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CHAPTER 1 Land and the People

1 Consider the following pairs:

1. Jelep La Sikkim
2. Shipki La Himachal
3. Nathu La Uttarakhand

Which of above pair is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: b

The high altitudes allow travel only through a few passes, notably the Jelep La and Nathu La on the main Indo-Tibet trade route through the Chumbi valley, north-east of Darjeeling and Shipki La in the Satluj valley, north-east of Kalpa (Kinnaur)

2. Eastern and the Western Ghats meets at:

- (a) Nilgiri
- (b) Cardamom
- (c) Palni Hills
- (d) Nalkonda

Answer: A

The southern point of the plateau is formed by the Nilgiri Hills where the Eastern and the Western Ghats meet.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Himalaya was under marine conditions about 60 crore years ago
2. Peninsula is a region of relative stability with no seismic disturbances.

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

Answer: A

- The Himalayan mountain belt to the north and the Naga-Lushai mountain in the east, are the regions of mountain-building movement. Most of this area, now presenting some of the most magnificent mountain

scenery in the world, was under marine conditions about 60 crore years ago. In a series of mountain-building movements commencing about seven crore years ago, the sediments and the basement rocks rose to great heights.

- The Peninsula is a region of relative stability and occasional seismic disturbances. Highly metamorphosed rocks of the earliest periods, dating back as far as 380 crore years, occur in this area; the rest being covered by the Gondwana formations, lava flows belonging to the Deccan Trap formation and younger sediments

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The Himalayan Rivers are formed by melting snow and glaciers and therefore, continuously flow throughout the year.
2. Coastal streams on the west coast are short in length and have large catchment areas.

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

Answer: A

The river systems of India can be classified into four groups viz., (i) Himalayan rivers, (ii) Deccan rivers, (iii) Coastal rivers and (iv) Rivers of the inland drainage basin. The Himalayan rivers are formed by melting snow and glaciers and therefore, continuously flow throughout the year. During the monsoon months, Himalayas receive very heavy rainfall and rivers swell, causing frequent floods. The Deccan Rivers on the other hand are rain fed and therefore fluctuate in volume. Many of these are non-perennial. The Coastal streams, especially on the west coast are short in length and have limited catchment areas. Most of them



are non-perennial. The streams of inland drainage basin of western Rajasthan are few and far apart. Most of them are of an ephemeral character.

5. Bhagirathi and the Alaknanda meet at:
- Vishnu Prayag
 - karna Prayag
 - Rudra Prayag
 - Dev Prayag

Answer: d

The Ganga-BrahmaputraMeghna is another important system of which the principal sub-basins are those of Bhagirathi and the Alaknanda, which join at Dev Prayag to form the Ganga.

6. Which of the followings rocks is/are Non Clastic sedimentary rocks?

- Yamuna,
- Ramganga,
- Mahananda

Which of the above rivers are the tributaries of the Ganga.

Select the correct option from code given below:

- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1 only
- All of the above

Answer: d

The Yamuna, the Ramganga, the Ghaghra, the Gandak, the Kosi, the Mahananda and the Sone are the important tributaries of the Ganga. Rivers Chambal and Betwa are the important subtributaries, which join the Yamuna before it meets the Ganga. The Padma and the Brahmaputra join at Bangladesh and continue to flow as the Padma or Ganga.

7. Which river is known as Tsangpo before it enters India?
- Indus
 - Stluj
 - Brahmaputra
 - Teesta

Answer: c

The Brahmaputra rises in Tibet, where it is known as Tsangpo and runs a long distance till it crosses over into India in Arunachal Pradesh under the name of Dihang. Near Passighat, the Debang and Lohit join the river Brahmaputra and the combined river runs all along the Assam valley. It crosses into Bangladesh downstream of Dhubri

8. Consider the following rivers:

- Subansiri
- Jia Bhareli
- Dhansiri
- Puthimari
- Pagladiya
- Manas

Which of the above are tributaries of Brahmaputra?

- 1, 3 and 5 only
- 1, 3,4,5 and 6 only
- 1,2, 4, 5 and 6 only
- All of the above

Answer: d

The principal tributaries of Brahmaputra in India are the Subansiri, Jia Bhareli, Dhansiri, Puthimari, Pagladiya and the Manas. The Brahmaputra in Bangladesh fed by Teesta, etc. finally falls into the Ganga.

9. Barak river rises in the state of:

- Manipur
- Mizoram
- Assam
- Bangladesh

Answer: a

The Barak river, the head stream of Meghna, rises in the hills in Manipur. The important tributaries of the river are Makku, Trang, Tuivai, Jiri, Sonai, Rukni, Katakhal, Dhaleswari, Langachini, Maduva and Jatinga. Barak continues in Bangladesh till the combined Ganga-Brahmaputra join it near Bhairab Bazar



10. Which of the following rivers don't drain into the sea?

1. Luni
2. Machhu
3. Rupen
4. Ghaggar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

A few rivers in Rajasthan do not drain into the sea. They drain into salt lakes and get lost in sand with no outlet to sea. Besides these, there are the desert rivers which flow for some distance and are lost in the desert. These are Luni, Machhu, Rupen, Saraswati, Banas, Ghaggar and others.

11. Which of the states in India has highest population density?

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Assam
- (d) Kerala

Answer: b

The density of population increased in all states and union territories between 1991 and 2011. Among major states, Bihar is the most thickly populated state with (a population density of) 1,106 persons per sq. km followed by West Bengal 1,028 and Kerala 860

12. Consider the following statement:

1. The sex ratio in the India has always remained unfavourable to females.
2. Pondicherry and Kerala are the states where the number of women is more than the number of men.

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

Answer: c

- Sex ratio, defined as the number of females per thousand males is an important social indicator to measure the extent of prevailing equality between males and females in a society at a given point of time.
- The sex ratio in the country has always remained unfavourable to females. It was 972 at the beginning of the twentieth century and thereafter showed continuous decline until 1941. The sex ratio from 1901-2011 has registered a 10 point increase at census 2011 over 2001
- There are also states such as Puducherry and Kerala where the number of women is more than the number of men. Kerala houses a number of 1084 females to that of 1000 males. While Puducherry and Kerala are the only two states where the number of female is more than the number of men, there are also states in India like that of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra where the sex ratio 2011 is showing considerable signs of improvement. Some facts related to the Sex Ratio in India follows, the main cause of the decline of the sex ration in India is due to the biased attitude which is meted out to the women. The main cause of this gender bias is inadequate education. Pondicherry and Kerala houses the maximum number of female while the regions of Daman and Diu and Haryana have the lowest density of female population.

13. Consider the following statements:

1. For the purpose of census 2011, a person aged seven and above, who can both read and write with understanding in any language, is treated as literate.



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2. Kerala occupies the top spot in the country both in male literacy and female literacy

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

Answer: c

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Kerala retained its position by being on top with a 94 per cent literacy rate, closely followed by Lakshadweep (91.9 per cent). Bihar with a literacy rate of 61.8 per cent ranks last in the country. Kerala also occupies the top spot in the country both in male literacy with 96.1 per cent and female literacy with 92.1 per cent. On the contrary, Bihar has recorded the lowest literacy rates both in case of males (71.2 per cent) and females (51.5 per cent).

CHAPTER 2 National Symbols

1. Consider the following statement:

1. There is no restriction on the display of the National Flag by members of general public, private organizations, educational institutions except some conditions.

2. The ratio of the length to the height (width) of the Flag shall be 3:2

3. The design of the National Flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on 15 August, 1947

Select the correct answer from code given below:

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

Answer: a

- THE National Flag shall be a tricolour panel made up of three rectangular panels or subpanels of equal width. The colour of the top panel shall be India saffron (kesari) and that of the bottom panel India green. The middle panel shall be white, bearing at its centre the design

of Ashoka Chakra in navy blue colour with 24 equally spaced spokes. The Ashoka Chakra shall preferably be screen printed or otherwise printed or stenciled or suitably embroidered and shall be completely visible on both sides of

the Flag in the centre of the white panel. The National Flag shall be rectangular in shape. The ratio of the length to the height (width) of the Flag shall be 3:2. The design of the National Flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on July 22, 1947

- The Flag Code of India, 2002 effective from January 26, 2002 superseded the 'Flag Code India' as it existed then. As per the provisions of the Flag Code of India, 2002, there is no restriction on the display of the National Flag by members of general public, private organizations, educational institutions, etc., except to the extent provided in the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 and any other law enacted on the subject

2. Consider the following statement:

1. The State Emblem of India is an adaptation of the Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath

2. In the original, the Lion Capital has four lions mounted back to back, on a circular abacus

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only



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

Answer: c

- The State Emblem of India is an adaptation of the Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath. In the original, the Lion Capital has four lions mounted back to back, on a circular abacus. The frieze of the abacus is adorned with sculptures in high relief of an elephant, a galloping horse, a bull and a lion separated by intervening Dharma Chakras. The abacus rests on a bell shaped lotus

3. Consider the following statement:

1. *Jana-gana-mana* was originally composed in Bangla

2. It was adopted as National Anthem of India on January 26, 1950

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

Answer: a

- The song *Jana-gana-mana*, composed originally in Bangla by Rabindranath Tagore, was adopted in its Hindi version by the Constituent Assembly as the National Anthem of India on January 24, 1950. It was first sung on December 27, 1911 at the Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress. The complete song consists of five stanzas. The first stanza contains the full version of the National Anthem
- The playing time of the full version of the National Anthem is approximately 52 seconds. A short version consisting of the first and last lines of the National Anthem

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(playing time approximately 20 seconds) is also played on certain occasions

4. In which session of congress first time Vande Mataram was sung?

- (a) 1885 Session
- (b) 1919 Session
- (c) 1906 Session
- (d) 1896 Session

Answer: d

- The song Vande Mataram, composed in Sanskrit by Bankimchandra Chatterji, was a source of inspiration to the people in their struggle for freedom. It has an equal status with *Jana-gana-mana*. The first political occasion when it was sung was the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress.

5. India's National calendar is based on:

- (a) Saka Era
- (b) Georgian Calendar
- (c) Hijari
- (d) Vikram Samvat

Answer: a

- The National Calendar based on the Saka Era, with Chaitra as its first month and a normal year of 365 days was adopted from March 22, 1957 along with the Gregorian calendar for the following official purposes: (i) Gazette of India, (ii) news broadcast by All India Radio, (iii) calendars issued by the Government of India and (iv) Government communications addressed to the public.
- Dates of the National Calendar have a permanent correspondence with dates of the Gregorian Calendar, 1 Chaitra falling on March 22 normally and on March 21 in leap year

CHAPTER 3 POLITY



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1. Consider the following statement:

1. Indian Constitution envisages parliamentary form of government which is federal in structure with unitary features
2. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the House of the People

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

Answer: c

- The Constitution which envisages parliamentary form of government is federal in structure with unitary features. The President of India is the constitutional head of executive of the union. Article 74(1) of the Constitution provides that there shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as its head to aid and advise the President who shall in exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice. The real executive power thus vests in the Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as its head. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the House of the People (Lok Sabha). Similarly, in states, the Governor is the head of executive, but it is the Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister as its head in whom real executive power vests. The Council of Ministers of a state is collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly of the state

2. Residuary power in India lies with:

- (a) State
- (b) Centre
- (c) Both a and b
- (d) None of the above

Answer: b

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The Constitution distributes legislative power between Parliament and State Legislatures and provides for vesting of residual powers in Parliament. The power to amend the Constitution also vests in Parliament. The Constitution has provision for independence of Judiciary, Comptroller and Auditor-General, Public Service Commissions and Chief Election Commission.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India provides for a single citizenship for the whole of India.
2. A resident Indian cannot be granted Indian Citizenship

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

Answer: A

The Constitution of India provides for a single citizenship for the whole of India. Every person who was at the commencement of the Constitution (January 26, 1950) domiciled in the territory of India and: (a) who was born in India; or (b) either of whose parents were born in India; or (c) who has been ordinarily resident in India for not less than five years became a citizen of India. The Citizenship Act, 1955, deals with matters relating to acquisition, determination and termination of Indian citizenship after the commencement of the Constitution

4. Consider the following statements:

1. By the 44th Amendment of the Constitution, adopted in 1976, Fundamental Duties of the citizens have been enumerated
2. Constitution offers all citizens, individually and collectively, some basic freedoms which are enforceable in court of law.



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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

Answer: B

- The Constitution offers all citizens, individually and collectively, some basic freedoms. These are guaranteed in the Constitution in the form of six broad categories of Fundamental Rights which are justifiable. Articles 12 to 35 contained in Part III of the Constitution deal with Fundamental Rights. These are: (i) Right to equality including equality before law, prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth and equality of opportunity in matters of employment; (ii) Right to freedom of speech and expression, assembly, association or union, movement, residence, and right to practice any profession or occupation (some of these rights are subject to security of the state, friendly relations with foreign countries, public order, decency or morality); (iii) Right against exploitation, prohibiting all forms of forced labour, child labour and traffic in human beings; (iv) Right to freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion; (v) Right of any section of citizens to conserve their culture, language or script and right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice; and (vi) Right to constitutional remedies for enforcement of Fundamental Rights

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- By the 42nd Amendment of the Constitution, adopted in 1976, Fundamental Duties of the citizens have also been enumerated. Article 51 'A' contained in Part IV A of the Constitution deals with Fundamental Duties. These enjoin upon a citizen among other things, to abide by the Constitution, to cherish and follow noble ideals, which inspired India's struggle for freedom, to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so and to promote harmony and spirit of common brotherhood transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities.

5. Which of the following programme or scheme in sync with directive principle of state policy:

1. Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOPS)
2. Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana
3. NALSA

Select the correct answer from code given below:

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

Answer: d

- The Constitution lays down certain Directive Principles of State Policy, which though not justifiable, are 'fundamental in governance of the country' and it is the duty of the state to apply these principles in making laws. These have been contained in Part IV from Articles 36 to 51 of the Constitution. These lay down that the state shall strive to promote the welfare of people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice—social, economic and political—shall form



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the basis in all institutions of national life.

- The state shall direct its policy in such a manner so as to secure the right of all men and women to an adequate means of livelihood, equal pay for equal work and within limits of its economic capacity and development, to make effective provision for securing the right to work, education and to public assistance in the event of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement or other cases of undeserved want. The state shall also endeavour to secure to workers a living wage, humane conditions of work, a decent standard of life and full involvement of workers in management of industries

6. Union executive consists of:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Council of Ministers

Select the correct answer using the code given below?

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

Answer: d

- The Union executive consists of the President, the Vice-President and the Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as the head to aid and advise the President.

7. President may resign from office by writing to:

- (a) Chief Justice of India
- (b) Vice President
- (c) Speaker of Lok Sabha
- (d) Prime Minister

Answer: b

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- The President is elected by members of an electoral college consisting of elected members of both Houses of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies of the states in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote. To secure uniformity among states inter se as well as parity between the states, as a whole, and the Union, suitable weightage is given to each vote.
- The President must be a citizen of India, not less than 35 years of age and qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha. His term of office is five years and he is eligible for re-election. His removal from office is to be in accordance with procedure prescribed in Article 61 of the Constitution. He may, by writing under his hand addressed to the Vice-President, resign his office

8. The supreme command of defense forces of the Union also vests in:

- (a) President
- (b) Vice President
- (c) Constitution
- (d) Prime Minister

Answer: a

The executive power of the Union is vested in the President and is exercised by him either directly or through officers subordinate to him in accordance with the Constitution. The supreme command of defence forces of the Union also vests in him. The President summons, prorogues, addresses, sends messages to Parliament and dissolves the Lok Sabha; promulgates Ordinances at any time, except when both Houses of Parliament are in session; makes recommendations for introducing financial and money bills and gives assent to bills; grants pardons, reprieves, respites or remission of punishment or suspends, remits

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or commutes sentences in certain cases. When there is a failure of the constitutional machinery in a state, he can assume to himself all or any of the functions of the Government of that state. The President can proclaim emergency in the country if he is satisfied that a grave emergency exists whereby security of India or any part of its territory is threatened whether by war or external aggression or armed rebellion

9. Consider the following statements:

1. Vice-President is elected by members of an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote.

2. Vice president is a member of Upper house

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

Answer: A

- The Vice-President is elected by members of an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote. He must be a citizen of India, not less than 35 years of age and eligible for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha. His term of office is five years and he is eligible for re-election. His removal from office is to be in accordance with procedure prescribed in Article 67(b).
- The Vice-President is **ex-officio Chairman** of the Rajya Sabha and acts as President when the latter is

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unable to discharge his functions due to absence, illness or any other cause or till the election of a new President (to be held within six months when a vacancy is caused by death, resignation or removal or otherwise of President). While so acting, he ceases to perform the function of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

- He is not a member of Upper House (Ex Officio)

10. Council of Ministers comprises:

- 1. Ministers who are members of Cabinet.
- 2. Ministers of State (independent charge)
- 3. Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers.

Select the correct answer using the code given below?

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

Answer: d

- The Council of Ministers comprises ministers who are members of Cabinet, Ministers of State (independent charge), Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers.

11. Consider the following statements pertaining to Upper House:

- 1. Elections to the Rajya Sabha are both direct and indirect
- 2. The Rajya Sabha is not subject to dissolution
- 3. Members representing union territories are chosen in such a manner as Parliament may by law prescribe.

Select the correct answer using the code given below?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only



(d) All of the above

Answer: c

- Elections to the Rajya Sabha are indirect; members representing states are elected by the elected members of Legislative Assemblies of the states in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, and those representing union territories are chosen in such a manner as Parliament may by law prescribe. The Rajya Sabha is not subject to dissolution; one-third of its members retire every second year.

12. Consider the following statement:

1. All legislation requires consent of both the Houses of Parliament.
2. In the case of money bills the 'will' of the Lok Sabha prevails.
3. Delegated legislation is not subject to review and control by Parliament.

Select the correct answer using the code given below?

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

Answer: b

All legislation requires consent of both the Houses of Parliament. In the case of money bills, however, the 'will' of the Lok Sabha prevails. Delegated legislation is also subject to review and control by Parliament. Besides the power to legislate, the Constitution vests in Parliament the power to initiate amendment of the Constitution.

13. Which committee of Upper House recommends allocation of time for discussion on stage or stages of private members' bills and resolutions?

- (a) Business Advisory Committee
- (b) Rules Committee

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(c) General Purposes Committee

(d) None of the above

Answer a

Standing Committees in each House, divided in terms of their functions, are (i) Committees to Inquire: (a) Committee on Petitions examines petitions on bills and on matters of general public interest and also entertains representations on matters concerning subjects in the Union List; and (b) Committee of Privileges examines any question of privilege referred to it by the House or Speaker/Chairman; (ii) Committees to Scrutinize: (a) Committee on Government Assurances keeps track of all the assurances, promises, undertakings, etc., given by Ministers in the House and pursues them till they are implemented; (b) Committee on Subordinate Legislation scrutinizes and reports to the House whether the power to make regulations, rules, sub-rules, bye-laws, etc., conferred by the Constitution or Statutes is being properly exercised by the delegated authorities; and (c) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table examines all papers laid on the table of the House by ministers, other than statutory notifications and orders which come within the purview of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, to see whether there has been compliance with the provisions of the Constitution, Act, rule or regulation under which the paper has been laid; (iii) Committees relating to the day-to-day business of the House: (a) Business Advisory Committee recommends allocation of time for items of Government and other business to be brought before the Houses; (b) Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions of the Lok Sabha classifies and allocates time to bills introduced by private members, recommends allocation of time for discussion on private members' resolutions and examines Constitution amendment bills before their introduction by private members in the Lok Sabha. The



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Rajya Sabha does not have such committee. It is the Business Advisory Committee of that House which recommends allocation of time for discussion on stage or stages of private members' bills and resolutions; (c) *Rules Committee* considers matters of procedure and conduct of business in the House and recommends amendments or additions to the rules; and (d) *Committee on Absence*

of Members from the Sittings of the House of the Lok Sabha considers all applications from

members for leave or absence from sittings of the House. There is no such committee in the

Rajya Sabha. Applications from members for leave or absence are considered by the House itself; (iv) *Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes*, on which members from both Houses serve, considers all matters relating to the welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes which come within the purview of the Union Government and keeps a watch whether constitutional safeguards in respect of these classes are properly implemented; (v) Committees concerned with the provision of facilities to members: (a) *General Purposes Committee* considers and advises Speaker/Chairman on matters concerning affairs of the House, which do not appropriately fall within the purview of any other Parliamentary Committee; and (b) *House Committee* deals with residential accommodation and other amenities for members;

(vi) *Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament*, constituted under the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, apart from framing rules for regulating payment of salary, allowances and pension to Members of Parliament, also frames rules in respect of amenities like medical, housing, telephone, postal,

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constituency and secretarial facility; (vii) *Joint Committee on Offices of Profit* examines the composition and character of committees and other bodies appointed by the Central and state governments and union territories administrations and recommends what offices ought to or ought not to disqualify a person from being chosen as a member of either House of Parliament; (viii) The *Library Committee* consisting of members from both Houses, considers matters concerning the Library of Parliament; (ix) On April 29, 1997, a *Committee on Empowerment of Women* with members from both the Houses was constituted, to secure, status, dignity and equality for women in all fields; (x) On March 4, 1997, the *Ethics Committee* of the Rajya Sabha was constituted. The Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha was constituted on May 16, 2000.

14. All India Whips' Conference is organized by:

- (a) Lok Sabha
- (b) Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
- (c) Niti Ayog
- (d) Law Ministry

Answer: b

The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, organises All India Whips' Conference from time to time with the purpose of establishing suitable links among the whips of various political parties at the centre and the states/union territories who are concerned with the practical working of the legislatures to discuss matters of common interest and to evolve high standards to strengthen the institution of parliamentary democracy. Seventeen All India Whips' Conferences have been organized so far since 1952

15. Consider the following statement:



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1. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is appointed by the Speaker of Lok Sabha

2. The procedure and the grounds for his removal from office are the same as for a Supreme Court judge

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

Answer: b

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is appointed by the President. The procedure and the grounds for his removal from office are the same as for a Supreme Court judge. He is not eligible for further office under the union or a state government after he ceases to hold his office.

16. Reports of the India relating to the accounts of the union is submitted to which institution by CAG?

- (a) Lok Sabha
- (b) Public Accounts Committee
- (c) President
- (d) CJI

Answer: c

The accounts of the Union and of the states shall be kept in such form as the President may, on the advice of the CAG, prescribe. The reports of the India relating to the accounts of the union shall be submitted to the President, who shall cause them to be laid before each House of Parliament. The reports of the CAG of India relating to the accounts of a state shall be submitted to the Governor of the state, who shall cause them to be laid before the legislature of the state. The duties, powers and conditions of service of the CAG have been specified by the Comptroller and Auditor General's (Duties,

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Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971.

17. Which of the following is Constitutional Bodies:

- 1. Attorney General
- 2. Solicitor general
- 3. CAG

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

➤ The Attorney-General for India is appointed by the President of India. Any person qualified to be a judge of the Supreme Court can be appointed for the post. The duties of the Attorney General is to give advice to the Government of India upon such legal matters, and to perform such other duties of a legal character, as may from time to time be referred or assigned to him by the President, and to discharge the functions conferred on him by or under the Constitution or any other law for the time being in force. In the performance of his duties the Attorney-General shall have the right of audience in all courts in the territory of India. The Attorney-General shall hold office during the pleasure of the President, and shall receive such remuneration as the President may determine.

➤ Solicitor General: Statutory Organisation

➤ The Solicitor General of India is the government's chief legal advisor, and its primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India. The Solicitor General of India is the secondary law officer of the country,



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assists the Attorney-General, and is himself assisted by several Additional Solicitors General of India. Like the Attorney-General for India, the Solicitor General and the Additional Solicitors General advise the government and appear on behalf of the Union of India in terms of the Law Officers (Terms and Conditions) Rules, 1972. However, unlike the post of Attorney-General for India, which is a Constitutional post under Article 76, the posts of the Solicitor General and the Additional Solicitors General are merely statutory. Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appoints the Solicitor General

18. Which Institution of India ensures that the President, the Vice-President and ministers are kept informed of the major activities of all ministries/departments by means of monthly summary of their activities?

- (a) PMO
- (b) Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
- (c) Cabinet Secretariat
- (d) Lok Sabha Speaker

Answer: c

- The Cabinet Secretariat functions directly under the Prime Minister. The administrative head of the Secretariat is the Cabinet Secretary who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board. The business allocated to Cabinet Secretariat is (i) secretarial assistance to the Cabinet and Cabinet Committees; and (ii) rules of business. The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 and the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules,

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1961, facilitating smooth transaction of business in ministries/departments of the government by ensuring adherence to these rules.

- It assists in decision-making by ensuring interministerial coordination, ironing out differences amongst ministries/departments and evolving consensus through the instrumentality of the standing and ad hoc Committees of Secretaries. The Cabinet Secretariat ensures that the President, the Vice-President and ministers are kept informed of the major activities of all ministries/departments by means of monthly summary of their activities. Management of major crisis situations in the country and coordinating activities of various ministries in such a situation is also one of the functions of the Cabinet Secretariat.

19. Department of Official Language is under the ministry of:

- (a) Human Resource Development
- (b) Home Affairs
- (c) Parliamentary Affairs
- (d) None of the above

Answer: b

Ministry of Home Affairs (Grih Mantralaya)

- (i) Department of Internal Security (Aantarik Suraksha Vibhag)
- (ii) Department of States (Rajya Vibhag)
- (iii) Department of Official Language (Raj Bhasha Vibhag)
- (iv) Department of Home (Grih Vibhag)
- (v) Department of Jammu and Kashmir Affairs (Jammu tatha Kashmir Vibhag)
- (vi) Department of Border Management (Seema Prabandhan Vibhag)

20. National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) was set up as an office of the:



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- (a) Ministry of Chemical & fertilizer
- (b) Petroleum Ministry
- (c) PMO
- (d) Cabinet Secretariat

Answer: d

- The National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) was set up as an office of the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India to fulfil, on behalf of the Government of India, the obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and to act as the national focal point for effective liaison with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and other state parties on matters relating to the Convention. In 2000, Chemical Weapons Convention Act was passed by the Parliament which came into force in 2005. India is one of the four non-elected Members of the Executive Committee (consisting of 41 members from all over the world) of the OPCW. India has representation in the Advisory Body on Administrative and Finance (ABAF), the Confidentiality Commission, Network Committee on Assistance and Protection, Scientific Advisory Body (SAB) and the newly created Advisory Body on Education and Outreach (ABEO) of the OPCW. India is an active collaborator with OPCW and all other state parties in implementation of the provisions of the Convention
- The National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) was set up as an office of the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India to fulfil, on behalf of the Government of India, the obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and to act as the national

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focal point for effective liaison with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and other state parties on matters relating to the Convention. In 2000, Chemical Weapons Convention Act was passed by the Parliament which came into force in 2005. India is one of the four non-elected Members of the Executive Committee (consisting of 41 members from all over the world) of the OPCW. India has representation in the Advisory Body on Administrative and Finance (ABAF), the Confidentiality Commission, Network Committee on Assistance and Protection, Scientific Advisory Body (SAB) and the newly created Advisory Body on Education and Outreach (ABEO) of the OPCW. India is an active collaborator with OPCW and all other state parties in implementation of the provisions of the Convention

21. Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System, 'CPGRAMS', the operating system for Public Grievances Portal covering all the ministries/departments of Government of India is under which ministry/ Institution:
- (a) Cabinet Secretariat
 - (b) Parliamentary Affairs
 - (c) Ministry Of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
 - (d) PMO

Answer: c

22. Citizen Charter and Information and Facilitation Counters (IFCs) initiative of the government of India is Coordinated by:
- (a) Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances
 - (b) Cabinet Secretariat
 - (c) PMO
 - (d) Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs



Answer: a

Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry Of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions

23. Which of the following authorities fall within the definition of public authority under RTI act:

1. State government
2. Central government
3. Non-government organizations substantially financed by the central government

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer c

The Act gives all the citizens the right to seek information held by any authority or body or institution of self government established or constituted by or under the Constitution; or by any other law made by the Parliament or a state legislature; or by notification issued or order made by the central government or a state government. Bodies owned, controlled or substantially financed by the central government or a state government and non-government organizations substantially financed by the central government or a state government also fall within the definition of public authority. The right includes inspection of work, documents and records, taking notes, extracts or certified copies of documents or records, taking certified samples of material held by the public authority or held under the control of the public authority. It also includes information relating to any private body which can be accessed by the public authority under any law for the time being in

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force. There are some categories of information which each public authority is required to publish suo moto

24. According to Article 343 (1) of the Constitution official language of the Union is:

- (a) Hindi in Devanagari script
- (b) English in Roman Script
- (c) Both a and b
- (d) There is no official language of India

Answer: a

Article 343 (1) of the Constitution provides that Hindi in Devanagari script shall be the official language of the Union. Article 343 (2) also provides for continuing the use of English in official work of the Union for a period of 15 years (i.e., upto January 25, 1965) from the date of commencement of the Constitution. Article 343 (3) empowered the Parliament to provide by law for continued use of English for official purposes even after January 25, 1965. The Act also lays down under Section 3 (3) that both Hindi and English shall compulsorily be used for certain specified purpose such as resolutions, general Orders, Rules, Notifications, Administrative and other Reports, Press Communiques; Administrative and other reports and official papers to be laid before a House or the Houses of Parliament; contracts, agreements, licences, permits, tender notices and forms of tender, etc

25. Kendriya Hindi Samiti is chaired by:

- (a) Cabinet Minister incharge of Home Ministry
- (b) Prime Minister
- (c) President
- (d) Secretary, Home Ministry

Answer: b

The Kendriya Hindi Samiti was constituted in 1967. Chaired by Prime Minister it is the



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apex policy making body which lays the guidelines for the propagation and progressive use of Hindi as official language of the Union. The Committee of Parliament on official language was constituted in 1976 to periodically review the progress in the use of Hindi as the official language of the Union and to submit a report to the President

26. Consider the following statements:

1 The provision for setting up an Inter-State Council is mentioned in Article 263 of the Constitution. In pursuance of the recommendation made by the Punchhi Commission on Centre State Relations, the Inter-State Council was set up.

2. The Inter-State Council (ISC) is a recommendatory body.

3. The Prime Minister is the Chairman of the Council

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

The provision for setting up an Inter-State Council is mentioned in Article 263 of the Constitution. In pursuance of the recommendation made by the Sarkaria Commission on Centre State Relations, the Inter-State Council was set up in 1990. The Inter-State Council (ISC) is a recommendatory body and has been assigned the duties of investigating and discussing such subjects, in which some or all of the states or the union territories and one or more of the states have a common interest, for better coordination of policy and action with respect to that subject. It also deliberates upon such other matters of general interests to the states as may be referred by the Chairman to the Council

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27. Consider the following statements:

1. Zonal Councils are executive bodies.

2. Union Home Minister is the Chairman of all the zonal councils

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

Answer: b

- Five zonal councils viz., Northern Zonal Council, Central Zonal Council, Eastern Zonal Council, Western Zonal Council and Southern Zonal Council were set up vide Part-III of the States Re-organisation Act, 1956 with the objectives of bringing out national integration; arresting the growth of acute state consciousness, regionalism, linguism and particularistic tendencies; enabling the centre and the states to cooperate and exchange ideas and experiences; and establishing a climate of co-operation amongst the states for successful and speedy execution of development projects. (So Statutory Organisation)
- The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of all the zonal councils. The Office of the Vice Chairman is held by the Chief Minister of the Member State of the respective zonal council by annual rotation, each holding office for a period of one year at a time. Two other ministers of each member state are also members of each Zonal Council. The Chief Secretary of the Member State function as the Secretary of respective Zonal Council by annual rotation and another officer/Development Commissioner and one officer nominated by the Planning Commission for each of the



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Zonal Councils as Adviser for a period of one year.

28. Discretionary powers a in matters relating to sharing of royalties between district council and state government under 6th Schedule if function of:

- (a) Central Minister of Tribal Affairs
- (b) President
- (c) Governor
- (d) State Executive

Answer: c

in the Sixth Schedule which applies to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram as specified in para 20 of that schedule, discretionary powers are given to Governor in matters relating to sharing of royalties between district council and state government. The Sixth Schedule vests additional discretionary powers in Governors of Mizoram and Tripura in almost all their functions (except approving regulations for levy of taxes and money lending by non-tribals by district councils)

29. Which of the following states has bicameral system like that of Centre?

- 1. Andhra Pradesh
- 2. Karnataka
- 3. Rajasthan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c

For every state, there is a legislature which consists of Governor and one House or, two Houses as the case may be. **In Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh,** there are two Houses known as Legislative Council and Legislative

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Assembly. In the remaining states, there is only one House known as Legislative Assembly. Parliament may, by law, provide for abolition of an existing Legislative Council or for creation of one where it does not exist, if proposal is supported by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly concerned.

30. First Municipality council in India was set at:

- (a) Chennai
- (b) Kolkata
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) Delhi

Answer: A

Municipal bodies have a long history in India. The first such Municipal Corporation was set-up in the former Presidency Town of Madras in 1688; and later in Bombay and Kolkata in 1726.

31. Chief Electoral Officer of the state is appointed by:

- (a) Prime Minister
- (b) Election Commission
- (c) State election Commission
- (d) None of the above

Answer: b

At the state level, the election work is supervised, subject to overall control of the Commission, by the Chief Electoral Officer of the state, who is appointed by the Commission by selection from amongst senior civil servants of the state government. Field administration at the district and sub-divisional levels in India is run by the District Magistrates (Deputy Commissioners/Collectors), Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Revenue Divisional Officers, Tehsildars, etc. The Election Commission utilizes these state government officers, for election work, by designating them as District Election Officers, Electoral



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Registration Officers, Returning Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, etc. During election time, however, they are available to

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the Commission, more or less, on a full time basis.

CHAPTER 4 Agriculture

1. Consider the following objectives:

1. To promote eco- friendly concept of cultivation reducing the dependency on agro-chemicals and fertilizers.
2. To optimally utilize the locally available natural resources for input production.
3. To promote the use of local indigenous traditional techniques for management of plant nutrition and plant protection.

Which of the above is/are objective of paramparagat krishi vikas Yojana?

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

Answer: d

The Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is the first comprehensive scheme launched by the Central Government as a centrally sponsored programme (CSP), where the Central and state government's share the funding in varying ratio. The scheme is implemented by the State Governments on a cluster basis of 20 hectares each. The farmer within the cluster is given financial assistance to a maximum of 1 ha and the limit of assistance is Rs.50,000 per ha during the conversion period of 3 years. The target is to promote 10,000 clusters covering 2 lakh ha over the period of 3 years, 2015-16 to 2017-18. Ministry of Agriculture invites citizens to use their creative skills and make posters that showcase the objectives of the PKVY scheme.

The objectives are listed below:

- To promote eco- friendly concept of cultivation reducing the dependency on agro-chemicals and fertilizers.
- To optimally utilize the locally available natural resources for input production.
- To promote the use of local indigenous traditional techniques for management of plant nutrition and plant protection.
- To develop 10,000 organic clusters of 50 acres each.
- To develop potential markets for organic products.

2. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana is administered by:

1. Agriculture Ministry
2. Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
3. Rural Development Ministry

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

- The scheme has been approved with an outlay of Rs. 50,000 crore for a period of 5 years (2015-16 to 2019-20). The major objective of PMKSY is to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level, expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water, enhance the adoption of precision irrigation and other water saving technologies (Per



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drop, More crop), promote sustainable water conservation practices etc. Cabinet decision was taken in July, 2016 for implementation of PMKSY in a mission mode. The mission is administered by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation with the Per Drop More Crop component being administered by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW)

- PMKSY has been conceived amalgamating ongoing schemes viz. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD&GR), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) of Department of Land Resources (DoLR) and the On Farm Water Management (OFWM) of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC). The scheme will be implemented by Ministries of Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Development. Ministry of Rural Development is to mainly undertake rain water conservation, construction of farm pond, water harvesting structures, small check dams and contour bunding etc. MoWR, RD &GR, is to undertake various measures for creation of assured irrigation source, construction of diversion canals, field channels, water diversion/lift irrigation, including development of water distribution systems. Ministry of Agriculture will promote efficient water conveyance and precision water application devices like drips, sprinklers, pivots, rain-guns in the farm “(Jal Sinchan)”, construction of

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micro-irrigation structures to supplement source creation activities, extension activities for promotion of scientific moisture conservation and agronomic measures

3. For which of the following crops Minimum support price is announced:

1. Soyabean
2. Sunflower
3. Seasmum
4. Copra
5. Raw Jute

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

Commission for ‘Agricultural Costs and Prices’ (CACP), set up with a view to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure, is mandated to advice on the price policy (MSP) of 23 crops. These include seven cereal crops (paddy, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi and barley), five pulse crops (gram, tur, moong, urad and lentil), seven oilseeds (groundnut, sunflower seed, soyabean, rapeseed mustard, safflower, niger seed and seasmum), copra (dried coconut), cotton, raw jute and sugarcane. CACP submits its recommendations in the form of Price Policy Reports every year, separately for five groups of commodities namely kharif crops, rabi crops, sugarcane, raw jute and copra.

4. Which of the following factors are taken into consideration while formulating MSP of a crop:

1. Cost of production
2. Demand and supply



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3. Price trend in the domestic and international markets
4. Inter-crop price parity
5. likely impact of MSPs on consumers

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

Cost of production (CoP) is one of the important factors in the determination of MSP of mandated crops. Besides cost, the Commission considers other important factors such as demand and supply, price trend in the domestic and international markets, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors and the likely impact of MSPs on consumers, in addition to ensuring rational utilization of natural resources like land and water. Thus, pricing policy is rooted not in 'cost plus' approach, though cost is an important determinant of MSP.

5. Attracting and retaining youth in agriculture scheme is being implemented by:

- (a) IARI
- (b) ICAR
- (c) Niti Ayog
- (d) Directorate of Animal Husbandry

Answer: b

In India, new records are being established in the agriculture sector. India's foodgrain production for the 2016-17 is estimated at record 275.68 million tonnes, which is over 4 per cent higher than the previous record production achieved during 2013-14. In this endeavour, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has played a vital role by way of technology development, demonstration and transfer in India. The National Agricultural Research

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System (NARS) of the country has taken up number of activities through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and other programmes for application of farm technologies in farmers' field. Besides, taking up technology assessment, refinement, demonstration and capacity development programmes the other initiatives such as Farmers First, attracting and retaining youth in agriculture (ARYA), climate resilient integrated farming systems (IFS), cluster frontline demonstration (CFLD) of pulses and oilseeds, Cereal Systems Initiatives for South Asia (CSISA), documentation and registration of farmers' varieties under PPV&FRA, pulses seed hubs, KVK Portal, Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav and awareness creations about mega government schemes, etc., were also implemented to espouse the cause of farming community through technology application with their active participation

6. National Livestock Mission was launched in which five year plan?

- (a) XI FYP
- (b) XII FYP
- (c) IX FYP
- (d) X FYP

Answer: b

For sustainable and continuous growth of livestock sector by emulating the success achieved in dairy and poultry sectors, across species and regions, the National Livestock Mission was launched in 2014-15 with an approved outlay of X 2,800 crore during XII Plan. This Mission is formulated with the objectives of sustainable development of livestock sector, focusing on improving availability of quality feed and fodder, risk coverage, effective extension, improved flow of credit and organisation of livestock farmers/rearers, etc. with the following sub-missions: (i) sub-mission on livestock development; (ii) sub-mission on pig development in north-eastern region; (iii) sub-mission on fodder and feed



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development; and (iv) sub-mission on skill development, technology transfer and extension

7. Consider the following statement:

1. The first livestock census was conducted during 1919-1920
2. Survey is conducted quinquennially by all states/UTs of the country

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

Answer: c

The first livestock census was conducted during 1919-1920 and since then it is being conducted quinquennially by all states/UTs of the country. It is the only source, which gives disaggregated information on various species of farm animals and poultry birds. The 19th Livestock Census was conducted in 2012 in the country in participation with animal husbandry departments of the states/UTs. Breed Survey was also undertaken in 2013 in order to estimate the breed wise number of livestock population on a general principle of 15 per cent sample village across the country.

8. The proposal of Government of India for celebrating an International Year of Millets by UN was endorsed by FAO Council for which year:

- (a) 2020
- (b) 2027
- (c) 2023
- (d) 2028

Answer: c

9. What is/are the component of PM-AASHA?

1. Price Support Scheme (PSS),
2. Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)

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3. Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

The new Umbrella Scheme includes the mechanism of ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers and is comprised of

- Price Support Scheme (PSS),
- Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)
- Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS).

The other existing schemes of Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) for procurement of paddy, wheat and nutri-cereals/coarse grains and of Ministry of Textile for cotton and jute will be continued for providing MSP to farmers for these crops.

Cabinet has also decided that participation of private sector in procurement operation needs to be piloted so that on the basis of learnings the ambit of private participation in procurement operations may be increased. Therefore, in addition to PDPS, it has been decided that for oilseeds, states have the option to roll out Private Procurement Stockist Scheme (PPSS) on pilot basis in selected district/APMC(s) of district involving the participation of private stockiest. The pilot district/selected APMC(s) of district will cover one or more crop of oilseeds for which MSP is notified. Since this is akin to PSS, in that it involves physical procurement of the notified commodity, it shall substitute PSS/PDPS in the pilot districts.

The selected private agency shall procure the commodity at MSP in the notified markets during the notified period from the



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registered farmers in consonance with the PPSS Guidelines, whenever the prices in the market fall below the notified MSP and whenever authorized by the state/UT government to enter the market and maximum service charges up to 15% of the notified MSP will be payable.

Expenditure:

- The Cabinet has decided to give additional government guarantee of Rs.16,550 crore making it Rs. 45,550 crore in total.
- In addition to this, budget provision for procurement operations has also been increased and Rs. 15,053 crore is sanctioned for PM-AASHA implementation. The scheme henceforth is a reflection of Government's commitment and dedication to our 'Annadata'.

Procurement over the years:

- During financial years 2010-14 total procurement was Rs. 3500 crore only whereas during financial years 2014-18, it has risen 10 times and reached to Rs. 34,000 crore. For procurement of these agri-commodities during 2010-14, Government Guarantee of Rs. 2500 crore was provided with expenditure of only Rs. 300 crore; while during 2014-18, Guarantee amount has been increased to Rs. 29,000 crore with expenditure of Rs. 1,000 crore.

Details:

- Government of India is working with the holistic approach of solving any issue rather than in fragments. Increasing MSP is not adequate and it is more important that farmers should get full benefit of the announced MSP. For this, government realizes that it is essential that if price of the agriculture produce market is less than MSP, then in that case State

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- Government and Central Government should purchase either at MSP or work in a manner to provide MSP for the farmers through some other mechanism. With this approach, Cabinet has approved the Umbrella Scheme of PM-AASHA with three sub-schemes i.e. Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) and pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PDPS).
- In Price Support Scheme (PSS), physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds and Copra will be done by Central Nodal Agencies with proactive role of State governments. It is also decided that in addition to NAFED, Food Cooperation of India (FCI) will take up PSS operations in states /districts. The procurement expenditure and losses due to procurement will be borne by Central Government as per norms.
 - Under Price Deficiency Payment Scheme this scheme (PDPS), it is proposed to cover all oilseeds for which MSP is notified. In this direct payment of the difference between the MSP and the selling/modal price will be made to pre-registered farmers selling his produce in the notified market yard through a transparent auction process. All payment will be done directly into registered bank account of the farmer. This scheme does not involve any physical procurement of crops as farmers are paid the difference between the MSP price and Sale/modal price on disposal in notified market. The support of central government for PDPS will be given as per norms.

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CHPATER 5 Culture and Tourism

1. Lalit Kala Akademi is apex body for:

- (a) Music, dance and drama
- (b) Visual Arts
- (c) Both a and b
- (d) None of the above

Answer: b

- Lalit Kala Akademi, the National Academy of Art, was set up in 1954. Lalit Kala Akademi is the government's apex cultural body in the field of visual arts in India. It is an autonomous body, which is fully funded by the Ministry of Culture. The Akademi is an institution that has rendered service to the nation in the arts sphere long before the world woke up to the global impact of Indian art. It has established, preserved and documented a permanent collection that reflects the vitality, complexity and unfolding patterns of modern and contemporary art in India. All through the year it presents exhibitions and educational programmes of unparalleled significance; sustains a library, art collection, archives, conservation laboratory and supports scholars and publications of pre-eminent intellectual merit all over the country.
- Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's national academy of music, dance and drama, is a pioneer in the creation of modern India. The ephemeral quality of the arts, and the need for their preservation led to the adapting of a democratic system in which the common man had the opportunity to learn, practice and propagate the arts. In 1945, the

Asiatic Society of Bengal submitted a proposal for the creation of a National Cultural Trust consisting of three academies an academy of dance, drama and music; an academy of letters and an academy of art and architecture. It led to the creation of three national academies after Independence. The national Academy named Sangeet Natak Akademi, was the first of these entities to be established by a resolution of the Ministry of Education. In 1961, the Sangeet Natak Akademi was reconstituted by the Government as a society and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (as amended in 1957)

2. Sattriya music belong to state of:

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Odessa
- (c) Assam
- (d) Tripura

Answer: c

- The Sattriya dance form was introduced in the 15th century A.D by the great Vaishnava saint and reformer of Assam, Mahapurusha Sankaradeva as a powerful medium for propagation of the Vaishnava faith. The dance form evolved and expanded as a distinctive style of dance later on. This neo-Vaishnava treasure of Assamese dance and drama has been, for centuries, nurtured and preserved with great commitment by the Sattras i.e. Vaishnava **maths** or monasteries. Because of its religious character and association with the Sattras, this dance style has been aptly named Sattriya.



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- Sankaradeva introduced this dance form by incorporating different elements from various treatises, local folk dances with his own rare outlook. There were two dance forms prevalent in Assam before the neo-Vaishnava movement such as Ojapali and Devadasi with many classical elements. Two varieties of Ojapali dances are still prevalent in Assam i.e. Sukananni or Maroi Goa Ojah and Vyah Goa Ojah. Sukananni Oja paali is of Sakti cult and Vyah Goa Oja paali is of Vaishnava cult. Sankaradeva included Vyah Goa Ojah into his daily rituals in Sattras. Till now Vyah Goa Ojah is a part of rituals of the Sattras of Assam. The dancers in a Oja paali chorus not only sing and dance but also explain the narration by gestures and stylized movements. As far as Devadasi dance is concerned, resemblance of a good number of rhythmic syllables and dance postures along with footwork with Sattriya dance is a clear indication of the influence of the former on the latter. Other visible influences on Sattriya dance are those from Assamese folk dances namely Bihu, Bodos etc. Many hand gestures and rhythmic syllables are strikingly similar in these dance forms.
- Sattriya dance tradition is governed by strictly laid down principles in respect of hastamudras, footworks, aharyas, music etc. This tradition, has two distinctly separate streams - the Bhaona-related repertoire starting from the Gayan-Bhayanar Nach to the Kharmanar Nach, secondly the dance numbers which are independent, such as Chali, Rajagharia Chali, Jhumura, Nadu Bhangi etc. Among them the Chali is

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characterized by gracefulness and elegance, while the Jhumura is marked by vigor and majestic beauty.

3. Consider the following statement:

1. Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat was announced in 2016 on the occasion of the 140th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

2. All States and UTs except Jammu & Kashmir are covered under the programme 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

Answer: d

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat was announced in 2015 on the occasion of the 140th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The broad objectives of the initiative are:- (i) to celebrate the unity in diversity of our nation and to maintain and strengthen the fabric of traditionally existing emotional bonds between the people of our country; (ii) to promote the spirit of national integration through a deep and structured engagement between all states and union territories through a year-long planned engagement between states; (iii) to showcase the rich heritage and culture, customs and traditions of either state for enabling people to understand and appreciate the diversity that is India, thus fostering a sense of common identity; (iv) to establish long-term engagements; (v) to create an environment which promotes learning between States by sharing best practices and experiences

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) was launched in 2007



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with the objective to prepare a National database on Built Heritage and Sites

2. The National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) was launched in 2003 with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) as the nodal agency to reclaim India's inheritance of knowledge contained in the vast treasure of manuscripts.

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

Answer: c

The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) was launched in 2007 with the objective to prepare a National database on Built Heritage and Sites (BH&S) and antiquities from different sources and museums during the XIth Five Year Plan for information and dissemination to planners, researchers etc., and better management of such cultural resources. Keeping in view the magnitude of the work involved, and as per recommendations of National Productivity Council in its 3rd Party Evaluation Report, NMMA has been made a Division of Archaeological Survey of India. As part of the mandate, NMMA has to prepare two national registers viz., (i) National

Register on Built Heritage and Sites and (ii) National Register on Antiquities. About 2.00 lakh

data on Built Heritages and Sites has been documented from various secondary sources. NMMA has documented data of approximately 15.00 lakh antiquities so far from different sources.

National Mission for Manuscripts

The National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) was launched in 2003 with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) as the nodal agency to reclaim India's inheritance of knowledge contained

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in the vast treasure of manuscripts. There are Manuscripts Resource Centres (MRC), Manuscripts Conservation Centres (MCC), Manuscripts Partner Centres (MPC) and Manuscripts Conservation Partner Centres (MCPC) all over India to locate, to document, to conserve and to digitize the tangible heritage of India. Major activities of NMM are documentation of manuscripts through survey, conservation of manuscripts through preventive and curative methods, training courses and workshops on conservation-methods, manuscriptology and paleography workshops for teaching ancient scripts, digitization of manuscripts for archival and easy access to the knowledge-base, dissemination of knowledge contained in the manuscripts through publications, outreach programme to create public awareness of the importance of manuscripts.

5. National Mission on Libraries has been set up by:

- (a) Human Resource Development Ministry
- (b) Ministry of Culture
- (c) Niti Ayog
- (d) None of the above

Answer: b

National Mission on Libraries has been set up by Ministry of Culture, in 2012 in pursuance of National Knowledge Commission recommendations for sustained attention for development of libraries and information science sector. Its components are: creation of National Virtual Library of India; setting up of NML model libraries; quantitative and qualitative survey of libraries; capacity building. The purpose of National Virtual Library of India is to facilitate a comprehensive database on digital resources on information about India and on information generated in India, in an open access environment.

6. In which scheme theme based tourist circuits are being developed?

- (a) PRASAD



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- (b) AMRUT
- (c) Swadesh Darshan Scheme
- (d) HRIDAY

Answer c

- Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, thirteen thematic circuits have been identified, for development namely: North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit.
- Under the 'PRASAD' scheme the focus is on development and beautification of the identified pilgrimage destinations. Whereas, in the 'Spiritual Circuit' identified under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, the thrust is on development of particular thematic circuit consisting of various religious/spiritual destination in a State and Union Territory.

Under PRASAD scheme, 25 sites of religious significance have been identified for development namely Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh), Amritsar (Punjab), Ajmer (Rajasthan), Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh), Badrinath (Uttarakhand), Dwarka (Gujarat), Deoghar

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- (Jharkhand), Belur (West Bengal), Gaya (Bihar), Guruvayoor (Kerala), Hazratbal (Jammu & Kashmir), Kamakhya (Assam), Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu), Katra (Jammu & Kashmir), Kedarnath (Uttarakhand), Mathura (Uttar Pradesh), Patna (Bihar), Puri (Odisha), Srisailem (Andhra Pradesh), Somnath (Gujarat), Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Trimbakeshwar (Maharashtra), Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and Vellankani (Tamil Nadu)
- The Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) scheme aimed at preserving and revitalizing the soul and unique character of the heritage cities in India, has been approved by the Ministry of Urban Development for the Twelve cities under the scheme in the first phase, namely; Amaravati(Andhra Pradesh); Gaya (Bihar); Dwarka (Gujarat), Badami(Karnataka); Puri (Odisha), Amritsar (Punjab); Ajmer(Rajasthan); Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu); Vellankani(Tamil Nadu); Warangal (Telangana); Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh); and Mathura (Uttar Pradesh).

CHAPTER 6 Basic Economic Data

1. National Statistical Commission is a/an:
- (a) Executive Organization
 - (b) Statutory Organization
 - (c) Constitutional Organization
 - (d) Currently non existent

Answer: a

National Statistical Commission (NSC) created through a resolution of Government of India.

- The National Statistical Commission (NSC) was set up in 2005. The setting up of the NSC followed the decision of the Cabinet to accept the recommendation of the Rangarajan



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Commission, which reviewed the Indian Statistical System in 2001. The NSC was initially constituted in 2006, to serve as a nodal and empowered body for all core statistical activities of the country, to evolve, monitor and enforce statistical priorities and standards and to ensure statistical coordination. It has one part-time Chairperson and four part-time members, each having specialization and experience in specified statistical fields. Besides, Secretary, Planning Commission is an ex-officio member of the Commission. The Chief Statistician of India is the Secretary to the Commission

2. Index of industrial production is published by?

- (a) Labour Ministry
- (b) NSSO
- (c) CSO
- (d) RBI

Answer: c

- The Central Statistics Office (CSO), an attached office of the Ministry, coordinates the statistical activities in the country and evolves statistical standards. Its activities inter-alia, include compilation of national accounts, index of industrial production, consumer price indices (urban/rural/combined), human development statistics, including gender statistics in the states and union territories and dissemination energy statistics, social and environment statistics and preparation of the National Industrial Classification
- Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is released by CSO every month in the form of Quick

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Estimates with a time-lag of 6 weeks as per the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) norms of IMF. The base year of all-India IIP was revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 and the new series was launched in 2017. IIP is compiled using secondary data received from 14 source agencies in various ministries/departments or their attached/subordinate offices. Apart from breakup of the index in three sectors, viz., mining, manufacturing and electricity, the estimates are also simultaneously released as per use-based classification viz., primary goods, intermediate goods, infrastructure construction goods and consumer durables and consumer non-durables. The Quick Estimates are subsequently revised as first Revision after one month from release on receipt of updated production data from the 14 source agencies. Subsequently, the indices are again revised after two months from first Revision. The major source of data for IIP is the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion that supplies data for 322 out of 407 item groups with a weight of 47.54 per cent in overall IIP

NSSO

The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, is responsible for conduct of large scale sample surveys, in diverse fields, on all India basis. Primary data is collected regularly through nationwide household surveys on various socio-economic subjects, Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) under the Collection of Statistics Act and Enterprise Surveys, as a follow up of the economic census. Besides these surveys, NSSO collects data on rural and urban prices; plays a significant role in



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the improvement of crop statistics through supervision of the area enumeration and crop estimation surveys of the state agencies. It also maintains a frame of urban areal units for drawing samples for socio-economic surveys in urban areas. The NSSO functions with requisite autonomy, in matters relating to data collection, processing and publication/dissemination of results/data based on its surveys, under overall guidance and supervision of National Statistical Commission (NSC) which appoints working groups/technical committees comprising both official and non-official members on different subjects for finalization of survey instruments for its surveys and methodologies for the same. The Director General (Survey) is responsible for overall coordination and supervision of all activities of NSSO and is assisted by four Additional Director Generals, each one being incharge of separate divisions responsible for four distinct aspects of such large scale surveys relating to their designing and planning, field work, data processing and coordination

3. Current base year for calculation of Consumer Price Index Rural (CPI-Rural) is:

- (a) 2004-05
- (b) 2015
- (c) 2018
- (d) None of the above

Answer: d

- The Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has revised the Base Year of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 2010=100 to 2012=100 with effect from the release of indices for the month of January 2015.
- The CSO, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation started releasing state/UTwise as well as All

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India Consumer Price Indices (CPI) separately for rural, urban and combined (rural plus urban) for the purpose of temporal price comparison with effect from January, 2011 with 2010 as the base year. Accordingly, the annual inflation rates, based on these indices were made available since January, 2012. CSO revised the base year of CPI from 2010-2012 and revised series was launched in 2015. The back series for the revised series of CPI was also made available for the users.

4. Annual Survey of Industries is published by:

- (a) Ministry of heavy Industry
- (b) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- (c) Ministry of Finance
- (d) Ministry of Commerce

Answer: b

- The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) is the principal source of industrial statistics in India. It provides statistical information to access and evaluate, objectively and realistically, the change in the growth, composition and structure of the organized manufacturing sector comprising activities related to manufacturing processes, repair services, generation, transmission, etc., of electricity, gas and water supply and cold storage
- The ASI extends to the entire country. It covers all factories registered under Sections 2m (i) and 2m (ii) of the Factories Act, 1948, where the manufacturing process is defined under Section 2 (k) of the said Act. Details the survey also covers bidi and cigar manufacturing



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establishments registered under the Bidi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966. All the electricity undertakings engaged in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, not registered with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) are also covered under ASI.

- However defence establishments, oil storage and distribution depots, departmental units such as railway workshops, government mints, sanitary, water supply, gas storage, etc., are excluded from the purview of the survey. The coverage of ASI has further been extended beyond the purview of the Section 2m (i) and 2m (ii) of the Factories Act, 1948 and the Bidi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966. To start with, the units with 100 or more employees, not registered under Section 2m (i) and 2m (ii) of the Factories Act, 1948 but registered under any of the seven Acts/Board/Authority viz., Companies Act, 1956, Factories Act, 1948, Shops and Commercial Establishment Act, Societies Registration Act, Cooperative Societies Act, Khadi and Village Industries Board, Directorate of Industries (District Industries Centre) in the Business Register of Establishments (BRE) are considered. Such units have been included from the BRE of Andhra Pradesh in ASI 2014-15 and from the BREs of Manipur, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan in ASI 2015-16

5. CPI for agricultural labourers/rural labourers is published by:

- (a) CSO
- (b) NSSO
- (c) Labour Ministry
- (d) Rural Development Ministry

Answer: c

Rural Retail Price Collection (RPC): The data on rural retail prices are collected by Field Operations Divisions (FOD) regularly for compiling the consumer price index (CPI) for agricultural labourers/rural labourers on behalf of the Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment. At present, the Labour Bureau compiles and publishes the CPI for agricultural labourers/rural labourers. A commodity basket consisting of 260 commodities was adopted in 1986 with a view to reflect the price changes in respect of the current consumption pattern. The price data for the items in the commodity basket are collected every month from a fixed set of 603 villages/markets spread over 26 states/UTs using schedules 3.01 (R). The RPC bulletin called the 'Prices and Wages in Rural India' which is published for each quarter, provides price data only at national level and wage data at national and state level for 26 major states

6. Thrust area of 20 Point programme is/are:
- 1. Poverty alleviation
 - 2. Afforestation and environment protection
 - 3. Energy to rural areas

Select the correct answer from code given below:

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

Answer: d

- The Twenty Point Programme (TPP) initiated since 1975 was restructured in 1982, 1986 and 2006. The thrust of the Programme restructured in



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2006 is to eradicate poverty and improve the quality of life of the poor and the underprivileged people all over the country. The programme covers various socio-economic aspects like poverty, employment, education, housing, agriculture, drinking water, afforestation and environment protection, energy to rural areas, welfare of weaker sections of the society, etc

- The Programme originally consisted of 20 points and 66 items being monitored individually by central nodal ministries concerned. Out of the 66 items, 25 were for monthly monitoring, while the rest were to be monitored on annual basis by this Ministry. The monthly information in respect of 21 items was collected from various states/union territories and for the remaining four, the information was collected from the concerned ministries. One of the 66 items viz., 'Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana (SGRY)' has since been subsumed into another item namely 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Act' with effect from 2008 and has been renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act from December 2009. Since 2014 the data collection is done on quarterly basis and the monthly monitoring has been changed to quarterly monitoring. At present, out of the remaining 65 items, 19 items are being monitored on quarterly basis. The monitoring mechanism for TPP-2006 has also been widened by including block level monitoring in addition to the existing central, state and district level monitoring.

7. Consider the following statement:

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1. Currently Nodal Ministry for Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is Ministry of Rural Development
2. Objective of MPLAD Scheme is to enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasizes on creation of durable community assets in the areas of national priorities

Select the correct answer from code given below:

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

Answer: b

The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was launched in 1993. Initially, Ministry of Rural Development was the Nodal Ministry for this scheme. In October, 1994 this scheme was transferred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The objective of MPLAD Scheme is to enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasizes on creation of durable community assets in the areas of national priorities, viz., drinking water facility; education; electricity facility; health and family welfare; irrigation facility; non-conventional energy sources; railways, roads, pathways and The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was launched in 1993. Initially, Ministry of Rural Development was the Nodal Ministry for this scheme. In October, 1994 this scheme was transferred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The objective of MPLAD Scheme is to enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasizes on creation of durable community assets in the areas of national priorities, viz., drinking water facility;



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education; electricity facility; health and family welfare; irrigation facility; non-conventional energy sources; railways, roads, pathways and bridges; sanitation and public health, etc., based on the locally felt needs. This Scheme is governed by a set of guidelines.

The salient features of the Scheme include:

- The Scheme is fully funded by the Government of India under which funds are released in the form of grants-in-aid directly to the district authorities.
- The funds released under the Scheme are non-lapsable, i.e., the entitlement of funds not released in a particular year is carried forward to the subsequent years, subject to eligibility. At present, the annual entitlement per MP/constituency is ₹ 5 crore.
- Under it, the role of the Members of Parliament is limited to recommend works. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the district authority to sanction, execute and complete the works recommended within the stipulated time period.
- The elected Lok Sabha Members can recommend works in their respective constituencies. The elected members of the Rajya Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the state from which they are elected. Nominated Members of the Parliament can recommend works

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for implementation, anywhere in the country.

- MPLADS works can be implemented in areas affected by natural calamities like floods, cyclone, hailstorm, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, landslides, tornado, earthquake, drought, tsunami, fire and biological, chemical, radiological hazards, etc.
- In order to accord special attention to the development of areas inhabited by Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), 15 per cent of MPLADS funds are to be utilized for areas inhabited by SC population and 7.5 per cent for areas inhabited by ST population.
- If an elected Member of Parliament finds the need, to contribute these funds, to a place outside that state/UT or outside the constituency within the state or both, the MP can recommend eligible works, under these Guidelines upto a maximum of ₹ 25 lakh in a financial year. Such a gesture will promote national unity, harmony, and fraternity among the people, at the grass roots level.
- The MP can spend a maximum of ₹ 20 lakh per year for giving assistance to Differently Abled Citizens for purchase of tri-cycles (including motorized tricycles), battery operated motorized wheel chair and artificial limbs; and aids for visually and hearing impaired

CHAPTER 7 Commerce

1. Formulation, implementation and monitoring of the Foreign Trade Policy is work of:

- (a) Ministry of Commerce
- (b) Finance Ministry
- (c) NITI Aayog

(d) Home Ministry

Answer: A

THE Department of Commerce comes under the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The mandate of the Department of Commerce is regulation, development and promotion of



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India's international trade and commerce through formulation of appropriate international trade and commercial policy and implementation of the various provisions thereof. The basic role of the Department is to accelerated growth of international trade. **The Department formulates, implements and monitors the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP)** which provides the basic framework of policy and strategy to be followed for promoting exports and trade. Besides, the Department is also entrusted with responsibilities relating to multilateral and bilateral commercial relations, Special Economic Zones, state trading, export promotion and trade facilitation, and development and regulation of certain export oriented industries and commodities

2. The objective of Special Economic zone is:

1. Generation of additional economic activity
2. Promotion of exports of goods and services
3. Promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources
4. Creation of employment opportunities
5. Development of infrastructure facilities.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

- India was one of the first in Asia to recognise the effectiveness of the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) model in promoting exports, with Asia's first EPZ set up in Kandla in

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1965. To overcome the shortcomings on account of multiplicity of controls and clearances, absence of world-class infrastructure and an unstable fiscal regime and with a view to attract larger foreign investments in India, the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Policy was announced in April 2000. This policy intended to make SEZs an engine for economic growth supported by quality infrastructure complemented by an attractive fiscal package, both at the Centre and the state level, with minimum possible regulations. SEZs in India functioned from 2000 to 2006 under the provisions of the Foreign Trade Policy and fiscal incentives were made effective through the provisions of relevant statutes.

- The SEZ Act, 2005, supported by SEZ Rules, came into effect in 2006, providing simplification of procedures and single window clearance on matters relating to central and state governments. The main objectives of the SEZ Act are: generation of additional economic activity; promotion of exports of goods and services; promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources; creation of employment opportunities; and development of infrastructure facilities.

CHAPTER 8 Communications and Information Technology

1. Modern postal system in India was established by:

- (a) Rippon
- (b) Lord Clive



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- (c) Warren Hastings
- (d) Canning

Answer: b

The modern postal system, the most preferred facilitator of communication, was established in India by Lord Clive in 1766 and it was further developed by Warren Hastings in 1774. The expansion of its network was made during 1786 to 1793. For the first time, the post offices were regulated through an Act of 1837 on a uniform basis to unite all the post office establishments throughout the then existing three Presidencies into one all-India service. Thereafter, the Post Office Act of 1854 reformed the entire fabric of the postal system and the post offices of India were placed on the present administrative footing on 1st October 1854

2. Which ministry/ Institution frames and modifies rules relating to Small saving scheme?

- (a) Finance Ministry
- (b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- (c) RBI
- (d) None of the above

Answer A

Department of Posts is operating Small Savings Schemes on behalf of Ministry of Finance, which frames and modifies rules relating to these schemes and pays remuneration to the Department of Posts.

3. Consider the following statement:

1. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) is a Public private operated bank under Department of Posts.
2. First branches of IPPB was opened at Raipur and Ranchi in 2017.

Select the correct answer from code given below:

- (a) 1 only

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- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) is a Government of India owned bank operating under the Department of Posts. The first phase of the Bank with 650 branches and 3250 post offices as access points was inaugurated in September 2018. Over ten thousand postmen have been roped into the first phase. The aim is to utilise all the post offices in the country as access points and 300,000 postal service workers to provide house to house banking services. In 2015, the Reserve Bank of India launched its differential banking policy for more focused banking, to boost financial inclusion and promote digital banking. The licence for such bank was provided to India Post in the same year. In 2016, it was registered as a public limited government company for setting up a payments bank. In 2017, Raipur and Ranchi were set up as branches of IPPB. The Bank offers savings accounts, money transfer and insurances through third parties, bill and utility payments. The Bank - an initiative towards financial inclusion - is envisaged to reach rural and far-flung areas of the country delivering banking services at every doorstep.

4. Consider the following statement pertaining to Postal Life Insurance

1. Postal Life Insurance (PLI) was introduced on 1st February 1884, as a welfare scheme for the benefit of postal employees and later extended to the employees of telegraph department in 1888
2. Prime objective of the scheme is to provide insurance cover to the rural public in general and to benefit weaker sections and women workers of rural areas in particular and also to spread insurance awareness among the rural population



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Select the correct answer from code given below:

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

Answer: a

- Postal Life Insurance (PLI) was introduced on 1st February 1884, as a welfare scheme for the benefit of postal employees and later extended to the employees of telegraph department in 1888. It now covers employees of central and state governments, central and state public sector undertakings, universities, government aided educational institutions, nationalized banks and local bodies. PLI also extends the facility of insurance to defence services and para-military forces. Life cover through Postal Life Insurance has been extended to employees of scheduled commercial banks, credit co-operative societies, joint ventures having a minimum 10 per cent stake of central/state govt/PSUs/banks etc., universities/educational institutions affiliated to University Grants Commission/Central Board of Secondary Education/All India Council of Technical Education/Medical Council of India. Benefits of PLI are now available to professionals such as Doctors, Engineers, Management Consultants, Chartered Accountants, Architects, Lawyers, Bankers etc. and to employees of listed companies of NSE (National Stock Exchange) and BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange).
- Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) was started in 1995. The prime objective of the scheme is to provide insurance cover to the rural public in

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general and to benefit weaker sections and women workers of rural areas in particular and also to spread insurance awareness among the rural population.

5. Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana is implemented by:

- (a) Ministry of health
- (b) Department of Post
- (c) Women and child development Ministry
- (d) Human resource development Ministry

Answer: b

- Pan India scholarship program for school children called Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to increase the reach of Philately. Under the scheme of SPARSH (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby), it is proposed to award annual scholarships to children of Standard VI to IX having good academic record and also pursuing Philately as a hobby through a competitive selection process in all postal circles. Under the scheme, it is proposed to award 920 scholarships to students pursuing Philately as a hobby. Every Postal Circle will select a maximum of 40 scholarships representing 10 students each from Standard VI, VII, VIII & IX. The amount of Scholarship will be Rs. 6000/- per annum @ Rs. 500/- per month.
- Philately is the hobby of collection and study of Postage stamps. It also entails the collection, appreciation and research activities on stamps and other related philatelic products. The hobby of collecting Stamps includes seeking, locating, acquiring, organizing, cataloguing, displaying, storing, and maintaining the stamps or related products on thematic areas. Philately is called the king of



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hobbies because Stamp collection as a hobby has lot of educational benefits - it teaches a lot about the socio economic political reality of the period in which the stamp is issued or the theme on which it is issued.

6. What is Jeevan Praman' in relation to programmes of Government of India?

- (a) Life Insurance coverage scheme for Elderly
- (b) Health Insurance scheme for Elderly
- (c) Biometric enabled digital service for pensioners
- (d) none of the above

Answer: c

- Jeevan Pramaan is a biometric enabled digital service for pensioners. Pensioners of Central Government, State Government or any other Government organization can take benefit of this facility.
- Digital Life Certificate for Pensioners Scheme of the Government of India known as Jeevan Pramaan seeks to address this very problem by digitizing the whole process of securing the life certificate. It aims to streamline the process of getting this certificate and making it hassle free and much easier for the pensioners. With this initiative the pensioners requirement to physically present himself/herself in front of the disbursing agency or the certification authority will become a thing of the past benefiting the pensioners in a huge way and cutting down on unnecessary logistical hurdles.

7. What is e-Taal web portal ?

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- (a) Portal to send messages and emails to public representatives and government employees
- (b) Portal for dissemination of e-transactions statistics of national and state level e-governance projects including mission mode projects.
- (c) Portal for continuous feedback for eservices delivered by Government of India and state governments.
- (d) Portal to ensure citizens' engagement in decision making by the Government so that the ultimate goal of "Good Governance"

Answer: b

- MyGov.in is an innovative platform launched to ensure citizens' engagement in decision making by the Government so that the ultimate goal of "Good Governance" for building India is achieved. This initiative is an opportunity for citizens and well-wishers from across the world to share their views on key issues directly with the Prime Minister of India
- MeitY has developed Rapid Assessment System (RAS) for continuous feedback for eservices delivered by Government of India and state governments. This system has multiple channels for receiving feedback and is backed by analytics. These analytics will help integrated departments for continuous system improvement and better governance
- e-Sampark Database is developed to send messages and emails to public representatives and government employees. This database has 1.90 crore email addresses and over 82 crore mobile numbers. The count of mailers is over 301 crore for 563 campaigns.



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- e-Taal is a web portal for dissemination of e-transactions statistics of national and state level e-governance projects including mission mode projects. It receives transaction statistics from web based applications periodically on near real time basis. e-Taal presents quick analysis of transaction counts in tabular and graphical form to give quick view of transactions done by various e-governance projects

8. What is MeghRaj?

- (a) Ambitious initiative to harness the benefits of Cloud Computing
- (b) A cloud seeding project
- (c) Initiative to connect Universities on the cloud
- (d) None of the above

Answer: a

GI Cloud: In order to utilize and harness the benefits of Cloud Computing, the government has embarked upon an ambitious and important initiative - "GI Cloud" which has been coined as "MeghRaj". The focus of this initiative is to evolve a strategy and implement various components including governance mechanism to ensure proliferation of Cloud in government. Formulation of the Cloud Policy is one of the primary steps that will facilitate large scale adoption of cloud by government

9. Digidhan Mission' is an initiative of:

- (a) RBI
- (b) Finance Ministry
- (c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- (d) Niti Ayog

Answer: c

- The BHIM App was launched in 2016 and within a short span BHIM downloads have crossed 20 million

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- with transactions worth around ₹ 3000 crore. For promotion of BHIM app at merchant end, Aadhaar Pay under new name 'BHIM Aadhaar' was also launched in 2017. A mission has been created under the name 'Digidhan Mission' for creation of ecosystem for promotion of digital payments and transactions.
- Government of India is making efforts for promoting a less cash economy and to provide the facility of seamless digital payment to all citizens of India in a convenient manner. Hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of FY 2017-18, announced a target of 2,500 crore digital transaction for 2017-18 and had announced that a dedicated Mission shall be set up for this purpose. In pursuance of this vision, "DIGIDHAN Mission" has been set under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), with an objective to achieve the target of 2500 crore digital payment transactions in financial year 2017-18 and to enable digital payment infrastructure throughout the country.

10. Consider the following statement pertaining to National Cyber Co-ordination Centre:

1. It is a multi-stakeholder cyber-security and e-surveillance agency implemented by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team
2. It will be India's first layer for cyber threat monitoring and all communication with the government as well as the private service providers will be monitored round the clock

Select the correct answer from code given below:

- (a) 1 only



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- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

- NCCC is a multi-stakeholder cyber-security and e-surveillance agency implemented by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)
- NCCC is a multi-stakeholder cyber-security and e-surveillance agency
- It comes under the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- It has powers under the Indian constitution with provision of section 69B of the Information Technology Act, 2000
- It will be India's first layer for cyber threat monitoring and all communication with the government as well as the private service providers will be monitored round the clock
- Its mandate is to scan internet traffic and communication metadata (which are little snippets of information hidden inside each communication) coming into the country to detect real-time cyber threats

National Cyber Co-ordination Centre (NCCC) is being set-up with an aim to generate cyber security situational awareness to anticipate and prepare for cyber attacks. NCCC will aggregate cyber threat related information from various identified sources in the country for near real time threat assessment and situational awareness that will help in analysis and generation of timely alerts and periodic reports. This initiative is expected to help in securing the cyber space and strengthening

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the cyber security posture in the country by leveraging the expertise of people, deploying standard processes and sharing of resources. Cyber Swachhta Kendra: Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has launched a Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre). This centre is providing detection of malicious programmes and free tools to remove the same for banks as well as common users.

11. Entity which facilitates exchange of domestic Internet traffic between the peering ISP members is:

- (a) CERT-IN
- (b) National Internet Exchange of India
- (c) BSNL
- (d) Bharat Broadband Network Limited

Answer: b

- NIXI is a not for profit organization set up under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (now Section 8 under Companies Act, 2013) for peering of ISPs among themselves and routing the domestic traffic within the country. NIXI is performing the following three activities: (i) internet exchanges; (ii) IN registry and internationalized domain names (IDNs); (iii) National Internet Registry (NIR).
- NIXI is a not for profit Organization under section 25 of the Companies Act 1956, and was registered on 19th June, 2003. NIXI was set up for peering of ISPs among themselves for the purpose of routing the domestic traffic within the country, instead of taking it all the way to US/Abroad, thereby resulting in better quality of service (reduced latency) and reduced bandwidth charges for ISPs by saving on International Bandwidth. NIXI is



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managed and operated on a Neutral
basis, in line with the best practices

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for such initiatives globally.

Chapter 9 Defense

1. Al Nagah is a Joint Exercise between:

- (a) India and Nepal
- (b) India and Oman
- (c) India and Japan
- (d) India and china

Answer: b

Second edition of 'Al Nagah' the joint exercise between the Indian and Oman Armies was held at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh. Both armies shared valuable combat expertise on countering terrorist operations in an international environment.

2. Surya Kiran is a Joint Exercise between:

- (a) India and Nepal
- (b) India and Oman
- (c) India and Japan
- (d) India and china

Answer: A

Surya Kiran-XI' was held wherein, infantry battalion of Indian Army and Durga Bahsh Battalion of Nepalese Army participated. Eleventh such battalion level exercise between the two countries aimed at training of troops in counter insurgency operations in mountainous terrain. It formally incorporated issues related to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) and helped enhance defence co-operation and military relations between the two countries

3. Nomadic Elephant is a Joint Exercise between:

- (a) India and Nepal
- (b) India and Oman
- (c) India and Japan
- (d) India and Mangolia

Answer: d

- Indo-Mongolian Joint Military Exercise 'Nomadic Elephant' was

held at Vairengte. Mongolian Army was represented by soldiers of the elite Special Forces Task Battalion while Indian Army was represented by a contingent of the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles. The exercise was aimed at training the troops in counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations under the United Nations mandate.

4. Yudh Abhyas is a Joint Exercise between:

- (a) India and Nepal
- (b) India and Oman
- (c) India and USA
- (d) India and Mangolia

Answer: C

As part of the Indo-US defence cooperation, a joint military training, exercise 'Yudh Abhyas-2017' was conducted in USA. The theme of the exercise was to build and develop military relations and interoperability for conducting counter terrorism, regional security operations and peace keeping operations under UN Charter. The fifth Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Training Exercise 'Mitra Shakti 2017' was conducted in Pune. The exercise focused on counter terrorism operations in semi urban terrain

5. Indra is a Joint Exercise between:

- (a) India and Nepal
- (b) India and Russia
- (c) India and USA
- (d) India and Mangolia

Answer: b

First ever tri service exercise 'Indra' between India and Russia was conducted in Russia



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6. Sampriti is a Joint Exercise between:

- (a) India and Bangladesh
- (b) India and Russia
- (c) India and USA
- (d) India and Mangolia

Answer: A

- Indo-Bangladesh exercise 'Sampriti' was conducted in Vairengte.
- It was aimed at carrying out operations against terrorists and insurgents on the lines of those in the J&K and NE.

7. Ajeya Warrior' is a Joint Exercise between:

- (a) India and Bangladesh
- (b) India and Russia
- (c) India and USA
- (d) India and Mangolia

Answer: A

Indo-UK Joint Military Exercise. Indo-UK Exercise 'Ajeya Warrior' was conducted in Rajasthan. The training contingent comprised one company each from the Indian and British Army. The aim of the exercise was to build and promote bilateral relations and enhance interoperability while sharing experiences in counter terrorism and counter insurgency operations between the two countries.

8. Consider the following statement:

1. Indian Navy is responsible for overall Maritime Security including Coastal Security and Offshore Security.
2. Indian Coast Guard was constituted in 1977 Which looks after safety and protection of artificial islands, offshore terminals and installations

Select the correct answer from code given below:

- (a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c

Indian Coast Guard was constituted in 1977 with following charter of duties: (a) safety and protection of artificial islands, offshore terminals and installations; (b) protection to fishermen including assistance to them at sea while in distress; (c) preserve and protect maritime environment and to prevent and control marine pollution; (d) assisting Customs and other authorities in anti-smuggling operations; (e) safety of life and property at sea and collection of scientific data; (f) enforcing the provisions of various enactments in the maritime zones

9. Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh are:

- (a) First women pilots to be commissioned into the fighter stream
- (b) First All Women crew who sailed the earth
- (c) first women pilots to be commissioned for Nuclear capable submarines
- (d) None of the above

Answer: A

Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh created history in 2016 by becoming the first women pilots to be commissioned into the fighter stream. These women pilots, now Flying Officers, have been posted to MiG-2 Bison and Hawk units as Sqn Pilots on successful completion of their fighter flying training. A second batch of women cadets also have been selected in fighter stream. Presently, they are completing Stage-II (Fighter) training at Air Force Station Hakimpet and are expected to be commissioned into the Fighter stream after successful completion of their training.

CHAPTER 10 Educations



1. Consider the following Statements:

1. Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 confers the right to elementary education on all children, in the age group of 6-18 years, on the basis of equality of opportunity in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards.

2. The centrally sponsored scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) supports states and UTs in their efforts to implement the RTE Act.

3. RTE Act makes a specific provision for Special Training for age-appropriate admission for out-of-school children

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

- Article 21-A of the Constitution of India and its consequent legislation, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 became operative in the country in 2010. The RTE Act confers the right to elementary education on all children, in the age group of 6-14 years, on the basis of equality of opportunity in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards. All states and UTs have notified their state RTE Rules. The centrally sponsored scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) supports states and
- UTs in their efforts to implement the RTE Act. Its interventions include, inter alia, opening of new schools, construction of schools and additional classrooms, constructing

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- toilets and drinking water facilities, provisioning for teachers, in-service training for teachers and academic resource support, free textbooks and uniforms, support for improving learning achievement levels, research, evaluation and monitoring.
- The RTE Act makes a specific provision for Special Training for age-appropriate admission for out-of-school children. A majority of out-of-school children belong to disadvantaged communities - scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, Muslims, migrants, children with special needs, urban deprived children, working children, children in other difficult circumstances, for example, those living in difficult terrain, children from displaced families, and areas affected by civil strife, etc. Special training may be in the form of residential or non-residential courses organized, preferably in the premises of the school, but if such facilities are not available in school, alternate facilities which are safe, secure and accessible may be identified and used
 - RTE-SSA provides a clear thrust and special focus on education for girls and children belonging to disadvantaged groups and weaker sections. The general interventions under SSA apply to all girls and children belonging to disadvantaged and weaker sections; these include ensuring availability of primary and upper primary schools within the habitation as prescribed under the RTE Rules, uniforms, textbooks, etc. Special Training interventions are also largely focused on girls and disadvantaged groups, because it is this category of children who are



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most deprived of opportunities to pursue their education

2. Consider the following Statements pertaining to Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya

1. They are residential upper primary schools for girls from SC, ST, OBC Muslim communities and BPL girls.

2. They are set up in educational backward blocks where schools are at great distances and are a challenge to their security of girls

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

Answer: c

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV): KGBV are residential upper primary schools for girls from SC, ST, OBC Muslim communities and BPL girls. KGBVs are set up in educational backward blocks where schools are at great distances and are a challenge to their security of girls. KGBVs reach out to adolescent girls who are unable to go to regular schools to out of school girls in the 10+ age group who are unable to complete primary school and younger girls of migratory populations in difficult areas of scattered habitations that do not qualify for primary/upper primary schools. KGBVs provide for a minimum reservation of 75 per cent seats for girls from SC/ST/OBC and minorities and 25 per cent to girls from families that live below the poverty line. 3,600 KGBVs are functional in the states and 3,66,756 girls are enrolled in them.

3. Digital Gender Atlas for Advancing Girls' Education is prepared by HRD ministry with the help of:

- (a) UNDP

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- (b) UNEP
- (c) UNESCO
- (d) UNCTAD

Answer: c

Digital Gender Atlas for Advancing Girls' Education: Department of School Education and Literacy has prepared a Digital Gender Atlas for advancing girls' education in the country on its website. The tool, which has been developed with the support of UNICEF, will help identify low performing geographic pockets for girls, particularly from marginalized groups such as scheduled castes, schedule tribes and Muslims, on specific gender related education indicators. In order to plan and execute educational interventions, the purpose of the Gender Atlas is to help identify and ensure equitable education with a focus on vulnerable girls, including girls with disabilities

4. Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat (PBBB), a sub-programme of which scheme?

- (a) Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)
- (b) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)
- (c) Atal innovation Mission
- (d) All of the above

Answer: b

The Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat (PBBB), a sub-programme of the SSA, in classes I and II is focusing on foundational learning in early grades with an emphasis on reading, writing and comprehension and mathematics. States and UTs have been implementing specific interventions like ABL in Tamil Nadu, Nalli Kali in Karnataka, Pragya in Gujarat; steps have been taken to develop specific teacher training modules for teachers teaching students in classes 1 and II. Punjab, Meghalaya, Delhi have introduced programmes for strengthening teaching of



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maths in classes I and II; in Sikkim schools have set up reading corners for children in the foundational classes through support from community members

5. Shaala Siddhi is an initiative under which scheme:

- (a) Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan
- (b) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
- (c) Atal innovation Mission
- (d) None of the above

Answer: a

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) was launched in 2009 with the objective to enhance access to secondary education and improve its quality. The schemes envisages to enhance the enrolment at secondary stage by providing a secondary school with a reasonable distance of habitation, with an aim to ensure GER of 100 per cent and universal retention by 2020. The other objectives include improving quality of education imparted at secondary level through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, removing gender, socioeconomic and disability barriers, etc

6. Consider the following statement:

1. Vidyanjali scheme aims to motivate and engage children of the age group 6-18 years, in science, mathematics and technology by observation,
 2. The Rashtriya Aavishkar Abhiyan (RAA) was launched to enhance community and private sector involvement in Government run elementary schools across the country
- 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

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Answer: d

- The Rashtriya Aavishkar Abhiyan (RAA), also under the SSA, aims to motivate and engage children of the age group 6-18 years, in science, mathematics and technology by observation, experimentation, inference drawing and model building, through both inside and outside classroom activities. Schools have been adopted for mentoring by institutions of higher education like IIT's, IISER's and NIT's
- Vidyanjali, another sub-programme under SSA, was launched to enhance community and private sector involvement in Government run elementary schools across the country. The aim of the programme is to strengthen implementation of co-scholastic activities in government schools through services of volunteers.

7. What is ShaGun portal ?

- (a) A portal to for National institute of Ranking Framework
- (b) An Initiative to monitor the implementation of SSA
- (c) An Initiative to monitor the scheme of MHRD
- (d) A portal to of AICTE

Answer: b

ShaGun portal - an Initiative to monitor the implementation of SSA: MHRD has developed a web portal called ShaGun. It aims to capture and showcase innovations and progress in elementary education sector by continuous monitoring. ShaGun will help monitor progress by assessing performance of states and UTs on key parameters and thereby serve as a platform for the central government for effective planning and deliver on the promise of providing quality education to all. ShaGun, which has been



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coined from the words 'Shala' meaning schools and 'Gunvatta' meaning quality, has been developed with a twin track approach. It has an online monitoring module to measure state-level performance and progress against key educational indicators. It has been developed to collect and report data which will enable the government and administrators to track the efficiency with which SSA funds are being utilized and the results that this is delivering.

8. Consider the following statement:

1. Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the Government of India will reimburse the state expenditure towards 25 per cent admissions for economically weaker sections to private unaided schools

2. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) also supports repair of old school buildings, provision of school buildings in respect of building less, dilapidated schools and retrofitting of school buildings to make them hazard resistant.

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

Answer: c

- Section 12(1) (c) mandates all private unaided schools and special category schools to reserve a minimum of 25 per cent of seats for economically weaker sections. Under the SSA, the Government of India will reimburse the state expenditure towards 25 per cent admissions to private unaided schools, based on per child cost norms notified by the state government, subject to a maximum ceiling of 20 per cent of the size of

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the SSA annual work plan and budget.

- RTE-SSA provides flexibility to states in the execution of civil works. Neither designs nor unit costs are centrally prescribed. States are free to evolve building designs based on local site conditions and develop cost estimates based on the state schedule of rates notified by the state governments. School infrastructure provisions, however, is not a standalone activity. The design and quality of school infrastructure has a significant impact on enrolment, attendance and retention of children in schools. Thus 'civil works' under SSA are undertaken to provide all weather building as per provision of RTE Act. RTE-SSA encourages participation by the local community in all civil work activities in order to instil a sense of ownership in them. RTE-SSA also supports repair of old school buildings, provision of school buildings in respect of building less, dilapidated schools and retrofitting of school buildings to make them hazard resistant

10. What is Shala Darpan under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan?

- (a) Comprehensive instrument for school evaluation leading to school improvement
- (b) Nurturing and showcasing the artistic talent of school students
- (c) Portal for monitoring of teachers education Institutions
- (d) None of the above

Answer: d

- The "Shaala Darpan Project" to cover all the 1099 Kendriya Vidyalayas was launched in June, 2015. The objective of this project is to provide services based on school



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management systems to students, parents and communities. Under school information services, the following list of services will be enabled i.e., school profile management, student profile management, employee information, student attendance, leave management, report cards, curriculum tracking custom, SMS alerts for parents / administrators on student and teacher attendance.

- Kala Utsav: Kala Utsav is an initiative of this Ministry to promote arts (music, theatre, dance, visual arts and crafts) in education by nurturing and showcasing the artistic talent of school students at secondary stage in the country, and it is also a platform to bring arts to the centre stage in an inclusive environment
- India Teacher Education Portal (**Prashikshak**): the Department of School Education and Literacy, launched 'India Teacher Education Portal (Prashikshak)' in 2016. This portal is helpful in monitoring of teachers education Institutions and in providing comprehensive information to prospective students and teachers to select the right institute as per choice

11. Consider the following statement pertaining to National Council for Teacher Education:

1. The main objective of the NCTE is to achieve planned and coordinated development of the teacher education system throughout the country.
2. It is a statutory body came into existence in pursuance of the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993

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

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Answer: c

National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Regulations, 2014- Norms and Standards: The NCTE was established with a view to achieving planned and coordinated development of the teacher education system throughout the country, the regulation and proper maintenance of norms and standards in the teacher education system, and for matters connected therewith.

12. Consider the following statement:

1. National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA), an autonomous wing of MHRD is the nodal agency for overall planning and management and funding of Adult Education Programmes and institutions
2. The provision of adult education is through the Saakshar Bharat Programme (SBP) which is a centrally sponsored 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

Answer: c

- National Literacy Mission (NLM), launched in 1988 for the adults in the age group of 15+. The programme of National Literacy Mission was revamped in 2009 in alignment with new paradigms of lifelong learning as Saakshar Bharat. Considerable progress has been made in raising the Literacy rate of the country but still the levels remain uneven across different states, districts, social groups and minorities. The overall



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goal of adult education is to establish a fully literate society through improved quality and standard of adult education and literacy

- The National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA) is the operating and implementing organization at national level for all the activities envisaged in Adult Education and Skill Development. During the 12th Five Year Plan, NLMA has been striving to raise the literacy rate to 80 per cent and to reduce the gender gap to less than 10 per cent

13. Consider the following statement:

1. The Mid-Day Meal Scheme covers children of classes I-X studying in government, government-aided schools, special training centres (STC) and madaras/ maqtabs supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

2. The key objectives of the MDMS are to address the issues of hunger and education in schools by serving hot cooked meals; improve the nutritional status of children and improve enrollment, attendance and retention rates in schools and other education centers.

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

Answer: b

- The Mid-Day Meal Scheme covers children of classes I-VIII studying in government, government-aided schools, special training centres (STC) and madaras/ maqtabs supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). It is the largest school feeding programme in the

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world, covering 9.78 crore children in 11.40 lakh institutions across the country. Apart from promoting access and retention, the Mid-Day Meal Scheme has also contributed to social and gender equity. It has helped in preventing classroom hunger, promoting school participation and fostering social equality and enhancing gender equality

14. Consider the following statement:

1. National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was approved by the MHRD in 2016 and first ranking was launched in 2017

2. NIRF ranking is an Annual Report Card to the Nation and to the stakeholders on what has been done by the institution in the last one year, on the given performance.

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

Answer: b

- The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for educational institutions was launched to meet a felt need for a framework that would enable parents, students, teachers, educational institutions and other stakeholders to rank institutions on the basis of a set of objective parameters and a transparent process. Developed by a team of experts in education and heads of institutions, the portal and the framework is presently available for engineering and management institutions
- National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was approved by



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the MHRD in 2015 and first ranking was launched in 2016

15. What is SAMVAY in the context of education?

- (a) A portal to monitor skill training institution
- (b) A scheme to subsidize skill training
- (c) Skills Assessment Matrix which allows vertical and lateral mobility within vocational education system and between the current education system
- (d) Skill monitoring scheme to track progress of trainee and accordingly providing funding support

Answer: c

A credit framework Skills Assessment Matrix for Vocational Advancement of Youth (SAMVAY) is now in place which allows vertical and lateral mobility within vocational education system and between the current education system. The strength of this framework is the seamless integration of pursuit of academic knowledge and practical vocational skills.

16. Which is the implementing agency of scheme for Higher Education Youth for Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS)?

- (a) Sector Skill Councils
- (b) National Skill development Corporation
- (c) IIT Delhi
- (d) MHRD Ministry

Answer: A

- The primary scheme will be operated in conjunction with National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) which provides for placing of apprentices upto 10% of the total work force in every business/industry. The scheme will be implemented by the Sector Skill

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- Councils (SSCs) , initially the Banking Finance Insurance Services (BFSI), Retail, Health care, Telecom, Logistics, Media, Management services, ITeS and Apparel. More sectors would be added over time with emerging apprenticeship demand and curriculum adjustments.
- Education Sector Skill Council was constituted in 2014, to consider job roles other than academic faculties and teacher qualifications. The functions of the SSC, include setting up of Labour Market Information System (LMIS) to assist planning and delivery of training, identification of skill development needs and preparing a catalogue of skill types, develop skill development plan and maintain skill inventory developing skill competency standards and qualifications

17. Consider the following Statement:

1. Yukti scheme aims at skill development and upgradation of design and technologies enhancing the economic prospects of those engaged in traditional crafts and arts as a means of livelihood.

2. Ishan Vikas is a special scholarship scheme for students of north east region launched by AICTE.

3. Ishan Uday has been launched with a plan to bring selected college and school students from the north eastern states into close contact with IITs, NITs and IISERs during their vacation periods for academic exposure

Select the correct answer from code given below:

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



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Answer: a

- **Yukti - Yogya Kalakriti ki Takneek:** Yukti aims at skill development and upgradation of design and technologies enhancing the economic prospects of those engaged in traditional crafts and arts as a means of livelihood. It aims at introducing appropriate designs and technology for innovation and pedagogical methods for introducing skills for upgradation
- **Ishan Uday-for Students of North East Region:** The UGC launched a special scholarship scheme for students of north east region, Ishan Uday from the academic session 2014-15. The Scheme envisages grant of 10,000 scholarships to students from the region whose parental income is below ₹ 4.5 lakh per annum and would be provided scholarship ranging from ₹ 3,500 to ₹ 5,000 per month for studying at undergraduate level in colleges/universities
- **Ishan Vikas - Academic Exposure for North Eastern Students :** The programme has been launched with a plan to bring selected college and school students from the north eastern states into close contact with IITs, NITs and IISERs during their vacation periods for academic exposure.

18. Consider the following initiative of India pertaining to education:

1. Global Initiative for Academic Network aims to bring Indian talent pool on common platform to share knowledge virtually.
2. Pragati (scholarship for girl students) - is a scheme of AICTE aimed at providing assistance for advancement of girls participation in technical education

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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

Answer: b

- Global Initiative for Academic Network (GIAN) aims at tapping the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs, internationally to encourage their engagement with the institutes of higher education in India, and elevate India's scientific and technological capacity to global excellence
- Pragati (scholarship for girl students) - is a scheme of AICTE aimed at providing assistance for advancement of girls participation in technical education. Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skill and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. This is an attempt to give every young woman the opportunity to further her education and prepare for a successful future. Salient features of the scheme include: number of scholarships per annum: ₹ 4,000 'One Girl' per family, where the family income is less than ₹ 6 lakh per annum. The candidates will be selected on merit at the qualifying examination to pursue technical education from amongst such candidates. Amount of scholarship: tuition fee of ₹ 30,000/- or at actual, whichever is less and ₹ 2,000/- per month for 10 months as incidentals each year. 15 per cent for SC, 7.5 per cent ST and 27 per cent for OBC candidate/applicant are reserved. Out of the total number of scholarships in



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each scheme, 50 per cent of them are available at each degree / diploma level and also transferable in the event-of non availability of eligible applicant.

- Know Your College is a portal developed for helping a prospective student make a valued judgement for selection of college providing the necessary information about the college. Details like collaborations, mobile education, vocational education, community colleges, use of ICT, model curriculum, and a research portal are available. Details about facilities for specially-abled, facilities for girls, placement facilities and entrepreneurship details are also available. Students can lodge online grievances on the portal for redressal. This application allows a student either in the country or outside to submit an online grievance

19. Consider the following statement:

1. Acquisition of copyright is automatic and it does not require any formality.
 2. Intellectual Property Appellate Board is the Appellate Authority for matters arising out of the Trade Marks Act, Patents Act, Geographical Indications Act and copyright
- 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

Answer c

- Acquisition of copyright is automatic and it does not require any formality. Copyright comes into existence as soon as a work is created and no formality is required to be completed for acquiring copyright. However, certificate of

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registration of copyright and the entries made therein serve as prima facie evidence in a court of law with reference to dispute relating to ownership of copyright.

- Recently, the Finance Act, 2017, the Annual Money Bill for the Financial Proposals by the Revenue Department, Ministry of Finance, Government of India was passed by the Parliament and came into force on April 01, 2017. The Finance Act as a part of its stride to reduce the number of Tribunals, merged the Copyright Board ("the Board") with the Intellectual Property Appellate Board ("IPAB" or "Appellate Board"). Thence, the process of transferring the same to the IPAB has begun with the latest news on July 21, 2017 that the office was currently fast-tracking the approvals for Copyright approvals before the merger takes shape.
- The Intellectual Property Appellate Board, a quasi-judicial body, was constituted in September 1958. The jurisdiction of the Copyright Board extends to the whole of India. The Board is entrusted with the task of adjudication of disputes pertaining to copyright registration, assignment of copyright, grant of Licenses in respect of works withheld from public, unpublished Indian works, production and publication of translations and works for certain specified purposes. It also hears cases in other miscellaneous matters instituted before it under the Copyright Act, 1957. The Copyright(Amendment)Act, 2012 which came into force w.e.f. June 21,2015 provides for a full time IPAB Under Section 11 with Chairman and two other



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members, with its headquarters in
Delhi. The new full time IPAB is

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expected to be reconstituted shortly.

CHAPTER 11 Energy

1. Which of the following is/are under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power?

1. North-Eastern Electric Power Corporation
2. Bureau of Energy Efficiency
3. Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

- The construction and operation of generation and transmission projects in the Central Sector are entrusted to Central Sector Corporations, viz., the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), the North-Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO), and the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL). The Power Grid is responsible for all the existing and future transmission projects in the central sector and also for the formation of the National Power Grid. Two joint-venture power corporations, namely, Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) (formerly known as NJPC) and Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC) are responsible for the execution of the Nathpa Jhakri Power Project in

Himachal Pradesh and projects of Tehri Hydro Power Complex in Uttarakhand respectively. Three statutory bodies, i.e., the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), the

BhakraBeas Management Board (BBMB) and Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), are also under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power

- Programmes of rural electrification are provided financial assistance by the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC). The Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) provide term-finance to projects in the power sector. The autonomous bodies (societies), namely Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) and the National Power Training Institute (NTPI) are also under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power. A Power Trading Corporation has also been incorporated primarily to support the Mega Power Projects in private sector by acting as a single entity to enter into Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)

2. What is/are objectives of Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY):

1. To separate agriculture and non-agriculture feeders
2. metering in rural areas
3. strengthening and augmentation of sub transmission and distribution infrastructure in rural areas

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d



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Government of India launched a new scheme namely Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) with the following objectives (a) to separate agriculture and non-agriculture feeders for judicious rostering of supply to agricultural and non-agricultural consumers in rural areas; (b) strengthening and augmentation of sub transmission and distribution infrastructure in rural areas; (c) metering in rural areas (feeders, distribution transformers and consumers). The erstwhile rural electrification scheme was subsumed in DDUGJY as a separate rural electrification component and the approved outlay of the erstwhile scheme has been carried forward to the DDUGJY

3. Consider the following statement pertaining to Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana

1. Scheme is to ensure electrification of all willing households in the country in rural as well as urban areas
2. The beneficiaries for free electricity connections would be identified using Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data and un-electrified households not covered under the SECC data would not be provided electricity connections

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

Answer: a

- **Saubhagya - Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana:** To achieve universal household electrification in the country by March, 2019, Government launched Saubhagya scheme with total cost of ₹ 16,320 crore including gross budgetary support of ₹ 12,320 crore

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during the entire implementation period. The scope of the Scheme includes:

- Providing electricity connections to all un-electrified households in rural areas. APL households will get electricity connections on payment of ₹ 500 (which is payable in 10 instalment in the electricity bill); providing Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV) based standalone system for un-electrified households located in remote and inaccessible villages / habitations, where grid extension is not feasible or cost effective; and providing electricity connections to all remaining economically poor un-electricied households in urban areas
- The beneficiaries for free electricity connections would be identified using Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data. However, un-electrified households not covered under the SECC data would also be provided electricity connections under the scheme on payment of Rs. 500 which shall be recovered by DISCOMs in 10 instalments through electricity bill.

4. Consider the following statement:

1. UDAY Scheme was launched in 2017 for a sustainable solution to the operational and financial inefficiencies of DISCOMs across the country
2. UDAY is voluntary scheme for participation by states or UT.

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

Answer: b

UDAY Scheme was launched in 2015 for a sustainable solution to the operational and



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financial inefficiencies of DISCOMs across the country, through targeted interventions in the form of lower interest costs, reduction of cost of power, increased revenues and improved operational efficiencies. UDAY is voluntary scheme for participation and 26 states and 1 union territory have joined the scheme. The scheme is being monitored by an inter-ministerial committee and a state level committee.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. The primary objective of Ujjwala Yojana is to provide access to clean cooking fuel LPG to BPL households thereby protecting their health by reducing the serious health hazards associated with use of conventional cooking fuels.
2. A well targeted systems of subsidy delivery to LPG consumers is introduced through PAHAL.

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

Answer: c

- In order to provide clean cooking fuel to poor households especially in rural areas, the Government had launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to provide deposit free LPG connections to 8 crore women belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) households. The primary objective is to provide access to clean cooking fuel LPG to BPL households thereby protecting their health by reducing the serious health hazards associated with use of conventional cooking fuels such as firewood, coal, cowdung, etc., which causes severe indoor household air pollution. Use of LPG as a cooking

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fuel frees women from drudgery of collecting fire wood, reduce time spent on cooking and prevent deforestation. So far, more than 5.55 crore BPL families have been benefited by this Scheme. The eligible families are identified through Socio-Economic Caste Census list and in case, name is not found in SECC list, from seven categories i.e., beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-Gramin), beneficiaries of Antyodaya Anna Yojana, SC/ST households, most backward classes, forest dwellers, tea/ex-tea garden tribes and residents of islands/ river islands subject to fulfilling other terms and conditions of the Scheme.

- Government, as a measure of Good Governance introduced well targeted systems of subsidy delivery to LPG consumers through PAHAL. This initiative was aimed at rationalizing subsidies based on approach to cut subsidy leakages, but not subsidies per se. Applicable subsidy is directly transferred into the bank account of the beneficiaries.

6. Consider the following states:

1. Tamil Nadu
2. Kerala
3. Gujarat
4. Jammu & Kashmir

Which of the above states has Lignite resources?

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

Answer: d

The lignite reserves in the country have been estimated at around 44.59 billion tonnes by the Geological Survey of India. The major



deposits are located in Tamil Nadu, followed by Rajasthan, Gujarat, Kerala, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir and union territory of Puducherry.

CHAPTER 12 Environments

1. International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development is research collaboration on:

- (a) Hindukush
- (b) Rockies
- (c) Andes
- (d) Zagros

Answer: a

2. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) agreements was adopted during the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992
- 2. The Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing (ABS) adopted under the aegis of CBD in 2014

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

Answer: a

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is one of the key agreements adopted during the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The objective of CBD are: conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources. Pursuant to the ratification of the CBD by India in 1994, several steps were initiated to meet the

commitments under the Convention, and to realize the opportunities offered by the Convention. These efforts were aimed at bringing the legislative, administrative and policy regimes in tune with the three-fold

objectives of the CBD. India enacted the Biological Diversity (BD) Act in 2002 to give effect to the provision of this Convention. India also prepared a National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) in 2008, and an Addendum to NBAP in 2014 with 20 national targets on biodiversity. The Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing (ABS) adopted under the aegis of CBD in 2010, is aimed at fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources

3. Man and Biosphere reserve is programme of

- (a) UNESCO
- (b) UNEP
- (c) UNDP
- (d) IUCN

Answer: a

- The idea of 'Biosphere Reserves' was initiated by UNESCO in 1973-74 under its Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme. The MAB, launched in 1970 by UNESCO, is a broad based ecological programme aimed to develop within the natural and social sciences a basis for the rational use and conservation of the resources of the biosphere and for the improvement of the relationship between man and the environment, to predict the consequences of today's actions on tomorrow's world and thereby to increase man's ability to manage efficiently the natural resources of the biosphere.

4. Cartagena Protocol is associated with
(a) UNCCD



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- (b) UNFCCC
- (c) Stockholm
- (d) UNCBD

Answer: d

- The scheme on Biodiversity Conservation was initiated during 1991-92 during the 8th Plan period, to ensure coordination among various agencies dealing with the issues relating to conservation of biodiversity, and to review, monitor and evolve adequate policy instruments for the same. The main objective is implementation of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, UNEP-GEF Supported Capacity building Project on Biosafety (Phase-II) Project and Strengthening of Biosafety Management System. Cartagena Biosafety Protocol (CPB): It was negotiated under the aegis of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and adopted in 2000. India is a party to the Protocol. The main objective of the Protocol is to ensure safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effect on the conservation and sustainable use biological diversity, taking into account risk to human health

5. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau was constituted under which act?
- (a) Wildlife Protection act 1972
 - (b) Environment Protection act 1986
 - (c) Water act 1974
 - (d) None of the above

Answer: a

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) is a statutory multi-disciplinary body established under the Ministry, to combat organized

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wildlife crime in the country. The Bureau has its headquarters in New Delhi and five regional offices at Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Jabalpur; three sub-regional offices at Guwahati, Amritsar and Cochin; and five border units at Ramanathapuram, Gorakhpur, Motihari, Nathula and Moreh. It is mandated to collect and collate intelligence related to organized wildlife crime activities and to disseminate the same to state and other enforcement agencies for immediate action so as to apprehend the criminals; to establish a centralized wildlife crime data bank; coordinate actions by various agencies in connection with the enforcement of the provisions of the Act; assist foreign authorities and international organization concerned to facilitate co-ordination and universal action for wildlife crime control; capacity building of the wildlife crime enforcement agencies for scientific and professional investigation into wildlife crime and assist state governments to ensure success in prosecutions related to wildlife crimes; and advise the Government of India on issues relating to wildlife crimes having national and international ramifications, relevant policy and laws. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau was constituted in 2007 under Wildlife Protection act 1972

6. Central Zoo Authority was constituted under which act?
- (a) Wildlife Protection act 1972
 - (b) Environment Protection act 1986
 - (c) Water act 1974
 - (d) None of the above

Answer: a

The Central Zoo Authority with its headquarters in New Delhi was established in 1992 under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act,



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1972 to oversee the functioning of zoos in the country with the view to enhance their role in conservation. The main objective of the Central Zoo Authority is to enforce minimum standards and norms for upkeep and healthcare of animals in the Indian zoos and to control the mushrooming of ill-conceived, ill planned zoos, to monitor and evaluate the existing zoos and to suggest ways and means for the improvement of zoos in the country so that they can be transferred into potent centres for ex-situ conservation of endangered wild fauna

7. Headquarter of Animal Board of India is at:

- (a) Chennai
- (b) Delhi
- (c) Ballabgarh
- (d) Noida

Answer: c

- Animal Welfare Board of India headquarters shifted from Chennai to Ballabgarh. Government has shifted headquarters of Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) to Ballabgarh in Faridabad District of Haryana from Chennai.

8. Environmental Impact Assessment notifications are issued under which act??

- (a) Wildlife Protection act 1972
- (b) Environment Protection act 1986
- (c) Water act 1974
- (d) None of the above

Answer: b

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), is a planning tool to integrate environmental concerns into the developmental process from the initial stage of planning. It was first used in India as early as 1978 with river valley projects, and was subsequently extended to large public sector projects requiring Public Investment Board (PIB) clearance. These practices were formally

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codified for the first time in the EIA Notification, 1994. This made the requirement of environmental clearance mandatory for 37 categories of projects/processes, listed therein. The criterion of investment was the basis for the projects requiring environmental clearance in different sectors

9. Air quality regulation and actions for abatement of air pollution is undertaken under:

- (a) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- (b) Environment (Protection) Act, (EPA) 1986
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) Water act 1974

Answer: c

Air quality regulation and actions for abatement of air pollution is undertaken under various provisions of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act, (EPA) 1986 which prescribes the mechanism and authorities for handling the issue

10. National Ambient Air Quality Standards envisaging 12 pollutants have been notified under:

- (a) Wildlife Protection act 1972
- (b) Environment Protection act 1986
- (c) Water act 1974
- (d) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981

Answer: b

National Ambient Air Quality Standards envisaging 12 pollutants have been notified under the EPA, 1986 along with 115 emission/effluent standards for 104 different sectors of industries, besides 32 general standards



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11. Which Convention covers the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes?

- (a) Basel Convention
- (b) Bonn Convention
- (c) Stockholm Convention
- (d) Rotterdam Convention

Answer: a

- The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted in 1989 in Basel, Switzerland. The overarching objective of the Basel Convention is to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes. Its scope of application covers a wide range of wastes defined as “hazardous wastes” based on their origin and/or composition and their characteristics, as well as two types of wastes defined as “other wastes” (household waste and incinerator ash)
- The Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade came into force in 2004. India acceded to the convention a year later. The Designated National authorities (DNAs) for India are in Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation. The Official Contact Points (OCPs) are designated in Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. There are 47 chemicals listed in Annex III to this Convention, which include 33 pesticides and 14 industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons by two or more parties and which the Conference of the Parties (COPs) has

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- decided to subject to the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure
- The Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade came into force in 2004. India acceded to the convention a year later. The Designated National authorities (DNAs) for India are in Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation. The Official Contact Points (OCPs) are designated in Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. There are 47 chemicals listed in Annex III to this Convention, which include 33 pesticides and 14 industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons by two or more parties and which the Conference of the Parties (COPs) has decided to subject to the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure

12. Which of the following best describes/ describe the aim of 'Green India Mission' of the Government of India?

1. Incorporating environmental benefits and costs into the Union and State Budgets thereby implementing the 'green accounting'
2. Launching the second green revolution to enhance agricultural output so as to ensure food security to one and all in the future
3. Restoring and enhancing forest cover and responding to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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



Answer: c

- The National Mission for a Green India (GIM), one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change aims at protecting and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover to counter the perils of climate change. It envisages a holistic view of greening and focuses on multiple ecosystem services along with carbon sequestration and emission reduction as cobenefit.
- The Mission embarks on meeting the challenge of climate change adaptation and mitigation through sub-missions and a cross-cutting intervention: a) enhancing quality of forest cover and improving ecosystem services; b) ecosystem restoration and increase in forest cover; c) agroforestry and social forestry; d) promoting alternative fuel energy.

13. GLOBE programme of MoEFCC is about?

- (a) Collaborative programme with state to implement REDD+
- (b) Mitigation capacity development project
- (c) Environmental science and education programme
- (d) None

Answer: c

Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) is a hands on international environmental science and education programme that brings students, teachers and scientists together to study the global environment. MoEFCC and US Government signed an agreement in 2000 to implement the Globe programme in India. Indian Environmental Society, Delhi is an implementing agency for Globe in India.

14. Consider the following statement:

1. National Green Tribunal (NGT) was set up in 2010 under the NGT Act, 2010, for the purpose of effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection
2. NCT is headed by retired Chief justice of India.

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

Answer: a

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was set up in 2010 under the NGT Act, 2010, for the purpose of effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues. The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice. The Tribunal is mandated to make an endeavour for disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing. NGT has five places of sitting, i.e, the Principal Bench in Delhi and Zonal Benches in Pune, Kolkata, Bhopal and Chennai. Apart from this the Tribunal holds three circuit Benches at Shimla, Shillong and Jodhpur.



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15. National Implementing Entity for National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change is:

- (a) Wildlife institute of India
- (b) SIDBI
- (c) RBI
- (d) NABARD

Answer: d

National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) is a central sector scheme under implementation in the 12th Five Year Plan with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) as National Implementing Entity (NIE). The overall aim of the fund is to support concrete adaptation activities which are not covered under ongoing activities through the schemes of state and central government, that reduce the adverse impact of climate change facing communities, sectors and states

16. Consider the following statement:

1. The ozone layer absorbs all the harmful UV-B radiations emanating from the sun
 2. The mandate of the Montreal Protocol is to phase out the production and consumption of the Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs)
- 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

Answer: c

- The ozone layer absorbs all the harmful UV-B radiations emanating from the sun. It protects plant and animal life from UV-B radiation. The UV-B radiation has the potential to cause skin cancer, eye cataract, suppress body's immune system, decrease crop yield etc., which led to the adoption of the Vienna

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Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer in 1985 and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 1987. The mandate of the Montreal Protocol is to phase out the production and consumption of the Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs). India is a party to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and its all amendments/adjustments. The MoEF&CC has set up the Ozone Cell as a National Ozone Unit (NOU) to render necessary services for effective and timely implementation of the protocol and its ODS phase-out programme in India

- Reduced stratospheric ozone leads to increases in surface ultraviolet (UV) radiation. UV light is divided into three bands: UVC (100-280 nanometers), UVB, and UVA. UVC is the most dangerous, but is mostly absorbed by oxygen and ozone molecules in the stratosphere and does not reach the earth's surface. When UV radiation passes through the earth's atmosphere, some of it collides with other molecules and particles, causing it to bounce around and change direction. This scattered UV radiation can increase sunburn risk even when you are in the shade.
- UVB is partly scattered back to space by the atmosphere and absorbed by ozone, limiting how much reaches the earth throughout the year, while UVA is absorbed less by ozone and scattered less by the atmosphere; thus a larger percentage of UVA reaches the earth year-round. UVB strikes the earth more



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intensely during summer months when the sun is higher in the sky, so that the radiation travels on a shorter path through the atmosphere. Ozone and clouds are the most important factors in limiting UVB penetration. How much UV reaches the earth's surface depends on the amount of ozone overhead, clouds, small particles or aerosols, and pollution.

17. Which convention has been universally ratified?

- (a) Vienna Convention
- (b) UNFCCC
- (c) Bonn
- (d) UNCCD

Answer: a

The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer are the international treaties specific for the protection of the Stratospheric Ozone (Ozone layer). The Montreal Protocol has been recognized as the most successful international environmental treaty in history. It has been universally ratified and all the 197 UN member countries of the world are the parties to the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol. In the 29 years of operation of the Montreal Protocol, extraordinary international cooperation under this agreement has led to phase-out of production and consumption of several major ODSs such as CFCs, CTC and halons globally from 2010.

18. Consider the following statement pertaining to Global Environment Facility (GEF)

CHAPTER 13 Finance

1. Preparation and presentation of the Union Budget is work of:

- (a) Department of Economic Affairs
- (b) Department of Revenue

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1. India is a founder member of Global Environment Facility (GEF). Set up in 1991
2. GEF grants are available under five focal areas namely, biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters and chemicals and waste.

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

Answer: c

India is a founder member of Global Environment Facility (GEF). Set up in 1991, GEF is the designated multilateral funding mechanism of 183 countries to provide incremental finance for addressing global environmental benefits which are also identified national priorities. The GEF mandate is decided as per the guidance provided by the Conference of the parties of the multilateral environmental conventions namely Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Stockholm Convention on PoPs and Minamata Convention on Mercury. The GEF grants are available under five focal areas namely, biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters and chemicals and waste.

- (c) Department of Expenditure
- (d) None

Answer: A



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The Department of Economic Affairs is the nodal agency of the government to formulate and monitor country's economic policies and programmes having a bearing on domestic and international aspects of economic management. A principal responsibility of this Department is the preparation and presentation of the Union Budget (including Railway Budget) to the Parliament and budget for the state governments under President's Rule and union territory administrations. Other functions include: formulation and monitoring of macroeconomic policies, including issues relating to fiscal policy and public finance, inflation, public debt management and the functioning of capital market including stock exchanges; production of bank notes and coins of various denominations, postal stationery, postal stamps; and cadre management, career planning and training of the Indian Economic Service

2. Consider the following statement:

1. Transactions relating to provident funds, small savings collections and other deposits are kept in the Public Account and Parliamentary authorization for such payments from the Public Account is not required

2. Annual Financial Statement shows the receipts and payments of government under the three parts in which government

accounts are kept: (i) Consolidated Fund, (ii) Contingency Fund and (iii) Public Account
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

Answer: c

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- Under Article 112 of the Constitution, a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India has to be laid before Parliament in respect of every financial year. This statement titled "Annual Financial Statement" is the main Budget document. The Annual Financial Statement shows the receipts and payments of government under the three parts in which government accounts are kept: (i) Consolidated Fund, (ii) Contingency Fund and (iii) Public Account. All revenues received by government, loans raised by it, and also its receipts from recoveries of loans granted by it, form the Consolidated Fund. All expenditure of government is incurred from the Consolidated Fund and no amount can be withdrawn from the Fund without authorisation from Parliament. Occasions may arise when government may have to meet urgent unforeseen expenditure pending authorisation from Parliament. The Contingency Fund is an imprest placed at the disposal of the President to incur such expenditure. Parliamentary approval for such expenditure and for withdrawal of an equivalent amount from the Consolidated Fund is subsequently obtained and the amount spent from Contingency Fund is subsequently recouped to the Fund. The corpus of the Fund authorised by the Parliament, at present, is ₹ 500 crore.
- Besides the normal receipts and expenditure of Government which relate to the Consolidated Fund, certain other transactions enter Government accounts, in respect of which,



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Government acts more as a banker, for example, transactions relating to provident funds, small savings collections and other deposits, etc. The moneys thus received are kept in the Public Account and the connected disbursements are also made therefrom. Parliamentary authorisation for such payments from the Public Account is, therefore, not required. In a few cases, a part of the revenue of Government is set apart in separate funds for expenditure on specific objects like road development, primary education including midday meal scheme, etc. These amounts are withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund with the approval of Parliament and kept in the Public Account for expenditure on the specific objects. The actual expenditure proposed on the specific objects is, also submitted for vote of Parliament.

3. Consider the following statement:

1. Estimates of expenditure from the Consolidated Fund included in the Annual Financial Statement and required to be voted by the Lok Sabha are submitted in the form of Demands for Grants

2. Generally one Demand for Grant is presented in respect of each ministry or department but in respect of large ministries or departments more than one demand is presented.

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

Answer: c

- The estimates of expenditure from the Consolidated Fund included in

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the Annual Financial Statement and required to be voted by the Lok Sabha are submitted in the form of Demands for Grants in pursuance of Article 113 of the Constitution. Generally, one Demand for Grant is presented in respect of each ministry or department. However, in respect of large ministries or departments more than one demand is presented.

- Each demand normally includes the total provisions required for a service, that is, provisions on account of revenue expenditure, capital expenditure, grants to state and union territory governments and also loans and advances relating to the service. In regard to union territories without legislature, a separate Demand is presented for each of the union territories.



4. Consider the following statement:

1. Under Article 114(3) of the Constitution, no amount can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund without the enactment of Appropriation law by Parliament

2. A Finance Bill is a Money Bill as defined in Article 110 of the Constitution

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

Answer: c

- At the time of presentation of the Annual Financial Statement before Parliament, a Finance Bill is also presented in fulfilment of the requirement of Article 110(1)(a) of the Constitution, detailing the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of taxes proposed in the Budget. A Finance



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Bill is a Money Bill as defined in Article 110 of the Constitution. It is accompanied by a Memorandum explaining the provisions included in it

- After the Demands for Grants are voted by the Lok Sabha, Parliament's approval to the withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund of the amounts so voted and of the amount required to meet the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund is sought through the Appropriation Bill. Under Article 114(3) of the Constitution, no amount can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund without the enactment of such a law by Parliament

5. What constitute Public Debt of India:

1. Internal debt
2. External debt

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

Answer: c

- The Public Debt of India is classified into three categories of Union Government liabilities into internal debt, external debt and other liabilities.
- Internal debt for Government of India largely consists of fixed tenure and fixed rate government papers (dated securities and treasury bills) which are issued through auctions. These include market loans (dated securities), treasury bills (91, 182 and 364 days) and 14 day treasury bills (issued to state governments only), cash management bills, special securities issued to the Reserve Bank

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of India (RBI), compensation and other bonds, non-negotiable and non-interest bearing rupee securities issued to international financial institutions and securities issued under market stabilization scheme with a view to reduce dependency on physical gold and reduce imports.

- External debt represents loans received from foreign governments and multilateral institutions. The Union Government does not borrow directly from international capital markets. Its foreign currency borrowing takes place from multilateral agencies and bilateral sources, and is a part of official development assistance (ODA). At present, the Government of India does not borrow in the international capital markets.
- "Other" liabilities, not a part of public debt, includes other interest bearing obligations of the government, such as post office saving deposits, deposits under small savings schemes, loans raised through post office cash certificates, provident funds and certain other deposits

6. What measures can be initiated to control Inflation:

1. Increased allocation for price stabilization fund
2. Announcement of higher Minimum Support Prices

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

Answer: c



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The government has taken a number of measures to control inflation. The steps taken, inter alia, include, (i) increased allocation for price stabilization fund to check volatility of prices of essential commodities, in particular of pulses; (ii) approved creation of a dynamic buffer of upto 20 lakh tonnes of pulses for appropriate market intervention; (iii) states/UTs empowered to impose stock limits in respect of pulses, onion, edible oils and edible oil seeds under the Essential Commodities Act and (iv) announced higher Minimum Support Prices so as to incentivize production and thereby enhance availability of food items which may help moderate prices.

7. What is/are the India's Nationally determined contribution target:

1. Lower the emission intensity of GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 from 2005 levels.
2. Increase the share of non-fossil fuels based power generation capacity to 40 per cent of installed electric power capacity by 2030
3. creating an additional (cumulative) carbon sink of 2.5-3 GtCO_{2e} through additional forest and tree cover by 2030

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: d

India ratified the Paris Agreement in 2016. India's comprehensive NDC target is to lower the emission intensity of GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 from 2005 levels, to increase the share of non-fossil fuels based power generation capacity to 40 per cent of installed electric power capacity by 2030, and to create an additional (cumulative) carbon sink of 2.5-3 GtCO_{2e} through

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additional forest and tree cover by 2030. Provision of 'new and additional' financial resources by the developed countries from predominantly public sources and on grant/concessional basis is extremely important for the achievement of the global climate goals. Provision of finance is embedded in UNFCCC and has also been mentioned in the Paris Agreement for addressing the adaptation and mitigation needs of developing countries. The climate actions will have very significant resource implications especially for a country like India. India's climate actions have so far been largely financed from domestic resources. India already has ambitious climate action plans in place. Preliminary domestic requirements to implement national climate plans add upto more than US\$ 2.5 trillion between 2015 and 2030. Substantial scaling up of these plans would require greater resources. Developing countries like India are resource constrained and are already spending enormous amounts on climate change. Implementing climate change mitigation and adaptation actions would require domestic and new and additional funds from developed countries in view of the resource required and the resource gap

8. Who can initiate the insolvency resolution process:

1. Creditor
2. Debtor
3. Operational Creditor

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: d



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A Bankruptcy Law Reforms Committee was set up in 2014 for providing an entrepreneur friendly legal bankruptcy framework for meeting global standards for improving the ease of doing business with necessary judicial capacity. Accordingly, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) became operational in 2016. The Code aims to promote entrepreneurship, availability of credit, and balance the interests of all the stakeholders by consolidating and amending the laws relating to reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner and for maximization of value of the assets of such persons and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. It proposes a framework to ensure: early detection of stress in a business; initiation of the insolvency resolution process by debtor, financial creditor or operational creditor; liquidation of unviable businesses; and avoiding destruction of value of failed business. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs is taking further necessary steps for implementation of the Code

9. Who is the chairman of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)
- (a) RBI Governor
 - (b) Prime Minister
 - (c) Finance Minister
 - (d) None of the above

Answer: c

With a view to strengthening and institutionalizing the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development, the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was set up as the apex level forum in 2010. The Council, *inter-alia*, monitors

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macro prudential supervision of the economy including functioning of large financial conglomerates, and addresses inter-regulatory coordination and financial sector development issues, including issues relating to financial literacy and financial inclusion

10. Financial Stability Board was set up by:
- (a) OECD
 - (b) G20
 - (c) UNCTAD
 - (d) World Bank

Answer: b

Financial Stability Board (FSB) was established in 2009 under the aegis of G20 by bringing together the national authorities, standard setting bodies and international financial institutions for addressing vulnerabilities and developing and implementing strong regulatory, supervisory and other policies in the interest of financial stability. India is an active member of the FSB having three seats in its Plenary.

11. Consider the following statement pertaining to BRICS
1. BRICS Forum, an independent international organisation encouraging commercial, political and cultural cooperation between the BRICS nations, was formed in 2011
 2. New Development Bank, established by BRICS nations in 2015
- 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

Answer: c



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- The BRICS nations or Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa form the five key pillars of south-south cooperation and are the representative voice of Emerging Markets and Developing Countries in the global forums such as the G20.
- The New Development Bank, established by these nations in 2015, marked its first imprints in India by signing a loan agreement for financing of the major district road project in Madhya Pradesh in March 2017. India is working closely with the Bank's management team to develop a robust pipeline of projects cutting across areas such as Smart Cities, renewable energy, urban transport, clean coal technology, solid waste management and urban water supply. The framework of swap lines, conceived as a BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) with a corpus of US\$ 100 billion, stands operationalised in case any member nation requires short-term liquidity support.

12. Consider the following countries:

1. Maldives
2. Thailand
3. Afghanistan
4. Bhutan
5. Nepal
6. Sri Lanka

Which of the above countries are members of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- (c) 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- (d) All of the above

Answer: b

- The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), in

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existence since 1985 (founded in Dhaka), is a regional organisation that aims to promote economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific cooperation in South Asia. Its member states include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Its secretariat is based in Kathmandu, Nepal. It has crafted several regional conventions, agreements and institutions for dealing with issues that affect the citizens of the region. It is a consensus-based forum for the exchange of ideas, development of regional programmes and projects. The Framework for Currency Swap Arrangement for the SAARC countries was formulated with the intention to provide a line of funding for short term foreign exchange requirements or to meet balance of payments crises till longer term arrangements are made or the issue is resolved in the short-term itself. Under the facility, RBI offers swaps of varying sizes to each SAARC member country (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) depending on their two months import requirement and not exceeding US\$ 2 billion in total, in USD, Euro or INR. So far, the facility has been availed by Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives.

- SAARC Development Fund was established in 2008 by the SAARC countries to improve the livelihood of the people and to accelerate economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the region. The Fund is implementing many SAARC projects and programmes. Project funding in SDF is to be taken



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up under three windows (Social, Economic and Infrastructure). Of the three windows of SDF, economic and infrastructure windows are being operationalized.

13. Consider the following statement pertaining to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank:

1. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) set up in 2016 to foster sustainable economic development.

2. India, Japan, USA are not member of this initiative

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

Answer: a

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) set up in 2016 to foster sustainable economic development, create productive assets and improve infrastructure in Asia through financing of infrastructure projects. India is one of the founding Members and the second largest shareholder. India along with 20 other countries signed the InterGovernmental Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing the AIIB in Beijing.

14. Global Environment facility (GEF) serves as financial mechanism for the :

- 1. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- 2. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- 3. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

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4. UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

5. Vienna Convention

6. Minamata Convention on Mercury

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 only
- (c) 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- (d) All of the above

Answer: b

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) operates as a mechanism for international cooperation for the purpose of providing new and additional grant and concessional funding to meet the agreed incremental costs of measures to achieve agreed global environmental benefits. GEF provides grants to eligible countries in its focal areas: biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters, chemicals and waste. It also serves as financial mechanism for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Minamata Convention on Mercury and supports implementation of the Protocol in countries with economies in transition for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (MP).

15. Consider the following statement pertaining to Asian Development Bank:

1. India is a founding member of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) which was established

in 1966

2. The Bank is engaged in promoting economic and social progress of its developing member countries (DMCs) in the Asia region only.



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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

Answer: a

India is a founding member of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) which was established in 1966. ADB has 67 members (including 48 regional and 19 non-regional members), with its headquarters at Manila, Philippines. India is holding 6.331 per cent of shares, totaling 6,72,030 shares in ADB as on 31st December, 2016, with 5.363 per cent voting rights. The Bank is engaged in promoting economic and social progress of its developing member countries (DMCs) in the Asia Pacific Region. The main instruments that it uses to do this are making loans and equity investments, providing technical assistance for the preparation and execution of development projects and programmes and other advisory services, guarantees, grants and policy dialogues. India borrows from ADB within overall external debt management policy pursued by the Government which focuses on raising funds on concessional terms from less expensive sources with longer maturities. India started borrowing from ADB in 1986.

16. With reference to 'National Investment and Infrastructure Fund', which of the following statements is/are correct? (UPSC 2017)

- 1. It is an organ of NITI Aayog.
- 2. It has a corpus of Rs. 4, 00,000 crore 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

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Answer: d

The Government of India has put investment in infrastructure as one of the core elements of its economic programme. India's average investment in infrastructure was 4.7 per cent of GDP during 1992-2010. Moreover, there has been a slowdown in equity inflows into the infrastructure sectors over the past few years, constraining further investment. National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) was created with the aim to attract equity investments from both domestic and international sources for infrastructure development in commercially viable projects, both greenfield and brownfield, including stalled projects.

17. Which department of finance ministry is responsible for the implementation of the recommendations of the Finance Commission and Central Pay Commission?

- (a) Department of Economic Affairs
- (b) Department of Revenue
- (c) Department of Expenditure
- (d) None of the above

Answer: c

- The Department of Expenditure is the nodal Department for overseeing the public financial management system in the central government and matters connected with state finances. It is responsible for the implementation of the recommendations of the Finance Commission and Central Pay Commission, monitoring of audit comments/ observations, preparation of central government accounts.
- It further assists central ministries/ departments in controlling the costs and prices of public services, reviewing system and procedure to optimize outputs and outcomes of public expenditure. The principal



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activities of the Department include overseeing the expenditure management in the central ministries/ departments through the interface of the Financial Rules/ regulations/ orders, pre-sanction appraisal of major schemes/ projects, handling bulk of the central budgetary resources transferred to state

18. Under which department/institution Controller General of Accounts lies?

- (a) CAG
- (b) Department of Expenditure
- (c) Department of Economic Affairs
- (d) Department of Revenue

Answer: b

- The Controller General of Accounts (CGA), in the Department of Expenditure, is the Principal Accounting Adviser to Government of India and is responsible for establishing and maintaining a technically sound Management Accounting System. The Office of CGA prepares monthly and annual analysis of expenditure, revenues, borrowings and various fiscal indicators for the Union Government. Under Article 150 of the Constitution, the Annual Appropriation Accounts (Civil) and Union Finance Accounts are submitted to Parliament on the advice of Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Along with these documents, an M.I.S Report titled 'Accounts at a Glance' is prepared and circulated in Parliament. It further formulates policies relating to general principles, form and procedure of accounting for the central and state governments. It administers the process of payments,

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receipts and accounting in central civil ministries/ departments. Prepares, consolidates and submits the monthly and annual accounts of the central government through a robust financial reporting system aimed at effective implementation of the government fiscal policies. Through its internal audit units in the respective ministries/ departments, it is responsible for maintaining the requisite technical standards of Accounting in the departmentalized accounting offices and for monitoring of financial performance and effectiveness of various programmes, schemes and activities of the civil ministries.

- The Public Financial Management System (PFMS) is a web-based online software application designed, developed, owned and implemented by the CGA with the aim to provide a sound public financial management system by establishing a comprehensive payment, receipt and accounting network. It has been aimed to achieve (i) "Just in Time" transfer of funds and (ii) complete tracking of realization of funds from its release to its credit into the bank account of intended beneficiaries.

19. Consider the following statement:

1. Financial Intelligence Unit-India was established by the Government of India in 2004 for coordinating and strengthening collection and sharing of financial intelligence
2. FIU-IND is under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2



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(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c

Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) is the central national agency for receiving, processing, analyzing and disseminating information relating to suspect financial transactions. FIU-IND was established by the Government of India in 2004 for coordinating and strengthening collection and sharing of financial intelligence through an effective national, regional and global network to combat money laundering, related crimes and terrorist financing. It is an independent body reporting to the Economic Intelligence Council (EIC) headed by the Finance Minister. For administrative purposes, FIU-IND is under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. FIU-IND is established as an administrative FIU i.e., as an independent government body that receives analyses and disseminates STR to the appropriate law enforcement or investigation agency. FIU-IND does not investigate cases. The main functions of FIU-IND include domestic co-operation, international co-operation, outreach, compliance and administration of an Information Technology based platform (FINnet) providing end-to-end solution for filing, analysis and dissemination of information, including making request and submission of feedback

20. Policy issues relating to Public Sector Banks is work of:

- (a) Department of Economic Affairs
- (b) Department of Revenue
- (c) Department of Expenditure
- (d) Department of Financial Services

Answer: d

- The Department of Financial Services (DFS) is mainly responsible for policy issues relating to Public

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Sector Banks (PSBs) and Financial Institutions including their functioning, appointment of Chairman, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officers (MD & CEOs), Executive Directors (EDs), Chairman cum Managing Directors (CMDs), legislative matters, international banking relations. Appointment of Governor/Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India, matters relating to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Agriculture Finance Corporation, Co-operative Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and rural/agriculture Credit. The Department also administers the financial inclusion programme of the government, social security schemes and other targeted schemes aimed at facilitating flow of credit, matters relating to insurance sector and performance of public sector insurance companies, administration of various Insurance Acts. Matters relating to Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and matters relating to pension reforms including the New Pension System (NPS), etc

- It also covers pension reforms and industrial finance and micro, small and medium enterprise. It started the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is a statutory body which also works under this Department.

21. Arrange the following according to their share percentage in Regional Rural Banks:

1. Government of India
2. State government
3. Sponsor banks



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Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1-2-3
- (b) 2-3-1
- (c) 3-2-1
- (d) 1-3-2

Answer: d

The Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were established under Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 to create an alternative channel to the cooperative credit structure and to ensure sufficient institutional credit for the rural and agriculture sector. RRBs are jointly owned by Government of India, concerned state government and sponsor banks with the issued capital shared in the proportion of 50 per cent, 15 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively.

22. Consider the following statement:

1. Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was introduced in 1998-99

2. The scheme is being implemented by all cooperative banks, RRBs and public sector commercial banks in Rainfed region only

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

Answer: a

The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was introduced in 1998-99, as an innovative credit delivery system aiming at adequate and timely credit support from the banking system to the farmers for their cultivation needs including purchase of inputs in a flexible, convenient and cost effective manner. The scheme is being implemented by all cooperative banks, RRBs and public sector commercial banks throughout the country. KCC is one of the most effective tools for delivering agriculture credit. NABARD monitors the scheme in respect of

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cooperative banks and RRBs and RBI in respect of commercial banks. A new scheme for KCC has been circulated by RBI and NABARD which provides for KCC as an ATM card which can be used at ATM/Point of Sale (POS) terminal.

23. Rural Infrastructure Development Fund is operationalised by:

- (a) RBI
- (b) NABARD
- (c) SIDBI
- (d) SEBI

Answer: b

The Central Government established a fund to be operationalised by NABARD namely, the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), which was set-up within NABARD during 1995-96 by way of deposits from Scheduled Commercial Banks operating within the country from the shortfall in their agricultural/priority sector/weaker sections lending. The fund has since been continued, with its allocation being announced every year in the Union Budget. Over the years, coverage under the RIDF has been broad based, in each tranche, and at present, a wide range of 34 activities are financed under various sectors.

24. Consider the following statement pertaining to Pradhan Mantri Vyay Vandana Yojana:

1. Scheme was to protect elderly persons aged 60 years and above against a future fall in their interest income due to the uncertain market condition

2. The Scheme is being implemented through State bank of India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2



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(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a

Pradhan Mantri Vyay Vandana Yojana Government launched the Pradhan Mantri Vyay Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) to protect elderly persons aged 60 years and above against a future fall in their interest income due to the uncertain market condition, as also to provide social security in old age. The Scheme is being implemented through LIC of India. It provides an assured return of 8 per cent per annum payable monthly for 10 years. The differential return i.e., the difference between return generated by LIC and the assured return of 8 per cent would be borne by Government of India as subsidy on annual basis. It was open for subscription for a period of one year i.e., from 4th May, 2017 to 3rd May, 2018. In pursuance of Budget 2018-19, Government approved the extension of Pradhan Mantri Vyay Vandana Yojana up to 31st March, 2020 and enhanced the limit of maximum purchase price of ₹ 7.5 lakh per family to ₹ 15 lakh per senior citizen

25. Consider the following statement pertaining to Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana:

1. It is a highly subsidized insurance scheme
2. It is administered through Life Insurance Corporation of India

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

Answer: c

Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana For the benefit of the weaker sections of the society, Government of India floated a highly subsidized insurance scheme, viz., Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana (AABY) which is administered through Life Insurance

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Corporation of India. Under this social security scheme below poverty line (BPL) and marginally above poverty line citizens are covered under 48 identified occupations. The scheme provides death cover of ₹ 30,000/- in case of natural death. In case of death or total disability (including loss of two eyes/two limbs) due to accident, a sum of ₹ 75,000/- and in case of partial permanent disability (loss of one eye/ limb) due to accident, a sum of ₹ 37,500/- is payable to the nominee/ beneficiary. All these benefits are paid for a nominal premium of ₹ 200/- per member per annum, out of which ₹ 100/- is borne by the central government through Social Security Fund maintained through LIC of India, and the balance premium of ₹ 100/- is borne by the member and/or nodal agency and/or central/state government department which acts as the nodal agency. In addition, there is an add on benefit of scholarship at the rate of ₹ 1,200/- per annum per child for two children per family of the insured members studying from 9th to 12th standard (including ITI courses)

26. Consider the following statement pertaining to Atal Pension Yojana:

1. Scheme was launched in May, 2015, to address the longevity risks among the workers in unorganised sector who are not covered under any statutory social security scheme.
2. Scheme is focussed on all citizens in the unorganised sector, who join the National Pension System

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

Answer: c



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- The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) was launched in May, 2015, to address the longevity risks among the workers in unorganised sector who are not covered under any statutory social security scheme. The APY is focussed on all citizens in the unorganised sector, who join the National Pension System (NPS) administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- Any Indian citizen between 18-40 years of age can join through their savings bank account/post office savings account. Minimum pension of ₹ 1,000 or ₹ 2,000 or ₹ 3,000 or ₹ 4,000 or ₹ 5,000 is guaranteed by the Government of India to the subscriber at the age of 60 years, with a minimum monthly contribution (for those joining at age at 18) of 42 or 84 or 126 or 168 or 210, respectively. After the subscriber's demise, the spouse of the subscriber shall be entitled to receive the same pension amount as that of the subscriber until the death of the spouse. After the demise of both the subscriber and the spouse, the nominee of the subscriber shall be entitled to receive the pension wealth, as accumulated till age 60 of the subscriber.

Revisions in APY In the event of premature death of the subscriber, government has decided to give an option to the spouse of the subscriber to continue contributing to APY account of the subscriber, for the remaining vesting period i.e., till the original subscriber would have attained the age of 60 years. The earlier provision was to hand over lump sum amount to spouse on the premature death (death before 60 years of age) of the subscriber. The spouse of the subscriber shall be entitled to receive the

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same pension amount as that of the subscriber until the death of the spouse. After the death of both the subscriber and the spouse, the nominee of the subscriber shall be entitled to receive the pension wealth, as accumulated till 60 years of the subscriber

27. Consider the following statement:

1. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana is a one year personal accident insurance scheme, renewable from year to year
2. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana is a one year life insurance scheme, renewable from year to year.

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

Answer: d

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana Government announced three ambitious social security schemes pertaining to the insurance and pension sectors, namely Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) to move towards creating a universal social security system, targeted especially for the poor and the underprivileged. PMJJBY is a one year life insurance scheme, renewable from year to year, offering coverage of two lakh rupees for death due to any reason and is available to people in the age group of 18 to 50 years (life cover up to 55 years of age) having a bank account who give their consent to join and enable auto-debit. It involves convenient bank account linked enrolment with implementation in IT mode, and premium payment through auto-debit from the bank account of the subscriber. Implementation of



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this scheme enables affordability and targeting in favour of the poor and the under-privileged and would address the situation of low penetration of life insurance in the country

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana

The Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) is a one year personal accident insurance scheme, renewable from year to year, offering coverage for death/disability due to an accident and is available to people in the age group of 18 to 70 years having a bank account who give their consent to join and enable auto-debit. Under the said scheme, risk coverage available will be ₹ 2 lakh for accidental death and permanent total disability and ₹ 1 lakh for permanent partial disability. It involves convenient bank account linked enrolment with implementation in IT mode, and premium payment through auto-debit from the bank account of the subscriber. Implementation of this scheme enables affordability and targeting in favour of the poor and the underprivileged and would address the situation of low penetration of accident insurance in the country

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana With a view to increasing banking penetration and promoting financial inclusion and with the main objective of covering all households with at least one bank account per household across the country, a National Mission on financial inclusion named as (PMJDY) was announced in 2014. Objectives of PMJDY include: (i) universal access to banking facilities for all households across the country through a bank branch or a fixed point business correspondent (BC) within a reasonable distance. (ii) to cover all households with atleast one basic bank account with RuPay Debit card having inbuilt accident insurance cover of ₹ 1 lakh

28. Consider the following statement:

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1. National Pension System (NPS) has been made mandatory for all new recruits to the Government (except armed forces) with effect from January 1, 2004.
2. Scheme is for Indian citizen and NRI are not allowed to be part of it

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

Answer: a

- With a view to providing adequate retirement income, the National Pension System (NPS) was introduced. It has been made mandatory for all new recruits to the Government (except armed forces) with effect from January 1, 2004 and has also been rolled out for all citizens with effect from May 1, 2009 on a voluntary basis. The features of the NPS design are: self-sustainability, portability and scalability. Based on individual choice, it is envisaged as a low cost and efficient pension system backed by sound regulation. As a pure 'defined contribution' product, returns would be totally market driven. The NPS provides various investment options and choices to individuals to switch over from one option to another or from one fund manager to another, subject to certain regulatory restrictions. The NPS architecture is transparent and web enabled. It allows a subscriber to monitor his/ her investments and returns. The facility for seamless portability is designed to enable subscribers to maintain a single pension account (Permanent



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Retirement Account Number-PRAN) throughout the saving period. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), set-up as a regulatory body for the pension sector, is engaged in consolidating the initiatives taken so far regarding the full NPS architecture and expanding the reach of NPS distribution network. The process of making NPS available to all citizens entailed the appointment of NPS intermediaries, including institutional entities as Point of Presence (POPs) that serve as pension account opening and collection centres, a Centralized Record Keeping Agency (CRA) and Pension Funds to manage the pension wealth of the investors. The Department of Posts has also been appointed as PoP in addition to other financial institutions which expand the PoP-SP network by more than five times

- An NRI can open an NPS account. Contributions made by NRI are subject to regulatory requirements as prescribed by RBI and FEMA from time to time. However, OCI (Overseas Citizens of India) and PIO (Person of Indian Origin) card holders and HUFs are not eligible for opening of NPS account

29. Which of the following come under the offerings of 'MUDRA' Bank?

1. Portfolio Credit
2. Guarantee Credit for large industries
3. MUDRA Card
4. Credit Enhancement

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only

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(d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer b

- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana :There are a large number of small business units, estimated at around 5.77 crore in the informal sector, running small manufacturing, trading or service businesses, who find it difficult to access formal systems of credit. The loan requirement of these units is generally below ₹ 10 lakh. While a number of initiatives were taken in the past to improve access to formal credit channels for such units, there was still a significant and large section to which the loan/ credit facilities did not percolate. For such units a scheme, namely, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) was launched in 2015, to enable income generating small business enterprises to have access to loans. Accordingly, lending institutions would finance micro entrepreneurs up to ₹ 10 lakh. PMMY is a national mission aimed at increasing the entrepreneurial activity of existing small business and encouraging first generation entrepreneurs.
- MUDRA also supports Banks / NBFCs / MFIs for raising funds for financing micro enterprises by participating in securitization of their loan assets against micro enterprise portfolio, by providing second loss default guarantee, for credit enhancement and also participating in investment of Pass Through Certificate (PTCs) either as Senior or Junior investor.

30. Consider the following statement:

1. National Investment Fund was created in 2015 from proceeds from disinvestment of Central Public Sector Enterprises



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2. The corpus of NIF was to be of a permanent nature and NIF was to be professionally managed to provide sustainable returns to the Government

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

Answer: b

- The policy on disinvestment has evolved considerably. The salient features of the Policy include: (a) public sector undertakings are the wealth of the Nation and to ensure this wealth rests in the hands of the people, promote public ownership of CPSEs; (b) while pursuing disinvestment through minority stake sale in listed CPSEs, the Government will retain majority shareholding, i.e. at least 51 per cent of the shareholding and management control of the Public Sector Undertakings; and (c) strategic disinvestment by way of sale of substantial portion of Government shareholding in identified CPSEs upto 50 per cent or more, along with transfer of management control
- Government constituted the National Investment Fund (NIF) in 2005 into which the proceeds from disinvestment of Central Public Sector Enterprises were to be channelized. The corpus of NIF was to be of a permanent nature and NIF was to be professionally managed to provide sustainable returns to the Government, without depleting the corpus. Selected Public Sector Mutual Funds, namely UTI Asset Management Company Ltd., SBI

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- Funds Management Private Ltd. and LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management Company Ltd. were entrusted with the management of the NIF corpus. As per this Scheme, 75 per cent of the annual income of the NIF was to be used for financing selected social sector schemes which promote education, health and employment. The residual 25 per cent of the annual income of NIF was to be used to meet the capital investment requirements of profitable and revisable PSUs
- In view of the difficult economic situation caused by the global slowdown of 2008-09 and a severe drought in 2009-10, Government approved a change in the policy for utilization of Disinvestment proceeds by granting a one-time exemption to utilize the disinvestment proceeds directly for selected social sector schemes allocated by Department of Expenditure/Planning Commission. In order to align the NIF with the Disinvestment Policy, Government decided that the disinvestment proceeds, with effect from the fiscal year 2013-14, will be credited to the existing NIF which is a public account under the Government Accounts and the funds would remain there until withdrawn/invested for the approved purposes
 - It was also simultaneously decided that the NIF would be utilized for the following purposes: subscribing to the shares being issued by the CPSE on rights basis so as to ensure that 51 per cent ownership of the Government in CPSEs is not diluted; preferential allotment of shares of the CPSE to promoters as per SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure



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Requirements) Regulations, 2009 so that Government shareholding does not go down below 51 per cent in all cases where the CPSEs desire to raise fresh equity to meet their Capex programme, the Government further approved inclusion of the following purposes to be financed from the NIF. Investment by Government in RRBs/ IIFCL/NABRAD/ Exim

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Bank; equity infusion in various Metro projects; investment in Bhartiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited and Uranium Corporation of India Ltd; investment in Indian Railways towards capital expenditure.

CHAPTER 14 Corporate Affairs

1. Which of the following organization(s) is/are constituted under Company act 2013:

1. National Company Law Tribunal
2. National Company Law Appellate Tribunal
3. Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

- National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has been constituted under Section 408 in 2016.
- The constitution of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was done in 2016. These bodies have been constituted for faster resolution of corporate disputes and reducing the multiplicity of agencies thereby promoting 'ease of doing business'

in the country. With the constitution of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), the Company Law Board (CLB) stands dissolved and cases

pending with CLB were transferred to NCLT

- The Companies Act provides for establishment of Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) for promoting Investor Awareness and protecting their interests. The amount of dividend, matured deposits, matured debentures, application money, etc., which remained unpaid/unclaimed for a period of seven years from the date they first become due for payment, are transferred to IEPF. Section 205 C of the Companies Act, 1956 did not allow the refund of such amount to individual once it is transferred to IEPF. Section 125 of Companies Act, 2013 allows refund of unpaid amounts transferred to IEPF. Such refunds are to be made by the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority under Section 125 of the Act
- IEPF Authority was made functional from 2016. The IEPF Authority is also entrusted with the responsibilities of carrying out investor awareness activities using the amounts transferred to IEPF. Investor Awareness Programmes (IAPs) are organized in association with three professional institutes namely; (a) Institute of Chartered



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Accounts of India, (b) Institute of Company Secretaries of India and (c) Institute of Cost Accounts of India. In addition, investor awareness activities like Crawler messages on Doordarshan through Prasar Bharati and airing jingles on All India Radio for the period of 90 days to create and increase investor's awareness were taken up.

2. Statutory recognition of Serious Fraud Investigation Office functions under:

- (a) Commerce Ministry
- (b) Ministry of Corporate affairs
- (c) SEBI
- (d) Finance ministry

Answer: b

- The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) was set up in 2003. The Companies Act, 2013, inter alia, has accorded statutory status to SFIO and its functions and powers have been enhanced substantially with number of enabling provisions in the Act and it was established under Section 211 of the Companies Act, 2013
- The main function of SFIO is to investigate corporate frauds of serious and complex nature. It takes up investigation of frauds characterized by complexity, and having inter-departmental and multi-disciplinary ramifications, substantial involvement of public interest to be judged by size of either monetary appropriation or the number of persons affected and the possibility of investigations leading to, or contributing towards a clear improvement in systems, laws or procedures. Investigations are carried out by a multi disciplinary team which includes experts from the field

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of accountancy, forensic auditing, taxation, customs and central excise, information technology, capital market, financial transaction (including banking) and enforcement agencies like Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Enforcement Directorate.

3. National Financial Reporting Authority has been constituted under which act?

- (a) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
- (b) Companies act, 2013
- (c) Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018
- (d) None of the above

Answer: b

4. Consider the following institutions:

1. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
2. Debt recovery Tribunal
3. National Company Law Tribunal
4. Competition commission of India
5. SEBI

Against which of the above institution appeal can be filed in National Company Law Appellate Tribunal

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

Answer: c

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 and SICA Repeal Act, 2003 were also put in place in 2016. With this, the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction were dissolved and Benches of NCLT were designated to exercise the jurisdiction, powers and authority of



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Adjudicating Authority conferred by or under part II of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. Central Government has also notified provision for transfer of proceedings relating to arbitration, compromise, arrangements and reconstruction to the benches of NCLT. The applications pending before High Courts on winding up shall continue to be dealt by the respective High Courts and fresh applications are required to be filed before NCLT. NCLAT has its headquarters at New Delhi. At present the NCLT has its Benches at 10 locations viz., New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) was established in 2003 under the Competition Act, 2002, with the objective of eliminating

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practices having an adverse effect on competition, promoting and sustaining competition, protecting the interest of consumers and ensuring freedom of trade in India. The Competition Act, 2002 was amended twice (Amendment) Act, 2007 and the Government (Amendment) Act, 2009. The provisions of the Competition (Amendment), 2002 relating to anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominant position were brought into force in 2009 and those relating to combinations from 2011

- The Competition Appellate Tribunal under the provisions of Competition Act was dissolved in 2017 and merged with NCLAT. The appeal against the orders of Competition Commission of India is now with NCLAT

CHAPTER 15 Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs

1. Consumer Welfare Fund is established by:

- (a) Department of Consumer Affairs
- (b) Department of Revenue
- (c) Niti Ayog
- (d) Commerce Ministry

Answer: b

The Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 was amended in 1991 to enable the Central government to create a Consumer Welfare Fund into which unclaimed central excise

revenues not refundable to the manufacturers would be credited annually. The Consumer Welfare Fund was created in 1992 with the objective of providing financial assistance to promote and protect

the welfare of the consumer, create consumer awareness and strengthen the voluntary consumer movement in the country, particularly in rural areas. The Department of Consumer Affairs operates the fund, set up by the Department of Revenue under the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944. Under its Rules, since revised in 2014, any agencies/organizations engaged in consumer welfare activities for at least a period of five years and registered under the Companies Act, Societies Registration Act, Cooperative Societies Act or any other law for the time being in force are eligible for financial assistance from the Fund. A sum of ₹ 26.23 crore was available in the Fund in March 2017. An amount of ₹ 11.65 crore was utilized by December 2017 from the Fund.



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2. Bureau of Indian Standards is under the administrative control of

- (a) Ministry of Consumer Affairs
- (b) Ministry of Home
- (c) Ministry of Heavy Industry
- (d) Commerce Ministry

Answer: a

The Bureau of Indian Standards was set up as a statutory organization taking over the assets and liabilities of the Indian Standards Institution (ISI) that came into existence in 1947. The Bureau has its headquarters in New Delhi. It has a network of 05 regional offices, 32 branch offices and 08 laboratories which act as effective link between BIS, government, industry and consumers. The Bureau has made steady progress in the various fields of its key activities namely standards formulation, product certification, management system certification and hallmarking

3. Consider the following statement pertaining to consumer dispute architecture in India

1. National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission consider consumer disputes/complaints involving claims above ₹ 1.00 crore

2. District fora consider consumer disputes/complaints involving claims below 50 lac.

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

Answer: a

Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, a three-tier quasi-judicial mechanism has been set up in the country to adjudicate complaints filed before them and to provide

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speedy redress to consumers. This includes the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (National Commission) at the apex level with territorial jurisdiction over the whole country and pecuniary jurisdiction to consider consumer disputes/complaints involving claims above ₹ 1.00 crore and with appellate jurisdiction over state/commissions; 35 state consumer disputes redressal commissions (state commissions) with territorial jurisdiction over the state/ UT concerned and financial jurisdiction to entertain consumer complaints involving claims above ₹ 20.00 lakh and up to ₹ 1.00 crore and with appellate jurisdiction over the district fora and 679 District Consumer Disputes Redressal Fora (district forum) with territorial jurisdiction over the district and pecuniary jurisdiction up to ₹ 20.00 lakh

4. Consider the following statement with regard to National Food Security act

1. The Act marks a paradigm shift in approach to food security— from welfare to a rights based one and came into force in 2010.

2. Act provides for coverage of upto 75 per cent of the rural population and upto 50 per cent of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System

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

Answer: b

- In order to further strengthen the commitment to food security of the people, Government of India enacted the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), which came into force from 2013. The Act aims to provide for



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food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live with dignity. The Act marks a paradigm shift in approach to food security— from welfare to a rights based one.

- The Act provides for coverage of upto 75 per cent of the rural population and upto 50 per cent of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System, thus covering about two-thirds of the population. This coverage for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains is under two categories— households covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and the remaining households as priority households. AAY was launched in 2000 to provide focus on food security to the poorest of the poor, and covers 2.5 crore households. Such households are entitled under the Act to receive 35 kg. of foodgrains per households per month, at ₹ 1/2/3 per kg. for coarse grains/wheat/rice. Priority households are entitled to receive 5 kg. of foodgrains per person per month at the above mentioned highly subsidized prices
- The Act also contains provisions for setting up of grievance redressal mechanism at the district and state levels. Separate provisions have also been made for ensuring transparency and accountability. NFSA is now being implemented in all the states/UTs covering about 80.55 crore beneficiaries, against intended coverage of 81.34 crore people. In Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, the

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Act is being implemented in the cash transfer mode under which food subsidy is being transferred into the bank accounts of beneficiaries who then have a choice to buy foodgrains from open market.

5. Wheat Based Nutrition Programme is being implemented by:
- (a) Women and child development Ministry
 - (b) Human Resource Development Ministry
 - (c) Ministry of Consumer Affairs
 - (d) None of the above

Answer: a

- Wheat Based Nutrition Programme Scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The foodgrains allotted under it are utilized by the states/UTs under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme for providing nutritious/energy food to children in the age group of 0-6 years and expectant/lactating women. During 2018-19, 19.90 lakh tonnes of foodgrains comprising 9.63 lakh tonnes of rice and 10.27 lakh tonnes of wheat were allocated under the Scheme. Also a quantity of 13000 tonnes of maize was allocated under the Scheme.

6. Scheme for Adolescent Girls is being implemented by:
- (a) Women and child development Ministry
 - (b) Human Resource Development Ministry
 - (c) Ministry of Consumer Affairs
 - (d) None of the above

Answer: a

The Ministry of Women and Child Development administers the scheme at the central level. However foodgrains for the



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Scheme are allotted by the Department of Food and Public Distribution at BPL rates to the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The SABLA scheme was launched in 2010 by merging two schemes namely, Nutrition Programme and Adolescent Girls (NPAG) and Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY) into a single scheme. The Scheme aims at empowering adolescent girls of 11-18 years by improvement of their nutritional and health status and upgrading various skills useful to them. It also aims at equipping the girls on family welfare, health hygiene, etc., and guiding them on existing public services. The requirement of foodgrains for nutrition is at 100 grams of grains per beneficiary per day for 300 days in a year. During 2017-18, 2.04 lakh tonnes of foodgrains comprising 0.77 lakh tonnes of rice and 1.27 lakh tonnes of wheat were allocated under it

7. Annapurna Scheme is being implemented by:

- (a) Women and child development Ministry
- (b) Human Resource Development Ministry
- (c) Ministry of Consumer Affairs
- (d) Rural Development Ministry

Answer: d

This Scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development. Indigent senior citizens of 65 years of age or above who are not getting pension under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), are provided 10 kgs. of foodgrains per person per month free of cost under it Foodgrains are provided by the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the scheme at BPL prices.

8. Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007 is being administered by:

- (a) Central Warehousing Corporation
- (b) Food Corporation of India

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- (c) Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority
- (d) None of the above

Answer: c

- Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority: For the growth and development of warehousing sector, to bring reforms in the agricultural marketing and to increase credit flow in the farm sector, the government introduced a negotiable warehouse receipt system in the country by enacting the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007 which is in place since 2010. The government constituted the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) in 2010 for implementation of the provisions of the Act. The Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs) issued against stocks of farm produces deposited by the farmers in warehouses would help the farmers in seeking loan from banks. It would help overcoming the situation of distress sale of agricultural commodities by the farmers during peak harvest season. Warehouses need to be registered with the WDRA for issuing NWRs. The warehouses are inspected by the empanelled inspection agencies prior to grant of registration to ensure that basic requirements of scientific and safe storage of agricultural and other commodities are fully met by the warehouses
- Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) set up 1957 under this Department to provide scientific storage facilities for agricultural produces, implements and other notified commodities



9. Which of the following factor(s) is/are taken into consideration for announcing Fair and remunerative prices for sugarcane:

1. Cost of production of sugarcane
2. Price at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by sugar producers
3. The realization made from sale of by-products

Select the correct answer from code given below:

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

Answer: d

- With the amendment of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 in 2009, the concept of Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane was replaced with the 'Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)' for 2009-10 and subsequent sugar seasons. The cane price announced by the central government is decided on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) after consulting the state governments and associations of sugar industry. The amended provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 provides for fixation of FRP of sugarcane having regard to the following factors:- (a) cost of production of sugarcane; (b) return to the growers from alternative crops and the general trend of prices of agricultural commodities; (c) availability of sugar to consumers at a fair price; (d) price at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by sugar producers; (e) recovery of sugar from sugarcane; (f) the realization made from sale of by-products viz.,

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molasses, bagasse and press mud or their imputed value; and (g) reasonable margins for the growers of sugarcane on account of risk and profits.

- 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 2018-19 sugar season has been fixed at ₹ 275 per qtl. linked to a basic recovery of 10 per cent subject to a premium of ₹ 2.75 per qtl. for every 0.1 percentage point increase above that level

10. What is/are likely benefit could be derived from Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme

1. Less Carbon foot print
2. Help to double farmer's income

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

Answer: c

- Ethanol is an agro-based product, mainly produced from a by-product of the sugar industry, namely molasses. In years of surplus



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production of sugarcane, when prices are depressed, the sugar industry is unable to make timely payment of cane price to farmers. The Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme (EBP) seeks to achieve blending of Ethanol with motor spirit with a view to reducing pollution, conserve foreign exchange and increase value addition in the sugar industry enabling them to clear cane price arrears of farmers.

- The central government has scaled up blending targets from 5 to 10 per cent under the EBP. The procedure of procurement of ethanol under the EBP has been simplified to streamline the entire ethanol supply chain and remunerative ex-depot price of ethanol has been fixed. To facilitate achieving of new blending targets, a “grid” which networks distilleries to OMC depots and details quantities to be supplied has been worked out.

11. Consider the following statement:

1. Committee on World Food Security (CFS), an intergovernmental forum of exporting and importing countries for cooperation in wheat and coarse grain matters

2. International Grains Council (IGC) serves as a forum in the United Nations System for review and follow-up of policies concerning world food security, including food production, physical and economic access to food.

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

Answer: d

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- India is a member of the International Grains Council (IGC), an intergovernmental forum of exporting and importing countries for cooperation in wheat and coarse grain matters which was previously known as International Wheat Council upto 1995. It administers the Grains Trade Convention, 1995. The IGC Secretariat, based in London since 1949, also services the Food Aid Committee, established under the Food Aid Convention. International Grains Agreement comprises Grains Trade Convention (GTC) and Food Aid Convention (FAC). India is a signatory to the International Grains Agreement (IGA), 1995 and its Grain Trade Convention (GTC), 1995 which is effective from 1995. IGC has two types of members—importing and exporting members. India has been included in the category of exporting member in July, 2003 and represented in the meetings/sessions of the Council held from time to time
- Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) is one of the largest specialized agencies in the UN System founded in 1945 with a mandate to raise levels of nutrition and standard of living by improving agricultural productivity and living conditions of rural population. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) serves as a forum in the United Nations System for review and follow-up of policies concerning world food security, including food production, physical and economic access to food. India is a member of both FAO and CFS. Committee on World Food Security (CFS) monitors the progress of implementation of the WFS Plan of Action.



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12. Which of the following scheme(s) is/are being implemented by MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES?

1. Operation greens
2. SAMPADA Scheme

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

Answer: c

- Government of India (GOI) has approved a new Central Sector Scheme – Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) with an allocation of Rs. 6,000 crore for the period 2016-20 coterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle. The scheme will be implemented by Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI). Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana. PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana is a comprehensive package which will result in creation of

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modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet. It will not only provide a big boost to the growth of food processing sector in the country but also help in providing better returns to farmers and is a big step towards doubling of farmers income, creating huge employment opportunities especially in the rural areas, reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing the processing level and enhancing the export of the processed foods.

- In the budget speech of Union Budget 2018-19, a new Scheme “Operation Greens” was announced on the line of “Operation Flood”, with an outlay of Rs.500 crore to promote Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs #), agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management. Accordingly, the Ministry has formulated a scheme for integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) value chain.

CHPATER 16 Health and Family Welfare

1. Consider the following statement pertaining to National Health Policy 2017

1. NHP 2017 advocates allocating major proportion of resources to Tertiary care
2. The policy advocates extensive deployment of digital tools for improving

the efficiency and outcome of the healthcare system and aims at an integrated health information system

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



Answer: b

The National Health Policy (NHP) was released in 2017 after a gap of 15 years. NHP 2017 addresses the current and emerging challenges necessitated by the changing socio-economic, technological and epidemiological landscape. It envisages providing larger package of assured comprehensive primary healthcare through the health and wellness centres. The policy aims to attain the highest possible level of health and well-being for all at all ages through a preventive and promotive healthcare and universal access to quality health services without anyone having to face financial hardship as a consequence. This would be achieved through increasing access, improving quality and lowering the cost of healthcare delivery. NHP 2017 advocates allocating major proportion (two-thirds or more) of resources to primary care and aims to ensure availability of two beds per 1,000 population distributed in a manner to enable access within golden hour

Besides this, the highlights of the policy include: (i) Assurance based approach - It

advocates progressively incremental assurance based approach with focus on preventive and promotive healthcare; (ii) micro nutrient deficiency-There is a focus on reducing micro nutrient malnourishment and systematic approach to address heterogeneity in micro nutrient adequacy across regions; (iii) Make-in-India initiative-It advocates the need to incentivize local manufacturing to provide customized indigenous products for Indian population in the long run,

2. Nikshay portal is for:

- (a) HIV
- (b) TB
- (c) JE
- (d) Polio

Answer: b

- TB Patient Monitoring System “Nikshay” for tracking of individuals for treatment-adherence has been implemented across all states for monitoring of TB patients

3. Consider the following statement:

1. Mission Indradhanush was launched in 2017 to cover all those children who have been partially vaccinated or not vaccinated during routine immunization rounds
2. India New Born Action Plan was launched in 2014 with the goal of attaining “Single Digit Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) by 2030

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

Answer: b

- Mission Indradhanush was launched in 2014 to cover all those children who have been partially vaccinated or not vaccinated during routine immunization rounds. The objective the schemes is to increase full immunization coverage to at least 90 per cent children by 2020.
- India New Born Action Plan was launched in 2014 with the goal of attaining “Single Digit Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) by 2030” and “Single Digit Still Birth rate (SBR) by 2030”. Under this, 661 special newborn care units (SNCU) at district level, 2321 newborn stabilization units (NBSU) at first referral units (FRU) level and 18,323 newborn care corners (NBCC) at delivery points are operational



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5. Consider the following statement regarding National Health Protection Mission

1. Scheme will have a defined benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per person per year
2. It is an entitlement based scheme with entitlement decided on the basis of deprivation criteria in the SECC database

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

Answer: b

- Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) a new centrally sponsored scheme was launched in 2018. This comes under Ayushman Bharat Mission anchored in the MoHFW. The Scheme has the benefit cover of ₹ 5 lakh per family per year. The target beneficiaries are to be more than 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population based on Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) database. With this, AB-NHPM will subsume the on-going centrally sponsored schemes- Rashtriya Swasthya BimaYojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).
- Its salient features are numerous and keeping in mind the poor and the destitute. It has a defined benefit cover of ₹ 5 lakh per family per year. This cover will take care of almost all secondary care and most of tertiary care procedures. To ensure that nobody is left out (especially women, children and the elderly) there will be no cap on family size and age. The benefit cover will also

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include pre and post-hospitalisation expenses. All pre-existing conditions will be covered from day one of the policy. A defined transport allowance per hospitalization will also be paid to the beneficiary; portable benefits including cashless benefits from any public/private empanelled hospitals across the country.

- Being an entitlement based scheme the entitlement is to be decided on the basis of deprivation criteria in the SECC database, female headed households with no adult male member between ages 16 to 59, disabled member and no able bodied adult member in the family, SC/ST households; and landless households deriving major part of their income from manual casual labour will be automatically covered. The payments for treatment will be done on package rate (to be defined by the government in advance) basis. The package rates will include all the costs associated with treatment. For beneficiaries, it will be a cashless, paper less transaction. Keeping in view the state specific requirements, states / UTs will have the flexibility to modify these rates within a limited bandwidth
- One of the core principles of AB-NHPM is co-operative federalism and flexibility to states. There is provision to partner the states through co-alliance. This will ensure appropriate integration with the existing health insurance / protection schemes of various central ministries / departments and state governments (at their own cost). State governments will be allowed to expand the Scheme both horizontally and vertically. They can implement



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through insurance company or directly through trust / society or a mixed model. States would need to have State Health Agency (SHA) to implement it

- In order to ensure that the Scheme reaches the intended beneficiaries and other stakeholders, a comprehensive media and outreach strategy will be developed, which will, inter alia, include print media, electronic media, social media platforms, traditional media, IEC materials and outdoor activities. This will lead to increased access to quality health and medication. In addition, the unmet needs of the population which remained hidden due to lack of financial resources will be catered to

6. Consider the following statement:

1. Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) was launched in 2013 entails provision for Child Health Screening and Early Intervention Services

2. Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram initiative was launched to provide information, commodities and services to meet the diverse needs of adolescents

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

Answer: d

- MAA-Mother's Absolute Affection" which is an intensified programme was launched in 2016 in an attempt to bring undiluted focus on promotion of breastfeeding. The goal of the MAA programme is to revitalize efforts towards promotion,

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protection and support of breastfeeding practices through health systems to enhance breastfeeding rates. The key components of the programme are - awareness generation, promotion of breastfeeding and inter personal counselling at community level, skilled support for breastfeeding at delivery points, monitoring and award/recognition

- Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram initiative launched in 2013 entails provision for Child Health Screening and Early Intervention Services through early detection and management of 4 Ds i.e. defects at birth, diseases, deficiencies, development delays including disability and free management of 30 identified health conditions including surgery at tertiary health facilities. Children between 0-18 years of age are covered in a phased manner across the country
- The Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) was launched to provide information, commodities and services to meet the diverse needs of adolescents. The intervention under RKSK are:
Weekly Iron Folic Supplementation: WIFS is evidence based programmatic response to the prevailing anaemia situation amongst adolescent girls and boys through supervised weekly ingestion of IFA supplementation. Menstrual Hygiene Scheme: The scheme aims to ensure that adolescent girls have adequate knowledge and information about menstrual hygiene and the use of sanitary napkins and high quality, safe products are made available to them with knowledge of environmentally safe disposal



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mechanisms; Peer Educator Programme: The Programme aims to ensure that adolescents are benefited from regular and sustained peer education covering nutrition, sexual and reproductive health, and conditions for NCDs, substance misuse, injuries and violence (including GBV) and mental health. To further equip the peer educators, the Ministry launched “Saathiya Resource Kit” in 2017. Understanding the growing number of mobile based app users, Saathiya Salah App has also been made a part of the “Saathiya Resource Kit”. The App is linked to another important piece of cost-effective information platform of a toll-free Saathiya Helpline

7. Consider the following statement:

1. Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) is a safe motherhood intervention under the National Health Mission
2. Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) scheme entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free and no expense delivery including caesarean section.

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

Answer: d

- Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) scheme entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free and no expense delivery including caesarean section.

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- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is a safe motherhood intervention under the National Health Mission. The objective is to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among poor pregnant women

8. Consider the following statement:

1. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan programme aims to provide assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month
2. Amrit awards were launched by women and child development ministry to promote cleanliness, hygiene and infection control practices in public health facilities

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

Answer: a

- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan The programme aims to provide assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month. PMSMA guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their 2nd/3rd trimesters of pregnancy at designated government health facilities. The programme follows a systematic approach for engagement with private sector which includes motivating private practitioners to volunteer for the campaign; developing strategies for generating awareness and appealing to the private sector to participate in the Abhiyan at government health facilities.



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- **Kayakalp** awards were launched to promote cleanliness, hygiene and infection control practices in public health facilities. Under this initiative awards and commendation certificates are given to public healthcare facilities that show exemplary performance i.e., meeting standards of protocols of cleanliness, hygiene and infection control
- Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) outlets have been put in place to provide drugs for cancer and cardiovascular diseases along with cardiac implants. These are provided at 60 to 90 per cent discount on prevailing market rates.

9. Swachh Swasth Sarvatra is a joint initiative of:

1. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
2. Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
3. Tourism Ministry
4. Culture Ministry

Select the correct answer from code given below:

- (a) 3 and 4 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1 and 4 only

Answer: c

Swachh Swasth Sarvatra is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation launched in 2016

10. Which of the following scheme envisages creation of tertiary healthcare capacity in medical education, research and clinical care, in the underserved areas of the country?

- (a) Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Yojana

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- (b) Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana
- (c) Pradhan Mantri tertiary healthcare augmentation scheme
- (d) None of the above

Answer: b

The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) envisages creation of tertiary healthcare capacity in medical education, research and clinical care, in the underserved areas of the country. It aims at correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/reliable tertiary healthcare services and also augmenting facilities for quality medical education in the country. PMSSY has two components- setting up of new AIIMS like institutes in underserved regions of the country: and upgradation of existing Govt Medical Colleges (GMCs). Under PMSSY the pace of construction expedited across all PMSSY projects, achieving, on an average more than 42 per cent increase in capital expenditure, year on year (YOY) basis since 2014-15

11. Scheme to provide financial assistance to the patients living below poverty line who are suffering from major life threatening diseases is:

- (a) Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana
- (b) Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi
- (c) Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha kosh
- (d) Pradhan Mantri Jiwan Beema Yojana

Answer: b

Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) was set up in 1997 to provide financial assistance to the patients living below poverty line, who are suffering from major life threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at Government hospitals. The financial assistance to such patients is released in the form of "one time grant" to the Medical Superintendent of the hospital in which the



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treatment is being received. Under the scheme central government also provides grant-in-aid to states/union territories (with legislature) to set up State Illness Assistance

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Fund (SIAF) to the extent of 50 per cent of contribution made by state government/union territories

CHAPTER 17 Housing and Urban Affairs

1. According to Constitution of India Urban development is a
- State subject
 - Concurrent Subject
 - Central Subject
 - Residuary subject

Answer: a

Urban development is a state subject and the Constitution (Seventy-Fourth) Amendment Act, 1992 enjoins upon the state governments to delegate many functions to urban local bodies

2. Paisa Portal which was recently in news will help in implementation of which scheme
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission
 - Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation
 - Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Housing for All
 - None of the above

Answer: a

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has been implementing a centrally sponsored scheme Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) since 2013 for reducing the poverty and vulnerability of urban poor households.

The Mission covers all the statutory towns in the country, to be decided by the state as per local need and capability. Its major components include: (a) social Mobilization and Institutional Development (SM&ID), which envisages mobilisation of urban poor women, differently-abled men and men in vulnerable occupations into thrift and credit based Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and their federations/ collectives; (b) employment through Skill Training and Placement (EST&P) for skill development of urban poor in market-oriented courses to enable them to earn sustainable livelihoods; (c) self-employment Programme (SEP) provides interest subvention on loans to individuals/groups of urban poor for setting up self-employment ventures/ micro-enterprises; (d) support to urban street vendors to support pro-vendor planning, development of vendors' market, credit enablement, socio-economic survey of street vendors, skill development and microenterprises development and convergence with social assistance under various schemes of the Government; (e) innovative and Special Projects (I&SP) to promote pioneering efforts, aimed at catalysing sustainable approaches to urban livelihoods through Public, Private and Community Partnership (PPCP)

CHAPTER 18 India and the World

1. In which of the following organization India is a member:
- Wassenaar Arrangement
 - Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
 - Australia Group

Select the correct answer from code given below:

- 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 3 only
- All of the above



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Answer: d

- India became a member of the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Australia Group.

2. Transports Internationaux Routiers is an initiative of:

- (a) UNCTAD
- (b) WTO
- (c) UNECE
- (d) World Bank

Answer: c

- The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) administers the TIR Convention, which was established in 1959 and extensively revised in 1975 and which has, at present, 68 Contracting Parties. The TIR Convention provides for an internationally recognized procedure to facilitate the cross border transportation of goods in transit through the use of a standard, internationally recognized Customs document, the TIR Carnet¹, which also serves as proof of existence of an internationally valid guarantee.
- For many years the TIR Convention proved to be an efficient facilitation tool. However, with the progress in technology, the use of the paper TIR

Carnet is increasingly becoming archaic, in particular when it comes to linking it to the electronic procedures applied by national Customs administrations. At each border crossing, Customs officers are faced with additional work of having to key in up to 50 data elements into their national electronic Customs system. In addition, the current situation does not enable Customs

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authorities to effectively apply risk management procedures based on advance cargo information, as demanded by an increasingly more security-conscious environment.

3. With reference to 'Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)', Consider the following statements:

1. It was established very recently in response to incidents of piracy and accidents of oil spills

2. It is an alliance meant for maritime security only

Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

- The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is a dynamic inter-governmental organisation aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region through its 22 Member States and 9 Dialogue Partners.
- The IORA is a regional forum, tripartite in nature, bringing together representatives of Government, Business and Academia, for promoting co-operation and closer interaction among them. It is based on the principles of Open Regionalism for strengthening Economic Cooperation particularly on Trade Facilitation and Investment, Promotion as well as Social Development of the region.[5] The Coordinating Secretariat of IORA is located at Ebene, Mauritius



CHAPTER 19 Industries

1. What is/are the function(s) of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade?

1. Formulation of policies relating to Intellectual Property Rights in patents, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications of goods

2. Formulation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy

3. Monitoring the industrial growth

Select the correct answer from code given below:

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

Answer: d

- The role and functions of DIPP new name (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)) , primarily include: (a) formulation and implementation of industrial policy and strategies for industrial development in conformity with the development needs and national objectives; (b) monitoring the industrial growth, in general, and performance of industries specifically assigned to it, in particular, including advice on all industrial and technical matters; (c) formulation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy and promotion, approval and facilitation of FDI; (d) formulation of policies relating to Intellectual Property

Rights in patents, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications of goods and administration of regulations, rules made there under

- DPIIT monitors the industrial growth and production, in general, and selected industrial sectors, such as cement, paper and pulp, leather, tyre and rubber, light electrical industries, consumer goods, consumer durables, light machine tools, light industrial machinery, light engineering industries etc., in particular. Appropriate interventions are made on the basis of policy inputs generated by monitoring and periodic review of the industrial sector. The Department studies, assesses and forecasts the need for technological development in specific industrial sectors. On this basis, it plans for modernization and technological upgradation of the Indian industry so that, it keeps pace with the international developments in industrial technology on a continuing basis
- Department administers the central legislations: The Explosives Act, 1884, and the Inflammable Substances Act, 1952; the Salt Cess Act, 1953; the Patents Act, 1970, the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958 and the Designs Act, 2000 and their associated rules, and the Boilers Act, 1923

2. Consider the following statements pertaining to National Manufacturing Policy 2011

1. Policy is based on the principle of industrial growth in partnership with the states.
2. Policy envisages that central government will create the enabling policy frame work, provide incentives for infrastructure development on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis through appropriate financing instruments



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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

Answer: c

- In order to bring about a quantitative and qualitative change and to provide necessary impetus to the manufacturing sector, the National Manufacturing Policy (NMP) was notified with the objective of enhancing the share of manufacturing in GDP to 25 per cent and creating 100 million jobs over a decade or so. The Policy is based on the principle of industrial growth in partnership with the states. The policy envisages that central government will create the enabling policy frame work, provide incentives for infrastructure development on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis through appropriate financing instruments, and state governments will be encouraged to adopt the instrumentalities provided in it
- National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZs) are an important instrumentality of the Policy. These zones have been conceived as large integrated industrial townships with state-of-the-art infrastructure; land use on the basis of zoning; clean and energy efficient technology; necessary social infrastructure; skill development facilities, etc., to provide a conducive environment for manufacturing industries.

3. Which is the nodal department/ministry for formulation of the policy on Foreign Direct Investment?

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- (a) Ministry of Finance
- (b) Ministry of Home
- (c) Ministry of commerce
- (d) PMO

Answer: c

- DIPP under Ministry of commerce is the nodal department for formulation of the policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). It is also responsible for maintenance and management of data on inward FDI into India based on the remittances reported by the Reserve Bank of India. With a view to attract higher levels of FDI, a liberal policy has been put in place on FDI under which FDI up to 100 per cent is permitted under the automatic route in most sectors/ activities. Significant changes have been made in the policy regime in recent times to ensure that India remains an increasingly attractive investment destination.
- After abolition of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), process for granting FDI approvals has been simplified wherein the work relating to processing of applications for FDI and approval of the government thereon under the extant FDI Policy and FEMA is now handled by the concerned ministries/departments. However, DIPP is a single point interface of the government to facilitate investors for FDI through approval route.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Invest India has been set up as a joint venture (not for profit) company between Department of Industrial Policy



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and Promotion, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), CII, NASSCOM and various state governments.

2. Invest India focuses on sector-specific investor targeting and development of new partnerships to enable sustainable investments in India.

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

Answer: c

- Invest India has been set up as a joint venture (not for profit) company between Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), CII, NASSCOM and various state governments. Invest India is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India and acts as the first point of reference for investors. It is transforming the country's investment climate by simplifying the business environment for investors. Its experts, specializing across different countries, states and sectors, handhold investors through their investment lifecycle - from pre-investment to after-care. This venture provides multiple forms of support such as market entry strategies, deep dive industry analysis, partner search and location assessment policy advocacy with decision makers
- Invest India, set up in 2009, is a non-profit venture under the Department for Promotion of

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Industry and Internal Trade,
Ministry of Commerce and
Industry, Government of India.

5. 'Fund of Funds for Startups is managed by:

- (a) RBI
- (b) IDBI
- (c) SIDBI
- (d) NABARD

Answer: c

For providing fund support for Startups, Government created a 'Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS)' at Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) with a corpus of ₹ 10,000 crore. The FFS shall contribute to the corpus of Alternate Investment funds (AIFs) for investing in equity and equity linked instruments of various Startups.

What are Start Ups

Taking into account the long gestation period to establish and operate, DIPP modified the Startup definition. Accordingly, an entity shall be considered as a Startup up to seven years from the date of its incorporation/ registration. However, in the case of Startups in the biotechnology sector, the period shall be up to ten years from the date of incorporation/registration. This will also ensure consistency with the recent enhancement of tax exemption to Startups in the Budget. In order to promote entrepreneurship in the country, the definition of a Startup has also been broadened to include scalability of business model along with high potential of employment generation or wealth creation. To further simplify the process of recognition of a Startup, the requirement of letter of recommendation from an incubator/industry association has also been done away with both for the purpose of recognition as well as availing certificate of eligibility for obtaining tax benefits



6. Intellectual Property Appellate Board is under administrative control of:

- (a) Finance Ministry
- (b) Home Ministry
- (c) Commerce Ministry
- (d) None

Answer: c

DIPP is entrusted with the responsibility of formulation of policy in respect of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) i.e., patents, designs, trade marks and geographical indication of goods. The Department administers Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) Legislations, namely, the Patents Act, 1970, Designs Act, 2000, Trade Marks Act, 1999, Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, Copyright Act, 1957 (as amended in 2012) and Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Act, 2000. It also administers establishment matters in respect of the Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB). DIPP undertakes bilateral and multilateral cooperation activities in respect of Intellectual Property Right matters on behalf of the government. It is the nodal department for all matters relating to the World Intellectual Property Organization(WIPO).

7. Consider the following statement pertaining to National Productivity council (NPC):

1. The Union Minister for Heavy industry is president of this body

2. NPC undertakes productivity augmentation through domain specific consultancy

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

Answer: b

- DIPP is the nodal department for the promotion of productivity and quality in the industrial sector. The National Productivity Council (NPC) represents India in the Tokyo based Asian Productivity Organization (APO), of which India is a founder member. NPC undertakes productivity augmentation through domain specific consultancy, training, workshops, seminars and conferences to government, public and private sectors, productivity related research, monitoring and evaluation of various government schemes and projects and information dissemination through collaboration with APO
- The Union Minister for Industry is the President of the NPC, and the Secretary (Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade) is its Chairman. The Director General is the CEO. NPC has 13 Regional Offices, located in major State Capitals/industrial centre with Corporate Headquarters in New Delhi and has strength of around 120 full time professional/consultants. In addition, services of outside specialists and faculty are also enlisted on projects based requirements.

8. With reference to 'Quality Council of India (QCI)', consider the following statements: (IAS 2017)

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?



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

Answer: c

The Quality Council of India, another autonomous body under this Department, promotes adoption of quality standards relating to Quality Management Systems (ISO 9001 Series), Environment Management Systems (ISO 14001 Series), Food Safety Management Systems (ISO 22000 Series), Product certification and inspection bodies through the accreditation services provided by National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB). Besides NABCB, there are four other boards viz., National Accreditation Board for Education and Training (NABET); National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH); National Accreditation Board for Testing and calibration Laboratories (NABL); and National Board for Quality Promotion (NBQP) which provide accreditation certification on education, health and quality promotion respectively.

9. Index of Industrial Production is published by:

- (a) Ministry of Labour
- (b) CSO
- (c) NSSO
- (d) Ministry of Heavy Industry

Answer: b

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP), measuring industrial performance monitors production in manufacturing, mining and electricity sectors and also to use-based group such as primary, capital, intermediate, infrastructure/construction goods, consumer durables and consumer non-durables. Central Statistics Office, Ministry of

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Statistics and Programme Implementation revised the base year of IIP in 2017. The latest series with base year 2011-12 is more representative of the current structure and composition of the industrial sector. As per the new base year, IIP registered growth rate of 4.6 per cent on account of growth in electricity generation, mining and manufacturing.

- The Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) monitors production of eight core industries i.e., coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement and electricity every month. In line with the base year change in IIP, the Office of the Economic Adviser, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, revised the base year of Index of Eight Core Industries to 2011-12. These eight industries have combined weight of around 40.27 per cent in Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

10. Reusing Plastic in Nature (REPLAN) is scheme of:

- (a) Finance Ministry
- (b) MoEFCC
- (c) KVIC
- (d) BEE

Answer: c

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) established under the Act of Parliament (No. 61 of 1956), and as amended in 1987 and 2006 is a statutory organization under the Ministry of MSME and engaged in promoting and developing Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) for providing employment opportunities in the rural areas, thereby strengthening the rural economy. KVIC has been identified as one of the major organizations in the



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decentralized sector for generating sustainable non-farm employment opportunities in rural areas at a low per capita investment. KVIC undertakes activities like skill improvement; transfer of technology; research and development; marketing etc. and helps in generating employment/self employment opportunities in rural areas.

11. Consider the following statement:

1. In India, about 97 per cent of the raw mulberry silk is produced in the five states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir.
2. India has the largest area under cotton in the world
3. India is the second largest producer of jute in the world

Select the correct answer from code given below:

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

Answer: d

- Silk in the Indian subcontinent is a luxury item. In India, about 97 per cent of the raw mulberry silk is produced in the five states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir. Three other commercially important types of silk fall into the category of non-mulberry silks namely: eri; tasar; and muga
- Cotton is one of the most important cash crops in India and the country accounts for around 25 per cent of the total global fibre production. In the raw material consumption basket of the Indian textile industry, the proportion of cotton is around 59 per cent. Cotton sustains the livelihood

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of an estimated 5.8 million cotton farmers and 40-50 million people engaged in related activities such as cotton processing and trade. India has the largest area under cotton in the world with around 105 lakh hectares under cotton cultivation which is around 35 per cent of the world area. To support the cotton industry, Government of India announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for two basic staples groups viz., medium staple and long staple cotton. Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Textile Ministry, is the principal agency of Government of India for undertaking MSP operations in the event of prevailing seed cotton (kapas) price touching the MSP level

- India is the largest producer of jute in the world with an average production of about 80 lakh bales of raw jute annually. The Government of India provides support to the jute growers not only through MSP operation by the Jute Corporation of India but also through direct purchase of jute sacking valued at around ₹ 6000 crore annually for packing foodgrains by invoking provisions under the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987. This is a major support not only to the jute farmers but also to jute mill workers.

12. Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana is a scheme of:

- (a) Health Ministry
- (b) Ministry of Chemicals and fertilizer
- (c) Commerce Ministry
- (d) None of the above

Answer: b



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Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana The Jan Aushadhi Scheme was launched in 2008 with the aim of selling affordable generic medicines through dedicated sales outlets i.e., Jan Aushadhi Stores in various districts across the country. Some of the objectives of the scheme include: ensure access to quality medicines; extend coverage of quality generic medicines so as to reduce and thereby redefine the unit cost of treatment per person; create awareness about generic medicines through education and publicity so that quality is not synonymous with only high price ; The first Jan Aushadhi Store was opened at Amritsar in Punjab in 2008. The original target of the campaign was to establish Jan Aushadhi Stores in every district of our country. Recently, “Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana” (PMJAY) has been renamed as “Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana” (PMBJP) and “Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra” (PMJAK) as “Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra” (PMBJK)

13. Consider the following statements: (IAS 2018)

1. In India, State Governments do not have the power to auction non-coal mines.
2. Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand do not have gold mines.
3. Rajasthan has iron ore mines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

- The Ministry is responsible for legislation for regulation of

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mines and development of minerals within the territory of India, including mines and minerals underlying the ocean within the territorial waters or the continental shelf, or the exclusive economic zone and other maritime zones of India as may be specified, from time to time by or under any law made by Parliament; regulation of mines and development of minerals other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing and any other mineral declared as prescribed substances for the purpose of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 (33 of 1962) as declared by law, including questions concerning regulation and development of minerals in various states and the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto; all other metals and minerals not specifically allotted to any other Ministry/ Department, such as aluminium, zinc, copper, gold, diamonds, lead and nickel; planning, development and control of, and assistance to, all industries dealt with by the Ministry; administration and management of Geological Survey of India, Indian Bureau of Mines

- Hematite and magnetite are the most important iron ores in India. About 59 per cent hematite ore deposits are found in the eastern sector. About 92 per cent magnetite ore deposits occur in southern sector, especially in Karnataka. Of these, hematite is considered to be superior because of its higher grade. Indian deposits of hematite belong to



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the precambrian iron ore series and the ore is within banded iron ore formations occurring as massive, laminated, friable and also in powdery form.

As per UNFC system, the total resources of hematite as in 2015 are estimated at 22,487 million tonnes of which 5,442 million tonnes (24 per cent) are under 'reserves' category and the balance 17,045 million tonnes (76 per cent) are under 'remaining resources' category. By grades, lumps constitute about 56 per cent followed by fines (21 per cent), lumps with fines (13 per cent) and the remaining 10 per cent are black iron ore, not-known and other grades. Major resources of hematite are located in Odisha - 7,559 million tonnes (34 per cent), Jharkhand - 5,286 million tonnes (24 per cent), Chhattisgarh - 4,858 million tonnes (22 per cent), Karnataka - 2,467 million tonnes (11 per cent) and Goa - 1189 million tonnes (5 per cent). The balance resources of hematite are spread in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh

14. With primary objective to promote regional and detailed mineral exploration in the country to increase overall mineral production and achieve sustainable development of the mineral sector which fund has been established?

- (a) District Mineral fund
- (b) National Mineral Exploration Trust
- (c) National Mineral enhancement fund

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(d) National innovation fund

Answer: b

Answer: The Government notified National Mineral Exploration Trust Rules, 2015 and has also established National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) in pursuance of subsection (1) of Section 9C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 1957, with primary objective to promote regional and detailed mineral exploration in the country to increase overall mineral production and achieve sustainable development of the mineral sector

15. For monitoring of Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana which portal is being used?

- (a) SWAYATT Portal
- (b) DISHA Portal
- (c) TAMRA Portal
- (d) Shagun Portal

Answer: b

- The government launched Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) which is to be implemented by the district mineral foundations of the respective districts. PMKKKY will help in creating a congenial mining environment, ameliorate the condition of the affected person and create a win-win situations for the stakeholders. A national portal for DMF is being developed which will help monitor the implementation of projects under the PMKKKY scheme. The monitoring of PMKKKY would be done under "DISHA", the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee of Ministry of Rural



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Development to promote synergy and convergence for greater impact

- To facilitate and expedite various clearances/approvals required after the mineral block is allocated, an Inter-ministerial Group has been constituted to expedite the requisite clearances to enable the early start of mining activity. The Ministry has developed a Transparency, Auction, Monitoring and Resource Augmentation (TAMRA) portal and mobile application. This will be an interactive platform for all stakeholders to compress the timelines for statutory/ other clearances.

16. Consider the following statements:

1. Rajasthan is endowed with the largest resources of lead-zinc ore
2. largest resources in terms of gold ore (primary) are located in Bihar
3. Odisha has largest resources of bauxite & Chromite in India

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

- Total resources of bauxite as per UNFC in the country are placed at 3,897 million tonnes. These resources include 656 million tonnes reserves and 3,240 million tonnes remaining resources. By grades, about 81 per cent resources are of metallurgical grade. The resources of refractory and chemical grades are limited and together account for

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about 5 per cent. Odisha alone accounts for 51 per cent of country's resources of bauxite followed by Andhra Pradesh (16 per cent), Gujarat (9 per cent), Jharkhand (6 per cent), Maharashtra (5 per cent) and Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh (4 per cent each). Major bauxite resources are concentrated in the east coast of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh

- Chromite: As per UNFC system, total resources of chromite in the country as in 2015 are estimated at 344 million tonnes, comprising 102 million tonnes reserves (30 per cent) and 242 million tonnes remaining resources (70 per cent). About 96 per cent resources of chromite are located in Odisha, mostly in the Sukinda valley in Jajpur and Keonjhar districts. Minor deposits are scattered over Manipur, Nagaland, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Gradewise, charge-chrome grade accounts for 31 per cent resources followed by ferrochrome grade (18 per cent), beneficiable grade (25 per cent) and refractory grade 14 per cent. Low, others, unclassified and not known grades together account for 13 per cent
- The largest resources in terms of gold ore (primary) are located in Bihar (44 per cent) followed by Rajasthan (25 per cent) and Karnataka (21 per cent), West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh (3 per cent each), Telangana & Madhya Pradesh (2 per cent each). Remaining very small quantity of resources of ore are located in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. In terms of metal



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content, Karnataka remained on top followed by Rajasthan, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, etc

17. Consider the following statements:

1. Nickel can be extracted from Polymetallic sea nodules
2. Karnataka is the largest producer of Manganese
3. More than 90% Reserves of diamonds are in Andhra Pradesh

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

- Important occurrence is nickeliferous limonite in the overburden of chromite in Sukinda Valley, Jajpur district, Odisha, where it occurs as oxide. A suitable process is being developed for its utilisation. Nickel also occurs in sulphide form along with copper mineralisation in East Singhbhum district, Jharkhand. In addition, it is found associated with uranium deposits at Jaduguda, Jharkhand and process is being developed for its recovery. Other reported occurrences of nickel are from Karnataka, Kerala and Rajasthan. Polymetallic sea nodules are another source of nickel. As per UNFC, as in 2015, the total resources of nickel ore have been estimated at 189 million tonnes. About 92 per cent resources; i.e., 175 million tonnes are in Odisha. The remaining 8 per cent resources are distributed in

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Jharkhand (9 million tonnes) and Nagaland (5 million tonnes). Nominal resources are reported from Karnataka (0.23 million tonnes).

- Manganese: Statewise, Odisha tops the total resources with 44 per cent share followed by Karnataka 22 per cent, Madhya Pradesh 12 per cent, Maharashtra and Goa 7 per cent each, Andhra Pradesh 4 per cent and Jharkhand 2 per cent. Rajasthan, Gujarat and West Bengal together shared the remaining about 2 per cent resources
- Diamond occurrences are reported since prehistoric times in the country. Presently, diamond fields of India are grouped into four regions: 1) South Indian tract of Andhra Pradesh, comprising parts of Anantapur, Cuddapah, Guntur, Krishna, and Kurnool districts and Mahaboobnagar in Telangana; 2) Central Indian tract of Madhya Pradesh, comprising Panna belt and Chhatarpur districts; 3) Behradin-Kodawali area in Raipur district and Tokapal, Dugapal, etc. areas in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh; and 4) Eastern Indian tract mostly of Odisha, lying between Mahanadi and Godavari valleys. By states, Madhya Pradesh accounts for about 90.18 per cent resources followed by Andhra Pradesh 5.73 per cent and Chhattisgarh 4.10 per cent



CHAPTER 20 Law and Justice

Answer: b

1. Consider the following statements:

1. District court is the principal court of civil jurisdiction and can try all offences except those punishable with death.

2. District session judges are appointed by respective governor of state on the recommendation of concerned high court.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

At the apex of the entire judicial system exists the Supreme Court of India with a High Court for each state or group of states and under the High Courts there is a hierarchy of subordinate courts. Panchayat Courts also function in some states under various names like Nyaya Panchayat, Panchayat Adalat, Gram Kachehri, etc., to decide civil and criminal disputes of petty and local nature. Different state laws provide for jurisdiction of these courts.

2. Consider the following statements:

1. High court judges hold office up to 62 years of age and according to constitution at a time there can be maximum 31 judges in any High court.

2. The Chief Justice of a High Court is appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Governor of the state.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

High Court stands at the head of the state's judicial administration. There are 24 High Courts in the country, three having jurisdiction over more than one state. Among the union territories, Delhi alone has a High Court of its own. Other six union territories come under the jurisdiction of different state High Courts. Each High Court comprises a Chief Justice and such other Judges as the President may, from time to time, appoint. The Chief Justice of a High Court is appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Governor of the state. The procedure for appointing the High Court judges is the same except that the recommendation for the appointment of Judges in the High Court is initiated by the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned. They hold office up to 62 years of age. To be eligible for appointment as a judge, one must be a citizen of India and should have held a judicial office in India for 10 years or must have practised as an advocate of a High Court or two or more such courts in succession for a similar period.

3. Access to Justice for Marginalised People is supported by which international agency in India?

- (a) Transparency International
- (b) Green Peace
- (c) UNDP
- (d) UNCTAD

Answer: c

In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Department of Justice (DoJ), Ministry of Law and Justice, is implementing a decade long programme on Access to Justice for Marginalised People (2008-2017). The project extends to the eight UNDAF states



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of Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha. This project focuses on strengthening access to justice for the marginalised people by developing strategies that address barriers to accessing justice in legal, social and economic domains. The project is presently in the second phase of implementation. The first phase expanding from 2008 to 2012 made significant contributions.

4. Consider the following statement:

1. Till date only 5 Delimitation commission has been constituted.
2. Periodic readjustment of the Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies is mandatory in a representative system where single-member constituencies are used for electing political representative

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

- The first Delimitation Commission in India was constituted in 1952, the second in 1962 and the third in the year 1973. The third delimitation

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exercise— based on 1971 census— was completed in the year 1975. The present delimitation, based on 2001 census, has been undertaken after 30 years. The population has increased by almost 87 per cent and the nature of constituencies in the country, by and large, had become malapportioned

- The periodic readjustment of the Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies is mandatory in a representative system where single-member constituencies are used for electing political representatives. The electoral boundaries are drawn on the basis of the last published census figures and are relatively equal in population. Equally populous constituencies allow voters to have an equally weighted vote in the Legislature. Electoral constituencies that vary greatly in population—a condition called “malapportionment”—violate a central tenet of democracy, namely, that all voters should be able to cast a vote of equal weight. Delimitation and Elections are the two basic pillars of a parliamentary democracy

CHAPTER 21 Labour, Skill Development and Employment

1 Consider the following in respect of 'National Career Service': (IAS 2017)

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

Answer. d

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment is implementing the



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National Career Service (NCS) Project as a Mission Mode Project for transformation of the National Employment Service to provide a variety of employment related services like career counselling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, apprenticeship, internships etc.

- The NCS Project has also been enhanced to interlink all employment exchanges with the NCS Portal so that services can be delivered online. The scheme provides for part funding to States for IT upgradation and minor refurbishing of Employment Exchanges and for organizing job fairs

2. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana, consider the following statements

1. It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. Under the scheme, Government of India will pay the Employees Pension Scheme (EPS) contribution of 8.33 per cent for all new employees enrolling in Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for the first three years of their employment
3. It aims to align the competencies of the unregulated workforce of the country to the National Skill Qualification Framework.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Answer: b

The Ministry is also implementing "Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana" (PMRPY) since 2016-17 with the objective of promoting employment generation with an allocation of ₹ 1,000 crore. Under the

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scheme, Government of India will pay the Employees Pension Scheme (EPS) contribution of 8.33 per cent for all new employees enrolling in Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for the first three years of their employment. This will incentivise the employers to recruit unemployed persons and also to formalize informal employees. The scheme will be applicable to those having earnings of ₹ 15,000/- per month. A budget provision of ₹ 1000/- crore for this scheme has been made.

3. Atal bimit vyakti kalyan yojna is being implemented by:

- (a) ESIC
- (b) PFRDA
- (c) Ministry of skill and entrepreneurship development
- (d) EPFO

Answer: a

To provide medical care and cash benefits in case of sickness, maternity and employment injuries, the Employees' State Insurance Act was enacted in 1948. Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) is implementing the ESI Scheme introduced since 1952.

4. National Child Labour Project is being implemented by:

- (a) Women and child development ministry
- (b) Human Resource Development Ministry
- (c) Labour Ministry
- (d) Ministry of Commerce

Answer: c

- In pursuance of National Child Labour Policy, the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme was started in 1988 to rehabilitate children rescued from child labour. It is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme and at present sanctioned in 270 districts in the country. Under the Scheme, working children are



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identified through child labour survey, withdrawn from work and put into the special training centres so as to provide them with an environment to subsequently join mainstream education system. In these special training centres, besides formal education, the children are provided stipend, supplementary nutrition, vocational training and regular health checkups

- With the enactment of Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, there was a need for realignment of the NCLP Scheme with the provisions of RTE Act, 2009. The NCLP Schools could now serve as special training centres for unenrolled and out of school children in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of the RTE Act and Rule 5 of the Right of Children for free and compulsory education (RTE) Rules, 2010. The name of “the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986” mentioned at Sl. No. 13 of the list of Central Act provided in Chapter 1 has been replaced with “the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986” from 2016

5. Consider the following statement with regard to National Skill Development Mission:

1. National Skill Development Mission which was launched in 2015 aims to create convergence and expedite cross-sectoral decisions through a high powered decision making framework
2. The Mission aims to create convergence and expedite cross-sectoral decisions through a high powered decision making framework

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Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

The National Skill Development Mission was launched in 2015 on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day. It aims to create convergence and expedite cross-sectoral decisions through a high powered decision making framework. It is expected to converge, coordinate, implement and monitor skilling activities on a pan-India basis. The Mission aims to create convergence and expedite cross-sectoral decisions through a high powered decision making framework. It is expected to converge, coordinate, implement and monitor skilling activities on a pan-India basis. It consists of a three tier institutional structure, where the cascading functions of the bodies consist of providing policy directives and guidance, reviewing and monitoring overall progress, and actual implementation in line with Mission objectives. The Mission will also run select submissions in high priority areas. At the outset, seven sub-missions have been proposed in the following areas: (i) Institutional Training, (ii) Infrastructure, (iii) Convergence, (iv) Trainers, (v) Overseas Employment, (vi) Sustainable Livelihoods, (vii) Leveraging Public Infrastructure

6. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, consider the following statements (IAS 2018)

1. It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. It, among other things, will also impart training in soft skills, entrepreneurship, financial and digital literacy.



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3. It aims to align the competencies of the unregulated workforce of the country to the National Skill Qualification Framework.

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

Answer: c

CHAPTER 22 Mass Communication

1. Consider the following statement:

1. Press Trust of India (PTI) is a autonomous body owned by the Ministry of Information and broadcasting with a mandate to provide efficient and unbiased news to all subscribers

2. It offers its news services in English and Hindi languages

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

India's largest news agency, Press Trust of India (PTI) is a non-profit sharing cooperative owned by the country's newspapers with a mandate to provide efficient and unbiased news to all subscribers. Founded in August, 1947, PTI began functioning from 1949. It offers its news services in English and Hindi languages. Bhasha is the Hindi language news service of the agency. PTI subscribers include 500 newspapers in India and scores abroad. All major TV and radio channels in India and several abroad, including BBC in London, receive its services. PTI now has its own satellite delivery system through a transponder on an INSAT satellite for reaching its services directly to subscribers

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PMKVY is the flagship outcome-based skill training scheme of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. The objective of this skill certification and reward scheme is to enable and mobilize a large number of youth to take up outcome based skill training to become employable and earn their livelihood. The scheme was launched in 2015. The PMKVY is being implemented by the Centre along with the states

anywhere in the country. Increasingly more and more subscribers are opting for satellite reception. Photo service is delivered by satellite as well as accessed by dial up.

2. Consider the following statement:

1. NAM News Network (NNN) is the internet-based news and photo exchange arrangement of the news agencies belonging to member countries of the non-aligned movement

2. United News of India is a non-profit sharing cooperative owned by the country's newspapers with a mandate to provide efficient and unbiased news to all subscribers.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

- United News of India (UNI) was incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 in December, 1959 and started functioning effectively from 1961. In the past five decades, UNI has grown into a major news organisation in India and, with its vibrant presence, provided the much-



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needed spirit of competition in the vital areas of news gathering and dissemination. It also has a fullfledged Hindi wire service 'UNIVARTA' since 1982 and a Photo Service and a Graphics Service in the same decade. In June 1992, it launched the first ever wire service in Urdu. UNI's Photo Service distributes about 200 pictures every day, including sixty international photographs from EPA, the European Press photo Agency and Reuters. Its Graphics Service distributes five or six graphics every day.

- NAM News Network (NNN) is the internet-based news and photo exchange arrangement of the news agencies belonging to member countries of the non-aligned movement. News and photo contributions of NAM news agencies including Press Trust of India are uploaded onto the NNN website. Formally launched in April 2006, NNN replaces the Non-aligned News Agencies Pool (NANAP) which had acted as the news exchange mechanism among non-aligned countries for 30 years. With internet a cheap and reliable mode of communication, NNN contributes to sustained flow of information in the 116 member non-aligned world. NANAP, set up in 1976, was the first attempt of the non-aligned movement to provide for exchange of news among its member countries. At a time when communication costs were very high, NANAP provided for sharing of communication channels of member news agencies to ensure a common network for exchange of news among all

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countries of the non-aligned movement

3. Consider the following statement pertaining to Press council of India:

1. It is a executive body created for the twin objective of preserving the freedom of the press and maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and the news agencies in India

2. In this body there is representation of Upper & lower house of parliament as well
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

- The Press Council of India is a statutory quasi-judicial autonomous authority mandated by the Parliament for the twin objective of preserving the freedom of the press and maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and the news agencies in India exercising equal quasijudicial functions over the authorities as well the press person. It comprises a Chairman and 28 members. While the Chairman has, by convention, been a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India, of the 28 members, 20 represent various segments of the Press and eight overseeing the readers' interest, are representatives of the two Houses of Parliament (3 Lok Sabha and 2 Rajya Sabha) and premier literary and legal bodies of the country i.e., University Grants Commission, Bar Council of India and Sahitya Akademi. The Council has its own funds for performance of its functions under the Act that



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comprises the fee collected from newspapers, other receipts and also grants in-aid by from the central government

- The Press Council has the responsibility to preserve the freedom of the press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country. There is also an advisory role on the Council in that it can, either suo-motu or on a reference made to it by the government under Section 13(2) of the Act, undertake studies and express its opinion in regard to any bill, legislation, law or other matters concerning the press and convey its opinion to the government or the persons concerned. Also, in the matters of public importance concerning its statutory responsibilities, the Council may suo-moto take an on-the-spot inquiry

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- The Council discharges its functions primarily through adjudications on complaint cases received by it, either against the press for violation of journalistic ethics or by the press for interference with its freedom. Where the Council is satisfied, after inquiry, that a newspaper or a news agency has offended the standards of journalistic ethics or public taste or that an editor or working journalist has committed any professional misconduct, the Council may warn, admonish or censure them or disapprove of their conduct. It is also empowered to make such observations as it may think fit in respect of the conduct of any authority, including Government, for interfering with the freedom of the press so prescribed under Section(4) the decisions of the Council are final and cannot be questioned in any court of law

CHAPTER 23 Planning

1. Atal Innovation Mission is being implemented by:

- (a) Niti Ayog
- (b) Ministry of Science & technology
- (c) Ministry of Skill & entrepreneurship
- (d) DoPT

Answer: a

The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative of the Prime Minister, set

up by NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of the country. AIM is also envisaged as an umbrella innovation organization that would play an instrumental role in alignment of innovation policies between central, state and sectoral innovation schemes incentivizing

establishment of an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship at various levels higher secondary schools, science, engineering and higher academic institutions, and SME industry / corporate levels. AIM is setting up Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) in schools across all 700+ districts across the country. These ATLs are dedicated innovation workspaces of 1000-1500 square feet where latest technologies like 3D printers, robotics, internet of things (IOT), miniaturized electronics 'do it yourself' kits are installed using a grant of ₹ 20 Lakhs from the government so that students from Grade VI to Grade XII can tinker with these technologies and learn to create innovative solutions.

2. Consider the following statement:



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1. First five year plan accorded the highest priority to industry
2. Second Five-Year Plan sought to promote a pattern of development, which would ultimately lead to the establishment of a socialistic pattern of society
3. The First Five-Year Plan was based on the Harrod–Domar model with few modifications.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

- Keeping in view the large-scale import of food grains in 1951 and inflationary pressures on the economy, the First Plan (1951-56) accorded the highest priority to agriculture including irrigation and power projects. About 44.6 per cent of the total outlay of ₹ 2,069 crore in the public sector (later raised to ₹ 2,378 crore) was allocated for this purpose. The Plan aimed at increasing the rate of investment from five to about seven per cent of the national income.
- The Second Five-Year Plan (1956-57 to 1960-61) sought to promote a pattern of development, which would ultimately lead to the establishment of a socialistic pattern of society in India. Its main aims were (i) an increase of 25 per cent in the national income; (ii) rapid industrialization with particular

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emphasis on the development of basic and heavy industries; (iii) large expansion of employment opportunities; and (iv) reduction of inequalities in income and wealth and a more even distribution of economic power. The Plan aimed at increasing the rate of investment from about seven percent of the national income to 11 per cent by 1960-61. It laid emphasis on industrialization, increased production of iron and steel, heavy chemicals including nitrogenous fertilizers and development of heavy engineering and machine building industry

3. Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) 2017 was co hosted by India and:

- (a) USA
- (b) Russia
- (c) China
- (d) Brazil

Answer: a

India and United States had co-hosted the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) 2017 in Hyderabad, India. The theme of GES 2017 was Women First, Prosperity for All and aims to create an environment that empowers innovators, particularly women, to take their ideas to the next level. The summit focused on four key industry sectors: energy and infrastructure, healthcare and life sciences, financial technology and digital economy, and media and entertainment

CHAPTER 24 Rural Development

1. Consider the following pairs:

Scheme	Objective
1. MGNREGA	self employment and skill development

2. NRLM	Provide wage employment
3. PMGSY	Road Connectivity

Which of the above pair(s) is/are correctly matched?



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

Answer: c

The major programmes being operated by the Ministry of Rural Development are: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for providing wage employment; National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) for self employment and skill development; Housing for All: Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Grameen (PMAY-G) for providing housing to BPL households; Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for construction of quality roads; National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for social pension; Shyama Prasad Mukherjee RURBAN Mission; Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for improving the productivity of the land.

2. Consider the following statement pertaining to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):

1. Scheme aims at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing not less than one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year.

2. Beneficiaries for MGNREGA are identified on the basis of Socio economic caste census 2011.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

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- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has come a long way since its inception, and has become a lifeline to millions. The Act aims at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing not less than one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Social inclusion, gender parity, social security and equitable growth are the founding pillars of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA
 - The objectives of the scheme are: providing upto 100 days of unskilled manual work in a financial year to every household in rural areas as per demand resulting in creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and durability; enhance livelihood security of the rural poor by generating wage employment opportunities in works that develop the infrastructure base of the area concerned; strengthening and securing the livelihood resource base of the rural poor; ensure empowerment to women; stimulate the local economy by providing a safety net to rural poor by proactively ensure social inclusion and strengthening grass-root democratic institutions.
3. Consider the following statement pertaining Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana— National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM):
- 1. Scheme was launched in 2011 and beneficiaries are selected on basis of SECC 2011 only
 - 2. Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana is sub scheme under DAY-NRLM



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Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

- National Rural Livelihoods Mission, renamed as Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana—National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) was launched in 2011. It seeks to reach out to 8-9 crore rural poor households and organize one woman member from each household into affinity based women SHGs and federations at village level and at higher levels. While doing so, DAYNRLM ensures adequate coverage of vulnerable sections of the society such that 50 per cent of the beneficiaries are members of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, 15 per cent from minority groups and 3 per cent from persons with disability, while keeping in view the overall target of 100 per cent coverage of the rural poor households identified through Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) and through participatory processes of identification of poor households and approved by Gram Sabha.
- The key components of DAY-NRLM include: (i) Promoting Institutions of Poor: Strong quality institutions of poor such as SHGs and their federations are set up on a priority basis. In addition to generic thrift and credit based community institutions and their federations, DAYNRLM promotes specialized institutions like livelihood collectives, producers' cooperatives/companies for

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livelihoods promotions. The institutions of poor empower their members and act as medium for transfer of knowledge and technology dissemination, and hubs of production, collectivization and trade; (ii) Training, Capacity Building and Skill Building: Systematic and multi-pronged approach has been adopted for providing capacity building to SHGs, their federations, government functionaries, bankers, NGOs and other stakeholders. The capacity building is aimed at providing poor with the knowledge and skills to manage their institutions, link up with markets, manage their existing livelihoods and enhance their credit absorption capacity and credit worthiness. Focus is on developing and engaging community professionals and community resource persons (CRP) in order to provide timely support and bring about reduction in poverty levels; (c) Community Investment Support Fund: Community Investment Support Fund is routed to SHGs through federations (primary and secondary level) to support development of suitable livelihoods of members and to initiate collective activities, wherever feasible. A part of the CIF is provided as Vulnerability Reduction Fund (VRF) for supporting the inclusion of very poor communities and making credit accessible to them with or without interest; (d) National Special Fund Support for Convergence under DAY-NRMLP was provided to help states mainstream convergence as an effective method to reduce poverty and empower rural poor; (e) Infrastructure creation and



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Marketing Support: DAY-NRLM ensures that infrastructure needs for major livelihoods activities of poor are met with. It also provides support for marketing to institutions of poor. The range of activities in marketing support include market research, market intelligence, technology extension, developing backward and forward linkages, building livelihoods collectives and supporting their business plans; (f) Sensitive support structures: DAY-NRLM has set up sensitive and dedicated support structures at the national, state, district and sub-district levels. These support structures are staffed with dedicated professionals; (g) Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP): Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) is a sub-component of NRLM to meet the specific needs of women farmers and achieve socio-economic and technical empowerment of the rural women farmers, predominantly small and marginal farmers; (h) Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana: The Government of India has introduced a new sub-scheme under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) entitled “Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana” (AGEY) from the financial year 2017-18. The main objectives of AGEY are: to provide an alternative source of livelihoods to members of SHGs under DAY-NRLM by facilitating them to operate public transport services in backward rural areas, as identified by the states; to provide safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services to connect remote villages with key services and

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amenities (including access to markets, education and health) for the overall economic development of the area by making use of the supports available within the framework of DAY-NRLM.

4. Consider the following statement pertaining to Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

1. The primary objective of Scheme is to provide connectivity by way of an all-weather road to habitat of 500 or more in plain area and in hilly area having population of 250 or more.

2. Rural roads are in the concurrent List under the Constitution

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

- Government of India, as the part of poverty reduction strategy, launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) 2000 as a centrally sponsored scheme to assist the states, though rural roads are in the State List under the Constitution. The primary objective of Scheme is to provide connectivity by way of an all-weather road (with necessary culverts and cross-drainage structures, which is operable throughout the year), to the eligible unconnected habitations as per core-network with a population of 500 persons (as per 2001 census) and above in plain areas. In respect of ‘Special Category States’ (North East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand), the desert areas, the tribal (Schedule V) areas and 88



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selected tribal and backward districts, the objective is to connect eligible unconnected habitations as per Core Network with a population of 250 persons and above (census 2001).

- To bring execution of the programme to the desired quality standards, a three tier quality management mechanism has been institutionalized. First-tier of this mechanism is in-house quality control at Programme Implementation Unit (PIU) level. Objective of this tier is process control through mandatory tests on material at field laboratory and workmanship. Second-tier is structured as an independent quality monitoring at state level through State Quality Monitors (SQMs) in which provision of regular inspection of works has been envisaged for ensuring better quality. Under the Third-tier, independent National Quality Monitors (NQMs) are deployed by NRRDA for inspection of road works at random, not only to monitor quality but also to provide guidance by senior professionals to the field functionaries.

5. Consider the following schemes:

1. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme
2. Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme
3. Indira Gandhi Matritva sahyog Yojana
4. Annapurna
5. National Family Benefit Scheme

Which of the above is part of National Social Assistance Programme?

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

Answer: b

- Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS): Under the scheme, assistance is provided to person of 60 years and above and belonging to family living below poverty line as per the criteria prescribed by Government of India.
- Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS): Under the scheme central assistance of ₹ 300/- per month is provided to widows in the age-group of 40-79 years and belonging to family living below poverty line as per the criteria prescribed by Government of India. After attaining the age of 80 years, the beneficiary would be shifted to IGNOAPS for getting pension of ₹ 500/-per month
- Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS): Under the scheme central assistance of ₹ 300/- per month is provided to persons aged 18-79 years with severe or multiple disabilities and belonging to family living below poverty line as per the criteria prescribed by Government of India. After attaining the age of 80 years, the beneficiary would be shifted to IGNOAPS for getting pension of ₹ 500/- per month.
- National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS): Under the scheme a BPL household is entitled to lump sum amount of money on the death of primary breadwinner aged between 18 and 59 years. The amount of assistance is ₹ 20,000/-.
- Annapurna: Under the scheme, 10 kg of foodgrains per month are provided free of cost to those senior citizens who, though eligible under IGNOAPS, are not receiving pension under IGNOAPS.



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6. Consider the following statement pertaining to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana:

1. Scheme is the flagship placement linked skill-training programme under the Ministry of Skill & entrepreneurship
2. Ultimate aim of scheme is to convert India's demographic surplus into a demographic dividend by developing rural India into a globally preferred source of skilled labour

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) is the flagship placement linked skill-training programme under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). Announced in 2014, DDU-GKY is a critical component of the National Skill Development Policy, and has an ambitious agenda, to benchmark wage placement-linked skill programmes to global standards and requirements.
- The ultimate aim is to convert India's demographic surplus into a demographic dividend by developing rural India into a globally preferred source of skilled labour. As a result, the scheme will also benefit more than 55 million poor rural youth who are ready-to-be skilled, by providing sustainable employment. In this way the scheme is expected to play a

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crucial role in generational poverty alleviation. The scheme is a pioneer in standards-led delivery of skilling, the first to notify standard operating procedures for training, and the first to introduce IT solutions for skilling, including mandatory tablets for trainees, Aadhar-linked biometric information on attendance, and geo-tagged time-stamped record of training centres and classes. DDU-GKY has its roots in the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). SGSY was formed by the restructuring of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in 1999, with a 15 per cent allocation for special projects. In 2010, SGSY was restructured as the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), also known as Aajeevika. The Ministry revised the guidelines in 2013 as Aajeevika Skills with a view to increase the reach of the programme. On Antyodaya Diwas, 25th September 2014, Aajeevika Skills was announced as DDU-GKY with a focus on providing opportunities through skilling for rural poor youth in domestic and global jobs

- DDU-GKY follows a 3-tier implementation architecture in PPP mode, with the National Unit responsible for policy, central investments and technical support, SRLMs/State Skills Missions responsible for state investments, implementation and monitoring controls, and Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs), both public and private training partners with a legacy in skill



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training, responsible for mobilization, training and placements: (i) The focus of this programmes is on the rural youth from poor families, in the age group of 15 to 35 years, belonging to: a) MGNREGA worker household in which household members have together completed 15 days of work; b) RSBY household; c) Antyodaya Anna Yojana card household; d) BPL PDS card households; e) NRLM-SHG household; f) Household covered under auto inclusion parameters of SECC 2011. (ii) Full social inclusion of candidates is ensured by the mandatory coverage of socially disadvantaged groups— 50 per cent allocation to SC/ST groups, 15 per cent to minorities, 33 per cent for women and 3 per cent for persons with disabilities. (iii) Placement in wage employment is mandated for a minimum of 70 per cent of all successful candidates, with a minimum salary of ₹ 6,000/- per month or the minimum wages, whichever is higher. (iv) The programme promotes the economic strategies—Make In India, through proactive partnership with industry through multi-pronged engagement— champion employer policy, captive employer policy and industrial internship policy.

7. Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana is under the administrative control of which ministry?
- Rural Development
 - MOSPI
 - Ministry of parliamentary affairs
 - Finance Ministry

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Answer: a

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) was launched in 2014 with the aim to develop one village by each Member of Parliament as a model village by 2016 and two more by 2019. The goal of Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) is to translate the comprehensive and organic vision of Mahatma Gandhi into reality, keeping in view the present context. SAGY lays emphasis on inspiring values of national pride, patriotism, unity, self-confidence to be as important as developing infrastructure. In other words, SAGY attempts to develop the value chain through value change. Till now 702 Gram Panchayats have been identified by Members of Parliament under Phase - I and are taking concrete steps towards their development. This scheme is unique and transformative as it has a holistic approach towards development. It envisages integrated development of the selected village across multiple areas such as agriculture, health, education, sanitation, environment, livelihoods, etc. Far beyond mere infrastructure development, SAGY aims at instilling certain values, such as people's participation, Antyodaya, gender equality, dignity of women, social justice, spirit of community service, cleanliness, ecofriendliness, maintaining ecological balance, peace and harmony, mutual cooperation, selfreliance, local self-government, transparency and accountability in public life, etc., in the villages and their people so that they get transformed into models for others

8. Consider the following statement:
- Constitution of India stipulates direct elections of all members of Panchayat
 - According to Indian constitution it is compulsory for states to constitute a State Finance Commission (SFC) every fifth year



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for recommending principles for division of financial resources between state and local governments (both urban and rural)

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Part IX of the Constitution of India provides for setting up of three tiers of Panchayats (only two tiers in case of states of union territories having population less than 2 million): (i) gram panchayats at village level; (ii) district panchayats at district level; and (iii) intermediate panchayats at sub-district level in between gram panchayats and district panchayats. It also provides for gram sabha (general assembly of registered voters who reside in the area of gram panchayat) as a forum for direct participation of villagers in local governance. The Constitution India has fixed five year term for these panchayats and has made provision for the reservation of seats for women and marginalized sections (scheduled castes and scheduled tribes) of Indian society. While reservation of schedule castes (SCs) & scheduled tribes (STs) is in proportion to their share in population, that for women is at least 33.33 per cent. However, many states have increased the reservation of seats and chairperson posts for women in panchayats to 50 per cent. The Constitution of India also stipulates direct elections of all members of panchayats. For conducting these elections, all states are mandated to constitute a state election commission. Also it is compulsory for states to constitute a State election

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commission. Also it is compulsory for states to constitute a State Finance Commission (SFC) every fifth year for recommending principles for division of financial resources between state and local governments (both urban and rural). SFCs are to make recommendations to the Governor regarding the distribution between the state and panchayats of the net proceeds to taxes, duties, toll and fees, etc. the determination of taxes, duties, tolls and fees which may be assigned to, or appropriated by, the panchayats, and grants-in-aid to the panchayats from the Consolidated Fund of the State, as well as measures needed to improve the financial position of panchayats.

9. Nodal ministry for implementation of Swachh Iconic Places is:

- (a) Ministry of Tourism
- (b) Ministry of Urban Development
- (c) Ministry of Culture
- (d) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

Answer: d

The Ministry has taken up a multi-stakeholder initiative focusing on cleaning up 100 places across the country that are “iconic” due to their heritage, religious and/or cultural significance. The goal of the Initiative is to improve the cleanliness conditions at these places to a distinctly higher level. This initiative is in partnership with ministries of Urban Development, Tourism and Culture with Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation being the nodal ministry. So far in first two phases, 20 iconic places has been taken up. All these 20 iconic sites have designated PSUs for financial and technical support

CHAPTER 25 Scientific and Technological Developments

1. Teachers’ Associates for Research Excellence scheme was launched by



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- (a) Human Resource Development Ministry
- (b) Science and technology Ministry
- (c) Rural Development Ministry
- (d) Niti Ayog

Answer: b

Teachers' Associates for Research Excellence (TARE) Mobility Scheme: The Scheme launched in 2016-17 aims to facilitate mobility of faculty members working in a regular capacity in state universities/colleges/academic institutions such as IITs, IISc, IISERs, national labs, etc., located nearer to the institution where the faculty member is working. This would bring in our research stream the latent or dormant scientific manpower with modest investment and improve the potential for research and teaching in two tier institutions. Provision of fellowship amount of ₹ 5,000 per month, contingency grant of ₹ 5 lakh per annum and overhead for a period of 3 years has been made

2. Consider the following statements pertaining to Innovation in science pursuit for inspired research:

- 1. It is an initiative for attracting talent for science and research
- 2. This programme is that it does not believe in conducting competitive exams for identification of talent at any level.

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

Answer: c

Innovation in science pursuit for inspired research (INSPIRE) is an ongoing initiative for attracting talent for science and research. About 3.67 lakh students in the age group of 10-15 have been provided INSPIRE awards during the last 3 years. Science camps are organised

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to provide opportunity to class XI students pursuing science to interact with the science icons from India and abroad including Nobel Laureates to experience the joy of innovations. Around 40,000 students have been awarded scholarship for higher education during last three years. INSPIRE faculty awards are provided to post-doctoral researchers in the age group of 27-32 years through contractual and tenure positions for 5 years in basic and applied sciences. Faculty awards have been given to over 700 candidates awarded in the last four years

INSPIRE has three components:

- i. Scheme for Early Attraction of Talent (SEATS)
- ii. Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE)
- iii. Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC)

3. Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing is scheme of:

- (a) Human Resource Development Ministry
- (b) Science and technology Ministry
- (c) Rural Development Ministry
- (d) Niti Ayog

Answer: b

Department of Science and Technology launched several initiatives for women in science under its flagship scheme namely KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing). Through this unique initiative, DST provides opportunity to women scientists who had break in their career, primarily due to family reasons, to pursue research in physical and mathematical sciences, chemical sciences, life sciences, earth and atmospheric sciences and engineering technology. More than 2,500 women scientists are beneficiaries of this scheme



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4. Which of the following initiative under National action plan on climate change is/are implemented by Ministry of Science & Technology?

1. National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE)
2. National Mission for Strategic Knowledge on Climate Change (NMSKCC)

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

Answer: c

5. National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) is being implemented by:

- (a) Human Resource Development Ministry
- (b) Science and technology Ministry
- (c) Rural Development Ministry
- (d) Niti Ayog

Answer: b

National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) has evolved as an umbrella scheme for a seamless innovation ecosystem booster. Major links of the innovation to market value chain would be supported and strengthened at various nodes (each node signifying a cluster of 3 neighbouring districts) across the country to attain the mission of nation building through innovation, entrepreneurship and incubation. The specific components of NIDHI are - grand challenge and competitions for scouting innovations; promotion and acceleration of young and aspiring innovators and startups (PRAYAS) - support from idea to prototype; entrepreneur in residence (EIR) - support system to reduce risk; startup NIDHI through innovation and

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entrepreneurship development centres (IEDCs) in academic institutions for encouraging students to promote start-ups; start-up centre in collaboration with MHRD - inculcating a spirit of entrepreneurship in national institutions of higher learning; technology business incubator (TBI) - converting innovations to startups; accelerator - fast tracking a start-up through focused intervention; seed support system (SSS) - providing early stage investment; centres of excellence (COE) - a world class facility to help startups go global and/or scale up.

6. Who is custodian of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL):

- (a) CSIR
- (b) ICAR
- (c) ICMR
- (d) Commerce Ministry

Answer: A

CSIR has created and is the custodian of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) which is a powerful weapon against unethical commercial exploitation of Indian traditional knowledge.

8. In which of the following states Uranium reserves of India can be located:

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Meghalaya
3. Rajasthan
4. Jharkhand

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c

Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) continued the accelerated pace of exploration activities by integrated, multi-disciplinary methodology



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and judicious utilisation of manpower with a focussed approach on augmentation of uranium, thorium and rare metals. This resulted in the augmentation of additional

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uranium oxide (U₃O₈) reserve of over 15,775 tonnes in Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan and Jharkhand

CHAPTER 26 Transport

1. Consider the following statement :

1. Bharatmala programme envisages development of Ring Roads / bypasses and elevated corridors to decongest the traffic passing through cities and enhance logistic efficiency

2. Government decided to merge the Railway Budget with the general Budget from the 2014-15. 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

Answer: a

- Though a part of the overall financial figures of the Government of India, the Railway Budget was being presented separately to Parliament since 1924-25 owing to the Separation Convention of 1924. The Railways had its own 16 demands for grants, which also used to be considered and passed by the Parliament separately. The main reason behind the Separation Convention was to secure stability for civil estimates as the Railway finance used to be a sizeable part of the general finances. The

Government decided to merge the Railway Budget with the general Budget from the 2017-18. The unified budget will bring the affairs of the Railways to centre stage and present a holistic picture of the

financial position of the government. This merger would facilitate multimodal transport planning between highways, railways and waterways

- The Ministry has taken up detailed review of NHs network with a view to develop the road connectivity to border areas, development of coastal roads including road connectivity for nonmajor ports, improvement in the efficiency of national corridors, development of economic corridors, inter corridors and feeder routes along with integration with Sagarmala, etc., under Bharatmala Pariyojana. The Bharatmala Pariyojana envisages development of about 26,000 km length of economic corridors, which along with Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) and North-South and East-West (NS-EW) Corridors are expected to carry majority of the freight traffic on roads. Further, about 8,000 km of inter corridors and about 7,500 km of feeder routes have been identified for improving effectiveness of economic corridors, GQ and NS-EW Corridors. The programme envisages development of Ring Roads / bypasses and elevated corridors to decongest the traffic passing through cities and enhance logistic efficiency; 28 cities have been identified for Ring Roads; 125 choke points and 66 congestion points have been identified for their improvements.

2. What are Green Highways?



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- (a) Highways which are made using greener chemistry
- (b) Process of Highway laying in which is climate neutral
- (c) Transplantation, Beautification and Maintenance of Highways
- (d) None of the above

Answer: c

- In order to develop eco-friendly highways, the Green Highways (Plantation Transplantation. Beautification and Maintenance) Policy was firmed up in 2016. The Policy aims to develop ecofriendly national highways with the participation of community, farmers, NGOs and private sector. The initial plantation drive on 1,500 km of national highways at a cost of about ₹ 300 crore was launched as part of the Policy
- The Green Highway Policy will help in making India pollution free. It will also help in curtailing the number of road accidents in India. The vision of the policy is to provide dignified employment to local people and communities

3. Which of the following is/are envisaged in Sagarmala Programme

- 1. Port modernization
- 2. New port development
- 3. Coastal community development

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

- To harness the coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways and strategic location on key

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international maritime trade routes, the Government of India has embarked on the ambitious Sagarmala Programme to promote port-led development in the country.

- The vision of the Programme is to reduce logistics cost of EXIM and domestic trade with minimal infrastructure investment.
- This includes: reducing the cost of transporting domestic cargo; lowering logistical cost of bulk commodities by locating future industrial capacities near the coast; improving export competitiveness by developing port proximate discrete manufacturing clusters, etc. The objectives of the Programme include: port modernisation, new port development, port connectivity, coastal community development, etc

6. Consider the following statement regarding major ports of India:

- 1. Kolkata Port is the only riverine major port in the country.
- 2. Deendayal Port is situated on eastern coast

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

Answer: a

- Kolkata Port: Kolkata Port is the only riverine major port in the country having been in existence for about 138 years. It has a vast hinterland comprising the entire Eastern India including West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, U.P., M.P., Assam, North East hill states and the two landlocked neighbouring countries namely, Nepal and Bhutan.



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The port has twin dock systems viz., Kolkata Dock System on the eastern bank and Haldia Dock Complex on the western bank of river Hooghly.

- Deendayal Port (Kandla): Deendayal Port (erstwhile Kandla Port) was established in 1950 as a central government project and Union Government took over Kandla for its development as a major port. It has 28 berths including 3 single buoy moorings including an off-shore terminal at Vadinar with a capacity of 150.26 MTPA

7. Jal Marg Vikas Project is being implemented on:

- (a) NH 1
- (b) NH 2
- (c) NH 3
- (d) NH 4

Answer: a

Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) is being implemented by the IWAI for the capacity augmentation of national waterway I on the Haldia-Varanasi stretch of Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system with the technical and financial assistance of the World Bank. The salient features of JMVP include: construction of three multimodal and inter-modal terminals, new navigational lock at Farakka, integrated vessel repair and maintenance facilities, day and night navigational aids, river conservancy work, etc

8. What is/are objective(s) of Regional Connectivity Scheme?

- 1. Promoting balanced regional growth
- 2. Making flying affordable for masses

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2

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(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c

The Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN was envisaged in National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016 with the twin objective of promoting balanced regional growth and making flying affordable for masses. The Scheme, which will be in operation for a period of 10 years, envisages providing connectivity to un-served and underserved airports of the country through revival of existing air strips and airports

9. Consider the following statements pertaining to GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation

- 1. It is being implemented jointly by AAI and ISRO.
- 2. It is fully operational since May 2015 and available on 24 x 7 basis

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

Answer: c

GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) is an augmentation system to enhance the accuracy and integrity of GPS signals to meet precision approach requirements in Civil Aviation and it is being implemented jointly by AAI and ISRO. It is fully operational since May 2015 and available on 24 x 7 basis. Presently GAGAN Signal-in-Space is available to users from two geostationary satellites (GSAT-8 and GSAT-10) and third geosatellite GSAT-15 is in the process of integration with GAGAN system



CHPATER 27 Water Resources

1. What is/are objective of National Water Mission?

1. Promotion of basin level integrated water resources management
2. Focused attention to vulnerable areas including over-exploited areas

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

Answer: c

- With a view to address Climate Change and the related issues, the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was prepared by the Government, which laid down the principles and identified the approach to be adopted to meet the challenges of impact of climate change through eight national missions. National Water Mission is one of the missions under NAPCC.
- The main objective of the National Water Mission is (NWM) “conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management”. The five identified goals of the Mission are: (a) comprehensive water data base in public domain and assessment of impact of climate change on water resource; (b) promotion of citizen and state action for water conservation, augmentation and preservation; (c) focused attention to vulnerable areas including over-exploited areas; (d) increasing water use efficiency by 20 per cent, and (e)

promotion of basin level integrated water resources management. Various strategies for achieving the goals have been identified which lead to integrated planning for sustainable development and efficient management with active participation of the stakeholders.

2. Jal Kranti Abhiyan envisages:

1. Strengthening grass root involvement of all stakeholders in the water security and development schemes
2. Enhancing livelihood security through water security in rural areas
3. Encouraging the adoption/utilization of traditional knowledge in water resources conservation and its management

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c

Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation launched Jal Kranti Abhiyan(2015-16 to 2017-18) in order to consolidate water conservation and management in the country through a holistic approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement. The objectives of Jal Kranti Abhiyan are as follows: strengthening grass root involvement of all stakeholders including Panchayati Raj Institutions and local bodies in the water security and development schemes (e.g. Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM); encouraging the adoption/utilization of traditional knowledge in water resources conservation and its management; to utilize sector level expertise from different levels in government, NGO's,



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citizens, etc; and enhancing livelihood security through water security in rural areas

3. Consider the following statement pertaining to Pradhan Mantri Krishi SinchayeeYojana

1. Scheme was launched during 2015-16.

2. Aim of scheme is to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation

3. Schemes aim to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3

(d) 2 only

Answer: c

- During 2015-16, Pradhan Mantri Krishi SinchayeeYojana (PMKSY) was launched with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices, etc.
- The main objectives of the scheme are include: achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level (preparation of district level and, if required, sub district level water use plans); enhance the physical access of water on the farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation (har khet ko pani); improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage and increase availability both in duration and extent; enhance recharge of aquifers and introduce sustainable water conservation practices; promote extension activities relating to water harvesting, water management and crop alignment for farmers and grass root level field

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functionaries ; and attract greater private investments in precision irrigation.

- Major and medium irrigation/multipurpose irrigation (MMI) projects are being funded under PMKSY-AIBP and Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies, Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) projects and Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM) projects are being funded under PMKSY-Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP)

AIBP:

The Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) was launched in 1996-97 to provide Central Assistance to major/medium irrigation projects in the country, with the objective to accelerate implementation of such projects which were beyond resource capability of the states or were in advanced stage of completion. Priority was given to those projects which were started in pre-Fifth and Fifth Plan period and also to those which were benefiting tribal and drought prone areas. From 1999-2000 onwards, Central Loan Assistance under AIBP was also extended to minor surface irrigation projects of special category states (Northern Eastern states and hilly states of Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal and projects benefitting Kalahandi Balangir Koraput districts of Odisha).

Command Area Development and Water Management

The Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development (CAD) Programme was launched in 1974-75 for development of adequate delivery system of irrigation water up to farmers' field with an objective to enhance water use efficiency and production and productivity of crops per unit of land and water for improving socio- economic



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condition of farmers. The programme envisages integration of all activities relating to irrigated agriculture in a coordinated manner with multi-disciplinary team under a Command Area Development Authority. The Programme was restructured and renamed as Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM) Programme in 2004. The Programme is being implemented pari-passu with Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during the XII Five Year Plan. The programme is under implementation as a sub-component of Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP) component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) - from 2015-16 onwards. The ongoing CADWM programme has been restricted to the implementation of CAD works of 99 prioritized AIBP projects from 2016-17 onwards

4. Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) was constituted under which act?
- (a) Water act 1974
 - (b) By an executive order
 - (c) Environment protection act, 1986
 - (d) None of these

Answer: c

Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been entrusted with the responsibility of regulating and controlling ground water development and management in the country and issuing necessary directives for the purpose. The Authority performs the following functions: exercise of powers under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for issuing directions and taking such measures in respect of all the matters referred to in sub-section (2) of section 3 of the said Act; to resort to penal provisions contained in Sections 15 to 21 of the said Act; to regulate and control, management and development of ground water in the country and to issue necessary regulatory directions for the purpose.

5. Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project is being implemented with the funding support of:

- (a) GEF
- (b) ADB
- (c) AIDB
- (d) World Bank

Answer: d

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) is the World Bank assisted project at an estimated cost of ₹ 2,100 crore with the provision of rehabilitation of about 223 large dams in the seven participating states (namely Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand) along with institutional strengthening component for participating states and Central Water Commission.

6. Water Resources Information System is a joint work of:

- (a) CWC & DRDO
- (b) GSI & CWC
- (c) CWC & ISRO
- (d) GSI & DRDO

Answer: c

CWC and ISRO jointly developed Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS) in 2010. Subsequently, four versions of the website of India-WRIS have been launched. The ver. 4.1 was launched in 2015 and is available in public domain at 1:250000 scale. The information system contains several GIS layers on water resources projects, thematic layers like major water bodies, land use/land cover, wastelands, land degradation, etc., environmental layers as well as infrastructure and other administrative layers. The information system has all the basic map viewing and navigation capabilities like zoom, overview, bookmark,



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table of contents, etc. As per provision of Hydro-Meteorological Data Dissemination Policy 2013 (MoWR), all unclassified data

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of CWC G&D stations has been made available on this website.

CHAPTER 28 Welfare

1. Consider the following statements:

1. National Commission for Scheduled Castes is responsible for monitoring the safeguards provided for Scheduled Castes
2. Fifth Schedule of the Constitution relates to those areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram which are declared as “Tribal Areas” and provides for district councils and/or regional councils for such areas.

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

Answer: a

- The National Commission for SCs and STs (NCSC) which was set up under Article 383 of the Constitution in 1990 was bifurcated into two Commissions namely, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes after the 89th Constitutional (Amendment) Act, 2003. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is responsible for monitoring the safeguards provided for Scheduled Castes and also to review issues concerning their welfare. Functions of the NCSC as enumerated in the Article 338(5) of the Constitution are- (a) to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the scheduled castes under the Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force or under any order of the Government and to evaluate the working of such

safeguards; (b) to inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the scheduled castes; (c) to participate and advise on the planning process of socioeconomic development of the scheduled castes and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union and any state; (d) to present to the President, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards; (e) to make in such reports, recommendations as to the measures that should be taken by the Union or any state for the effective implementation of those safeguards and other measures for the protection, welfare and socio-economic development of the scheduled castes; and (f) to discharge such other functions in relation to the protection, welfare and development and advancement of the scheduled castes as the President may, subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, by rule specify

- The Fifth Schedule under Article 244 (1) of Constitution defines “Scheduled Areas” as such areas as the President may by Order declare to be Scheduled Areas after consultation with the Governor of the state. The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 (2) of the Constitution relates to those areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram which are declared as “Tribal Areas” and provides for district councils and/or regional



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councils for such areas. These Councils have been conferred with wide ranging legislative, judicial and executive powers. The criteria for declaring any area as a “Scheduled Area” under the Fifth Schedule are: (a) preponderance of tribal population, (b) compactness and reasonable size of the area, (c) a viable administrative entity such as a district, block or taluk, and (d) economic backwardness of the area as compared to neighbouring areas. The specification of “Scheduled Areas” in relation to a state is done by a notified order of the President, after consultation with the state governments concerned. The same applies for altering, increasing, decreasing, incorporating new areas, or rescinding any orders relating to “Scheduled Areas”

- National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was set up with effect from 19th February, 2004 by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338 A in the Constitution, through the Constitution (Eighty-ninth Amendment) Act, 2003. The Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Commission have been conferred the rank of Union Cabinet Minister and Minister of State respectively, while the members of the Commission have been given the rank of a Secretary to the Government of India. The main duties of the Commission are to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the scheduled tribes and to evaluate the working of such safeguards; and to inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and

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safeguards of the scheduled tribes. The Commission is vested with all the powers of a civil court trying a suit while investigating any matter or inquiring into any complaint relating to deprivation of rights and safeguards of the scheduled tribes

2. Consider the following statement pertaining to Tribes Advisory Council

1. Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) shall be established in states having Scheduled Areas.

2. The TAC may also be established in any state having scheduled tribes but not Scheduled Areas on the direction of the President of India

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

Answer: c

The advantages of Scheduled Areas are that: (a) the Governor of a state, which has Scheduled Areas, is empowered to make regulations in respect of the following: (i) prohibit or restrict transfer of land from tribal people; (ii) regulate the business of money lending to the members of scheduled tribes. In making any such regulation, the Governor may repeal or amend any Act of Parliament or of the Legislature of the state which is applicable to the area in question; (ii) The Governor may through public notification direct that any particular Act of Parliament or of the legislature of the state, shall not apply to a Scheduled Area or any part thereof in the state or shall apply to such area subject to such exceptions and modifications as he may specify; (c) the Governor of a state having Scheduled Areas therein, shall annually, or whenever so required by the President of India, make a



report to the President regarding the administration of the Scheduled Areas in that state and the executive power of the Union shall extend to the giving of directions to the state as to the administration of the said area; (d) Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) shall be established in states having Scheduled Areas. The role of TAC is to advise the state government on matters pertaining to the welfare and advancement of the scheduled tribes in the state as may be referred to it by the Governor. The TAC will consist of not more than twenty members of whom about 3/4 are to be from ST-MLAs. The TAC may also be established in any state having scheduled tribes but not Scheduled Areas on the direction of the President of India; (e) the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA), vide which the provisions of Panchayats, contained in Part IX of the Constitution, were extended to Scheduled Areas, also contain special provisions for the benefit of scheduled tribes. The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 of the Constitution identifies autonomous districts in the tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. It also makes provisions for recognition of autonomous regions within these autonomous districts. These have been specified in Parts I, II, II A and III of the table appended to paragraph 20 of the Sixth Schedule. In other words, areas where provisions of Sixth Schedule are applicable are known as Tribal Areas. The state-wise details of Tribal Areas are as:

Part-I Assam 1. The North Cachar Hills District; 2. The Karbi-Anglong District; and 3. The Bodo Land Territorial Area Districts; Part II Meghalaya 1. Khasi Hills District; 2. Jaintia Hills District; and 3. The Garo Hills District; Part II Tripura; Tripura Tribal Areas District; and Part III Mizoram 1. The Chakma District 2. The Mara District; and 3. The Lai District

The district or regional councils are empowered to make rules with the approval of the Governor with regard to matters like establishment, construction or management of primary schools, dispensaries, markets, cattle ponds, ferries, fisheries, roads, road transport and waterways in the district. The Autonomous Councils of the North Cachar Hills and Karbi Anglong have been granted additional powers to make laws with respect to other matters like secondary education, agriculture, social security and social insurance, public health and sanitation, minor irrigation, etc., The councils have also been conferred powers under the Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code for trial of certain suits and offences, as also the powers of a revenue authority for their area for collection of revenue and taxes and other powers for the regulation and management of natural resources

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Constitution don't prescribes the procedure to be followed in the matter of specification of scheduled tribes
2. The list of scheduled tribes is state-specific

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

Answer: b

- The term scheduled tribes is defined in the Constitution of India under Article 366(25) as such tribes or tribal communities or parts of groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be scheduled tribes.



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Article 342 prescribes the procedure to be followed in the matter of specification of scheduled tribes. In terms of Article 342(1), the President may, with respect to any state or union territory, and where it is a state, after consultation with the Governor thereof, notifies tribes or tribal communities or parts thereof as scheduled tribes. This confers on the tribe or part of it a constitutional status invoking the safeguards provided for in the Constitution, to these communities, in their respective states/UTs. Thus, in terms of Article 342(1), only those communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification will be considered as scheduled tribes. Any further amendment in the list is to be done through an Act of Parliament (Article 342(2)). Parliament may, by law, include in or exclude from the list of scheduled tribes, any tribe or tribal community or parts thereof. The list of scheduled tribes is state-specific. In other words, a community declared as scheduled tribe in one state need not be so in another.

- Thus, the first specification of scheduled tribes in relation to a particular state/ union territory is by a notified order of the President, after consultation with the state governments concerned. The criteria generally adopted for specification of a community as a scheduled tribe are: (a) indications of primitive traits; (b) distinctive culture; (c) shyness of contact with the community at large; and (d) geographical isolation i.e., backwardness. These are not spelt out in the Constitution but have

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become well established. They take into account the definitions in the 1931 Census, the reports of the first Backward Classes Commission (Kalelkar Committee), 1955, the Advisory Committee on Revision of SC/ ST lists (Lokur Committee), 1965 and the Joint Committee of Parliament on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Bill, 1967 (Chanda Committee), 1969. There are over 700 tribes (with many of them overlapping in more than one state) as notified under Article 342 of the Constitution of India, spread over different states and union territories of the country. It is worth noting that no community has been specified as a scheduled tribe in relation to the states of Haryana and Punjab and the union territories of Chandigarh, Delhi and Puducherry.

4. Consider the following statement:

1. As per Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers act, the responsibility for recognition and vesting of forest rights and distribution of land rights rests with the central government.
 2. Act seeks to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights on ancestral lands and their habitat were not adequately recognized in the consolidation of state forests during the colonial period as well as in independent India resulting in historical injustice to them.
- 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



Answer: b

- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 seeks to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights on ancestral lands and their habitat were not adequately recognized in the consolidation of state forests during the colonial period as well as in independent India resulting in historical injustice to them. The Act has been notified for operation from 2007
- Rules, for implementing the provisions of the Act, were notified in 2008 and they envisage the constitution of various Committees under the Act, viz, the sub divisional level committee, district level committee and the state level monitoring committee, by the state governments.
- All the states have been requested to nominate the nodal officer for implementing the provisions of the Act. The state governments were also requested to take necessary steps to ensure that awareness is created about the objectives, provisions and procedures of the Act and the Rules through various measures including awareness programmes and printed material such as posters in the regional languages; ensure the translation and publication of the Act and the Rules in all the regional languages and arrange to distribute to all gram sabhas, forest right committees and all departments of the government

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- including panchayati raj, rural development, tribal and social welfare and forest departments; undertake the orientation of officials, civilian representative and non-governmental organizations in the state, who can then be called upon to assist as resource persons in the awareness programmes; and sensitize the sub-divisional and district level committees on the objectives, provisions and procedures of the Act and the Rules
- As per the Act, the responsibility for recognition and vesting of forest rights and distribution of land rights rests with the state government. All the state governments have been directed that the entire process of vesting of forest rights as per the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 should be completed at the earliest

5. Consider the following statement pertaining to Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana:

1. It aims at creating enabling environment for need based and outcome oriented holistic development of tribal people.
2. Ministry of Tribal Affairs is nodal agency for implementing this scheme.

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

Answer: c

The central government launched an approach, namely, Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY) with a view to translate the available resource into overall development



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of tribal population with an outcome-based orientation. The VKY has been adopted as a strategic process. It aims at creating enabling environment for need based and outcome oriented holistic development of tribal people. This process envisages to ensure that all the intended benefits of goods and services under various programmes / schemes of central as well as state governments actually reach the target groups by convergence of resources through appropriate institutional mechanism.

6. Consider the following statement:

1. Ministry of Minority Affairs looks after for welfare and socio-economic development of 6 (six) notified minority communities namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains.

2. The Prime Minister's 15-Point programme for the Welfare of Minorities was announced in 2006.

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

Answer: c

➤ The Ministry of Minority Affairs was established in 2006. It has been mandated for formulation of policies, schemes and programmes for welfare and socio-economic development of 6 (six) notified minority communities namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains, which constitute more than 19 per cent of India's population. From October 2016, the mandate of the Ministry has been expanded to manage Haj Pilgrimage as well.

➤ The Prime Minister's 15-Point programme for the Welfare of Minorities was announced in 2006. The objectives of the programme

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are: (a) enhancing opportunities for education, (b) ensuring an equitable share for minorities in economic activities and employment, through existing and new schemes, enhanced credit support for self-employment and recruitment to state and central government jobs, (c) improving the conditions of living of minorities by ensuring an appropriate share for them in infrastructure development schemes, (d) prevention and control of communal disharmony and violence. An important aim of the new programme is to ensure that the benefits of various government schemes for the underprivileged reach the disadvantaged sections of the minority communities. In order to ensure that the benefits of these schemes flow equitably to the minorities, the new programme envisages location of a certain proportion of development projects in minority concentration areas. It also provides that, wherever possible, 15 per cent of physical targets and financial outlays under various schemes should be earmarked for the target groups.

7. Consider the following statement:

1. 'Nai Roshni' scheme is for leadership development of minority women with an aim to empower and instill confidence in them by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with government systems, banks and intermediaries at all levels.

2. Objective of Padho Pardes is to provide financial support to the minority candidates clearing prelims and to adequately equip them to compete for appointment to Civil Services in the Union and the state governments.

Select the correct answer using the code given below



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

Answer: a

- This Ministry implements an exclusive scheme 'Nai Roshni' for leadership development of minority women with an aim to empower and instill confidence in them by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with government systems, banks and intermediaries at all levels. It is implemented through empanelled non-governmental organizations
- **Padho Pardes:** The objective of the Scheme is to award interest subsidy to meritorious students belonging to economically weaker sections of notified minority communities so as to provide them better opportunities for higher education abroad and enhance their employability. The interest subsidy under the Scheme shall be available to the eligible students only once, either for masters or Ph.D levels
- **Nai Udaan** The objective of the Scheme is to provide financial support to the minority candidates clearing prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission and State Public Service Commissions to adequately equip them to compete for appointment to Civil Services in the Union and the state governments and to increase the representation of the minority in the civil services by giving direct financial support to candidates.

8. Consider the following statement:

1. The Office of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities is an executive body.

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2. Under the Constitution of India, certain safeguards have been granted to only religious minorities and not to linguistic minorities

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

Answer: d

- The Office of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities (CLM) was established in 1957. in pursuance of the provision of Article 350-B of the Constitution which envisages investigation by CLM of all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the linguistic minorities in the country under the Constitution and reporting to the President upon these matters at such intervals as the President may direct. The President may want that all such reports be laid before each House of the Parliament and sent to the government administration of states/UTs concerned. The CLM organization has its headquarters at Delhi with three zonal offices at Belgaum, Chennai and Kolkata. The CLM interacts with states/UTs on all the matters pertaining to the issues concerning implementation of the Constitutional and nationally agreed safeguards provided to linguistic minorities.
- Under the Constitution of India, certain safeguards have been granted to the religious and linguistic minorities. Article 29 and 30 seek to protect the interests of minorities and recognize their right to conserve their distinct language, script or culture and to establish and



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administer educational institutions of their choice. Article 347 makes provision for Presidential direction for official recognition of any language spoken by a substantial proportion to the populations of a state or any part thereof for such purpose as the President may specify. Article 350 gives the right to submit representation for redressal of grievances to any authority of the Union or a state in any of the languages used in the Union/states. Article 360A provides for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups. Article 350B provides for a Special Officer designated as Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under the Constitution

9. Which of the following is/are statutory bodies?

1. Central Wakf council
2. UGC
3. CBI

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

- A Wakf is a permanent dedication of movable or immovable properties for purposes recognised by the Muslim Law as religious, pious or charitable. Apart from these religious aspects, the Wakfs are also instruments of social and economic upliftment. Administration of central legislation for Wakfs is the

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responsibility of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. For the purpose of advising the central government on matters relating to working of the state Wakf Boards and the proper administration of the Wakfs in the country, the Central Wakf Council was established as a statutory body in 1964, under Section 8A of the Wakf Act, 1954 (now read as Sub-Sec(1) of the Section 9 of Wakf Act, 1995). The present Council was reconstituted in 2005. The Union Minister in charge of Wakf is the Chairperson of the Council. The Central Wakf Council is also playing a vital role in the development of the society by way of implementing development of urban Wakf properties and educational development programmes.

- CBI is an executive body

10. Consider the following statement pertaining to Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

1. Scheme was launched in 2015 to address the declining Child Sex Ratio.
2. Scheme is a triministerial, convergent effort of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.

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

Answer: c

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is one of the flagship programmes of the Government, launched in 2015 to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and address other

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related issues of disempowerment of women. CSR is the number of girls against 1000 boys in the age group of 0- 6 years. It is a triministerial, convergent effort of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare and Human Resource Development with focus on the following: awareness and advocacy campaign; multi-sectoral action in select 161 districts (low on CSR); enabling girls' education; effective enforcement of pre-conception and pre natal diagnostic techniques (PC&PNDT) Act

- The specific objectives of the Scheme include preventing gender biased sex selective elimination; ensuring survival and protection of the girl child and ensuring education and participation of the girl child. The multi-sectoral, action in districts lays special focus on effective implementation and monitoring of PC&PNDT Act, promotion of early registration of pregnancy, institutional deliveries and registration of births by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; making schools girl-friendly: enrolment of girls in schools, retention of girls in secondary schools, availability of functional toilets by the Ministry of Human Resource Development; awareness generation, advocacy, community mobilization and training of stakeholders, local champions, rewards to institutions and frontline workers by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It is envisaged to bring an improvement in sex ratio at birth (SRB) in the short term while child sex ratio (CSR) with manifestation of over-all

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development such as improved health and nutrition, gender parity in education, better sanitation, opportunities and removal of asymmetries between the genders is endeavoured in the long term. In a short span of time, the clarion call of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is resonating across the country. This programme has been successful in establishing improvement in CSR as a national agenda. It has stirred national consciousness with the political leadership and government, both at the central and states/UTs level owning the initiative. Several innovative interventions have been demonstrated on ground in the selected districts

11. Consider the following statement:

1. Poshan Abhiyaan Poshan Abhiyaan is a flagship programme of Ministry of Health & Family welfare
2. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana is a maternity benefit programme for eligible pregnant women and lactating mothers.

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

Answer: b

- Government announced pan India implementation of maternity benefit programme to eligible pregnant women and lactating mothers. The programme was named Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) It is a centrally sponsored Scheme under which the grant-in-aid is PMMVY released to states/UTs in cost sharing ratio between the centre and the states and UTs with



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legislature as 60:40, for north-eastern states and Himalayan states it will be 90:10 and 100 per cent for union territories without legislature
PMMVY envisages providing cash incentive amounting to ₹ 5,000/- directly to the bank/post office account of PW and LM in DBT mode during pregnancy and lactation in response to individual fulfilling specific conditions

- Poshan Abhiyaan Poshan Abhiyaan is a flagship programme of Ministry of Women and Child Development which ensures convergence with various programmes i.e., Anganwadi Services. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY). Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) of MWCD Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), National Health Mission (NHM). Swachh Bharat Mission. Public Distribution System (PDS). It focuses to lay emphasis on the first 1000 days of the child, which includes the nine months of pregnancy, six months of exclusive breastfeeding and the period from 6 months to 2 years to ensure focused interventions on addressing under nutrition. Besides increasing the birth weight. It will help reduce both Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR). Additional one year of sustained intervention (till the age of 3 years) would ensure that the gains of the first 1000 days are consolidated. Attention is also given on children in the age group of 3-6 years for their overall development through the platform of the Anganwadi Services

12. One stop crisis centre for women are:

- (a) Sakhi Centres
- (b) Durga Centres

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(c) Nirbhik centres

(d) Daya Centres

Answer: A

Women who suffer violence face huge problems in getting justice as they have to register FIRs and engage lawyers to fight court cases. In many cases the medical evidence gets destroyed due to lack of knowledge or pressure from perpetrators. As a result, very often women suffer violence but do not complain. In order to assist such women, a new initiative to establish One Stop Centres (OSC) was conceived and is being implemented across the country since April 2015. A woman who has suffered violence can get medical, police, legal and psychological counselling assistance at these centres. These also have a place for them to temporarily stay in case their condition so warrants. The OSC, popularly known by the name of Sakhi will be integrated with 181 and other existing helplines. The first centre was inaugurated at Raipur, Chhattisgarh in 2015. So far 138 such centres have been operational in 31 states/UTs., catering to the needs of the women affected by violence. Over 4000 women have been assisted in these centres, which have come up in the last six months or so. At least one such centre will be established in each district by the end of 2018-19.

13. Gender Champions is an initiative of:

- (a) Ministry of Human Resource Development and Women and child development Ministry
- (b) Ministry of Human Resource Development & Tribal Affairs Ministry
- (c) Ministry of Women and child development Ministry & Home Affairs Ministry
- (d) Ministry & Home Affairs Ministry & Women and child development Ministry

Answer: a

Gender Champions The initiative of Gender Champions is being implemented



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through educational institutions to sensitize young students and create awareness on laws, legislations, legal rights and life skills education. The Gender Champion guidelines developed by MWCD are being operationalized in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resource Development. A Training Module for Gender Champions has been developed for adoption by educational institutes

14. Objective of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh is:

1. Socio-economic empowerment through multi-pronged effort
2. To provide micro-credit to poor women through intermediary organizations

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

Answer: c

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) is a society, registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and an apex micro-finance organization established in 1993. The main objective of RMK is to provide micro-credit to poor women through intermediary organizations (IMO), which includes Section 25 companies, NGOs among others for various livelihood support and income generating activities at concessional terms in a client-friendly procedure to bring about their socio-economic development. The target beneficiaries are entrepreneurs from different economic activities ranging from traditional and modern handicraft to small business such as petty shop, etc. The loans are sanctioned through various schemes of RMK viz., main loan scheme, loan promotion scheme, etc

15. Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) has been constituted under:

- (a) POCSO act

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- (b) Juvenile Justice Act, 2015
- (c) Child welfare act
- (d) None of these

Answer: b

- Government has notified Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 and Chapter VIII of the Act provisions for adoption of orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children and also adoption of children by relatives. The Act has adequate safeguards for the children to ensure their best interest and it provides for reporting of all adoptions in the country including relative adoptions. Further, all adoptions under the Act have to proceed as per the Adoption Regulations framed by Central Adoption. Central Adoption Resource Agency has been reconstituted as Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) under this Act.
- Central Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS) is the only official portal of CARA for legal adoption process. Under Section 80 and 81 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 any person or agency who indulges in illegal adoption shall be punished. By adopting a child illegally, one may unintentionally become part of a child trafficking network. Adoption is a socio-legal process and there is no role of touts/middlemen in it as they may mislead people to adopt a child illegally. The Adoption Regulations contain the provisions for incountry and inter-country adoptions of OAS (orphaned, abandoned and surrendered) children. Procedures related to adoption by relatives both within the country and abroad have been



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defined in the Regulations. Adoption of step-children has been brought in. There are 32 schedules annexed to the Regulations including model adoption applications to be filed in the court and this would considerably address delays prevalent in obtaining the court order

16. With reference to the provisions made under the National Food Security Act, 2013 consider the following statements: (UPSC 2018)

1. The families coming under the category of 'below poverty line (BPL)' only are eligible to receive subsidised grains.
2. The eldest woman in a household, of age 18 years or above, shall be the head of the household for the purpose of issuance of a ration card.
3. Pregnant women and lactating mothers are entitled to a take-home ration' of 1600 calories per day during pregnancy and for six months thereafter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

- In order to further strengthen the commitment to food security of the people, Government of India enacted the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), which came into force from 2013. The Act aims to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live with dignity. The Act marks a paradigm shift in approach to food security— from welfare to a rights based one

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- The Act provides for coverage of upto 75 per cent of the rural population and upto 50 per cent of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System, thus covering about two-thirds of the population. This coverage for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains is under two categories— households covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and the remaining households as priority households. AAY was launched in 2000 to provide focus on food security to the poorest of the poor, and covers 2.5 crore households. Such households are entitled under the Act to receive 35 kg. of foodgrains per households per month, at ₹ 1/2/3 per kg. for coarse grains/wheat/rice. Priority households are entitled to receive 5 kg. of foodgrains per person per month at the above mentioned highly subsidized prices

17. Food and Nutrition Board is under which ministry?

- (a) Ministry of food Processing Industry
- (b) Ministry of Health
- (c) Ministry of women and child Development
- (d) Ministry of Human Resource Development

Answer: c

- Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) under MWCD is in process of setting up of 4 food testing Laboratories viz., central laboratory at Faridabad and 3 regional food testing laboratories at Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata for analyzing the food and nutritional supplements for food safety and quality to ensure nutritional and feeding norms for



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supplementary nutrition in ICDS Scheme.

- MWCD, taking note of the widely prevalent deficiencies of iron, vitamin-A, iodine and other micro nutrients in the population, particularly among women and children, has taken the initiative towards addressing this issue through fortification of foods. In this regard,

CHAPTER 29 Youth Affairs and Sports

1. Khelo India is scheme of:

- (a) Ministry of Women and child development
- (b) Ministry of Human resource development
- (c) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- (d) Panchayati raj Ministry

Answer: c

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports was implementing a centrally sponsored scheme called the Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) from 2008-09 to 2013-14. The scheme aimed at creation of basic sports infrastructure at village and block / Panchayat levels through development and maintenance of playgrounds and mass participation in sports through conduct of annual sports competitions. Separately, an Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) was also introduced in 2010-11 and continued up to 2015-16. The PYKKA scheme provided for mid-term review. Accordingly, the scheme was reviewed and revamped as the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), implemented during 2014-15 to 2015-16-which envisaged construction of block level sports complex comprising both indoor and outdoor playing facilities through convergence with other schemes of

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a comprehensive regulation on fortification of Foods namely ‘Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2016 was operationalized which sets the standards for fortification of major staple foods namely, wheat flour, rice, milk, edible oil and salt. A logo has also been launched.

the Government; and conduct of competitions block upwards. A new umbrella Scheme “Khelo India” was launched during 2016-17 after merger of existing scheme Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) and National Sports Talent Search System Programme (NSTSSP)

- The revamped Khelo India has been evolved after a lot of deliberations with all stakeholders, including departments of sports of states and UTs. The Scheme is being implemented as a central sector scheme. The revamped Khelo India has twelve components, which aim at achieving the twin objectives of the National Sports Policy 2001- broadbasing of sports and achieving excellence in sports, which in turn will infuse sports culture in the country and enable it to derive benefits that sports offers, namely, holistic development of children and youth, community development, gender equity, healthy nation, national pride and economic opportunities related to sport development.
- Its 12 verticals are: play field development, community coaching development, state level Khelo India centres, annual sports competitions,



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talent search and development, utilization and creation / upgradation of sports infrastructure, support to national / regional / state sports academies, physical fitness of school-going children, sports for women, promotion of sports among persons with disabilities, sports for peace and development and promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games.

2. The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) was instituted with a view to mobilizing resources from:

1. Government sources only
2. Non-governmental sources

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

Answer: c

The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) was instituted with a view to mobilizing resources from the government

CHAPTER 32 Diary of National Events

1. IPrism is initiative of:

- (a) Cell for IPR Promotion and Management
- (b) ICSR
- (c) ICAR
- (d) Ministry of Heavy Industry

Answer: a

The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM), Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), in collaboration with ASSOCHAM and ERICSSON India, has launched a one of its kind Intellectual Property (IP) Competition 'IPrism' for college and university students.

2. CriSidEx India's first sentiment index for micro and small enterprises was developed by:

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as well as non-governmental sources, including the private/corporate sector and non-resident Indians, for promotion of sports and games in the country. To make contributions to the fund attractive, 100 per cent exemption from income tax is available on all contributions. The funds available under NSDF are used for promotion of sports in general and specific sports disciplines and individual sportspersons for achieving excellence at the national and international level in particular; imparting special training and coaching in relevant sport disciplines to sportspersons, coaches and sports specialists; to construct and maintain infrastructure as may be required for promotion of excellence in sports; to supply equipment to governmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals with a view to promoting excellence in sports; to identify problems and take up research and development studies for providing support to excellence in sports, etc

- (a) CRISIL and SIDBI
- (b) CRISIL and SEBI
- (c) CIBIL and SIDBI
- (d) CIBIL and SEBI

Answer: a

The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs launched CriSidEx, India's first sentiment index for micro and small enterprises (MSEs) developed jointly by CRISIL and SIDBI

3. Healthy States, Progressive India Report was launched by:

- (a) Niti Ayog
- (b) AIIMS
- (c) ICMR
- (d) ICAR

Answer: A



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NITI Aayog launches the 'Healthy States, Progressive India Report'. Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have ranked top among the larger states in terms of overall performance

4.NAG is:

- (a) Anti tank Missile
- (b) Air craft
- (c) Submarine
- (d) Vessel

Answer: a

Anti Tank Guided Missiles (ATOM) NAG were successfully flight-tested in desert conditions against two tank targets at different ranges and timings

5. National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) was set up under :

- (a) Insolvency code
- (b) Fugitive offender's act
- (c) Companies act 2013
- (d) Money laundering act

Answer: c

The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for establishment of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA). The decision aims at establishment of NFRA as an independent regulator for the auditing profession which is one of the key changes brought in by the Companies Act, 2013

6. Bogibeel bridge connects which two districts?

- (a) Dhemaji & Itanagar
- (b) Dhemaji and Dibrugarh
- (c) Itanagar and Dibrugarh
- (d) Itanagar and Kohima

Answer: b

The Bogibeel bridge in Assam, is inaugurated. The bridge is a combined road and rail bridge over the Brahmaputra river between Dhemaji and Dibrugarh districts

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