuations.

**Under the Constitution, the central government has the powers to tax the production of petroleum products, while states have the power to tax their sale. Petroleum has been kept outside the purview of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), till the GST Council decides.**

Over the years, the central government has used taxes to prevent sharp fluctuations in the retail price of diesel and petrol. In the past, when global crude oil prices have increased, duties have been cut. Since 2014, as global crude oil prices declined, excise duties have been increased.

Q.13) Solution (c)

All except CCPA is headed/chaired by Prime Minister. CCPA is headed by Union Home Minister.

Entities Headed by the Prime Minister of India are:

- NITI Aayog
- National Integration Council
- National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)
- National Development Council (NDC)
- Department of Science (DoS)
- National Commission for Population Control
- Department of Atomic Energy
- Nuclear Command Authority
- Indian Board of Wildlife
- National Disaster Management Authority
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- PM's Council on Climate Change
- Inter-state Council
- Appointments Committee to the Cabinet
- Cabinet Secretariat
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
- Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs
- Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances
- Cabinet Committee on Security

Q.14) Solution (c)

## Triple Talaq

- In a landmark decision, Supreme Court of India declared the practice of Triple Talaq as unconstitutional by a 3:2 majority.
- While Justices Nariman and Lalit **held that instant Triple Talaq is unconstitutional and violative of Article 14 (Right to Equality)**, Justice Joseph struck down the practice on the ground that it goes against Shariat and the basic tenets of the Quran.

## Placing Ordinance before Legislature Mandatory

- A seven Judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in Krishna Kumar Singh v. State of Bihar held that re-promulgation of ordinances is a fraud on the Constitution and a subversion of democratic legislative processes.
- The court also held that the satisfaction of the President under Article 123 and of the Governor under Article 213 while issuing ordinances is not immune from judicial review.
- With regard to the question of placing the Ordinance before the Legislature, the majority judgment authored by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud held that the requirement is mandatory.

## States Not Empowered To Create Office of Parliamentary Secretary

- The Supreme Court declared as unconstitutional the Assam Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2004.
- The Bench comprising Justice J. Chelameswar, Justice R.K. Agrawal and Justice A.M. Sapre held that Article 194 of the Constitution of India does not expressly authorize the State Legislature to create the office of Parliamentary Secretary.

## Accused Is Entitled To Default Bail After 60 Days For Offences Punishable With 'Imprisonment Up To 10yrs'.

- Settling the conflicting views of various High Courts, the Supreme Court in a 2:1 majority held that an accused is entitled to statutory bail (default bail) under Section 167(2)(a)(2) of Code of Criminal procedure an accused is entitled to statutory bail (default bail)

under Section 167(2)(a)(2) of Code of Criminal procedure if the police failed to file the charge-sheet within 60 days of his arrest for the offence punishable with 'imprisonment up to 10 years.

Q.15) Solution (c)

The criteria used by the **11th to 14th Finance Commissions**:

- **Population** is an indicator of the expenditure needs of a state. Over the years, Finance Commissions have used population data of the 1971 Census. The 14th Finance Commission used the 2011 population data, in addition to the 1971 data. **The 15th Finance Commission has been mandated to use data from the 2011 Census.**
- **Area** is used as a criterion as a state with larger area has to incur additional administrative costs to deliver services.
- **Income distance** is the difference between the per capita income of a state with the average per capita income of all states. States with lower per capita income may be given a higher share to maintain equity among states.
- **Forest cover** indicates that states with large forest covers bear the cost of not having area available for other economic activities. Therefore, the rationale is that these states may be given a higher share.

## Grants-in-Aid

- Besides the taxes devolved to states, another source of transfers from the centre to states is grants-in-aid. As per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, grants-in-aid constitute 12% of the central transfers to states.
- The 14th Finance Commission had recommended grants to states for three purposes: **(i) disaster relief, (ii) local bodies, and (iii) revenue deficit.**

Q.16) Solution (c)

To step up investments in research and related infrastructure in premier educational institutions, including health institutions, a major initiative named **“Revitalising Infrastructure**

**and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022'' with a total investment of Rs.1,00,000 crore in next four years was announced in the recent Budget.**

It aims to lend low-cost funds to government higher educational institutions. Under it, all centrally-funded institutes (CFIs), including central universities.

IITs, IIMs, NITs and IISERs can borrow from a Rs 1,00,000 crore corpus over next 4 years to expand and build new infrastructure.

It will be financed via restructured **Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA), a non-banking financial company.**

Check the below link for World Bank funded programmes

[http://projects.worldbank.org/search?lang=en&countrycode\\_exact=IN](http://projects.worldbank.org/search?lang=en&countrycode_exact=IN)

Q.17) Solution (b)

Simple Majority- more than 50% of members present and voting.

- Election of Speaker, Dy. Speaker of Lok Sabha and Dy. chairman of RS.
- Approval of proclamation of finance emergency and proclamation of president's rule (Article 365)
- Disapproval of continuance of National emergency
- Ratification of the constitution amendment bills by state legislature

Remember: In constitution of India, the **"all the then members"** present indicates an **effective majority**. In Constitution, effective majorities are needed for removal of Vice-President, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha speaker and Deputy Speaker.

Note- Revise Polity from Laxmikant

Q.18) Solution (c)

Recently, the Ministry of Agriculture released a draft Model Contract Farming Act, 2018. The draft Model Act seeks to create a regulatory and policy framework for contract farming. **Based**

on this draft Model Act, legislatures of states can enact a law on contract farming as contracts fall under the Concurrent List of the Constitution.

Under contract farming, agricultural production (including livestock and poultry) can be carried out based on a pre-harvest agreement between buyers (such as food processing units and exporters), and producers (farmers or farmer organisations). The producer can sell the agricultural produce at a specific price in the future to the buyer as per the agreement. Under contract farming, the producer can reduce the risk of fluctuating market price and demand. The buyer can reduce the risk of non-availability of quality produce.

Under the draft Model Act, the producer can get support from the buyer for improving production through inputs (such as technology, pre-harvest and post-harvest infrastructure) as per the agreement. However, the buyer cannot raise a permanent structure on the producer's land. Rights or title ownership of the producer's land cannot be transferred to the buyer.

The NITI Aayog observed that market fees and other levies are paid to the APMC for contract farming when no services such as market facilities and infrastructure are rendered by them. In this context, the Committee of State Ministers on Agricultural Reforms recommended that contract farming should be out of the ambit of APMCs. Instead, an independent regulatory authority must be brought in to disengage contract farming stakeholders from the existing APMCs.

In this regard, as per the draft Model Act, contract farming will be outside the ambit of the state APMCs. This implies that buyers need not pay market fee and commission charges to these APMCs to undertake contract farming. Further, the draft Model Act provides for establishing a state-level Contract Farming (Promotion and Facilitation) Authority to ensure implementation of the draft Model Act. Functions of the Authority include (i) levying and collecting facilitation fees, (ii) disposing appeals related to disputes under the draft Model Act, and (iii) publicising contract farming. Further, the sale and purchase of contracted produce is out of the ambit of regulation of the respective state/UT Agricultural Marketing Act.

Q.19) Solution (d)

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation closed at 4.3% at the end of the year in March 2018, higher than 3% in April 2017.<sup>2</sup> Note that, it decreased to 1.5% in June 2017.<sup>3</sup>

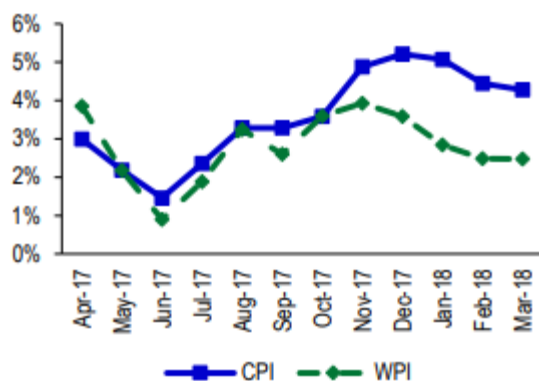


The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) measures the average change in the prices of commodities for bulk sale at the level of early stage of transactions.

WPI inflation closed at 2.5% in March 2018, lower than 3.9% in April 2017.

**The trends in CPI and WPI inflation in 2017-18 are**

**Figure 1: CPI and WPI in 2017-18 (%)**



Sources: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Ministry of Commerce and Industry; PRS.

Q.20) Solution (d)

With the amendment of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 and the concept of Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane was replaced with the **'Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane**.

- Under the FRP system, the farmers are not required to wait till the end of the season or for any announcement of the profits by sugar mills or the Government. The new system also assures margins on account of profit and risk to farmers, irrespective of the fact whether sugar mills generate profit or not and is not dependent on the performance of any individual sugar mill.
- In order to ensure that higher sugar recoveries are adequately rewarded and considering variations amongst sugar mills, the FRP is linked to a basic recovery rate of sugar, with a premium payable to farmers for higher recoveries of sugar from sugarcane.



- Accordingly, FRP for 2017-18 sugar season has been fixed at Rs. 255 per qtl. linked to a basic recovery of 9.5% subject to a premium of Rs.2.68 per qtl for every 0.1 percentage point increase above that level.

## Q.21) Solution (b)

The Nasadiya Sukta also known as the Hymn of Creation, is the 129th hymn of the 10th Mandala of the **Rigveda (10:129)**. It is concerned with cosmology and the origin of the universe.

## Q.22) Solution (c)

There were similar questions in UPSC in previous years.

Uposatha, fortnightly meetings of the Buddhist monastic assembly, at the times of the full moon and the new moon, to reaffirm the rules of discipline.

The uposatha observance, now confined almost entirely to the Theravāda ("Way of the Elders") tradition of Southeast Asia, can be traced back to pre-Buddhist ceremonies of ancient India. Later Buddhists added the quarter days in the lunar cycle, establishing four holy days each month (known as poya days in Sri Lanka and as wan phra in Thailand).

## Q.23) Solution (b)

- Pabna Agrarian Uprising- 1873
- Eka Movement-1921-22
- Bakasht Movement-1936
- Bardoli Satyagraha- 1928

## Q.24) Solution (b)

**Kerala accounts for more than 90 per cent of the total rubber production in the country.**

The total area under rubber cultivation in the state is 5.45 lakh hectares. Rest of the natural rubber is produced in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and North East states.

Q.25) Solution (b)

Manipur is the answer.

Read this article- <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/the-lost-jews-of-churachandpur/article21244204.ece>

Q.26) Solution (a)

## **Chief Election Commissioner**

The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. They have tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as available to Judges of the Supreme Court of India. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only through impeachment by Parliament.

**Note:** The tenure and working conditions are not given in the Constitution. According to Constitution, ECs are appointed by President for a term which is fixed by the President. However, conditions of service and tenure of office of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioner are determined by an act of parliament titled The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Act, 1991.

Q.27) Solution (d)

## **Administrative Tribunals**

According to Article 323A, administrative tribunals can adjudicate the disputes and complaints with respect to the recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts at

- Union Level
- State Level as well as
- Any local or other authority within the territory of India.

**The provisions of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 do not apply to the following:**

- Members of paramilitary forces
- Armed forces of the Union
- Officers or employees of the Supreme Court
- Persons appointed to the Secretariat Staff of either House of Parliament or the Secretariat staff of State/Union Territory Legislatures.

The CAT is headed by a chairman who must be either a sitting or a retired Judge of a High Court. Other than Chairman, there are 16 Vice-Chairmen and 49 Members. The principle bench is located at New Delhi

**Note** that Central Administrative Tribunal enjoys the status and powers of a High Court. However, Government employees not satisfied with CAT orders on their service matters can appeal in High Courts, followed by appeal in Supreme Court. We note here that the law commission had recommended that the appeals should go straight to the Supreme Court; however, this remains just a proposal as of now. In disposing of its cases, the Tribunal observes the canons, principles and norms of 'natural justice'.

Q.28) Solution (d)

## **Finance Commission**

Finance Commission of India is established by President of India as per Article 280 of the constitution. The first finance commission was established in 1951. The Constitutional requirement for setting up a Finance Commission in India was an **original idea, not borrowed from anywhere**. That is why it is called the original contribution.

**Article 280 reads:** President should, within two years of commencement of the Constitution and thereafter on expiry of **every 5<sup>th</sup> year, or at such intervals as he/ she thinks necessary**, would constitute a Finance Commission.

Q.29) Solution (a)

## Procedure for Amendment

- A constitution amendment bill **can be introduced in any house** of the parliament. A bill for the purpose of amendment of constitution **can NOT be introduced in any state legislature**.
- The Ordinance making power of the President **can NOT be used to amend the Constitution**.
- A constitution amendment bill **can be introduced both as a government bill or a private member bill**. However, if it's a Private Member, then it has to be examined in the first instance and recommended for introduction by the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions before it is included for introduction in the List of Business.
- **Prior recommendation of President is NOT needed** in introducing the constitution amendment bills.
- **Constitution Amendment Bills are not treated as Money Bills or Financial Bills** even if they have some provisions related to them.
- A constitution amendment bill must pass in both the houses separately by absolute + special majority {absolute → more than 50% of strength; special → 2/3 of present and voting}.
- If there is a disagreement between the two houses on a constitution amendment bill, there is NO provision of joint sitting to resolve the deadlock.
- The bills which result in some changes in the constitution but passed by simple majority are not deemed to be Constitution Amendments.
- If a bill seeks to amend the federal provisions of the Constitution, it must also be ratified by the legislatures of half of the states by a simple majority.
- Once the bill is passed in both houses, the bill is sent to president for approval. The 24th Amendment Act of 1971 had made it obligatory for the President to give his assent to a constitutional Amendment Bill. Thus, for a Constitution amendment bill, a President can neither withhold his assent nor return the bill for reconsideration.

Q.30) Solution (c)

National **emergency was declared in India** in 1962 (China war), 1971 (Pakistan war), and 1975 (**declared** by Indira Gandhi).

**Note:** Emergency in 1975 was declared on the premise of Internal Disturbance. In 44<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act, Internal Disturbance was removed and replaced by Armed Rebellion.

Q.31) Solution (d)

**Cooperative Societies** is a state subject under entry 32 state list of the Seventh schedule of the **Indian Constitution**.

According to the **Constitutional** (97th Amendment) Act, 2011 forming a **Cooperative Society** is a **fundamental right** under article 19(1)(i).

Q.32) Solution (c)

## **The Panchayat Samiti**

**The Panchayat Samiti** is the tehsil or taluka or block level of rural local-self government system in India. They form the middle level of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in India. It acts as a link between Village Panchayats (Gram Panchayats) and Zila Parishad (District council).

## **Functions of Panchayat Samiti**

- The Panchayat Samiti is placed between the Gram Panchayat and the Zilla Parishad (District Council). It acts primarily as a coordinating agency between the two extremes.
- It co-ordinates the welfare and development activities of the Gram Panchayat of the block relating to agriculture, cottage industries, co-operatives and rural credit, water supply, irrigation, sanitation, public health and primary education.
- Maintenance of public utilities, co-ordination and integration of development plans, adoption of relief measures in times of natural calamities are some important functions of the Panchayat Samities.

- Panchayat Samiti also approves the budget proposals of the Gram Panchayat under it.
- It also has to perform those activities which the government may confer upon it.
- The new Panchayat Act has also conferred some other responsibilities on it. These are to make planning for comprehensive urbanization and water supply, to send representatives in the management of the Central Co-operative Banks and other organizations, to supervise the schools and health centers within the block under its jurisdiction, etc.

Q.33) Solution (b)

### **District Planning Committee (DPC)**

District Planning Committee (DPC) is the committee created as per article 243ZD of the Constitution of India at the district level for planning at the district and below. The Committee in each district should consolidate the plans prepared by the Panchayats and the Municipalities in the district and prepare a draft development plan for the district.

The Constitution of India provides the DPCs two specific responsibilities. In preparing the draft development plan, the DPC shall have regard to matters of common interest between the Panchayats and the Municipalities including spatial planning, sharing of water and other physical and natural resources, the integrated development of infrastructure and environmental conservation and the extent and type of available resources, both financial or otherwise. The DPC in this endeavor, is also mandated to consult such institutions and organizations as may be specified. In order that the plans at different levels are prepared, there is need to strengthen the system comprising the machinery of planning and the process of consolidation of plans at the district level.

Q.34) Solution (d)

### **Indian Constitution Schedules 1 to 12**

- **First schedule** contains the list of states and union territories and their territories
- **Second schedule** contains provisions of the President, Governors of States, Speaker and

## Indian Constitution Schedules 1 to 12

the Deputy Speaker of the House of the People and the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Council of States and the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council of a State, the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts and the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India the list of states and union territories and their territories.

- **Third Schedule** contains the Forms of Oaths or Affirmations.
- **Fourth Schedule** contains provisions as to the allocation of seats in the Council of States.
- **Fifth Schedule** contains provisions as to the Administration and Control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes.
- **Sixth Schedule** contains provisions as to the Administration of Tribal Areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- **Seventh Schedule** contains the Union list, State list and the concurrent list.
- **Eighth Schedule** contains the list of recognized languages.
- **Ninth Schedule** contains provisions as to validation of certain Acts and Regulations.
- **Tenth Schedule** contains provisions as to disqualification on ground of defection.
- **Eleventh Schedule** contains the powers, authority and responsibilities of Panchayats.
- **Twelfth Schedule** contains the powers, authority and responsibilities of Municipalities.

Q.35) Solution (a)

## Eligibility of Prime Minister



According to Article 84 of the Constitution of India, which sets the principle qualification for member of Parliament, and Article 75 of the Constitution of India, which sets the qualifications for the minister in the Union Council of Minister, and the argument that the position of prime minister has been described as *primus inter pares* (the first among equals), A prime minister must:

- be a citizen of India.
- be a member of the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha. If the person chosen as the prime minister is neither a member of the Lok Sabha nor the Rajya Sabha at the time of selection, they must become a member of either of the houses within six months.
- be above 25 years of age if they are a member of the Lok Sabha, or, above 30 years of age if they are a member of the Rajya Sabha.
- not hold any office of profit under the Government of India or the government of any state or under any local or other authority subject to the control of any of the said governments.

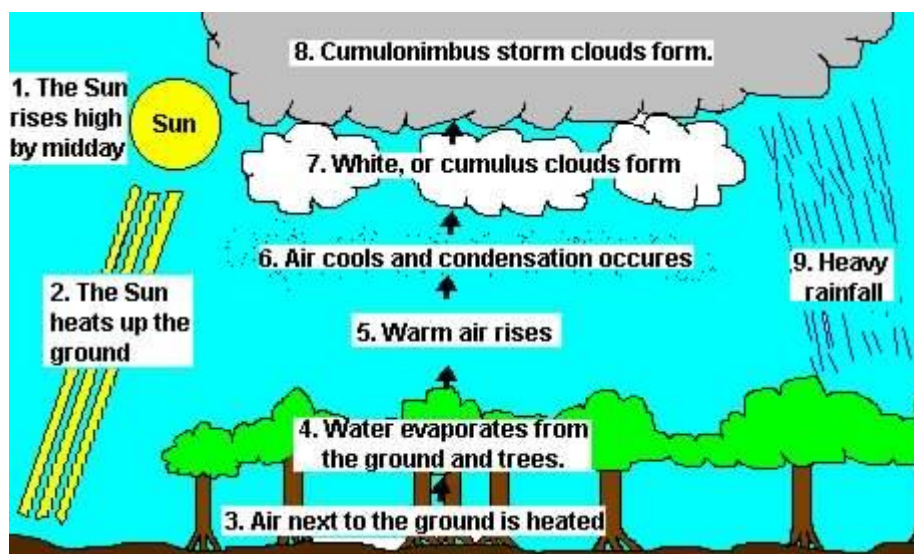
Q.36) Solution (b)

The first statement is the hypothesis of Continental drift theory.

Second statement is the hypothesis of Plate tectonics. The broken fragments of Lithosphere are called plates and the process of movement of these plates is called plate tectonics.

Q.37) Solution (a)

**Convectional rainfall:** it occurs in the areas of intense heat and abundant moisture. Solar radiation is the main source of heat to produce convectional currents in air. The belt of doldrums and equatorial region generally records this type of rainfall. This type of rainfall is not much effective for crops as most of the water is drained off in the form of surface drainage.



Convectional Rainfall occurs in tropical as well as temperate areas during summer if the surface is intensely heated and moisture is present.

Q.38) Solution (a)

## Radiosonde

A radiosonde is a small weather station coupled with a radio transmitter. The radiosonde is attached to helium- or hydrogen-filled balloon, called variously a weather balloon or a sounding balloon, and the balloon lifts the radiosonde to altitudes exceeding 115,000 feet. During the radiosonde's ascent, it transmits data on temperature, pressure, and humidity to a sea-, air-, or land-based receiving station. Often, the position of the radiosonde is tracked through GPS, radar, or other means, to provide data on the strength and direction of winds aloft. Thus the radiosonde flight produces a vertical profile of weather parameters in the area above which it was launched.

The observation sent by Radiosonde are called Raob.

Q.39) Solution (b)

## **Karst topography**

Karst topography is a landscape formed from the dissolution of soluble rocks such as limestone, dolomite, and gypsum. It is characterized by underground drainage systems with sinkholes, caves etc.

It is named after a province in Yugoslavia where Karst landform is most common.

Q.40) Solution (a)

## **Whirlpool**

A whirlpool is a body of swirling water produced by the meeting of opposing currents. The vast majority of whirlpools are not very powerful and very small whirlpools can easily be seen when a bath or a sink is draining. More powerful ones in seas or oceans may be termed **maelstroms**. Vortex is the proper term for any whirlpool that has a downdraft.

Q.41) Solution (c)

## **Submarine volcanoes**

Submarine volcanoes are underwater fissures in the Earth's surface from which magma can erupt. They are estimated to account for 75% of annual magma output. The vast majority are located near areas of tectonic plate movement, known as ocean ridges.

Although most are located in the depths of seas and oceans, some also exist in shallow water, which can spew material into the air during an eruption. Hydrothermal vents, sites of abundant biological activity, are commonly found near submarine volcanoes.

The presence of water can greatly alter the characteristics of a volcanic eruption and the explosions made by these. For instance, the increased thermal conductivity of water causes magma to cool and solidify much more quickly than in a terrestrial eruption, often turning it into a volcanic glass.

Below ocean depths of about 2200 meters where the pressure exceeds 218 atmospheres, the critical pressure of water, it can no longer boil; it becomes a supercritical fluid. Without boiling sounds, deep-sea volcanoes are difficult to detect at great distances using hydrophones.

The lava formed by submarine volcanoes is quite different from terrestrial lava. Upon contact with water, a solid crust forms around the lava. Advancing lava flows into this crust, forming what is known as pillow lava.

Many submarine volcanoes are usually found as seamounts. These are typically formed from extinct volcanoes, that rise abruptly and are usually found rising from a seafloor of 1,000 - 4,000 meters depth. They are defined by oceanographers as independent features that rise to at least 1,000 meters above the seafloor. The peaks are often found hundreds to thousands of meters below the surface, and are therefore considered to be within the deep sea.

Q.42) Solution (a)

## **Biogenous Deposits**

Ooze, pelagic (deep-sea) sediment of which at least 30 percent is composed of the skeletal remains of microscopic floating organisms. Oozes are basically deposits of soft mud on the ocean floor. They form on areas of the seafloor distant enough from land so that the slow but steady deposition of dead microorganisms from overlying waters is not obscured by sediments washed from the land. The oozes are subdivided first into calcareous oozes (containing skeletons made of calcium carbonate) and siliceous oozes (containing skeletons made of silica) and then are divided again according to the predominant skeleton type.

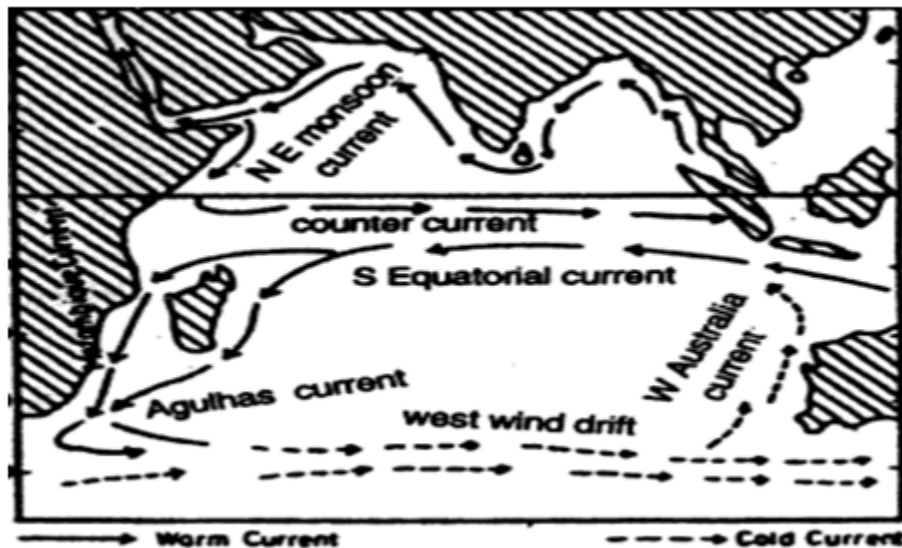
Siliceous oozes are found in deeper ocean as compared to calcareous oozes.

Q.43) Solution (d)

## **Lake Titicaca**

Lake Titicaca, at an elevation of 12,507 feet (3,812 meters) in the Andean Altiplano, is the highest large lake in the world. More than 120 miles long and 50 miles wide, it was the center of the Incan civilization, and today straddles the boundary between Peru and Bolivia.

Q.44) Solution (c)



**Note:** Canary current is found on the North west coast of Africa in Atlantic ocean.

Q.45) Solution (a)

### Continental Shelf

Continental shelf is a broad, relatively shallow submarine terrace of continental crust forming the edge of a continental landmass. The geology of continental shelves is often similar to that of the adjacent exposed portion of the continent, and most shelves have a gently rolling topography called ridge and swale. Continental shelves make up about 8 percent of the entire area covered by oceans.

### Think

- Continental Slope
- Oceanic Rise

Q.46) Solution (b)

## **'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education (SATH-E)'**

SATH-E project aims at promoting vocational education, skill development, teacher training and introducing technology in classrooms. It will also promote data-driven analysis to strengthen academic monitoring across schools in the country.

- SATHE to introduce System-wide Governance Transformation in School Education
- These roadmaps, which operate between 2018 to 2020, lay out detailed interventions which will be taken by the three participating States- Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha – aiming to become 'Role Model States' in school education.
- These roadmaps present the first-of-its-kind, customized, action-oriented programmes, outlining interventions at the individual, district and State level.
- The roadmaps were jointly prepared by NITI Aayog, the three States and the knowledge partners of the SATH Initiatives, the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Piramal Foundation For Education Leadership (PFEL).

Q.47) Solution (d)

## **Smart Bandage**

The bandage consists of electrically conductive fibers coated in a gel that can be individually loaded with infection-fighting antibiotics, tissue-regenerating growth factors, painkillers or other medications.

A microcontroller no larger than a postage stamp, which could be triggered by a smartphone or other wireless device, sends small amounts of voltage through a chosen fiber. That voltage heats the fiber and its hydrogel, releasing whatever cargo it contains.

A single bandage could accommodate multiple medications tailored to a specific type of wound, while offering the ability to precisely control the dose and delivery schedule of those medications. That combination of customization and control could substantially improve or accelerate the healing process.



Q.48) Solution (d)

## **'Swachh Swasth Sarvatra'**

'Swachh Swasth Sarvatra', an inter-ministerial joint initiative between the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The objective of the 'Swachh Swasth Sarvatra' initiative is to build on and leverage achievements of two complementary programmes – Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and Kayakalp – of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, respectively. Under this initiative:

(a) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has declared over 700 blocks as Open Defecation Free (ODF). Community Health Centres (CHCs) in ODF blocks of the country will be allocated Rs 10 lakhs under National Health Mission (NHM) to focus on sanitation and hygiene.

(b) Under Kayakalp, one Primary Health Centre (PHCs) in each district is awarded for meeting quality standards including sanitation and hygiene. Under SBM, the Gram Panchayat in which the PHC which gets awarded under Kayakalp for that district will be noted, and special focus will be given to make it ODF at the earliest.

Q.49) Solution (a)

## **Monosodium glutamate**

Monosodium glutamate is a kind of amino acid. It occurs naturally in many agricultural products. Monosodium glutamate is added artificially to package food to enhance flavour.

## **Health impact:**

Large doses of MSG can cause headaches and other feelings of discomfort collectively known as Chinese Restaurant Syndrome.

**NOTE:** According to Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation 2011, Monosodium Glutamate (MSG) with an INS number 621 can be added to only



specific foods. According to these regulations MSG can be added as a seasoning for noodles, pastas, meat tenderizer, onion salt, garlic salt, seasoning mix, topping to sprinkle on rice, fermented soyabean paste and yeast and cannot be used in other foods.

At present there is no analytical method to determine if MSG is naturally present in the product or was added during the manufacturing process. The only way to do so is to check the plant physically to see if MSG is being added to the products during manufacturing.

Q.50) Solution (a)

## **Brazzaville Declaration**

- In a move to protect the Cuvette Centrale region in the Congo Basin, the world's largest tropical peatlands, from unregulated land use and prevent its drainage and degradation, the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Republic of Congo and Indonesia** jointly signed the Brazzaville declaration that promotes better management and conservation of this globally important carbon store
- It aims to implement coordination and cooperation between different government sectors to protect the benefits provided by peatland ecosystems
- The equivalent of three years of global greenhouse gas emissions is stored in the Congo peatlands.

## **Global Peatlands Initiative**

- It is an effort by leading experts and institutions to save peatlands as the world's largest terrestrial organic carbon stock and to prevent it being emitted into the atmosphere.
- It is a multi-partner United Nations Environment Programme initiative launched at the Global Landscapes Forum in Marrakesh in 2016.

## **Peat**

- It is an accumulation of partially decayed vegetation or organic matter that is unique to natural areas called peatlands, bogs, mires, moors, or muskegs.
- Peatlands are a type of wetlands that occur in almost every country on Earth, currently covering 3% of the global land surface.

- The term 'peatland' refers to the peat soil and the wetland habitat growing on its surface.
- The peatland ecosystem is the most efficient carbon sink on the planet, because peatland plants capture CO<sub>2</sub> naturally released from the peat, maintaining an equilibrium.
- In natural peatlands, the "annual rate of biomass production is greater than the rate of decomposition"

## Q.51) Solution (c)

Indian councils Act 1892 allowed Non Official members to discuss the budget and ask questions. But supplementary questions and voting was not allowed.

In Indian Councils Act 1909, more power was given in terms of asking question and voting. Supplementary questions on budget were allowed and voting for separate items in budget was allowed. However, budget as a whole could not be voted upon.

## Q.52) Solution (b)

### **Simla Deputation**

Simla Deputation organized by the Indian Muslim leaders, met the Governor General and Viceroy lord Minto in Simla on 1 October 1906. The aim of the deputation was to win the sympathies of the Raj on their side concerning matters relating to their interests as a community. The meeting was extremely significant. As such it has gone down in the history of the subcontinent as the Simla Deputation.

The Simla Deputation occupies a very important place in the history of modern Muslim India. For the first time, Hindu- Muslim conflict was lifted to the constitutional plane. The rift in society was now to be translated into legal and political institutions. The Muslims had made it clear that they had no confidence in the Hindu majority, that they were not prepared to put their future in the hands of assemblies elected on the assumption of a homogeneous Indian nation.

The main demands were Separate electorate for Muslims and Representation of Muslims in excess of their numerical strength (in view of 'value of the contribution' Muslims were making to the 'defence of the empire.')

Q.53) Solution (a)

**Sardar Ajit Singh** organized '**Anjuman – I – Mohisban – I – Watan**' in Lahore, Punjab.

It released its journal – **Bharat Mata**.

Note: Sardar Ajit Singh was uncle of Bhagat Singh.

Q.54) Solution (b)

**Indian Society of Oriental Art (ISOA)**

Gaganendranath Tagore, along with his brother Abanindranath, is known for founding the Indian Society of Oriental Art in 1907. This ISOA, sponsored by Europeans, much popularized Tagore's Bengal School, as well as art and crafts of other Asian nations. It held regular exhibitions in India and abroad, and came out with exquisite color reproductions of original paintings by Abanindranath Tagore, Surendranath Ganguly, Nandalal Bose and other old masters of Mughal and Rajput art.

**Note:** This society later brought out a journal called Rupam.

Q.55) Solution (d)

Lala Lajpat Rai made this comment in his book - '**Young India**'.

Note: Young India was also a weekly journal published by Mahatma Gandhi.

Q.56) Solution (c)

In 1890 it was decided to hold a session of Indian National Congress in London in 1892. But owing to British elections in 1891 the proposal was postponed and never revived later.

Q.57) Solution (d)

Kadambini Ganguly and Chandramukhi Basu were the first two female graduates from India, though from the entire British Empire. She was also the first South Asian female physician, trained in western medicine, to graduate in South Asia.

She was the first women delegate to address the Indian National Congress in 1890.

Q.58) Solution (b)

- The East Indian Association was founded by Dadabhai Naoroji in London in 1866 to discuss the Indian Question and influence public men in London to promote Indian welfare.
- The Zamindari Association was founded to safeguard the interests of Landlords.
- The Indian league was founded by Shishir Kumar Ghosh with the objective of stimulating the sense of Nationalism amongst the people. It was founded in 1875.
- The Indian Association of Calcutta was founded by Surendranath Bannerji and Anand Mohan Bose in 1876.

Q.59) Solution (b)

## **Vernacular Press Act**

The latter half of the 19th century saw a remarkable growth in the Vernacular Press of the country and newspapers played a role of catalyst in the new socio-political consciousness.

So, in the best interest of the Government, **Lord Lytton** passed the Vernacular Press Act in 1878.

- By this act, the magistrates of the districts were empowered, without the prior permission of the Government, to call upon a printer and publisher of any kind to enter into a Bond, undertaking not to publish anything which might "rouse" feelings of disaffection against the government.
- The magistrate was also authorized to deposit a security, which could be confiscated if the printer violated the Bond.
- If a printer repeated the violation, his press could be seized.

**Note:** The Act was repealed by Lord Ripon.

Q.60) Solution (d)

The principles of Jainism, if properly understood in their right perspective and faithfully adhered to, will bring contentment and inner happiness and joy in the present life.

At the heart of right conduct for Jains lie the five great vows:

- Ahimsa (non-injury)
- Satya (speaking truth)
- Asteya (non-stealing),
- Aparigraha (non-possession),
- Brahmacharya (non-adultery).

It is said that only fifth doctrine was added by Mahavira to the first four doctrines preached by Parsva.

Jains hold these vows at the center of their lives. These vows cannot be fully implemented without the acceptance of a philosophy of non absolutism (Anekantvad) and the theory of relativity (Syadvad). Monks and nuns follow these vows strictly and totally, while the common people follow the vows as far as their life styles will permit.

Q.61) Solution (b)

A **public credit registry (PCR)** is an extensive database of credit information for India that is accessible to all stakeholders.

PCR was in news recently as Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formed a 10-member 'High Level Task Force on Public Credit Registry (PCR) for India', chaired by **Y M Deosthalee**.

A PCR is **set up by the central bank** and **reporting of loan details** to the Registry by lenders and/or borrowers is mandated by law.

The Reserve Bank of India made a strong case for setting up a public credit registry in India to **address the twin balance sheet problem** of the banking sector and the corporate sector.

Public credit registry coverage reports the number of individuals and firms listed in a public credit registry with current information on repayment history, unpaid debts, or credit outstanding.

The repository can capture and certify details of collaterals, enable writing of contracts and prevent over-pledging of collateral by a borrower.

### **A PCR will help in**

1. Credit assessment and pricing by banks;
2. Risk-based, dynamic and countercyclical provisioning at banks;
3. Supervision and early intervention by regulators;
4. Understanding if transmission of monetary policy is working, and if not, where are the bottlenecks; and,
5. How to restructure stressed bank credits effectively.

PCR is expected to enhance efficiency of the credit market, increase financial inclusion, improve ease of doing business and help control delinquencies.

### **Q.62) Solution (a)**

SEBI and stock exchanges had introduced the **graded surveillance measure** framework which came into force from March, 2017.

**SEBI introduced the measure to keep a tab on securities** that witness an abnormal price rise that is not commensurate with financial health and fundamentals of the company such as earnings, book value, price to earnings ratio among others.

The underlying principle behind the graded surveillance framework is to alert and protect investors trading in a security, which is seeing abnormal price movements. SEBI may put shares of companies under the measure for suspected price rigging or under the ambit of 'shell companies'. The measure would provide a heads up to market participants that they need to be extra cautious and diligent while dealing in such securities put under surveillance.

Further reference: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/all-you-need-to-know-about-graded-surveillance-measure/article19747350.ece>

Q.63) Solution (a)

**Investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS)** or investment court system (ICS) is a system through which individual companies can sue countries for alleged discriminatory practices.

ISDS is an instrument of international public law and provisions are contained in a number of bilateral investment treaties, in certain international trade treaties, such as **NAFTA (chapter 11)**, and the then proposed **TPP (chapters 9 and 28)** and **CETA (sections 3 and 4)** agreements. ISDS is also found in international investment agreements, such as the Energy Charter Treaty. If an investor from one country (the "home state") invests in another country (the "host state"), both of which have agreed to ISDS, and the host state violates the rights granted to the investor under public international law, then that investor may bring the matter before an arbitral tribunal.

Q.64) Solution (b)

Procurement price is the support price at which the government will buy whatever quantum farmers want to sell to the government in the event of private traders not buying the product. This is done to give a fair price to the farmer and to create a buffer stock of food grains to meet public distribution system requirements.

Q.65) Solution (d)



**SEBI regulated NBFCs includes –**

1. Venture Capital Fund
2. Merchant Banking companies
3. Stock Broking companies

Housing loan companies are regulated by **National Housing Bank**. Housing loan companies finance construction and purchase of house.

Q.66) Solution (c)

In Union Budget 2018, government had allocated a whopping Rs 1,290 crore to promote the bamboo sector -- through restructured National Bamboo Mission (NBM).

Government also removed bamboo grown outside forest areas from the definition of trees.

### **About restructured NBM**

The Mission is expected to establish about 4000 treatment/ product development units and bring more than 100000 ha area under plantation during the period 2018-19 & 2019-20.

The restructured NBM strives to -

- (i) To increase the area under bamboo plantation in non forest Government and private lands to supplement farm income and contribute towards resilience to climate change.
- (ii) To improve post-harvest management through establishment of innovative primary processing units, treatment and seasoning plants, primary treatment and seasoning plants, preservation technologies and market infrastructure.
- (iii) To promote product development at micro, small and medium levels and feed bigger industry.
- (iv) To rejuvenate the under developed bamboo industry in India.
- (v) To promote skill development, capacity building, awareness generation for development of bamboo sector.

**Do you know?**

- Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Bamboo Mission (NBM) is now under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)
- Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) under Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme called Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) in which National Bamboo Mission (NBM) is being implemented as a sub scheme.

Q.67) Solution (c)

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is one of the 17 specialized agencies of the United Nations. WIPO was created in 1967 "to encourage creative activity, to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world. It is not a World Bank group member.

Q.68) Solution (a)

In 1992–93 financial year, India moved to the floating currency regime with its own method which is known as the 'dual exchange rate'.

There are two exchange rates for rupee, one is the 'official rate' and the other is the 'market rate'. Here the point should be noted that it is the everyday's changing market-based exchange rate of rupee which affects the official exchange rate and not the other way round. Therefore, statement (2) is wrong.

But the RBI may intervene in the forex market via the demand and supply of rupee or the foreign currencies. Another point which should be kept in mind is that none of the economies have till date followed an ideal free-floating exchange rate. They require some mechanism to intervene in the foreign exchange market because this is a highly speculative market.

Most economies have shifted to Managed Exchange rates system, including India. This system is a hybrid of the fixed and flexible exchange rate systems in which the government of the economy attempts to affect the exchange rate directly by buying or selling foreign currencies or indirectly, through monetary policy (i.e., by lowering or raising interest rates on foreign currency bank accounts, affecting foreign investment, etc.).

Q.69) Solution (a)

- Ata City- Kazakhstan
- Kirkuk-Iraq
- Mosul-Iraq

Q.70) Solution (b)

A village is declared to be electrified if 10% of the households are given electricity along with public places such as schools, panchayat office, health centres, dispensaries and community centres.

Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) launched in 2015 now focuses on providing electrification to all households. **In other words, the scheme aims at ensuring the coverage of households as opposed to only villages.**

Q.71) Solution (a)

## About GST Council

1. It is a constitutional body (**Article 279A**)
2. It makes recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to GST.

## Composition:

- The GST Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister and other members are the Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.

**Do you know?**

As per **Article 279A** of the amended Constitution, the GST Council which will be a joint forum of the Centre and the States, shall consist of the following members –

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Chairperson | Union Finance Minister   |
| Member      | Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue or Finance  |
| Members     | Minister in charge of Finance or Taxation or any other Minister nominated by each State Government |

## Q.72) Solution (b)

The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP since 1985, earlier named as Agricultural Prices Commission) came into existence in January 1965. Currently, the Commission comprises a Chairman, Member Secretary, one Member (Official) and two Members (Non-Official). The non-official members are representatives of the farming community and usually have an active association with the farming community.

CACP is mandated to recommend **minimum support prices (MSPs)** to incentivize the cultivators to adopt modern technology, and raise productivity and overall grain production in line with the emerging demand patterns in the country. **1<sup>st</sup> statement is wrong as CACP does not ensure maximum price rather it recommends minimum support prices (MSPs).**

It helps to stabilise agricultural prices and protects the interest of the consumers by providing essential agricultural commodities at reasonable rates through public distribution system.

## Q.73) Solution (a)

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is an inter-governmental organization, established in 1982 by the governments of South Asia to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region. SACEP also serves as the secretariat of South Asian Seas Programme (SASP).

SACEP member countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Recently, SACEP jointly with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) developed a "Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan" - to facilitate international cooperation and mutual assistance in preparing and responding to a major oil pollution incidents in the seas around Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Q.74) Solution (b)

The **Maastricht Treaty** (formally, the *Treaty on European Union* or TEU) undertaken to integrate Europe was signed on 7 February 1992 by the members of the European Community in *Maastricht*, Netherlands. On 9–10 December 1991, the same city hosted the European Council which drafted the *treaty*.

Signed on February 7, 1992, by the leaders of 12 member nations, and it reflected the serious intentions of all countries to create a common economic and monetary union.

Q.75) Solution (a)

**Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya)**

- Launched in Sept 2017
- SAUBHAGYA (Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojna) aims to achieve **universal household electrification** in all parts of the country in a time bound manner.
- Around 4 crore households in **rural and urban** areas by **December 2018** are expected to get electricity connections under the scheme.
- The scheme **funds the cost of last-mile connectivity** to willing households to help achieve the goal of lighting every household by 31 December 2018.

Q.76) Solution (b)

Peer-to-peer (P2P) lending is a method of debt financing that enables individuals to borrow and lend money without the use of an official financial institution as an intermediary. Peer-to-peer lending removes the middleman from the process, but it also involves more time, effort and risk than the general brick-and-mortar lending scenarios.

Peer-to-Peer Lending (P2P) platforms will be treated as non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

NBFCs do not form part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on itself.

Q.77) Solution (b)

RBI released final guidelines around setting up a category of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) called account aggregators.

According to the definition provided by the central bank, account aggregators are companies that will collect and provide information on a customer's financial assets, in a consolidated, organized and retrievable manner to the customer or any other person as per the instructions of the customer.

Only NBFCs that have registered with RBI will be allowed to undertake account aggregation.

Companies that aggregate accounts of only a particular financial sector governed by other regulators can be exempted from seeking RBI approval.

**Read More** - <https://www.livemint.com/Industry/y2YrWEmrHv3CCH4OOJmymJ/RBI-releases-final-guidelines-on-account-aggregators.html>

Q.78) Solution (b)

It is computed for five currencies with seven different maturities ranging from overnight to a year. The five currencies for which LIBOR is computed are Swiss franc, euro, pound sterling, Japanese yen and US dollar.

Q.79) Solution (b)

Dumping is said to occur when the goods are exported by a country to another country at a price lower than its normal value. This is an unfair trade practice which can have a distortive effect on international trade. Anti-dumping is a measure to rectify the situation arising out of

the dumping of goods and its trade distortive effect. Thus, the purpose of anti-dumping duty is to rectify the trade distortive effect of dumping and re-establish fair trade. The use of anti-dumping measure as an instrument of fair competition is permitted by the WTO. In fact, anti-dumping is an instrument for ensuring fair trade and is not a measure of protection per se for the domestic industry. It provides relief to the domestic industry against the injury caused by dumping.

Anti-dumping duty is recommended by Ministry of Commerce and imposed by Ministry of Finance.

Countervailing duty (CVD) is an additional import duty imposed on imported products (by the importing country) when such products enjoy benefits like export subsidies and tax concessions in the country of their origin (i.e. where it is produced and exported). CVD is thus an import tax by the importing country on imported products. It is an attempt to ensure fair and market oriented pricing of imported products and thereby protecting domestic industries and firms. The most popular example for CVD is the imposition of additional duty by an importing country when the product has given export subsidy by the exporter/producer country.

## Q.80) Solution (a)

Currency chests are branches of selected banks authorised by the RBI to stock rupee notes and coins. The responsibility for managing the currency in circulation is vested in the RBI.

The central bank advises the Centre on the number of notes to be printed, the currency denominations, security features and so on. The number of notes that need to be printed is determined using a statistical model that takes the pace of economic growth, rate of inflation and the replacement rate of soiled notes. The Government has, however, reserved the right to determine the amount of coins that have to be minted.

The RBI offices in various cities receive the notes from note presses and coins from the mints. These are sent to the currency chests and small coin depots from where they are distributed to bank branches. The RBI has set up over 4,075 currency chests all over the country. Besides these, there are around 3,746 bank branches that act as small coin depots to stock small coins.

Of the 4,075 currency chests in the country, 2,722 or 67 per cent are held in branches of the State Bank of India and its associate banks. Other Nationalised banks hold 1,173 chests, taking



the share of the PSU banks to 95 per cent. Private sector banks (160), Co-operative banks (3) and foreign banks (4), regional rural banks (5) do not have a large role to play in stocking currency on behalf of RBI.

Q.81) Solution (a)

## **Mangal Pandey**

Mangal Pandey was from a high-caste Brahman landowning family that professed strong Hindu beliefs. Pandey joined the army of the British East India Company in 1849, some accounts suggesting that he was recruited by a brigade that marched past him. He was made a soldier (sepoy) in the 6th Company of the 34th Bengal Native Infantry, which included a large number of Brahmans. Pandey was ambitious and viewed his profession as a sepoy as a stepping-stone to future success.

Pandey's career ambitions, however, came into conflict with his religious beliefs. While he was posted at the garrison in Barrackpore in the mid-1850s, a new Enfield rifle was introduced into India that required a soldier to bite off the ends of greased cartridges in order to load the weapon. A rumour spread that the lubricant used was either cow or pig lard, which was repugnant to Hindus or Muslims, respectively. The belief arose among the sepoys that the British had deliberately used the lard on the cartridges.

the general agreement is that Pandey attempted to incite his fellow sepoys to rise up against their British officers, attacked two of those officers, attempted to shoot himself after having been restrained, and eventually was overpowered and arrested.

His execution (by hanging) was set for April 18, but British authorities, fearing the outbreak of a large-scale revolt if they waited until then, moved the date up to April 8. Resistance to the use of Enfield cartridges later that month in Meerut led to the outbreak of a revolt there in May and the start of the larger insurrection.

Q.82) Solution (a)

Charvaka originally known as Lokāyata and Brhaspatya, is the ancient school of Indian materialism. Charvaka holds direct perception, empiricism, and conditional inference as proper

sources of knowledge, embraces philosophical scepticism and rejects Vedas, Vedic ritualism, and supernaturalism.

Ajita Kesakambali is credited as the forerunner of the Charvakas, while Brihaspati is usually referred to as the founder of Charvaka or Lokāyata philosophy.

## Q.83) Solution (c)

The Cripps mission was an attempt in late March 1942 by the British government to secure full Indian cooperation and support for their efforts in World War II. The mission was headed by Sir Stafford Cripps, Lord Privy Seal which held the rank of a senior minister, and leader of the House of Commons. Cripps belonged to the left-wing Labour Party, traditionally sympathetic to Indian self-rule, but was also a member of the coalition War Cabinet led by the Conservative Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Cripps was sent to negotiate an agreement with the nationalist leaders, speaking for the majority Hindu population, and Muhammad Ali Jinnah, speaking for the minority Muslim population. Cripps worked to keep India loyal to the British war effort in exchange for a promise of full self-government after the war. He also promised to give India dominion status and to hold elections once the war was over. Cripps discussed the proposals with the Indian leaders and published them. Both the major parties, the Congress and the League rejected his proposals and the mission proved a failure.

## Q.84) Solution (c)

The Act abolished the Supreme Courts at Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay; the Sadar Diwani Adalat and the Sadar Nizamat Adalat at Calcutta; Sadar Adalat and Faujdari Adalat at Madras; Sadar Diwani Adalat and Faujdari Adalat at Bombay.

This act was passed to fuse the Supreme Courts, Sadar Diwani Adalats and Sadar Fauzdari Adalats and also enable queen to issue letters patent to establish high courts of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. The jurisdiction of the Supreme Courts, Sadar Diwani Adalats and Fauzdari Adalats was subsumed by High Courts.

The act provided that each high Court will be composed of one chief justice and maximum 15 judges. The chief justice and at least 3 regular judges had to be barristers and one third of these judges should be from covenanted civil service.

Q.85) Solution (a)

The doctrine of subsidiary alliance was introduced by Lord Wellesley, British Governor-General in India from 1798 to 1805. Early in his governorship Wellesley adopted a policy of non-intervention in the princely states, but he later adopted the policy of forming subsidiary alliances. This policy was to play a major role in British expansion in India.

Q.86) Solution (a)

**The objectives of the PESA Act are as follows**

- To extend the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the panchayats to the scheduled areas with certain modifications
- To provide self-rule for the bulk of the tribal population
- To have village governance with participatory democracy and to make the gram sabha a nucleus of all activities
- To evolve a suitable administrative framework consistent with traditional practices
- To safeguard and to preserve the traditions and customs of tribal communities
- To empower panchayats at the appropriate levels with specific powers conducive to tribal requirements
- To prevent panchayats at the higher level from assuming the powers and authority of panchayats at the lower level of the Gram Sabha

It does not have any provisions for creating any autonomous regions.

Q.87) Solution (b)

Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is one of the standing parliamentary committees, which was first established in 1921 under the Government of India Act 1919 provisions. This committee examines the manners and results of spending the public funds.

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is a committee of selected members of Parliament, constituted by the Parliament of India, for the auditing of the revenue and the expenditure of the Government of India.

The PAC is formed every year with a strength of not more than 22 members of which 15 are from Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Parliament, and 7 from Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament. The term of office of the members is one year. The Chairman is appointed by the Speaker of Lok Sabha. Since 1967, the chairman of the committee is selected from the opposition. Earlier, it was headed by a member of the ruling party.

Q.88) Solution (c)

Article 356 is inspired by sections 93 of the Government of India Act, 1935, which provided that if a Governor of a province was satisfied that a situation had arisen in which the government of the province cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the said Act, he could assume to himself all or any of the powers of the government and discharge those functions in his discretion.

Q.89) Solution (a)

## Lapsing of Bills

- A bill originated in the Lok Sabha but pending in the Lok Sabha – lapses.
- A bill originated and passed by the Rajya Sabha but pending in Lok Sabha – lapses.
- A bill originated and passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha – lapses.
- A bill originated in the Rajya Sabha and returned to that House by the Lok Sabha with amendments and still pending in the Rajya Sabha on the date of the dissolution of Lok Sabha- lapses.
- A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha does not lapse.

- If the president has notified the holding of a joint sitting before the dissolution of Lok Sabha, does not lapse.
- A bill passed by both Houses but pending assent of the president does not lapse.
- A bill passed by both Houses but returned by the president for reconsideration of Rajya Sabha does not lapse.
- Some pending bills and all pending assurances that are to be examined by the Committee on Government Assurances do not lapse on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

## Q.90) Solution (d)

The third action plan comes after the first plan in 1983 and second from 2002 till 2016. The third National Wildlife Action Plan is unique as this is the first time India has recognised the concerns relating to climate change impact on wildlife and stressed on integrating actions that need to be taken for its mitigation and adaptation into wildlife management planning processes.

The plan adopts a “landscape approach” in conservation of all wildlife – uncultivated flora and fauna – that have an ecological value to the ecosystem and to mankind irrespective of where they occur. It gives special emphasis to recovery of threatened species of wildlife while conserving their habitats.

The government has also underlined an increased role of private sector in wildlife conservation. The plan lays down that the Centre would ensure that adequate and sustained funding including Corporate Social Responsibility funds are made available for the National Wildlife Action Plan implementation.

## Q.91) Solution (c)

### Flue-gas desulfurization

- Flue-gas desulfurization (FGD) is a set of technologies used to remove sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) from exhaust flue gases of fossil-fuel power plants, and from the emissions of other sulphur oxide emitting processes.

### Flue gas

- It is the gas exiting to the atmosphere via a flue, which is a pipe or channel for conveying exhaust gases from a fireplace, oven, furnace, boiler or steam generator.
- It will usually consist of mostly nitrogen (typically more than two-thirds) derived from the combustion of air, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), and water vapour as well as excess oxygen (also derived from the combustion air).
- It further contains a small percentage of a number of pollutants, such as particulate matter (like soot), carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and sulphur oxides.

Lime plays a key role in many air pollution control applications. Lime is used to remove acidic gases, particularly sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and hydrogen chloride (HCl), from flue gases. Lime-based technology is also being evaluated for the removal of mercury.

Q.92) Solution (b)

*Prosopis cineraria*, locally called as Khejri or Jandi is an indigenous tree, which effectively stabilizes sand dunes and can withstand periodic burial. Culturally, the tree holds a very important place in lives Rajasthani people, especially the Bishnois.

The khejri tree is adapted to withstand both frost and drought, and survives both high temperature and low. It is known to improve soil fertility; it aids nitrate retention in soil.

Q.93) Solution (a)

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement on biosafety as a supplement to the Convention on Biological Diversity effective since 2003. The Biosafety Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by genetically modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology.

The Aarhus Convention grants the public rights regarding access to information, public participation and access to justice, in governmental decision-making processes on matters concerning the local, national and transboundary environment. It focuses on interactions between the public and public authorities.



Q.94) Solution (d)

Kanha has become the first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot — Bhoorsingh the Barasingha — to present the hard ground swamp deer as the spirit of the reserve and spread awareness to save it from possible extinction. Barasingha, or swamp deer, is the state animal of Madhya Pradesh.

Q.95) Solution (d)

The Krishna river's source is at Mahabaleswar near the Jor village in the extreme north of Wai Taluka, Satara District, Maharashtra in the west and empties into the Bay of Bengal at Hamasaladeevi (near Koduru) in Andhra Pradesh, on the east coast. It flows through the state of Karnataka before entering Telangana State. The delta of this river is one of the most fertile regions in India and was the home to ancient Satavahana and Ikshvaku Sun Dynasty kings. Vijayawada is the largest city on the River Krishna.

Q.96) Solution (a)

Swajal is a community owned drinking water programme for sustained drinking water supply. Under the scheme, 90% of the project cost will be taken care by the Government and the remaining 10% of the project cost will be contributed by the community. The Operations and management of the project will be taken care by the local villagers. It is under the aegis of Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation.

Q.97) Solution (d)

The Ujh project is a step towards India's utilisation of waters of the Indus and its tributaries in keeping with its rights under the treaty.

The project, which is to come up in Kathua district, will store around 0.65 million acre feet (MAF) of water from Ujh (a tributary of Ravi) to irrigate 30,000 hectares and produce over 200 MW of power.



Q.98) Solution (a)

Statement 2 is incorrect.

The IALA, having headquarters at St. Germainen Laye (France) was established in 1957 under French law. It is governed by a General Assembly having 83 National members, with its Council as the executive body.

The IALA council consists of 24 National Members and India is one of the council members represented through the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL), Ministry of Shipping.

DGLL establishes and maintains Aids to Navigation in general waters along coast of India including A&N and Lakshadweep group of islands, as per Lighthouse Act 1927.

Q.99) Solution (b)

Self-Explanatory

Q.100) Solution (c)

GST has an Anti-profiteering clause that allows consumers to complain against companies not passing on the benefits of reduced rates or input tax credit

### **Do you know?**

Australia incorporated this clause in July 2000 with the aim of educating businesses and avoiding litigation, once implemented.

Clause 171 has been inserted in the GST bill which provides that it is mandatory to pass on the benefit due to reduction in rate of tax or from input tax credit to the consumer by way of commensurate reduction in prices.

This clause further provides for the establishment of an authority against anti-profiteering in order to ensure its compliance. While the end consumer may have some reason to cheer, the industry is still doubtful of its implementation.