



**PRELIMS
GENERAL STUDIES 2017
SERIES- A
WITH NOTES**

- With reference to the Parliament of India, consider the following statements:
 1. A private member's bill is a bill presented by a Member of Parliament who is not elected but only nominated by the President of India
 2. Recently, a private member's bill has been passed in the Parliament of India for the first time in its history.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Private Member Bill

- A bill introduced by the Member of Parliament (MP) who is not a Minister, i.e., a non-government member is known as the **Private Members' bill**. Members of Parliament (MPs) other than ministers are **private members**.
- The purpose of **private member's bill** is to draw the government's attention to what individual MPs see as issues and gaps in the existing legal framework, which require legislative intervention.
- Its introduction in the House requires **one month's notice**.
- The government bills can be introduced and discussed on any day, private member's bills can be introduced and discussed **only on Fridays**.

Private Member Bill

- The last time a private member's bill was passed by both Houses was in **1970**.
- It was the **Supreme Court (Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction) Bill, 1968**.
- 4 private member's bills – five of which were introduced in Rajya Sabha - have become law so far. Some other private member bills that have become laws include - Proceedings of Legislature (Protection of Publication) Bill, 1956, in the Lok Sabha;
- The Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1964, introduced by in the Lok Sabha and
- The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1967 introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

- With reference to the difference between the culture of Rigvedic Aryans and Indus Valley people, which of the following statements is/are correct?
 1. Rigvedic Aryans used the coat of mail and helmet in warfare whereas the people of Indus Valley Civilization did not leave any evidence of using them.
 2. Rigvedic Aryans knew gold, silver and copper whereas Indus Valley people knew only copper and iron
 3. Rigvedic Aryans had domesticated the horse whereas there is no evidence of Indus Valley people having been aware of this animal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A) 1 only B) 2 and 3 only
C) 1 and 3 only D) 1,2 and 3

The Indus Valley

- The Indus valley people knew the use of copper, bronze, silver, gold but not iron.
- To say that “there is no evidence of Indus Valley people having been aware of this animal” is WRONG because there is no conclusive evidence that tells us whether they knew about horses, or whether they were aware of horses. We have insufficient evidence to claim anything about the connection between horses and Indus valley.

- ‘Recognition of Prior Learning Scheme’ is sometimes mentioned in the news with reference to
 - A) Certifying the skills acquired by construction workers through traditional channels
 - B) Enrolling the persons in Universities for distance learning programmes
 - C) Reserving some skilled jobs to rural and urban poor in some public sector undertakings
 - D) Certifying the skills acquired by trainees under the National Skill Development Programme.

Recognition of Prior Learning

- This is where Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) can help them get assessed and certified on their current competencies as per NSQF levels
- **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** is a platform to provide recognition to the informal learning or learning through work to get equal acceptance as the formal levels of education. It aims to appreciate prior learning irrespective of the medium of achieving it.

- From the ecological point of view, which one of the following assumes importance in being a good link between the Eastern Ghats and the Western Ghats?
 - A) Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
 - B) Nallamala Forest
 - C) Nagarhole National Park
 - D) Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve

Sathyamangalam forest

- Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary and Tiger Reserve is a protected area and tiger reserve along the Western Ghats in Erode District of Tamil Nadu.
- Sathyamangalam forest range is a significant wildlife corridor in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve between the Western Ghats and the rest of the Eastern Ghats and a genetic link between the four other protected areas which it adjoins, including the Billigiriranga Swamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary, Sigur Plateau, Mudumalai National Park and Bandipur National Park.
- Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve is Contiguous with the forests of Bandipur and Mudumalai tiger reserves.

- One of the implications of equality in society is the absence of
 - A) Privileges
 - B) Restraints
 - C) Competition
 - D) Ideology

Article 18

- Article 18 of the constitution justifies equality. Under Right to equality, A18 abolishes titular privileges (except military or academic) granted to citizens of India.

- Consider the following statements in respect of Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC):
 1. TRAFFIC is a bureau under United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
 2. The mission of TRAFFIC is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

TRAFFIC

- Illegal wildlife trade is one of the main reasons that many species are endangered
- TRAFFIC is governed by the TRAFFIC Committee, a steering group composed of members of TRAFFIC's partner organizations, WWF and IUCN.
- TRAFFIC is an NGO. It was created in 1976
- TRAFFIC focuses on leveraging resources, expertise and awareness of the latest globally urgent species trade issues such as tiger parts, elephant ivory and rhino horn.
- It specializes in investigating and analysing wildlife trade trends, patterns, impacts and drivers to provide the leading knowledge base on trade in wild animals and plants.

- Which principle among the following was added to the Directive Principles of State Policy by the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution?
 - A) Equal pay for equal work for both men and women
 - B) Participation of workers in the management of industries
 - C) Right to work, education and public assistance
 - D) Securing living wage and human conditions of work to workers

42nd Amendment

- The 42nd Amendment added new Directive Principles, viz Article 39A, Article 43A and Article 48A.
- Article 43A deals with 'Participation of workers in management of industries'.

- Which one of the following statements is correct?
 - A) Rights are claims of the State against the citizens
 - B) Rights are privileges which are incorporated in the Constitution of a State
 - C) Rights are claims of the citizens against the State
 - D) Rights are privileges of a few citizens against the many

Philosophy of Rights

- The philosophy of rights is grounded in preventing the exploitation of the citizen by the state. So, essentially it is the claim of an individual against the state.
- Rights are not privileges, they are the bare minimum for the formation of a democratic state. Also, the constitution abolishes the concept of special privileges.

- Which of the following gives 'Global Gender Gap Index' ranking to the countries of the world?
 - A) World Economic Forum
 - B) UN Human Rights Council
 - C) UN Women
 - D) World Health Organization

Global Gender Gap Index

- The Global Gender Gap Report was first published in 2006 by the World Economic Forum. The 2020 report (published in 2019) covers 153 countries. The Global Gender Gap Index is an index designed to measure gender equality.
- India slips four ranks on World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2020. New Delhi: India has slipped to the 112th spot from its 108th position in 2018 in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2020, which covered 153 economies.
- Gender parity is a statistical measure that provides a numerical value of female-to-male or girl-to-boy ratio for indicators such as income or education. For example, if there are equal number of girls and boys who completed primary education in a specific country, the gender parity ratio for that indicator is one.

- Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Smart India Hackathon 2017?
 1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme for developing every city of our country into Smart Cities in a decade.
 2. It is an initiative to identify new digital technology innovations for solving the many problems faced by our country
 3. It is a programme aimed at making all the financial transactions in our country completely digital in a decade

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A) 1 and 3 only | B) 2 only |
| C) 3 only | D) 2 and 3 only |

Hackathon 2017

- It was a digital product development competition during which teams of thousands of technology students built innovative digital solutions for the problems posted by different central govt. ministries/ departments.
- It is a part of Digital India programme of the government.

- Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?

1. It decides the RBI's benchmark interest rates
2. It is a 12-member body including the Governor of RBI and is reconstituted every year
3. It functions under the chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| A) 1 only | B) 1 and 2 only |
| C) 3 only | D) 2 and 3 only |

- It consists of six members (RBI Governor, Deputy Gov RBI, One RBI officer and three members nominated by the government), and they hold office for a period of four years.
- The Governor of the RBI is the ex-officio Chairperson of MPC.

- With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements:

1. It is a song and dance performance
2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance
3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1,2 and 3 B) 1 and 3 only
C) 2 and 3 only D) 1 only

Sankirtana

- Sankirtana is one of the few important Indian heritages inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- Sankirtana performers narrate the lives and deeds of Krishna through ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur.
- Drums are also used

- Who among the following was/were associated with the introduction of Ryotwari Settlement in India during the British rule?

1. Lord Cornwallis
2. Alexander Read
3. Thomas Munro

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A) 1 only | B) 1 and 3 only |
| C) 2 and 3 only | D) 1,2 and 3 |

Ryotwari system

- The Ryotwari system was devised by Capt. Alexander Read and Thomas Munro at the end of the 18th century. It was later introduced by Thomas Munro when he was governor (1820-27) of Madras.
- The principle behind Roytwari was the direct collection of the land revenue from each individual cultivator by government agents.

- In the context of solving pollution problems, what is/are the advantage/advantages of bioremediation technique?
 1. It is a technique for cleaning up pollution by enhancing the same biodegradation process that occurs in nature
 2. Any contaminant with heavy metals such as cadmium and lead can be readily and completely treated by bioremediation using microorganisms
 3. Genetic engineering can be used to create microorganisms specifically designed for bioremediation

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| A) 1 only | B) 2 and 3 only |
| B) C) 1 and 3 only | D) 1,2 and 3 |

Bioremediation

- Bioremediation uses naturally occurring organisms to break down hazardous substances into less toxic or non toxic substances.
- Bio-remediation is a slow process, so. Heavy metals such as cadmium and lead are NOT readily absorbed or captured by microorganisms.
- Some examples of bioremediation related technologies are phytoremediation, mycoremediation, bioventing, bioleaching, landfarming, bioreactor, composting, bioaugmentation, rhizofiltration, and biostimulation.
- There are two types of bioremediation, in situ and ex situ.
- Genetically modified *Alcanivorax*, a bacteria with oil-eating abilities, can be used to create species that are much more capable of cleaning oil spills.

- The Trade Disputes Act of 1929 provided for
 - A) the participation of workers in the management of industries
 - B) arbitrary powers to the management to quell industrial disputes
 - C) an intervention by the British Court in the event of a trade dispute
 - D) a system of tribunals and a ban on strikes

Trade Disputes Act of 1929

- Prior to the year 1947 (India's Independence), The Trade Disputes Act, 1929 used to settle industrial disputes.
- The main object of the 1929 Act was to make provisions for establishment of Courts of Inquiry and Boards of Conciliation with a view to investigate and settle trade disputes.
- The Act prohibited strikes or lock-outs without notice in public utility services; it also made any strike or lock-out illegal which had any object other than the furtherance of a trade dispute within the trade or industry.

- Local Self-government can be best explained as an exercise in
 - A) Federalism
 - B) Democratic decentralization
 - C) Administrative delegation
 - D) Direct democracy

Local Self Government

- Decentralization and grass roots empowerment are the core guiding principles of local self-government as under 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment. For e.g. Gram Panchayats can sanction sanitation and welfare projects on their own.

- Consider the following statements:

With reference to the Constitution of India, the Directive Principles of State Policy constitute limitations upon

1. Legislative function
2. Executive function

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| A) 1 only | B) 2 only |
| C) Both 1 and 2 | D) Neither 1 nor 2 |

Directive Principles

- It is the fundamental rights that constitute limitations upon state action (whether legislative or executive).
- The directive principles are in the nature of instruments of instruction to the government of the day to achieve certain ends by their actions. It guides them, not restricts them.

- The term 'Digital Single Market Strategy' seen in the news refers to
 - A) ASEAN
 - B) BRICS
 - C) EU
 - D) G20

Digital Single Market Strategy

- The Digital Single Market is part of the Digital Agenda for Europe 2020 program of the EU, an initiative of Europe 2020 proposed strategy.
- The three said “pillars” of the European Commission strategy are:
 - ❖ Access to online products and services
 - ❖ Conditions for digital networks and services to grow and thrive
 - ❖ Growth of the European digital economy

- At one of the places in India, if you stand on the seashore and watch the sea, you will find that the sea water recedes from the shore line a few kilometers and comes back to the shore, twice a day, and you can actually walk on the sea floor when the water recedes. This unique phenomenon is seen at
 - A) Bhavnagar
 - B) Bheemunipatnam
 - C) Chandipur
 - D) Nagapattinam

Chandipur

- Chandipur-on-sea (Odisha) beach is unique in that the water recedes up to 5 kilometers during the ebb tide.
- You can ‘literally’ walk into the beach as the sea water recedes away from the shore line during the ebb tide (time period between the high tide and the low tide).
- **Chandipur**, (aka **Chandipur-on-sea**) is a sea resort in Balasore district of Odisha. The beach is about 16 km from Balasore and has been listed by Lonely Planet (world's renowned travel expert) as one of world's most unusual beaches. **Chandipur** is famous for its seafood - the prawns and pomfrets.
- The **Chandipur** beach is also well known for its proximity to the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Integrated Test Range. A number of missiles have been launched from here, including Akash, Agni, Shaurya and Prithvi ballistic missiles.

- With reference to the 'Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act', 1988 (PBPT Act), consider the following statements:
 1. A property transaction is not treated as a benami transaction if the owner of the property is not aware of the transaction
 2. Properties held benami are liable for confiscation by the Government
 3. The Act provides for three authorities for investigations but does not provide for any appellate mechanism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
C) 1 and 3 only D) 2 and 3 only

Benami Property Transactions Act 1988

- Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988 has been amended by the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016 (BTP Amendment Act).
- Properties held benami are liable for confiscation by the Government without payment of compensation.
- An appellate mechanism has been provided under the PBPT Act in the form of Adjudicating Authority and Appellate Tribunal.

- Due to some reasons, if there is a huge fall in the population of species of butterflies, what could be its likely consequence/consequences?
 1. Pollination of some plants could be adversely affected.
 2. There could be a drastic increase in fungal infections of some cultivated plants
 3. It could lead to a fall in the population of some species of wasps, spiders and birds.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A) 1 only | B) 2 and 3 only |
| C) 1 and 3 only | D) 1,2 and 3 |

Bees and Food Chain

- Bees and butterflies play a vital role in the pollination of plants and the production of crops by transporting pollen grains from one place to another.
- These are some of the common predators of butterflies: wasps, ants, parasitic flies, birds, snakes, toads, rats etc. The decline in butterfly population would therefore adversely affect the food chain.

- It is possible to produce algae based biofuels, but what is/are the likely limitation(s) of developing countries in promoting this industry?
 1. Production of algae based biofuels is possible in seas only and not on continents
 2. Setting up and engineering the algae based biofuel production requires high level of expertise/technology until the construction is completed.
 3. Economically viable production necessitates the setting up of large scale facilities which may raise ecological and social concerns.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A) 1 and 2 only | B) 2 and 3 only |
| C) 3 only | D) 1,2 and 3 |

Algae based bio-fuel

- Algaculture (farming algae) can be initiated on land unsuitable for agriculture or saline water or wastewater.
- Producing biofuels from algae is still in a pre-commercial state of technology development. Most production plants are therefore prototypes, and the development and engineering of such plants requires a high level of expertise.
- Using the land allotted to food crops to algal biofuel reduces the amount of food available for humans, resulting in an increased cost for both the food and the fuel produced. This is an ecological as well as economic concern.

- Which of the following are the objectives of 'National Nutrition Mission' ?
 1. To create awareness relating to malnutrition among pregnant women and lactating mothers.
 2. To reduce the incidence of anemia among young young children, adolescent girls and women
 3. To promote the consumption of millets, coarse cereals and unpolished rice
 4. To promote the consumption of poultry eggs

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A) 1 and 2 only
C) 1,2 and 4 only

B) 1,2 and 3 only
D) 3 and 4 only

National Nutrition Mission

The objectives of 'National Nutrition Mission' are:

- To create awareness relating to malnutrition among pregnant women and lactating mothers and importance of balanced nutrition
- To improve maternal and child under-nutrition in 200 high burdened districts and to prevent and reduce the under-nutrition prevalent among children below 3 years;
- To reduce the incidence of anaemia among young children, adolescent girls and women.
- There are two components of the National Nutrition Mission as follows:
- Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign against malnutrition & Multi-sectoral Nutrition Programme

- Consider the following statements:
 1. The Factories Act, 1881 was passed with a view to fix the wages of industrial workers and to allow the workers to form trade unions
 2. N M Lokhande was a pioneer in organizing the labour movement in British India.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| A) 1 only | B) 2 only |
| C) Both 1 and 2 | D) Neither 1 nor 2 |

The Factories Act, 1881

- The 1881 Act aimed to improve working conditions of labour.
- It prohibited the employment of children under the age of seven, limited the number of working hours for children below the age of twelve and required that dangerous machinery should be fenced properly.
- Lokhande was a pioneer of the labour movement in India. He is remembered not only for ameliorating the working conditions of textile mill-hands in the 19th century but also for his courageous initiatives on caste and communal issues.

- In the context of mitigating the impending global warming due to anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide, which of the following can be the potential sites for carbon sequestration?
 1. Abandoned and uneconomic coal seams
 2. Depleted oil and gas reservoirs
 3. Subterranean deep saline formations

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| A) 1 and 2 only | B) 3 only |
| C) 1 and 3 only | D) 1,2 and 3 |

Geo-sequestration

- Geo-sequestration is a method that involves injecting carbon dioxide, generally in supercritical form, directly into underground geological formations.
- Un-mineable coal seams can be used to store CO₂ because the CO₂ molecules attach to the surface of coal.
- CO₂ is sometimes injected into declining oil fields to increase oil recovery.
- Other potential sites are gas fields, saline formations (statement 3), un-mineable coal seams, and saline-filled basalt formations can act as storage sites.
- After sequestration, various physical (e.g., highly impermeable caprock) and geochemical trapping mechanisms prevent the CO₂ from escaping to the surface.

- The object of the Butler Committee of 1927 was to
 - A) Define the jurisdiction of the Central and Provincial Governments
 - B) Define the powers of the Secretary of State for India
 - C) Impose censorship on national press
 - D) Improve the relationship between the Government of India and the Indian States.

Harcourt Butler Committee 1927

- It was also known as the Indian states committee.
- Relations between the Indian Princes and the crown were not well defined because the extent of sovereignty of the Paramount power was not settled properly.
- The Indian states committee (under the Chairmanship of Harcourt Butler) in 1927 was appointed to investigate and clarify the relationship between the paramount power and the Princes.

- The term ‘Domestic Content Requirement’ is sometimes seen in the news with reference to
 - A) Developing solar power production in our country
 - B) Granting licenses to foreign TV channels in our country
 - C) Exporting our food products to other countries
 - D) Permitting foreign educational institutions to set up their campuses in our country

Domestic Content Requirement

- India's Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) favours Indian manufacturers of solar panels and cells in government procurement. This is known as DCR.
- The WTO's Appellate Body has declared domestic content requirement (DCRs) in JNNSM as illegal.
- The US alleged that India's subsidies for the JNNSM discriminates against foreign suppliers of solar component.
- The primary point of conflict is with regards to government entering into long term electricity purchase contract with eligible solar power developers (SPDs), assuring them guaranteed prices for 25 years.

- Consider the following statements:
 1. The Nuclear Security Summits are periodically held under the aegis of the United Nations
 2. The International Panel on Fissile Materials is an organ of International Atomic Energy Agency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

The International Panel on Fissile Materials

- Established in 2006, it is a group of independent nuclear experts from 18 countries: Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Iran, Japan, the Netherlands, Mexico, Norway, Pakistan, South Korea, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- It aims to advance international initiatives to “secure and to sharply reduce all stocks of highly enriched uranium and separated plutonium, the key materials in nuclear weapons, and to limit any further production”

- Who among the following can join the National Pension System (NPS)?
 - A) Resident Indian citizen only
 - B) Persons of age from 21 to 55 only
 - C) All State Government employees joining the services after the date of notification by the respective State Governments
 - D) All Central Government employees including those of Armed Forces joining the services on or after 1st April, 2004

NPS

- A citizen of India, whether resident or non-resident can join NPS, subject to that he should be between 18 and 60 years old.
- NPS is applicable to all new employees of Central Government service (except Armed Forces) and Central Autonomous Bodies joining Government service on or after 1st January 2004.

- With reference to river Teesta, consider the following statements:
 1. The source of river Teesta is the same as that of Brahmaputra but it flows through Sikkim
 2. River Rangeet originates in Sikkim and it is a tributary of river Teesta
 3. River Teesta flows into Bay of Bengal on the border of India and Bangladesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| A) 1 and 3 only | B) 2 only |
| C) 2 and 3 only | D) 1,2 and 3 |

Teesta

- Teesta River originates from the Pahunri glacier.
- Brahmaputra originates in Angsi glacier.
- Teesta flows through West Bengal and Sikkim, before going to Bay of Bengal through Bangladesh.

- Consider the following statements:
 1. In tropical regions, Zika virus disease is transmitted by the same mosquito that transmits dengue.
 2. Sexual transmission of Zika virus disease is possible

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

Zika

- Zika virus is transmitted to people primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito (*Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus*). These are the same mosquitoes that spread dengue and chikungunya viruses.
- Zika can be passed through sex from a person who has Zika to his or her partners. Zika can be passed through sex, even if the infected person does not have symptoms at the time.

- Consider the following statements:
 1. The Standard Mark of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is mandatory for automotive tires and tubes
 2. AGMARK is a quality Certification Mark issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

BIS/ FSSAI/AGMARK

- AGMARK is a certification mark employed on agricultural products in India, assuring that they conform to a set of standards approved by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, an agency of the Government of India.
- The primary difference between an AGMARK and FSSAI license is that AGMARK is a certification while FSSAI is a government agency. AGMARK is an inspection seal provided for quality of Agricultural Products whereas, FSSAI Licensing covers every food item whether agricultural or non-agricultural.
- **BIS Certification** is a means for providing third party guarantee of quality, safety and reliability of products to the customer. **BIS Certification** is voluntary in nature; however, the Government of India has made **BIS certification** mandatory for certain products taking into consideration public health.

- What is/are the advantage/advantages of implementing the 'National Agriculture Market' scheme?
 1. It is a pan-India electronic trading portal for agricultural commodities.
 2. It provides the farmers access to nationwide market, with prices commensurate with the quality of their produce.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

NAM

- National Agriculture Market (NAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.
- It removes information asymmetry between buyers and sellers and promotes real time price discovery, based on actual demand and supply, promotes transparency in auction process, and access to a nationwide market for the farmer, with prices commensurate with quality of his produce and online payment and availability of better quality produce and at more reasonable prices to the consumer.

- With reference to the ‘National Intellectual Property Rights Policy’, consider the following statements:
 1. It reiterates India’s commitment to the Doha Development Agenda and the TRIPS Agreement
 2. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is the nodal agency for regulating intellectual property rights in India

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| A) 1 only | B) 2 only |
| C) Both 1 and 2 | D) Neither 1 nor 2 |

Intellectual Property

- While reiterating India's commitment to the Doha Development Agenda and the TRIPS Agreement, the 'National Intellectual Property Rights Policy', was introduced.
- Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is the nodal agency for regulating intellectual property rights in India.
- The action by different Ministries/ Departments shall be monitored by DIPP which shall be the nodal department to coordinate, guide and oversee implementation and future development of IPRs in India.

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- According to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which of the following animals cannot be hunted by any person except under some provisions provided by law?
 1. Gharial
 2. Indian wild ass
 3. Wild buffalo

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- A) 1 only B) 2 and 3 only
C) 1 and 3 only D) 1,2 and 3

Wildlife Act

- All of these are protected scheduled animals under the Wildlife Act, so can not be hunted.
- It provides for the appointment of **wildlife** advisory Board, **Wildlife** warden, their powers, duties etc. Under the Act, comprehensive listing of endangered **wild life** species was done for the first time and prohibition of hunting of the endangered species was mentioned.
- It has **six schedules** which give varying degrees of protection. **Schedule I** and part II of **Schedule II** provide absolute protection - offences under these are prescribed the highest penalties. Species listed in **Schedule III** and **Schedule IV** are also protected, but the penalties are much lower.

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- Which of the following statements is/are true of the Fundamental Duties of an Indian citizen?
- 1. A Legislative process has been provided to enforce these duties
 2. They are correlative to legal duties

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

- Consider the following pairs:

1. Radhakanta Deb. ::::: First President of the British Indian Association
2. Gazulu Lakshminarasu Chetty ::::: Founder of the Madras Mahajana Sabha
3. Surendranath Banerjee ::::: Founder of the Indian Association

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- A) 1 only
- B) 1 and 3 only
- C) 2 and 3 only
- D) 1,2 and 3

- Which one of the following objectives is not embodied in the Preamble to the Constitution of India?
 - A) Liberty of thought
 - B) Economic liberty
 - C) Liberty of expression
 - D) Liberty of belief

- With reference to “Quality Council of India (QCI)”, consider the following statements:
 1. QCI was set up jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry
 2. Chairman of QCI is appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendations of the industry to the Government.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Quality Council of India

- Quality Council of India (QCI) is an experiment of the GOI in setting up organizations in partnership with the Indian industry.
- QCI is governed by a Council comprising of 38 members including the Chairman and Secretary General where the Chairman is nominated by Prime Minister of India.
- Its current Chairman is Adil Zainulbhai and the Executive Head (Secretary General) is Dr Ravi P Singh. Chairman of QCI is nominated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and is a non-executive post.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards Body of India, is a statutory body set up under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986. ... Quality Council of India (QCI) is National Accreditation body. It is an autonomous body under Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

- What is the purpose of setting up of Small Finance Banks (SFBs) in India?
 1. To supply credit to small business units
 2. To supply credit to small and marginal farmers
 3. To encourage young entrepreneurs to set up business particularly in rural areas

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A) 1 and 2 only
C) 1 and 3 only

B) 2 and 3 only
D) 1,2 and 3

Small Finance Banks

- As per RBI Guidelines, “The objectives of setting up of small finance banks will be to further financial inclusion by (a) provision of savings vehicles, and (ii) supply of credit to small business units; small and marginal farmers; micro and small industries; and other unorganised sector entities, through high technology-low cost operations.” It will thus support unserved and underserved sections.
- However, apart from the provision of credit, there is no explicit provision that SFBs have been setup to encourage setting of businesses in rural areas.

- With reference to ‘Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)’, consider the following statements:
 1. The first APMCHUD was held in India in 2006 on the theme ‘Emerging Urban Forms - Policy Responses and Governance Structure.’
 2. India hosts all the Annual Ministerial Conferences in partnership with ADB, APEC and ASEAN.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

APMCHUD

- The 2006 New Delhi APMCHUD conference theme was “A vision for sustainable urbanisation in the Asia-Pacific by 2020”.
- Second Conference was held in Tehran, Iran.

- Democracy's superior virtue lies in the fact that it calls into activity
 - A) the intelligence and character of ordinary men and women
 - B) the methods for strengthening executive leadership
 - C) a superior individual with dynamism and vision
 - D) a band of dedicated party workers

- Which of the following is a most likely consequence of implementing the 'Unified Payments Interface (UPI)'?
 - A) Mobile wallets will not be necessary for online payments.
 - B) Digital currency will totally replace the physical currency in about two decades
 - C) FDI inflows will drastically increase
 - D) Direct transfer of subsidies to poor people will become very effective

UPI

- UPI allows a customer to pay directly from a bank account to different merchants, both online and offline, without the hassle of typing credit card details, IFSC code, or net banking/wallet passwords.

- The terms ‘Event Horizon’, ‘Singularity’, ‘String Theory’ and ‘Standard Model’ are sometimes seen in the news in the context of
 - A) Observation and understanding of the Universe
 - B) Study of the solar and lunar eclipses
 - C) Placing satellites in the orbit of the Earth
 - D) Origin and evolution of living organisms on the Earth

Black Holes

- Singularity and event horizons are related to Black Holes.
- Standard model of physics tries to explain universal phenomena.
- String theory is used in the context of quantum physics that is used to understand quantum phenomena.

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- With reference to agriculture in India, how can the technique of 'genome sequencing', often seen in the news, be used in the immediate future?
 1. Genome sequencing can be used to identify genetic markers for disease resistance and drought tolerance in various crop plants
 2. This technique helps in reducing the time required to develop new varieties of crop plants
 3. It can be used to decipher the host-pathogen relationships in crops

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A) 1 only | B) 2 and 3 only |
| C) 1 and 3 only | D) 1,2 and 3 |

Genome Sequencing

- Genome sequencing is figuring out the order of DNA nucleotides, or bases, in a genome—the order of As, Cs, Gs, and Ts that make up an organism's DNA.

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- The main advantage of the parliamentary form of government is that
 - A) the executive and legislature work independently
 - B) it provides continuity of policy and is more efficient
 - C) the executive remains responsible to the legislature
 - D) the head of the government cannot be changed without election

- In the context of India, which one of the following is the correct relationship between Rights and Duties?
 - A) Rights are correlative with Duties
 - B) Rights are personal and hence independent of society and Duties
 - C) Rights, not Duties, are important for the advancement of the personality of the citizen
 - D) Duties not Rights are important for the stability of the State

Rights and duties

- Rights and duties have an organic relationship. One cannot enjoy a right if others do not obey their duties.
- For e.g. you can't enjoy your Right to a clean environment if others do not perform their duty of protecting and conserving the environment.

- The mind of the makers of the Constitution of India is reflected in which of the following?
 - A) The Preamble
 - B) The Fundamental Rights
 - C) The Directive Principles of State Policy
 - D) The Fundamental Duties

- If you travel by road from Kohima to Kottayam, what is the minimum number of States with in India through which you can travel, including the origin and the destination?
A) 6
B) 7
C) 8
D) 9

- The Parliament of India exercises control over the functions of the Council of Ministers through
 1. Adjournment motion
 2. Question hour
 3. Supplementary questions

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A) 1 only B) 2 and 3 only
C) 1 and 3 only D) 1,2 and 3

- Which one of the following was a very important seaport in Kakatiya Kingdom?
 - A) Kakinada
 - B) Motupalli
 - C) Machilipatnam (Masulipatnam)
 - D) Nelluru

- With reference to ‘Global Climate Change Alliance,’ which of the following statements is/are correct?
 1. It is an initiative of the European Union
 2. It provides technical and financial support to targeted developing countries to integrate climate change into their development policies and budgets.
 3. It is coordinated by World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| A) 1 and 2 only | B) 3 only |
| C) 2 and 3 only | D) 1,2 and 3 |

Global Climate Change Alliance

- The GCCA was established by the European Union (EU) in 2007 to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with developing countries, in particular least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS).
- Statement 2: By fostering effective dialogue and cooperation on climate change, the Alliance helps to ensure that poor developing countries most vulnerable to climate change increase their capacities to adapt to the effects of climate change, in support of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

- With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:
 1. Sautrantika and Sammitiya were the sects of Jainism
 2. Sarvastivadin held that the constituents of phenomena were not wholly momentary, but existed forever in a latent form

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Sarvastivadin

- Sautrantika and Sammitiya were the sects of Buddhism and not Jainism.
- While, like all Buddhists, the Sarvastivadins consider everything empirical to be impermanent, they maintain that the dharma factors are eternally existing realities.
- The dharmas are thought to function momentarily, producing the empirical phenomena of the world, which is illusory, but to exist outside the empirical world.

- Mediterranean Sea is a border of which of the following countries?
 1. Jordan
 2. Iraq
 3. Lebanon
 4. Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| A) 1,2 and 3 only | B) 2 and 3 only |
| C) 3 and 4 only | D) 1,3 and 4 only |

- With reference to ‘National Investment and Infrastructure Fund’, which of the following statements is/are correct?
 1. It is an organ of NITI Aayog
 2. It has a corpus of Rs. 4,00,000 Cr. At present

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

NIIF

- NIIF has been structured as a fund of funds and set up as Category II Alternate Investment Fund (AIF) under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Regulations. Total corpus of the fund is Rs. 40000 Crore.

- The Global Infrastructure Facility is a/an
 - A) ASEAN initiative to upgrade infrastructure in Asia and financed by credit from the Asian Development Bank
 - B) World Bank collaboration that facilitates the preparation and structuring of complex infrastructure Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to enable mobilizational investor capital
 - C) Collaboration among the major banks of the world working with the OECD and focused on expanding the set of infrastructure projects that have the potential to mobilize private investment
 - D) UNCTAD funded initiative that seeks to finance and facilitate infrastructure development in the world

- For election to the Lok Sabha, a nomination paper can be filed by
 - A) anyone residing in India
 - B) a resident of the constituency from which the election is to be contested
 - C) any citizen of India whose name appears in the electoral roll of a constituency
 - D) any citizen of India.

- Consider the following statements:
 1. In India, the Himalayas are spread over five States only.
 2. Western Ghats are spread over five States only
 3. Pulicat Lake is spread over two States only

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only B) 3 only
C) 2 and 3 only D) 1 and 3 only

Pulicat Lake

- Himalayas are spread over almost all the Northern and north-eastern Indian states.
- Statement 2: Western Ghats traverse the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat (6 states).
- Statement 3: Pulicat Lake (second largest brackish water lake in India) straddles the border of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu states (2 states).

- Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) is a standard criterion for
 - A) Measuring oxygen levels in blood
 - B) Computing oxygen levels in forest ecosystems
 - C) Pollution assay in aquatic system
 - D) Assessing oxygen levels in high altitude regions

Biological Oxygen Demand

- It is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed (i.e., demanded) by aerobic biological organisms to break down organic material present in a given water sample at certain temperature over a specific time period.

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- With reference to the role of UN-Habitat in the United Nations programme working towards a better urban future, which of the statements is are correct?
 1. UN-Habitat has been mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities to provide adequate shelter for all.
 2. Its partners are either governments or local urban authorities only
 3. UN-Habitat contributes to the overall objective of the United Nations system to reduce poverty and to promote access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

Select the correct answer using the code given below;

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A) 1,2 and 3 | B) 1 and 3 only |
| C) 2 and 3 only | D) 1 only |

- India was unanimously elected as the President of Un-Habitat in March, 2017

- With reference to 'National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF), which of the statements given below is/are correct?
 1. Under NSQF, a learner can acquire the certification for competency only through formal learning
 2. An outcome expected from the implementation of NSQF is the mobility between vocational and general education

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| A) 1 only | B) 2 only |
| C) Both 1 and 2 | D) Neither 1 nor 2 |

- Specific outcomes expected from implementation of NSQF are:
 - ❖ Mobility between vocational and general education by alignment of degrees with NSQF
 - ❖ Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), allowing transition from non-formal to organised job market
 - ❖ Standardised, consistent, nationally acceptable outcomes of training across the country through a national quality assurance framework

- In the context of Indian history, the principle of ‘Dyarchy’ refers to
 - A) Division of the central legislature into two houses
 - B) Introduction of double government i.e., Central and State governments
 - C) Having two sets of rulers, one in London and another in Delhi
 - D) Division of the subjects delegated to the provinces into two categories

- Consider the following in respect of ‘National Career Service’:
 1. National Career Service is an initiative of the Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India
 2. National Career Service has been launched in a Mission Mode to improve the employment opportunities to uneducated youth of the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| A) 1 only | B) 2 only |
| C) Both 1 and 2 | D) Neither 1 nor 2 |

National Career Service

- National Career Service has been launched in a Mission Mode to improve the employment opportunities to uneducated youth of the country.
- It is an initiative launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- It is a National ICT based portal developed primarily to connect the opportunities with the aspirations of youth. This portal facilitates registration of job seekers, job providers, skill providers, career counsellors, etc.

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- Which of the following statements best describes the term ‘Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A), recently seen in the news?
 - A) It is a procedure for considering ecological costs of developmental schemes formulated by the Government
 - B) It is a scheme of RBI for reworking the financial structure of big corporate entities facing genuine difficulties
 - C) It is a disinvestment plan of the Government regarding Central Public Sector Undertakings
 - D) It is an important provision in ‘The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code’ recently implemented by the Government.

‘Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A)’,

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines called Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A) as an optional framework to manage bad loans.
- Under this scheme, large ticket loans are restructured by separating a sustainable loan from an unsustainable loan.
- The lenders are required to make this classification. Sustainable level of debt is one which the banks think the stressed borrower can service with its current cash flows.

- Consider the following statements:

1. Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants is a unique initiative of G20 group of countries.
2. The CCAC focuses on methane, black carbon and hydrofluorocarbons.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

- The Climate and Clean Air Coalition is a voluntary partnership of governments, intergovernmental organizations, businesses, scientific institutions and civil society organizations committed to protecting the climate and improving air quality through actions to reduce short-lived climate pollutants.
- The Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) was launched by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and six countries—Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, Mexico, Sweden, and the United States—in 2012.
- The Coalition's initial focus is on short lived climate pollutants: methane, black carbon, and HFCs.

Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

- A scientific assessment released by UN Environment and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) in 2011 found that measures targeting short-lived climate pollutants could achieve “win-win” results for the climate, air quality, and human wellbeing over a relatively short timeframe.
- In 2012, the governments of Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, Mexico, Sweden and the United States, along with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), came together to initiate efforts to treat short-lived climate pollutants as an urgent and collective challenge. Together, they formed the Climate & Clean Air Coalition to support fast action and deliver benefits on several fronts at once: climate, public health, energy efficiency, and food security.

- With reference to ‘Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)’ sometimes mentioned in the news while forecasting Indian monsoon, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. IOD phenomenon is characterized by a difference in sea surface temperature between tropical Western Indian Ocean and tropical Eastern Pacific Ocean.
2. An IOD phenomenon can influence an El Nino’s impact on the monsoon.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| A) 1 only | B) 2 only |
| C) Both 1 and 2 | D) Neither 1 nor 2 |

‘Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)’

- IMD bases its Monsoon predictions on both IOD and El-Nino.
- The IOD, also known as the Indian Niño, is an irregular oscillation of sea-surface temperatures in which the western Indian Ocean becomes alternately warmer and then colder than the eastern part of the Indian ocean (not tropical eastern pacific ocean).
- IOD has a much more significant effect on the rainfall patterns in south-east Australia than the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) in the Pacific Ocean as shown in several recent studies.

- If you want to see gharials in their natural habitat , which one of the following is the best place to visit?
 - A) Bhitarkanika Mangroves
 - B) Chambal River
 - C) Pulicat Lake
 - D) Deepor Beel

Wild life

- Gharials inhabit deep freshwater habitats, not both freshwater and saltwater habitats as inhabited by crocodile species.
- Gharials can be naturally found in National Chambal Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The gharial is one of three crocodylians native to India, the other two being the mugger crocodile and the saltwater crocodile.

- Consider the following in respect of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS):
 1. Inaugural IONS was held in India in 2015 under the chairmanship of the Indian Navy
 2. IONS is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime cooperation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

- The painting of Bodhisattva Padmapani is one of the most famous and oft-illustrated paintings at
 - A) Ajanta
 - B) Badami
 - C) Bagh
 - D) Ellora

- Consider the following pairs:

TRADITIONS

1. Chaliha Sahib Festival
2. Nanda Raj Jaat Yatra
3. Wari-Warkari

COMMUNITIES

- Sindhis
- Gonds
- Santhals

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 1 and 3 only
- D) None of the above

Festivals

- Chaliha Sahib Festival - Sindhis

It is a 40 day long festival celebrated by Sindhi Hindu community. Those who observed this fast had to follow the following obligations:

Not to sleep in a bed, only on the floor
Observe Brahmachary,
Not to eat fried eatables, non-vegetarian food, onion and garlic,
white items like milk, curd, rice,
Not to shave or cut hair and nails, not to use soap and oils,
Wear simple clothes and not to wear leather shoes or leather belts,
Not to use tempering (tadka) in any dish, etc.
living a purely simple life

- Nanda Devi Raj Jaat Yatra is a festival of Gharwali and kumauoni people in Uttarakhand.
- Wari Warkari or Varkari (Pandharpur Wari) is a Maharashtra festival celebrated by Marathas.

- Which of the following practices can help in water conservation in agriculture?
 1. Reduced or zero tillage of the land
 2. Applying gypsum before irrigating the field
 3. Allowing crop residue to remain in the field

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| A) 1 and 2 only | B) 3 only |
| C) 1 and 3 only | D) 1,2 and 3 |

Agriculture

- Tillage is the agricultural preparation of soil by mechanical agitation of various types, such as digging, stirring, and overturning.
- No-till farming (also called zero tillage or direct drilling) is a way of growing crops or pasture from year to year without disturbing the soil through tillage. Zero tillage helps in soil moisture conservation.
- An infiltration problem often occurs in farms if the irrigation water does not enter the soil rapidly enough during a normal irrigation cycle.
- Gypsum helps in dissolution of the salt clay pan found in soils that hinder the percolation of water. This increases the efficiency of irrigation as less water is needed to irrigate the same soil.

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- 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

Soil Health Card

- Soil Health card (SHC) is a printed report card issued to farmers in once in three years indicating the status of his soil in terms of 12 parameters: namely N,P,K (Macro-nutrients) ; S (Secondary- nutrient) ; Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn, Bo (Micro - nutrients) ; and pH, EC, OC (Physical parameters).
- It is also accompanied by an advice on the various fertilizers and other soil amendments he is suppose to make.
- In all, 10.73 crore Soil Health Cards have been distributed during Cycle-I (2015-17) whereas 4.71 crore Soil Health Cards have been distributed to the farmers across the country during Cycle-II (2017-19).

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- Consider the following pairs:

COMMONLY USED/CONSUMED
MATERIALS

UNWANTED OR CONTROVERSIAL
CHEMICALS LIKELY TO BE
FOUND IN THEM

1. Lipstick

Lead

2. Soft drinks

Brominated Vegetable oils

3. Chinese Fast Food.

Monosodium glutamate

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

A) 1 only

B) 2 and 3 only

C) 1 and 3 only

D) 1,2 and 3

Chemicals in our daily Life

- Brominated vegetable oil is used primarily to help emulsify citrus-flavored soft drinks, preventing them from separating during distribution.

- Organic Light Emitting Diodes(OLEDs) are used to create digital display in many devices. What are the advantages of OLED displays over Liquid Crystal displays?
 1. OLED displays can be fabricated on flexible plastic substrates
 2. Roll-up displays embedded in clothing can be made using OLEDs
 3. Transparent displays are possible using OLEDs

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A) 1 and 3 only
- B) 2 only
- C) 1,2 and 3
- D) None of the above statements is correct

OLED

- OLED displays can be fabricated on flexible plastic substrates, leading to the possible fabrication of flexible organic light-emitting diodes for other new applications, such as roll-up displays embedded in fabrics or clothing.
- If a substrate like polyethylene terephthalate (PET) can be used, the displays may be produced inexpensively.
- Furthermore, plastic substrates are shatter-resistant, unlike the glass displays used in LCD devices.

- Which of the following is/are famous for Sun temples?
 1. Arasavalli
 2. Amarakantak
 3. Omkareshwar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A) 1 only | B) 2 and 3 only |
| C) 1 and 3 only | D) 1,2 and 3 |

Arasavalli

- Arasavalli Sun Temple is a 7th-century AD Sun Temple at Arasavalli in Andhra Pradesh.
- Omkareshwar is a temple dedicated to God Shiva.

- Consider the following statements:
 1. In the election for Lok Sabha or State Assembly, the winning candidate must get at least 50% of the votes polled, to be declared elected
 2. According to the provisions laid down in the Constitution of India, in Lok Sabha, the Speaker's post goes to the majority party and the Deputy Speaker's to the Opposition

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| A) 1 only | B) 2 only |
| C) Both 1 and 2 | D) Neither 1 nor 2 |

Election

- We follow the First past the post system, where majority of votes is sufficient to get elected, even if it is less than 50% of the total votes polled.
- Speaker and Deputy speaker are elected by the house. This is a convention (not constitutional provision) that usually Speaker's post goes to the majority party and the Deputy Speaker's to the Opposition.

- Which of the following has/have occurred in India after its Liberalisation of economic policy in 1991?
 1. Share of agriculture in GDP increased enormously
 2. Share of India's exports in world trade increased
 3. FDI inflows increased
 4. India's foreign exchange reserves increased enormously

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A) 1 and 4 only B) 2,3 and 4 only
C) 2 and 3 only D) 1,2,3 and 4

- What is the application of Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer Technology?
 - A) Production of bio-larvicides
 - B) Manufacture of biodegradable plastic
 - C) Reproductive cloning of animals
 - D) Production of organisms free of diseases

Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer

- In genetics and developmental biology, somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) is a laboratory strategy for creating a viable embryo from a body cell and an egg cell. The technique consists of taking an enucleated oocyte (egg cell) and implanting a donor nucleus from a somatic (body) cell.
- Nuclear transfer is a form of cloning. The steps involve removing the DNA from an oocyte (unfertilised egg), and injecting the nucleus which contains the DNA to be cloned. In rare instances, the newly constructed cell will divide normally, replicating the new DNA while remaining in a pluripotent state.

Cloning

- Reproductive cloning involves creating an animal that is genetically identical to a donor animal through somatic cell nuclear transfer. In therapeutic cloning, an embryo is created in a similar way, but the resulting "cloned" cells remain in a dish in the lab; they are not implanted into a female's uterus.
- Dolly (5 July 1996 - 14 February 2003) was a female domestic sheep, and the first mammal cloned from an adult somatic cell, using the process of nuclear transfer.

- Consider the following statements:

1. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) helps in promoting the financial inclusion in the country.
2. NPCI has launched RuPay, a card payment scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

NPCI

- NPCI is an umbrella organization for all retail payments system in India. Thus, an important objective of NPCI is to facilitate an affordable payment mechanism to benefit the common man across the country and help financial inclusion.
- Rupay is a domestic card payment network that provides an alternative to international card schemes. It was introduced by NPCI.

- The term 'M-STripES' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of
 - A) Captive breeding of Wild Fauna
 - B) Maintenance of Tiger Reserves
 - C) Indigenous Satellite Navigation System
 - D) Security of National Highways

M-STrIPES

- The android-based monitoring software M-STrIPES will be used across all the Tiger Reserves of the country.
- M-STrIPES, short for Monitoring System for Tigers - Intensive Protection and Ecological Status is a software-based monitoring system launched across Indian tiger reserves by the Indian government's National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) in 2010.
- The aim is to reduce vulnerability of Tigers.
- There has been an increase in the number of poachers arrested by forest officials in past one year.
- The mobile app, M-STrIPES, used for surveillance and patrolling of tiger-populated areas has played a major role in this.
- M-STrIPES (Monitoring System For Tigers-Intensive Protection and Ecological Status)
- This app was developed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Wildlife Institute of India in 2010.
- M-STrIPES allows patrol teams to keep a better tab on suspicious activity while also mapping the patrolling, location, routes and timings of forest officials.
- The App was also used in the All India-Tiger Estimation.

- What is/are the most likely advantages of implementing 'Goods and Services Tax (GST)'?
 1. It will replace multiple taxes collected by multiple taxes collected by multiple authorities and will thus create a single market in India
 2. It will drastically reduce the 'Current Account Deficit' of India and will enable it to increase its foreign exchange reserves
 3. It will enormously increase the growth and size of economy of India and will enable it to overtake China in the near future.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A) 1 only | B) 2 and 3 only |
| C) 1 and 3 only | D) 1,2 and 3 |

- ‘Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)’ is sometimes seen in the news in the context of negotiations held between India and
 - A) European Union
 - B) Gulf Cooperation Council
 - C) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
 - D) Shanghai Cooperation Organization

BTIA

- On 28th June 2007, India and the EU began negotiations on a **broad-based Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)** in Brussels, Belgium. India and the EU expect to promote bilateral trade by removing barriers to trade in goods and services and investment across all sectors of the economy.

- Consider the following statements:
 1. India has ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of WTO
 2. TFA is a part of WTO's Bali Ministerial Package of 2013
 3. TFA came into force in January 2016

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 1 and 3 only
- C) 2 and 3 only
- D) 1,2 and 3

TFA

- India has ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of WTO. Trade facilitation—the simplification, modernization and harmonization of export and import processes
- TFA is a part of WTO's Bali Ministerial Package of 2013.
- The TFA contains provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. It also sets out measures for effective cooperation between customs and other appropriate authorities on trade facilitation and customs compliance issues. It further contains provisions for technical assistance and capacity building in this area.

- What is the importance of developing Chabahar Port by India?
 - A) India's trade with African countries will enormously increase
 - B) India's relations with oil-producing Arab countries will be strengthened
 - C) India will not depend on Pakistan for access to Afghanistan and Central Asia
 - D) Pakistan will facilitate and protect the installation of a gas pipeline between Iraq and India.

Chabahar Port

- Chabahar Port is a seaport in Chabahar located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman. It serves as Iran's only oceanic port, and consists of two separate ports named Shahid Kalantri and Shahid Beheshti, each of which has 5 berths.
- In May 2016, India and Iran signed a bilateral agreement in which India would refurbish one of the berths at *Shahid Beheshti* port, and reconstruct a 600 meter long container handling facility at the port.
- The port is partly intended to provide an alternative for trade between India and Afghanistan as it is 800 kilometres closer to the border of Afghanistan than Pakistan's Karachi Port.

- In India, it is legally mandatory for which of the following to report on cyber security incidents?
 1. Service providers
 2. Data centres
 3. Body corporate

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A) 1 only
B) 3 only

B) 1 and 2 only
D) 1,2 and 3

Computer Emergency Response Team-CERT Rules

- India (CERT-In) is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents, report on vulnerabilities and promote effective Information Technology (IT) security practices throughout India.
- The CERT Rules also impose an obligation on service providers, intermediaries, data centres and body corporates to report cyber incidents within a reasonable time so that CERT-In may have scope for timely action.

- Right to vote and to be elected in India is a
 - A) Fundamental Right
 - B) Natural Right
 - C) Constitutional Right
 - D) Legal Right

- What is the purpose of 'evolved Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (eLISA)' project?
 - A) To detect neutrinos
 - B) To detect gravitational waves
 - C) To detect the effectiveness of missile defence system
 - D) To study the effect of solar flares on our communication systems

eLISA's

- eLISA's primary objective of the project is the detection and examination of gravitational waves emitted by the super-massive black holes that reside in the centres of many galaxies. In addition, eLISA will measure the signals of thousands of compact binary star systems in the Milky Way.
- It aims to measure gravitational waves directly by using laser interferometry.
- In interferometry electromagnetic waves are superimposed called interference. **Interferometers** are widely used in science and industry for the measurement of small displacements

- What is the purpose of 'Vidyanjali Yojana'?
1. To enable the famous foreign educational institutions to open their campuses in India
 2. To increase the quality of education provided in government schools by taking help from the private sector and the community.
 3. To encourage voluntary monetary contributions from private individuals and organizations so as to improve the infrastructure facilities for primary and secondary schools.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A) 2 only | B) 3 only |
| C) 1 and 2 only | D) 2 and 3 only |

Vidyanjali Yojana'

- This programme has been envisaged to bring together people willing to volunteer their services at schools which really need them.
- The aim of the programme is to strengthen implementation of co-scholastic activities in government schools through services of volunteers.

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- What is the aim of the programme ‘Unnat Bharat Abhiyan’?
 - A) Achieving 100% literacy by promoting collaboration between voluntary organizations and government’s education system and local communities
 - B) Connecting institutions of higher education with local communities to address development challenges through appropriate technologies
 - C) Strengthening India’s scientific research institutions in order to make India a scientific and technological power
 - D) Developing human capital by allocating special funds for health care and education of rural and urban poor, and organizing skill development programmes and vocational training for them

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

- MHRD has launched a programme called Unnat Bharat Abhiyan with an aim to connect institutions of higher education, including Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research (IISERs) etc. with local communities to address the development challenges through appropriate technologies.

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- Consider the following statements:
 1. The Election Commission of India is a five-member body
 2. Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections
 3. Election Commission resolves the dispute relating to splits/mergers of recognize political parties

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only B) 2 only
C) 2 and 3 only D) 3 only

Election Commission

- Presently it is a three member body, one CEC and two other ECs.
- Splits, mergers and alliances have frequently disrupted the compositions of political parties.
- This has led to a number of disputes over which section of a divided party gets to keep the party symbol, and how to classify the resulting parties in terms of national and state parties.
- The Election Commission has to resolve these disputes, although its decisions can be challenged in the courts.

- In India, if a species of tortoise is declared protected under Schedule I of the wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, what does it imply?
 - A) It enjoys the same level of protection as the tiger
 - B) It no longer exists in the wild, a few individuals are under captive protection; and now it is impossible to prevent its extinction
 - C) It is endemic to a particular region of India
 - D) Both B and C stated above are correct in this context

WildLife (Protection) Act, 1972

- Schedule I animals under the Wildlife Act enjoy the highest protection in India. Since tiger is also covered in Schedule I,

- In India, Judicial Review implies
 - A) the power of the Judiciary to pronounce upon the constitutionality of laws and executive orders
 - B) the power of the Judiciary to question the wisdom of the laws enacted by the Legislatures
 - C) the power of the Judiciary to review all legislative enactments before they are assented to by the President
 - D) the power of the Judiciary to review its own judgements given earlier in similar or different cases

Judicial Review

- Judicial Review refers to the power of the judiciary to interpret the constitution and to declare any such law or order of the legislature and executive void, if it finds them in conflict the Constitution of India.

- With reference to Indian freedom struggle, consider the following events:
 1. Mutiny in Royal Indian Navy
 2. Quit India Movement launched
 3. Second Round Table Conference

What is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?

- A) 1-2-3
- C) 3-2-1

- B) 2-1-3
- D) 3-1-2

Second Round Conference

- Second Round Conference happened in 1931, Quit India Movement in 1942 and Mutiny in Royal Indian Navy in 1946.

- Consider the following statements:
 1. Tax revenue as a percent of GDP of India has steadily increased in the last decade
 2. Fiscal deficit as a percent of GDP of India has steadily increased in the last decade

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

Tax Collection and GDP

- Tax buoyancy, is the responsiveness of tax revenue mobilisation to GDP growth.
- It is calculated as a ratio of percentage growth in tax revenues to growth in nominal GDP for a given year.
- Tax is said to be buoyant (more than 1) if the gross tax revenues increase more than proportionately in response to a rise in GDP figures. If it is less than 1, it means tax revenues have not increased proportionately with GDP growth.

- Recently there was a proposal to translocate some of the lions from their natural habitat in Gujarat to which one of the following sites?
 - A) Corbett National Park
 - B) Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary
 - C) Mudumalai Wild life Sanctuary
 - D) Sariska National Park

Translocation of Lions

- The Supreme Court in 2013 ruled in favour of translocation of the Asiatic lion to Kuno in the interest of the genetic stability of the species.
- Gujarat government was reluctant to send tigers to MP.

- Which of the following are not necessarily the consequences of the proclamation of the President's rule in a State?
 1. Dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly
 2. Removal of the Council of Ministers in the State
 3. Dissolution of the local bodies

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A) 1 and 2 only | B) 1 and 3 only |
| C) 2 and 3 only | D) 1,2 and 3 |

Dissolution of Assembly

- When the President's Rule is imposed in a state, the President dismisses the state council of ministers headed by the chief minister.
- The President can either suspend or dissolve the Legislative assembly.

- Which of the following are envisaged by the Right against Exploitation in the constitution of India?
 1. Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour
 2. Abolition of untouchability
 3. Protection of the interests of minorities
 4. Prohibition of employment of children in factories and mines

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| A) 1,2 and 4 only | B) 2,3 and 4 only |
| C) 1 and 4 only | D) 1,2 ,3 and 4 |

Fundamental Rights

- Abolition of untouchability comes under Right to Equality.
- Protection of the interests of minorities comes under Cultural and Educational Rights.

- Which of the following is geographically closest to Great Nicobar?
 - A) Sumatra
 - B) Borneo
 - C) Java
 - D) Sri Lanka

- Distance from Great Nicobar to Sri Lanka is 1,437 km. Distance from Great Nicobar to Sumatra is 1,192 km.



- Out of the following statements, choose the one that brings out the principle underlying the Cabinet form of Government:
 - A) An arrangement for minimizing the criticism against the Government whose responsibilities are complex and hard to carry out to the satisfaction of all
 - B) A mechanism for speeding up the activities of the Government whose responsibilities are increasing day by day
 - C) A mechanism of parliamentary democracy for ensuring collective responsibility of the Government to the people
 - D) A device for strengthening the hands of the head of the Government whose hold over the people is in a state of decline.

- Which one of the following is NOT a feature of Indian federalism?
 - A) There is an independent judiciary in India
 - B) Powers have been clearly divided between the Centre and the States
 - C) The federating units have been given unequal representation in the Rajya Sabha.
 - D) It is the result of an agreement among the federating units.

- The phrase 'Union of States' has been preferred to 'Federation of States' for two reasons: one, the Indian Federation is not the result of an agreement among the states like the American Federation; and two, the states have no right to secede from the federation.

ANSWERS

1	D	11	A	21	C	31	C	41	D
2	A	12	B	22	B	32	A	42	A
3	A	13	C	23	A	33	C	43	A
4	A	14	C	24	B	34	C	44	A
5	A	15	D	25	D	35	D	45	D
6	B	16	B	26	D	36	C	46	C
7	B	17	D	27	A	37	B	47	A
8	C	18	C	28	D	38	B	48	A
9	A	19	C	29	D	39	C	49	B
10	B	20	B	30	B	40	A	50	D

ANSWERS

51	B	61	B	71	D	81	A	91	A
52	A	62	D	72	B	82	A	92	A
53	B	63	B	73	D	83	A	93	C
54	C	64	B	74	C	84	C	94	D
55	D	65	B	75	A	85	D	95	B
56	B	66	B	76	D	86	D	96	B
57	C	67	B	77	B	87	B	97	C
58	B	68	B	78	C	88	A	98	A
59	C	69	A	79	C	89	B	99	C
60	B	70	A	80	B	90	D	100	D

- Thank You