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Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Markandeshwar temple'

1. It belongs to the Svetambara sect of Jainism
2. It is situated on the bank of River Wainganga

Select the correct statement

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

Q.1) Solution (b)

Known as the "Khajuraho of Vidarbha", the temple of Markandadeo is situated on the bank of River Wainganga in district Gadchiroli of Maharashtra. The temples belong to the Nagara group of temples of North India. On stylistic grounds, their date ranges in between 9-12th centuries CE. The temples belong to saiva, vaishnava and sakta faith. Most of the temples have a simple plan, with ardhmandapa, mandapa, antarala and garbhagriha forming the component of the entire set up.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1579025>

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bureau of Indian Standards'

1. It has been established as the National Standards Body of India under the BIS Act, 2016.
2. The standards and certification scheme of BIS supports various public policies in areas of product safety, consumer protection, food safety, environment protection, building and construction, etc.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

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BIS has been established as the National Standards Body of India under the BIS Act, 2016. The main objectives of BIS is harmonious development of activities of Standardisation, marking and quality certification of goods. The standards and certification scheme of BIS apart from benefitting the consumers and industry also support various public policies especially in areas of product safety, consumer protection, food safety, environment protection, building and construction, etc. New thrust areas identified in standardization are (i) Alternate fuels, (ii) E-mobility, (iii) Medical Devices, (iv) Smart Cities, (v) Digital Technologies (e.g. Industry 4.0, Artificial Intelligence, Block Chain etc.) and (vi) New and Renewable energy.

Some of the important initiatives taken for effective implementation of the BIS Act, 2016 are:

- Notification of new BIS (Hallmarking) Regulations, 2018 under the Act. The Central Government has also notified “Gold jewellery and gold artefacts” and “Silver jewellery and silver artefacts” to be marked with Hallmark.
- The BIS (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018 has been notified under the Act. The Regulations provide for multiple types of simplified conformity assessment schemes including Self Declaration Of Conformity (SDOC) against any standard which will give multiple simplified options to manufacturers to adhere to the standards and get certificate of conformity, thus improving the “ease of doing business”.
- Penal provisions for better and effective compliance and to enable compounding of offences for violations have been made stringent under new regulation.
- Guideline for procedure to be followed by the line Ministries for making the use of a mark under licence or certificate of conformity compulsory, and also procedure for approving and authorizing any other agency, for carrying out conformity assessment activities under Section 16(1) of BIS Act 2016.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1578906>

Q.3) 'Pink Bollworm' primarily affects which of the following crops?

- a) Maize
- b) Paddy
- c) Wheat
- d) Cotton

Q.3) Solution (d)

The pink bollworm is an insect known for being a pest in cotton farming.

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The pink bollworm is native to Asia, but has become an invasive species in most of the world's cotton-growing regions.

In parts of India, the pink bollworm is now resistant to first generation transgenic Bt cotton (Bollgard cotton) that expresses a single Bt gene (Cry1Ac).

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1578972>

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Financial Action Task Force (FATF)'

1. It is an inter-governmental body
2. It reviews money laundering and terrorist financing measures taken by countries

Select the correct statements

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

Q.4) Solution (c)

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of international financial systems. FATF reviews money laundering and terrorist financing measures taken by countries.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1578950>

Q.5) Broadband Readiness Index (BRI) for Indian States and UTs will be developed by

1. NITI Aayog
2. Department of Telecom
3. Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)
4. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

Select the correct statements

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

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d) 2 and 4

Q.5) Solution (b)

The Department of Telecom and the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) signed a MoU to develop a Broadband Readiness Index (BRI) for Indian States and UTs.

The National Digital Communication Policy (NDCP) 2018 acknowledged the need for building a robust digital communications infrastructure leveraging existing assets of the broadcasting and power sectors.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1578920>

