


Sr- No	UPSC PRE 2017	abhimanu Test Series 2017
1.	<p><b>Mediterranean Sea has a border with which of the following countries?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jordan</li> <li>2. Iraq</li> <li>3. Lebanon</li>   <li>4. Syria</li> </ol> <p><i>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 1, 2 and 3 only</li> <li>(b) 2 and 3 only</li> <li>(c) 3 and 4 only</li> <li>(d) 1, 3 and 4 only</li> </ol>	<p><b>Consider the following statements</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Balochistan province is located in Southeastern Pakistan</li> <li>2. Rakhine state of Myanmar shares a common border with India.</li> <li>3. Syria lies to the east of the Mediterranean Sea.</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using codes given below</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 1 and 3 only</li> <li>(b) 2 only</li> <li>(c) 1 and 2 only</li> <li>(d) 3 only*</li> </ol> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Balochistan the largest province of Pakistan lies in Southwestern Pakistan. Also the Rakhine state shares boundary with Bangladesh and not India.</p> <p><b>The east of Mediterranean is known as the Levant region</b></p> 
2.	<p><b>With reference to ‘National Investment and Infrastructure Fund’, which of the following statements is/are correct?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is an organ of NITI Aayog.</li> <li>2. It has a corpus of Rs. 4, 00,000 crore at present.</li> </ol> <p><i>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 1 only</li> <li>(b) 2 only</li> <li>(c) Both 1 and 2</li> <li>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</li> </ol>	<p><b>Which of the following statements related to the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) is/are correct?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It aims at attracting both domestic and foreign investors.</li> <li>2. It focuses solely on Greenfield infrastructure projects.</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 1 only*</li> <li>(b) 2 only</li> <li>(c) Both 1 and 2</li> <li>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</li> </ol> <p><b>Explanation :</b> NIIF was set up following the proposal made in the General Budget of 2015-16. It aims to attract investment from both domestic and international sources for maximizing economic impact mainly through infrastructure development in commercially viable projects,</p>

		<p>both greenfield and brownfield, including stalled projects. Its proposed corpus fund is of 40000 crore rupees.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>For election to the Lok Sabha, a nomination paper can be filed by</b></p> <p>(a) anyone residing in India. (b) a resident of the constituency from which the election is to be contested. (c) any citizen of India whose name appears in the electoral roll of a constituency. (d) any citizen of India.</p>	<p><b>Which of the following is correct?</b></p> <p>a) All the members of the Rajya Sabha are elected by State Legislative Assemblies. b) Only a member of the Rajya Sabha can contest for the office of the Vice-President. c) While a candidate to the Lok Sabha can contest from any state in India, a candidate to the Rajya Sabha should ordinarily be a resident of the State from where he is contesting. * d) The Constitution explicitly prohibits the appointment of a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha to the post of a Minister.</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Article 84 of the Constitution lays down the qualifications for membership of Parliament. A member of the Rajya Sabha must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a citizen of India</li> <li>• Be at least 30 years old;</li> <li>• Possess such other qualifications as may be prescribed in that behalf by or under any law made by Parliament.</li> <li>• Be elected by the Legislative Assembly of States and Union territories by means of Single transferable vote through Proportional representation.</li> <li>• His name should be present in the voter's list in any of the constituencies of the country just like that for Lok Sabha. (The earlier provision of compulsory state domicile was done away with in 2003)</li> </ul>

<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Consider the following statements:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In India, the Himalayas are spread over five States only.</li> <li>2. <b>Western Ghats are spread over five States only.</b></li> <li>3. <b>Pulicat Lake is spread over two States only.</b></li> </ol> <p><i>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</i></p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1 and 3 only</p>	<p><b>Lake Pulicat is located at the littoral boundary of two of the states of India. Consider the following statements about it</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) It lies between Andhra Pradesh and Odisha states of India.</li> <li>2) It is the second largest lagoon after Chilika lake.</li> <li>3) The Island of Sriharikota where the Satish Dhawan Space Centre lies in Pulicat lake.</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the codes given below:</p> <p>a) 1 and 2 only    b) 1 and 3 only c) 2 and 3 only*    d) 1, 2 and 3</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> <b>statement 1 is incorrect as Lake Pulicat lies between Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.</b></p> <p><b>In which of the following states of India Western Ghats are found?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Kerala</li> <li>2) Tamil Nadu</li> <li>3) Goa</li> <li>4) Karnataka</li> <li>5) Gujarat</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the codes given below</p> <p>a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 d) <b>1, 2, 3, 4 and 5*</b></p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) is a standard criterion for</b></p> <p>(a) Measuring oxygen levels in blood (b) Computing oxygen levels in forest ecosystems (c) <b>Pollution assay in aquatic ecosystems</b> (d) Assessing oxygen levels in high altitude regions</p>	<p><b>Consider the following statements:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Higher value of Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) indicates lower Dissolved Oxygen levels of water.</li> <li>2. <b>BOD is a better measure of pollution load in water compared to Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD).</b></li> </ol> <p>Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?</p> <p>A. 1 only B. 2 only C. Both 1 and 2 D. Neither 1 nor 2</p> <p><b>Answer: B</b></p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Biological Oxygen Demand is the amount of dissolved oxygen that is required by the bacteria to oxidise biodegradable material present in water. <b>Greater BOD value implies higher amount of pollution in water and hence lower value of Dissolved Oxygen.</b> Since BOD covers only biodegradable materials it is slightly less significant indicator</p>



	<p>given below: (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1 only</p>	<p>UN-Habitat maintains its headquarters at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya. It is <b>mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.</b> It is a member of the United Nations Development Group. The mandate of UN-Habitat derives from the Habitat Agenda, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996. The twin goals of the Habitat Agenda are adequate shelter for all and the development of sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world.</p>
7.	<p><b>With reference to ‘National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)’, which of the statements given below is/are correct?</b></p> <p>1. <b>Under NSQF, a learner can acquire the certification for competency only through formal learning.</b></p> <p>2. An outcome expected from the implementation of NSQF is the <b>mobility between vocational and general education.</b></p> <p><i>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</i> (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p><b>Consider the following statements regarding Skill India:</b></p> <p>1) It is an initiative of the Government of India which has been launched to empower the youth of the country with skill sets which make them more employable and more productive in their work environment.</p> <p>2) It offers <b>courses across 40 sectors in the country which are aligned to the standards recognised by both, the industry and the Government under the National Skill Qualification Framework</b></p> <p>Which of the above are incorrect? a) 1 only b) 2 only c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2*</p> <p><b>Exp-</b> Skill India is a campaign launched by Prime Minister which aims to train over 40 crore people in India in different skills by 2022. It includes various initiatives of the government like "National Skill Development Mission", "National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015", "Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)", "National Skill Qualification Framework" and "Skill Loan scheme".</p> <p><b>The National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) is a competency-based framework that organizes all qualifications according to a series of levels of knowledge, skills and aptitude.</b> These levels, graded from one to ten, are defined in terms of learning outcomes which the <b>learner must possess regardless of whether they are obtained</b></p>

through formal, non-formal or informal learning. NSQF in India was notified on 27th December 2013. All other frameworks, including the NVEQF (National Vocational Educational Qualification Framework) released by the Ministry of HRD, stand superceded by the NSQF.

Under NSQF, the learner can acquire the certification for competency needed at any level through formal, non-formal or informal learning. In that sense, the NSQF is a quality assurance framework. Presently, more than 100 countries have, or are in the process of developing national qualification frameworks.

The NSQF is anchored at the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) and is being implemented through the National Skills Qualifications Committee (NSQC) which comprises of all key stakeholders. The NSQC's functions amongst others include approving NOSs/QPs, approving accreditation norms, prescribing guidelines to address the needs of disadvantaged sections, reviewing inter-agency disputes and alignment of NSQF with international qualification frameworks.

Specific outcomes expected from implementation of NSQF are:

- Mobility between vocational and general education by alignment of degrees with NSQF
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), allowing transition from non-formal to organised job market
- Standardised, consistent, nationally acceptable outcomes of training across the country through a national quality assurance framework
- Global mobility of skilled workforce from India, through international equivalence of NSQF
- Mapping of progression pathways within sectors and cross-sectorally
- Approval of NOS/QPs as national standards for skill training

<p>8</p>	<p><b>In the context of Indian history, the principle of “Dyarchy (diarchy)” refers to</b></p> <p>(a) Division of the central legislature into two houses.</p> <p>(b) Introduction of double government i.e., Central and State governments.</p> <p>(c) Having two sets of rulers; one in London and another in Delhi.</p> <p>(d) Division of the subjects delegated to the provinces into two categories</p>	<p><b>The Montague-Chelmsford Proposals were related to</b></p> <p>(a) social reforms (b) educational reforms (c) reforms in police administration (d) constitutional reforms*</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> The main features of the Montford Reforms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Provincial Government—Introduction of Dyarchy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Executive:</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Dyarchy, i.e., rule of two—executive councillors and popular ministers—was introduced. The governor was to be the executive head in the province.</b></li> <li>• <b>Subjects were divided into two lists: “reserved” which included subjects such as law and order, finance, land revenue, irrigation, etc., and “transferred” subjects such as education, health, local government, industry, agriculture, excise, etc.</b></li> <li>• <b>The “reserved” subjects were to be administered by the governor through his executive council of bureaucrats, and the “transferred” subjects were to be administered by ministers nominated from among the elected members of the legislative council.</b></li> </ul>
<p>9</p>	<p><b>Consider the following in respect of ‘National Career Service’:</b></p> <p>1. National Career Service is an initiative of the Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India.</p> <p>2. National Career Service has been launched in a Mission Mode to improve the employment opportunities to uneducated youth of the country.</p> <p><i>Which of the above statements is/are correct?</i></p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p><b>The Ministry of Labour is implementing a Project as a mission mode project for transformation of the national employment service to provide a variety of employment related services like career counseling, vocational guidance, information on apprenticeship, internships etc. Which project is being referred to here?</b></p> <p>a) Abhiyaan Indradhanush b) National Career Service Project* c) Shram Suvidha d) None of the above</p>

10	<p>Which of the following statements best describes the term 'Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A)', recently seen in the news?</p> <p>(a) It is a procedure for considering ecological costs of developmental schemes formulated by the Government.</p> <p>(b) It is a scheme of RBI for reworking the financial structure of big corporate entities facing genuine difficulties.</p> <p>(c) It is a disinvestment plan of the Government regarding Central Public Sector Undertakings.</p> <p>(d) It is an important provision in 'The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code' recently implemented by the Government.</p>	<p><b>Consider the following regarding the term 'Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets':</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An independent agency hired by the banks will decide on how much of the stressed debt of a company is 'sustainable'.</li> <li>2. The sustainable part of the stressed debt will be converted into equity and preference shares.</li> <li>3. The unsustainable part of the stressed debt will be converted into equity and preference shares.</li> <li>4. This arrangement involves no change in the ownership of the company.</li> </ol> <p><i>Select the correct statement from the following codes:</i></p> <p>(a) 1, 2 and 4 only (b) 1, 3 and 4 only (c) 1 and 2 only (d) 1 and 3 only</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A): Under this arrangement, introduced in June 2016 by RBI, an independent agency hired by the banks will decide on how much of the stressed debt of a company is 'sustainable'. The rest ('unsustainable') will be converted into equity and preference shares. Unlike the SDR arrangement, this involves no change in the ownership of the company</p>
11	<p>If you want to see <b>gharials in their natural habitat</b>, which one of the following is the best place to visit?</p> <p>(a) Bhitarkanika Mangroves (b) Chambal River (c) Pulicat Lake (d) Deepor Beel</p>	<p><b>Which of the following species in India comes under critically endangered category of IUCN?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. White-rumped vulture</li> <li>2. Jerdon's Courser</li> <li>3. Indian Gharial</li> <li>4. Red crowned roofed turtle</li> </ol> <p><i>Select the correct statement using the codes given below:</i></p> <p>(a) 1, 2 and 4 only (b) 1, 2 and 3 only (c) 1, 3 and 4 only (d) All of the above</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Critically endangered category is the highest risk category of IUCN Red List of threatened species which</p>



		<p>comprises those that are facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.</p> <p>The four species of vultures, viz., Indian vulture (<i>Gyps indicus</i>), red-headed vulture (<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>), white-rumped vulture (<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>) and slender billed vulture (<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>) has been listed as critically endangered. These scavenger birds which play an important role in ecosystem are falling prey to use of chemical components like Diclofenac. Drastic loss of grassland habitat over the past decades has severely threatened the existence of Great Indian Bustard (<i>Ardeotis nigriceps</i>), Bengal Florican (<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>) and Jerdon's Courser (<i>Rhinoptilus bitorquatus</i>). Another bird species Forest Owlet (<i>Atheneblewitti</i>) finds its place in the critically endangered category resulting from the destruction of deciduous forests in central India. To make the situation more appalling, rampant deforestation in India's two biodiversity hotspots- the Western Ghats and the Eastern Himalayas- continue to endanger the existence of many other species.</p> <p>Poaching for food, tortoise-shell trade, entangling in fishing nets and long lines, pollution as a result of plastics and climate change have brought the life of turtles in peril. Climate change will affect them drastically as their sex determination depends on temperature of the sand pit at the time of incubation.</p> <p><b>The charismatic Indian Gharial (<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>), the oldest crocodylian is also listed as critically endangered. Once abundant in river systems of Indian subcontinent, they are now confined to India's Chambal River Basin (National Chambal Gharial wildlife sanctuary), Nepal and Bangladesh in isolated populations.</b> Loss of habitats, trapping in fishing nets and erroneous superstitions have brought them in a vulnerable state.</p>
12	<p><b>The painting of Bodhisattva Padmapani is one of the most famous and oft-illustrated paintings at</b></p> <p>(a) Ajanta (b) Badami (c) Bagh (d) Ellora</p>	<p><b>Bodhisattva Padmapani was painted at:</b></p> <p>a) Kishangarh b) Bagh c) Udaygiri d) Ajanta</p>

<p>13</p>	<p><b>Which of the following practices can help in <b>water conservation</b> in agriculture?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduced or zero tillage of the land</li> <li>2. <b>Applying gypsum before irrigating the field</b></li> <li>3. <b>Allowing crop residue to remain in the field</b></li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p><b>Which of the statement about the Saline soils of India is incorrect?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Naturally, these soils are found in areas of dry climate and poor drainage or in waterlogged swampy areas.</li> <li>b) Excessive irrigation in dry climatic conditions of North-West India is making the soils saline in that region.</li> <li>c) These soils are poor in Sodium and Potassium.*</li> <li>d) <b>Gypsum is added to lower the salinity of such soils.</b></li> </ol> <p>Exp:- These soils are rich in salts like Sodium , Potassium, Magnesium etc. They lack Nitrogen instead. <b>Gypsum lowers the ph of the soils and hence reduces salinity to some extent. Also Gypsum improves the water use efficiency thereby reducing salinity.</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Which of the following statement/s about 'Mulching' is/are true?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Mulching refers to the act of covering the top layer of soil with a layer of another material.</b></li> <li>2. Mulching material is essentially organic in nature.</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using codes given below</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both are correct (d) None is correct</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> A mulch is a layer of material applied to the surface of soil. Reasons for applying mulch include <b>conservation of soil moisture, improving fertility</b> and health of the soil, reducing weed growth and enhancing the visual appeal of the area</p> <p><b>A mulch is usually, but not exclusively, organic in nature.</b> It may be permanent (e.g. plastic sheeting known as poly mulching and is done to retain moisture) or temporary (e.g.bark chips, crop residue etc.). It may be applied to bare soil, or around existing plants.</p>
<p>14</p>	<p><b>Consider the following statements :</b></p> <p>The nation-wide 'Soil Health Card Scheme' aims at</p>	<p><b>Consider the following statements regarding Soil Health card Scheme:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The scheme aims at promoting soil test based <b>balanced</b></li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. expanding the cultivable area under irrigation.</li> <li>2. enabling the banks to assess the quantum of loans to be granted to farmers on the basis of soil quality.</li> <li>3. <b>checking the overuse of fertilizers in farmlands.</b></li> </ol> <p>Which of the above statements is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p><b>use of fertilizers</b> to enable farmers realize higher yields at lower cost.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Under the scheme, experts will analyse micro-nutrients deficiency.</li> <li>3. The scheme was launched in February 2015.</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct statement from the following codes:</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 1 only (d) All of the above</p>
15	<p><b>Which of the following is/are famous for Sun temples?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Arasavalli</li> <li>2. Amarakantak</li> <li>3. Omkareshwar</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below :</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p><b>Where is the Sun Temple in India situated?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Elephanta, Maharashtra</li> <li>b. Puri, Orissa</li> <li>c. Ahmedabad, Gujarat</li> <li>d. Konark, Odisha*</li> </ol> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Sun has been regarded as an important deity since vedic ages and there are several temples dedicated to sun all across India like - <b>Modhera, Arasavili, Kumbhakonam, Surya Pahar etc.</b></p> <p>The grandest of them is at Konark Odisha built in 13th century depicting a fusion of several temple architectural styles.</p>
16	<p><b>Which of the following has/have occurred in India after its liberalization of economic policies in 1991?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Share of agriculture in GDP increased enormously.</li> <li>2. Share of India's exports in world trade increased.</li> <li>3. FDI inflows increased.</li> <li>4. India's foreign exchange reserves increased enormously.</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the codes given below :</p> <p>(a) 1 and 4 only</p>	<p><b>Which of the following are part of liberalisation policy of the government?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. De-reservation of sectors which were reserved for small scale industry.</li> <li>2. De-licensing</li> <li>3. Disinvestment</li> <li>4. Easing quantitative restrictions on imports</li> <li>5. Allowing establishment of private sector banks, both Indian as well as foreign.</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below.</p> <p>(a) 1 and 5 only (b) 2, 3 and 4 only (c) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only*</p>

	<p>(b) 2, 3 and 4 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4</p>	<p>(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Liberalisation includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o De-licensing</li> <li>o De-reservation of sectors which were reserved for small scale industry.</li> <li>o Allowing establishment of private sector banks, both Indian as well as foreign</li> <li>o Market determined exchange rate</li> <li>o <b>Easing quantitative restrictions on imports and promoting Indian exports.</b></li> <li>o Abolishing import licensing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Whereas disinvestment comes under Privatisation.</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Economic liberalization in India started with:</b></p> <p>(a) Substantial changes in industrial licensing policy. (b) The convertibility of India rupee. (c) <b>Doing away with procedural formalities for foreign direct investment.</b> (d) Significant reduction in tax rates.</p>
17	<p><b>What is the application of Somatic Cell CJ Nuclear Transfer Technology?</b></p> <p>(a) Production of biolarvicides (b) Manufacture of biodegradable plastics (c) <b>Reproductive cloning of animals</b> (d) Production of organisms free of diseases</p>	<p><b>Mitochondrial replacement therapy (MRT) is a form of germline genetic engineering. Choose the incorrect statement about MRT-</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It can be used with in vitro fertilization and holds promise for the prevention of an entire class of heritable genetic disorders.</li> <li>2. It is used to ensure that a child has healthy mitochondria, but this also means 37 of the child's genes come from the woman who donated the egg (the "third parent").</li> <li>3. <b>MRT results in genetic modification of somatic cells.</b></li> </ol> <p>Choose code:</p> <p>(a) 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 3 only</p> <p><b>Exp-</b> Genes for the disease reside in DNA in the mitochondria, which provide energy for our cells and carry just 37 genes that are passed down to us from our mothers. This is separate from the majority of our DNA, which is</p>

		<p>housed in each cell's nucleus.</p> <p>Mitochondrial replacement (MRT, sometimes called mitochondrial donation) is a special form of in vitro fertilisation in which the future baby's mitochondrial DNA comes from a third party. This technique is used in cases when mothers carry genes for mitochondrial diseases. Most of our genes – around 20,000 in total – are found in the cell's nucleus; just 37 are found in the mitochondria. In the new procedure, the nucleus from one of the mother's eggs is removed and inserted it into a donor egg, which had its own nucleus removed. This egg was then fertilised with the father's sperm. The resulting embryo therefore had nuclear DNA from its parents and mitochondrial DNA from the donor.</p> <p>A somatic cell is any cell of the body except sperm and egg cells. Somatic cells are diploid, meaning that they contain two sets of chromosomes, one inherited from each parent. Mutations in somatic cells can affect the individual, but they are not passed on to offspring. <u>Somatic cells are used in cloning and are not related to MRT</u></p>
18	<p><b>Consider the following statements:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) helps in promoting the financial inclusion in the country.</li> <li>2. NPCI has launched RuPay, a card payment scheme.</li> </ol> <p><b>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</b></p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p><b>Which of the following statements about Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is correct?</b></p> <p>(a) It is a platform through which a customer can transfer money to another person through a unique UPI ID, or mobile number, or Aadhaar number. (b) While using the UPI, the customers need not know the IFSC code or other bank account details of the payee. (c) The interface is based on the Immediate Payment Service platform (IMPS). (d) All of the above are correct*</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> UPI has been created by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and is line with the RBI's vision of a cashless and hassles free economy and to ensure financial inclusion in a cost effective manner.</p> <p>BHIM (Bharat interface for Money) app has been launched by NPCI for UPI.</p> <p>Apart from the above mentioned features, the UPI is a more secure way of conducting online transactions as there is no account number mapper anywhere other than the customer's own bank. This allows the customer to freely share the financial address with others.</p>
19	<p><b>Which of the following is a most likely consequence of implementing the</b></p>	<p><b>Consider the following statements regarding of UPI (Unified Payments Interface):</b></p>

	<p><b>‘Unified Payments Interface (UPI)’?</b> <b>(a) Mobile wallets will not be necessary for online payments.</b> (b) Digital currency will totally replace the physical currency in about two decades. (c) FDI inflows will drastically increase. (d) Direct transfer of subsidies to poor people will become very effective.</p>	<p>1. It is a new system developed by the NPCI and the RBI to aid instant transfer of money using a cashless system. 2. It offers the facility to identify a bank customer with an <b>email-like virtual address</b></p> <p><i>Choose the correct code:</i> (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both (d) None</p> <p><b>Exp-</b> India moved a step closer towards becoming a cashless economy with the launch of Unified Payment Interface (UPI). With this new payment method, your smartphones will soon double up as virtual debit cards and you’ll be able to send or receive money instantly. <b>Along with Bharat QR code, it can help you get rid of your wallet all together.</b> The Unified Payment Interface (UPI) can be thought of like an email ID for your money. It will be a unique identifier that your bank uses to transfer money and make payments using the IMPS (Immediate Payments Service). IMPS is faster than NEFT and lets you transfer money immediately and unlike NEFT, it works 24×7. <b>This means that the online payments will become much easier without requiring a digital wallet or credit or debit card.</b></p>
20	<p><b>What is/are the most likely advantages of implementing ‘Goods and Services Tax (GST)’?</b></p> <p>1. <b>It will replace multiple taxes collected by multiple authorities and will thus create a single market in India.</b> 2. It will drastically reduce the ‘Current Account Deficit’ of India and will enable it to increase its foreign exchange reserves. 3. It will enormously increase the growth and size of economy of India and will enable it to overtake China in the near future.</p> <p><b>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</b> (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only</p>	<p><b>Which of the following statements about the GST (Goods &amp; Services Tax) Bill recently passed by the parliament and identify the incorrect one</b></p> <p>(a) The GST bill passed by Parliament needs to be ratified by all the states and union territories as it deals with the provisions of Fiscal Federalism.* <b>(b) The GST bill subsumes all the ‘Indirect Taxes’ levied by states and the Union except those on Customs, Stamp Duties, Petroleum, Alcohol and Electricity.</b> (c) The GST will be levied at the destination point and not at every stage of production and retail. (d) As part of the Bill the Union has to compensate the states for revenue losses due to introduction of GST for first five years.</p> <p><b>Explanation :</b> The bill needs to be ratified by half of the states (15 Of 29) and not by UTs as per the provisions of Article 368.</p> <hr/> <p><b>India is on the cusp of implementing transformational</b></p>

	<p>(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p><b>reforms to create _____ via the Goods and Services Tax (GST).</b></p> <p>a) <b>“One India, One Market, One Tax,”*</b> b) “One India, One Economy, One Tax,” c) “One Nation, One Market, One Tax,” d) “One Nation, One Economy, One Tax,”</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> At a time when international integration is under siege and when India is on the cusp of implementing transformational reforms to create “One India, One Market, One Tax,” via the Goods and Services tax</p> <hr/> <p><b>Which of the following is true regarding the recent GST act?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Subsumes central and state indirect taxes</b></li> <li>Gives concurrent powers of taxation on goods and services to both centre and states.</li> <li>The destination state will collect taxes in case of inter-state trade and commerce</li> <li>Charged on wholesale cost.</li> </ol> <p>Choose the correct answer from the codes below</p> <p>a. 1 and 2* b. 1,2 and 4 c. 1,2,3,4 d. 1,2,3</p>
21	<p><b>Consider the following statements:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India has ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of WTO.</li> <li><b>TFA is a part of WTO’s Bali Ministerial Package of 2013.</b></li> <li><b>TFA came into force in January 2016.</b></li> </ol> <p><i>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</i></p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p><b>Consider the following statements about Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and identify the incorrect one</b></p> <p>(a) The Trade Facilitation is an agreement under the WTO that aims at improving efficiency of international trade by simplifying procedures and controls on trans-border movement of goods.</p> <p>(b) <b>The TFA is a part of the Bali Package on lowering global trade barriers.</b></p> <p>(c) <b>India has ratified TFA and has even set up a National level body to implement it.</b></p> <p>(d) The TFA is yet to come into force as it has not been ratified by the required two-third member nations.*</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> TFA is an agreement under WTO and it is part of the Bali Package of issues. <b>Also it has come into force in February 2017 as the two third of 164 member nations have ratified it.</b> India was using TFA as a bargaining chip for agricultural</p>

22	<p><b>What is the importance of developing Chabahar Port by India?</b></p> <p>(a) India's trade with African countries will enormously increase.</p> <p>(b) India's relations with oil-producing Arab countries will be strengthened.</p> <p>(c) <b>India will not depend on Pakistan for access to Afghanistan and Central Asia.</b></p> <p>(d) Pakistan will facilitate and protect the installation of a gas pipeline between Iraq and India.</p>	<p>subsidies and now has finally ratified it.</p> <p><b>Consider the following statements</b></p> <p>1) Chabahar Port is a sea port is located in South-Western Iran.</p> <p>2) <b>Chabahar Port provides an alternative for trade between India and Afghanistan.</b></p> <p>3) It lies at the mouth of Strait of Hormuz.</p> <p>Select the correct answer using the codes given below</p> <p>a) 1 and 2 b) 2 and 3 c) 2 only* d) 1 only</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Only 2nd statement is correct i.e. <b>Chabahar Port provides an alternative for trade between India and Afghanistan thereby bypassing Pakistan.</b></p> <p>Chabahar Port is a seaport in Chabahar located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman. It serves as Iran's only oceanic port, and consists of two separate ports named Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti, each of which have five berths.</p>
23	<p><b>Consider the following statements :</b></p> <p>1. The Election Commission of India is a five-member body.</p> <p>2. <b>Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.</b></p> <p>3. <b>Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognised political parties.</b></p> <p><i>Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?</i></p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 3 only</p>	<p><b>Consider the following scenario:</b></p> <p><b>1. A political party X has been found to be splitting. Both the factions of the party claim the party symbol i.e. "motorcycle". It is a registered party and a state party.</b></p> <p><i>Which of the following statements about the decision as to whom the symbol should be given is most appropriate:</i></p> <p>(a) The State Election Commission shall decide and the decision would be binding on all factions.</p> <p>(b) The State High Court shall decide and the decision of the court shall be binding on all the factions.</p> <p>(c) The Election Commission of India shall decide and the decision can be challenged in the Supreme Court.</p> <p>(d) <b>The Election Commission of India shall decide and the decision shall be final and binding on all the factions.*</b></p> <p><b>Exp-</b> The <b>question of symbol arose in the split of Samajwadi party.</b></p> <p>On the question of a split in a political party outside the legislature, Para 15 of the Symbols Order, 1968, states:</p>



“When the Commission is satisfied... that there are rival sections or groups of a recognised political party each of whom claims to be that party the Commission may, after taking into account all the available facts and circumstances of the case and hearing (their) representatives... and other persons as desire to be heard decide that one such rival section or group or none of such rival sections or groups is that **recognised political party and the decision of the Commission shall be binding on all such rival sections or groups.**”

**Consider the following tasks**

1. **Superintendence, direction and conduct of free and fair elections**
2. Preparation of electoral rolls for all elections to the Parliament, State Legislatures and the office of the President and the Vice-president
3. Giving recognition to political parties and allotting election symbols to political parties and individuals contesting the election
4. Proclamation of final verdict in the case of election disputes

*Which of the above are the functions of the Election Commission of India?*

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

**Explanation:** The Election commission of India is **responsible for deciding the schedule, conduction and superintendence of elections to the office of President, Vice President, Parliament and State Legislatures.**

It also gives recognition to parties and candidates for contesting elections and is responsible for maintenance of electoral rolls.

4. The Supreme Court decides the disputes regarding the election of president and the vice-president.

Any elector or candidate can file an election petition if he or she thinks there has been malpractice during the election. An election petition is not an ordinary civil suit, but treated as a contest in which the whole constituency is involved. Election petitions are tried by the High Court of

		the State involved, and if upheld can even lead to the restaging of the election in that constituency.
24	<p><b>According to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which of the following animals cannot be hunted by any person except under some provisions provided by law?</b></p> <p>1. Gharial 2. Indian wild ass 3. Wild buffalo</p> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below: (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p><b>Consider the following statements:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 consists of 6 schedule lists which give varying degrees of protection.</li> <li>List 5 of the act consists of animals that are classified as Vermin which can be hunted.</li> <li>Nilgai has been recently added into the list of vermin animals.</li> </ol> <p><i>Choose the correct alternative.</i></p> <p>A. 1 and 2 only B. 2 and 3 only C. 1 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3*</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> The Act provides for the protection of wild animals, birds and plants; and for matters connected therewith or ancillary or incidental thereto. It extends to the whole of India, except the State of Jammu and Kashmir which has its own wildlife act. It has six schedules which give varying degrees of protection.</p> <p>Schedule I and part II of Schedule II provide absolute protection to certain species like Tiger, Snow Leopard, Lion Tailed Macaque, Kashmir Stag, Gharial, Indian Wild Ass, Nilgiri Tahr, Gangetic Dolphin etc. - offences under these are prescribed the highest penalties. Species listed in Schedule III and Schedule IV are also protected, but the penalties are much lower. Schedule V includes the animals which may be hunted if classified as vermin by the Chief Wildlife Warden of state. The plants in Schedule VI are prohibited from cultivation and planting (for example- Pitcher plant, Red Vanda etc.)</p> <p>Nilgai has been recently declared as Vermin in the state of Bihar and Haryana. Hence, all the 3 statements are correct and hence answer is D.</p>
25	<p><b>In India, if a species of tortoise is declared protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, what does it imply ?</b></p> <p>(a) It enjoys the same level of protection as the tiger. (b) It no longer exists in the wild, a few individuals are under captive protection; and now it is impossible to prevent its extinction. (c) It is endemic to a particular region of India. (d) Both (b) and (c) stated above are correct in this context.</p>	<p>Nilgai has been recently declared as Vermin in the state of Bihar and Haryana. Hence, all the 3 statements are correct and hence answer is D.</p>
26	<p><b>In India, Judicial Review implies</b></p> <p>(a) the power of the Judiciary to pronounce upon the constitutionality of laws and executive orders.</p>	<p><b>Choose the correct statement</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Judicial Review includes undertaking period review of the Constitution.</li> <li>In the case of Rupa Ashok Hurrah v. Ashok Hurrah it was</li> </ol>

	<p>(b) the power of the Judiciary to question the wisdom of the laws enacted by the Legislatures.</p> <p>(c) the power of the Judiciary to review all the legislative enactments before they are assented to by the President.</p> <p>(d) the power of the Judiciary to review its own judgements given earlier in similar or different cases.</p>	<p>laid down by Supreme Court that after dismissal of a review petition under Article 137, the SC cannot entertain a curative petition.</p> <p>3) 'Social Justice Bench' is a special bench to be constituted at district level across the country to deal with matters related to society and to achieve the ideal of 'social justice'.</p> <p>4) The Supreme Court, the High Court and the District Courts are Courts of Record.</p> <p>Code</p> <p>a) 1,2 and 3 b) 2,3 and 4 c) 1 and 4 only d) None*</p> <p><b>Exp- Judicial Review is a court's authority to examine an executive or legislative act and to invalidate that act if it is contrary to constitutional principles.</b></p> <p>In the given case the Supreme court provided for the provision of curative petition for the aggrieved even after dismissal of review petition.</p> <p>The Social Justice Bench was setup by Supreme Court. In India, the district courts are not courts of records and only High Courts and Supreme Court are.</p>
27	<p><b>With reference to Indian freedom struggle, consider the following events :</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mutiny in Royal Indian Navy</li> <li>2. Quit India Movement launched</li> <li>3. Second Round Table Conference</li> </ol> <p>What is the correct chronological sequence of the above events ?</p> <p>(a) 1-2-3 (b) 2-1-3 (c) 3-2-1 (d) 3-1-2</p>	<p><b>With reference to Indian freedom struggle, Usha Mehta is well-known for</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Running the secret Congress Radio in the wake of Quit India Movement</li> <li>(b) Participating in the Second Round Table Conference</li> <li>(c) Leading a contingent of Indian National Army</li> <li>(d) Assisting in the formation of Interim Government under Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru</li> </ol> <p><b>Explanation: Usha Mehta (25 March 1920 – 11 August 2000)</b> was a Gandhian and freedom fighter of India. She is also remembered for organizing the Congress Radio, also called the Secret Congress Radio, <b>an underground radio station, which functioned for few months during the Quit India Movement of 1942.</b> In 1998, the Government of India conferred on her Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civilian award of Republic of India. Usha Mehta became active in Indian Freedom Struggle only</p>

		<p>in late 1930s and hence could not have taken part in second round table conference of 1932. She was also not part of INA</p>
28	<p><b>Which of the following are not necessarily the consequences of the proclamation of the President's rule in a State?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly</li> <li>2. Removal of the Council of Ministers in the State</li> <li>3. Dissolution of the local bodies</li> </ol> <p><b>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 1 and 2 only</li> <li>(b) 1 and 3 only</li> <li>(c) 2 and 3 only</li> <li>(d) 1, 2 and 3</li> </ol>	<p><b>Consider the following statements about the President's Rule</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The President's rule can be proclaimed on grounds mentioned in Article 356 and Article 365.</li> <li>2. After the Bommai judgement of 1994, the Presidential proclamation imposing President's rule is subject to judicial review.</li> <li>3. If the court holds the presidential proclamation to be unconstitutional, it has the power to restore the dismissed state government, but not after a new government has been sworn in.</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using codes given below</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 1 and 2 only*</li> <li>(b) 2 and 3 only</li> <li>(c) 2 only</li> <li>(d) All of the above</li> </ol> <p><b>Explanation:</b></p> <p>In an ordinary situation, a State is governed by an elected Council of Ministers, with the chief minister as its head. But there are occasions, when things go out of hand: A chief minister may step down (or die) and the ruling party may not be able to select anyone to replace him/her; there may be a break up in the ruling coalition or elections may be postponed. It may take a while until normalcy returns. Who will run the State in the meantime?</p> <p>These are some occasions when President's rule, empowered by Article 356 of the Constitution of India, is invoked. This means that the State would come under the control of the central government. The executive power shifts from the council of ministers to the governor. He may appoint his own administrators (usually retired civil servants) to assist him. <b>The office of the chief minister falls vacant, and the council of ministers and the assembly stand dissolved.</b> Once imposed, President's rule must be approved by Parliament within a period of two months.</p> <p><u>Safeguards after Bommai judgement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After the Bommai judgement the imposition of President's rule is subject to judicial review</li> <li>• The <b>Article 356 also empowers the President to</b></li> </ul>

		<p>dissolve the state legislature but after Bommai judgement the dissolution should not happen until Parliament approves the imposition of president's rule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently in Arunachal Pradesh the Supreme Court restored the dismissed state government after the new government had been sworn in.</li> </ul>
29	<p><b>Out of the following statements, choose the one that brings out the principle underlying the Cabinet form of Government:</b></p> <p>(a) An arrangement for minimizing the criticism against the Government whose responsibilities are complex and hard to carry out to the satisfaction of all.</p> <p>(b) A mechanism for speeding up the activities of the Government whose responsibilities are increasing day by day.</p> <p><b>(c) A mechanism of parliamentary democracy for ensuring collective responsibility of the Government to the people.</b></p> <p>(d) A device for strengthening the hands of the head of the Government whose hold over the people is in a state of decline.</p>	<p><b>A parliamentary form of government has</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A written Constitution</li> <li>2) Representation of People</li> <li>3) <b>Council of minister under direct control of the people</b></li> <li>4) A responsible government</li> <li>5) Fusion of legislature and executive</li> </ol> <p><i>Code</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 1, 2 and 4</li> <li>b) 2 and 4</li> <li>c) 1, 2, 3 and 5</li> <li>d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5</li> </ol> <p><b>Exp-</b> Parliamentary government can be there even without written constitution as is the case in Britain.</p> <p><b>In Parliamentary government the Council of Ministers is responsible to people but not directly but through their representatives in Lok Sabha</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>There is Parliamentary System of Government in India because:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Lok Sabha is elected directly by the people.</li> <li>(b) Parliament can amend the Constitution.</li> <li>(c) Rajya Sabha cannot be dissolved.</li> <li>(d) <b>Council of Ministers is responsible to the Lok Sabha.</b></li> </ol>
30	<p><b>Which one of the following is not a feature of Indian federalism?</b></p> <p>(a) There is an independent judiciary in India.</p> <p>(b) Powers have been clearly divided between the Centre and the States.</p> <p>(c) The federating units have been given unequal representation in the Rajya Sabha.</p> <p>(d) It is the result of an agreement among the federating units.</p>	<p><b>Consider the following</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Integrated election machinery</li> <li>2. Integrated Judiciary</li> <li>3. Independent Judiciary</li> <li>4. Bicameralism</li> <li>5. Rigid constitution</li> </ol> <p><i>Which of them constitute federal character of the Indian union?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 1, 2, 3 and 5</li> <li>(b) 2, 3 and 4</li> <li>(c) 3, 4 and 5</li> <li>(d) 2 only</li> </ol> <p><b>Explanation:</b></p>

		<p>7 Main Federal Features of the Indian Constitution</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Written Constitution:</i></li> <li>2. <i>Supremacy of the Constitution</i></li> <li>3. <i>Rigid Constitution</i></li> <li>4. <i>Division of Powers</i></li> <li>5. <i>Independent Judiciary</i></li> <li>6. <i>Bicameral Legislature</i></li> <li>7. <i>Dual Government Polity</i></li> </ol> <hr/> <p><b>Which one of the following is not a federal feature of Indian Constitution?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) A written and rigid Constitution</li> <li>(b) An independent judiciary</li> <li>(c) Single Citizenship</li> <li>(d) Distribution of powers between the centre and the states</li> </ol>
31	<p><b>The object of the Butler Committee of 1927 was to?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Define the jurisdiction of the Central and Provincial Governments.</li> <li>(b) Define the powers of the Secretary of State for India.</li> <li>(c) Impose censorship on national press.</li> <li><b>(d) Improve the relationship between the Government of India and the Indian States.</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>Sir Harcourt Butler Committee was appointed to</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>(a) Investigate the relations between the British Empire and the Indian States*</b></li> <li>(b) Suggest suitable provisions for protection of minorities</li> <li>(c) Ensure proportionate representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes</li> <li>(d) Find ways for integration of princely states</li> </ol> <p><b>Explanation:</b> The Indian states committee appointed a committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Harcourt Butler which was popularly known as ‘the Butler Committee’ to investigate and clarify the relationship between the paramount power and the Princes of Princely States in AD 1927. The committee visited 16 States and submitted its report in 1929.</p>
32	<p><b>Who among the following can join the National Pension System (NPS)?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Resident Indian citizens only</li> <li>(b) Persons of age from 21 to 55 only</li> <li>(c) All State Government employees joining the services after the date of notification by the respective State Governments</li> <li>(d) All Central Government employees including those of Armed Forces joining the services on or after 1st April, 2004</li> </ol>	<p><b>The National Pension System (NPS): Which of the following statements is INCORRECT?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Mandatory for all new recruits without any exception with effect from 2004*</li> <li>b. It has also been rolled out for all citizens with effect from 1st May, 2009 on a voluntary basis</li> <li>c. Provides various investment options and choices to individuals to switch over from one option to another or from one fund manager to another</li> <li>d. Not all state governments have notified NPS for their employees</li> </ol>

		<p><b>Exp- <u>All citizens of India between the age of 18 and 60 years as on the date of submission</u> of his / her application to Point of Presence (POP) / Point of Presence-Service Provider (POP-SP) can join NPS.</b></p> <p><b><u>The New Pension Scheme works on defined contribution basis and will have two tiers (Tier-I and II) Contribution to Tier-I is mandatory for all Government servants joining Government service on or after 1-1-2004 (except the armed forces in the first stage),</u> whereas Tier-II will be optional and at the discretion of Government servants.</b></p>
33	<p><b>Consider the following statements:</b></p> <p>1. In tropical regions, Zika virus disease is transmitted by the same mosquito that transmits dengue.</p> <p>2. Sexual transmission of Zika virus disease is possible.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p><b>Consider the following statements about Zika virus disease:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is caused by a virus transmitted by a Mosquito</li> <li>2. presently there is no vaccine available for Zika virus.</li> <li>3. Zika can be passed from a pregnant women To her foetus</li> </ol> <p><i>Which of the following statements given Above is/are correct?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 1 only</li> <li>b) 1and2 only</li> <li>c) 2and 3 only</li> <li>d) 1,2and 3*</li> </ol> <p><b>Explanation:</b> zika virus is a member of the virus family flaviviride . It is spread by daytime active Aedes mosquito, and its name come from the Zika forest of Uganda where the virus was fist isolated in 1947.</p> <p>As of 2016 the illness cannot be prevented by medicines or vaccines.</p> <p><b>Zika can spread through bodily fluids like semen, saliva etc. Zika can also spread from a pregnant women to her baby.</b></p> <p>This can result in microcephaly,severe brain malformations and other birth disease .</p> <hr/> <p><b>Consider the following statements regarding Zika virus:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The virus gets its name from the Zika forest in Kenya, Africa.</li> <li>2. <b>The virus is transmitted by the Aedes aegypti mosquito, which is also responsible for the spread of dengue and chikungunya.</b></li> <li>3. There is no medicine as yet to treat Zika.</li> </ol>

		<p><i>Which of the above statements are correct:</i></p> <p>(a) 1 and 3 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 3 only</p>
34	<p><b>Consider the following statements:</b></p> <p>1. The Standard Mark of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is mandatory for automotive tyres and tubes. 2. AGMARK is a quality Certification Mark issued by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).</p> <p>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</p>	<p><b>Which of the following agencies of Indian Government is engaged in <b>standardisation and grading of various agricultural products</b>?</b></p> <p>a. Food Corporation of India b. Directorate of Marketing and Inspection* c. Bureau of Indian Standards d. Central Statistical Organisation</p> <p><b>Exp-</b> The Directorate of the Marketing &amp; Inspection, Government of India acts as a Certifying Agency in order to Certify the product conformity. AGMARK is the mark employed on the agricultural products for assurance of the quality of the product</p>
35	<p><b>What is/are the advantage/advantages of implementing the 'National Agriculture Market' scheme?</b></p> <p>1. It is a pan-India electronic trading portal for agricultural commodities. 2. It provides the farmers access to nationwide market, with prices commensurate with the quality of their produce.</p> <p>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</p>	<p><b>With reference to the National Agricultural Market (NAM), consider the following statements:</b></p> <p>1. It aims to create a pan-India electronic trading portal for agricultural commodities. 2. It will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF).</p> <p><i>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</i> (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2* (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Statement 1 is correct. The National Agriculture Market (NAM) is envisaged as a pan-India electronic trading portal which seeks to network the existing Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) and other market yards to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities to allow farmers access markets all over India and improve their incomes. NAM is a "virtual" market but it has a physical market (mandi) at the back end. E NAM was announced during the Union Budget 2014-15</p>



		<p>and is proposed to be achieved through the setting up of a common e-platform to which initially 585 APMCs selected by the states are linked. NAM was launched on 14 April 2016 with 21 mandis from 8 States joining it.</p> <p>Statement 2 is correct. NAM will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF). The Department of Agriculture &amp; Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture will set it up through the Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC). The Central Government will provide the software free of cost to the states and in addition, a grant of up to Rs. 30 lakhs per mandi /market will be given as a onetime measure for related equipment and infrastructure requirements. In order to promote genuine price discovery, it is proposed to provide the private mandis also with access to the software but they would not have any monetary support from Government.</p>
36	<p><b>Which of the following statements is/are true of the Fundamental Duties of an Indian citizen?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A legislative process has been provided to enforce these duties.</li> <li>2. They are correlative to legal duties.</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 1 only</li> <li>(b) 2 only</li> <li>(c) Both 1 and 2</li> <li>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</li> </ol>	<p><b>Which of the following statement/s about the Fundamental Duties mentioned in Part IVA (Article 51A) of the constitution is/are incorrect?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Fundamental Duties were introduced through the 42nd amendment on the recommendations of Swaran Singh Committee.</li> <li>2. The Government may provide for imposition of such penalty or punishment as may be considered appropriate for any refusal to observe any of the Fundamental Duties.</li> <li>3. Recently by the 86th amendment, the duty to pay taxes and to cast vote were added to the list of Fundamental Duties.</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using codes given below</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 1 and 2 only</li> <li>(b) 1 and 3 only</li> <li>(c) 2 and 3 only</li> <li>(d) All of the above</li> </ol>
37	<p><b>Consider the following pairs:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Radhakanta Deb — First President of the British Indian Association</li> <li>2. Gazulu Lakshminarasu Chetty — Founder of the Madras Mahajana Sabha</li> </ol>	<p><b>The Indian Association and National Conference both were founded by-</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Surendranath Bannerjee</li> <li>b) Ananda Mohana Bose</li> <li>c) Both (a) and (b)*</li> <li>d) Sisir kumar Ghosh</li> </ol>

	<p>3. <b>Surendranath Banerjee — Founder of the Indian Association</b></p> <p>Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p><b>Explanation:</b> The <b>Indian National Association</b> also known as <b>Indian Association</b> was the first avowed nationalist organization founded in <u>British India</u> by <u>Surendranath Banerjee</u> and <u>Ananda Mohan Bose</u> in 1876. The objectives of this Association were "promoting by every legitimate means the political, intellectual and material advancement of the people". The Association attracted educated Indians and civic leaders from all parts of the country, and became an important forum for India's aspirations for independence. It later merged with the Indian National Congress.</p>
38	<p><b>The main advantage of the parliamentary form of government is that</b></p> <p>(a) the executive and legislature work independently. (b) it provides continuity of policy and is more efficient. <b>(c) the executive remains responsible to the legislature.</b> (d) the head of the government cannot be changed without election.</p>	<p><b>There is Parliamentary System of Government in India because:</b></p> <p>(a) Lok Sabha is elected directly by the people. (b) Parliament can amend the Constitution. (c) Rajya Sabha cannot be dissolved. <b>(d) Council of Ministers is responsible to the Lok Sabha.</b></p>
39	<p><b>The mind of the makers of the Constitution of India is reflected in which of the following?</b></p> <p><b>(a) The Preamble</b> (b) The Fundamental Rights (c) The Directive Principles of State Policy (d) The Fundamental Duties</p>	<p><b>Which of the following emerges clearly from the Preamble?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) When the Constitution was enacted</li> <li>2) <b>The ideals that were to be achieved</b></li> <li>3) The system of Government</li> <li>4) The source of authority</li> <li>5) The independence of Judiciary</li> </ol> <p><i>Code</i></p> <p>a) 2, 3 and 4 b) 1, 2 and 5 c) 1, 2,3 and 4* d) 1,2, 3, 4 and 5</p> <p><b>Exp-</b> Preamble gives the date of its enactment <b>It also highlights the vision of the freedom struggle and the members of Constituent Assembly</b> It proclaims India a Democratic Republican form of government</p>

		It also highlights people as the sovereign authority behind the constitution But it does not talk about independent judiciary
40	<p><b>The Parliament of India exercises control over the functions of the Council of Ministers through</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adjournment motion</li> <li>2. Question hour</li> <li>3. Supplementary questions</li> </ol> <p><b>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 1 only</li> <li>(b) 2 and 3 only</li> <li>(c) 1 and 3 only</li> <li>(d) 1, 2 and 3</li> </ol>	<p><b>Assertion (A): The Council of Ministers in the Union of India is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.</b></p> <p><b>Reason (R): The member of both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha are eligible to be the Ministers of the Union Government.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) If A and R both are true, and R is the correct explanation for A</li> <li>b) If A and R both are true, and R is the NOT the correct explanation for A</li> <li>c) If A is correct, R is incorrect</li> <li>d) If A is incorrect and R is correct</li> </ol> <p><b>Exp-</b> A person can be a minister even without being a member of Parliament</p> <p>Collective responsibility is enforced not through ministerial posts but through questions, motions like no confidence, adjournment etc., scrutiny of public expenditure by committees etc.</p>
41	<p><b>With reference to the difference between the culture of Rigvedic Aryans and Indus Valley people, which of the following statements is/are correct?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rigvedic Aryans used the coat of mail and helmet in warfare whereas the people of Indus Valley Civilization did not leave any evidence of using them.</li> <li>2. Rigvedic Aryans knew gold, silver and copper whereas Indus Valley people knew only copper and iron.</li> <li>3. Rigvedic Aryans had domesticated the horse whereas there is no evidence of Indus Valley people having been aware of this animal.</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 1 only</li> <li>(b) 2 and 3 only</li> <li>(c) 1 and 3 only</li> </ol>	<p><b>Which of the following characterizes/ characterize the people of Indus Civilization?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. They possessed great palaces and temples.</li> <li>2. They worshipped both male and female deities.</li> <li>3. They employed horse-drawn chariots in warfare.</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct statement/ statements using the codes given below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 1 and 2 only</li> <li>(b) 2 only*</li> <li>(e) 1, 2 and 3</li> <li>(d) None of the statements given above is correct</li> </ol> <p><b>Explanation:</b></p> <p>The religious life of people in Indus Valley Civilization is characterized by worship of Mother Goddess (by common masses) and Pashupati Shiva (by elite classes). There is no evidence of great palaces and temples. Also there is no idol worship but sculpture worship. (Note: Idol worship started</p>

	(d) 1, 2 and 3	from Buddhism.)  There is no use of horses. In fact Aryans introduced horses (Oranger horse). (Note: In Surkotda, an Indus valley site, there is only a superficial evidence of Horse.)
42	<p><b>Which principle among the following was added to the Directive Principles of State Policy by the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution?</b></p> <p>(a) Equal pay for equal work for both men and women (b) Participation of workers in the management of industries (c) Right to work, education and public assistance (d) Securing living wage and human conditions of work to workers</p>	<p><b>Which of the following were added to the Constitution by 42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976</b></p> <p>1) Article 43B to promote voluntary formation of co-operative societies. 2) Article 39A enjoin the State to provide free legal aid to the poor and to take suitable steps to ensure equal justice to all. 3) Article 45 making provision for early childhood care and education... 4) Article 43A to ensure the participation of workers in the management of industry.</p> <p>Code</p> <p>a) 1 and 4* b) 2 and 4 c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 2 and 3</p>
43	<p><b>Which of the following gives 'Global Gender Ib Gap Index' ranking to the countries of the world?</b></p> <p>(a) World Economic Forum (b) UN Human Rights Council (c) UN Women (d) World Health Organization</p>	<p><b>Global gender gap index is released by:</b></p> <p>(a) WEF (b) WTO (c) UN (d) World Bank</p>
44	<p><b>Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?</b></p> <p>1. It decides the RBI's benchmark interest rates. 2. It is a 12-member body including the Governor of RBI and is reconstituted every year. 3. It functions under the chairmanship of</p>	<p><b>Finance Ministry notified the provisions of the amended Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. To set up Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), consider the following statements regarding this:</b></p> <p>1. It is a six member panel and all members will have one vote. 2. Governor has the veto power in this committee 3. The MPC will decide the benchmark interest rates, which have so far been decided by the RBI governor</p>

	<p><b>the Union Finance Minister.</b></p> <p><b>Select the correct answer using the code given below :</b></p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 3 only (d) 2 and 3 only</p>	<p><i>Which of the above statements are correct?</i></p> <p>(a) 1 and 3 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p> <p><b>Exp-</b> The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a committee of the Central Bank in India (Reserve Bank of India), <b>headed by its Governor</b>, which is entrusted with the task of <b>fixing the benchmark policy interest rate (repo rate)</b> to contain inflation within the specified target level. <b>The MPC is a six-member committee</b>, of which three members are from the RBI, and the other three are appointed by the Central government. In case there is a tie of votes in the six-member committee's decision, then the RBI governor, will have the final power to take the decision. In that sense, while the MPC seeks to ensure that the decision making is more balanced, in case of a tie, the governor still has the veto right.</p>
45	<p><b>With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements:</b></p> <p>1. It is a song and dance performance. 2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance. 3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.</p> <p><b>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</b></p> <p>(a) 1, 2 and 3. (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1 only</p>	<p><b>Consider the following list:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chhau dance</li> <li>Buddhist chanting of Ladakh</li> <li><b>Sankirtana of Manipur</b></li> <li>Thatheras of Jandiala Guru</li> <li>Vedanga Jyotisha or Vedic Astronomy</li> <li>Wooden handicrafts of Channapatna</li> </ol> <p><i>Which Indian elements from the above list have been inscribed by UNESCO in its 'List of Intangible Cultural Heritage'?</i></p> <p>(a) 1, 2, 3 and 4* (b) 1, 3, 4 and 5 (c) 2, 3, 4 and 6 (d) 1, 2, 4 and 6</p> <p><b>Exp-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chhau, is a semi classical Indian dance with martial, tribal and folk origins. With origins in the eastern Indian states of Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal.</li> <li>In the monasteries and villages of the Ladakh region, Buddhist lamas (priests) chant sacred texts representing</li> </ul>

		<p>the spirit, philosophy and teachings of the Buddha. Chanting is undertaken for the spiritual and moral well-being of the people, for purification and peace of mind, to appease the wrath of evil spirits or to invoke the blessing of various Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, deities and rinpoches. The chanting is performed in groups, either sitting indoors or accompanied by dance in monastery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sankirtana encompasses an array of arts performed to mark religious occasions and various stages in the life of the Vaishnava people of the Manipur plains. Sankirtana practices centre on the temple, where performers narrate the <b>lives and deeds of Krishna through song and dance. In a typical performance, two drummers and about ten singer-dancers perform in a hall or domestic courtyard encircled by seated devotees.</b></li> <li>• The craft of the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru constitutes the traditional technique of manufacturing brass and copper utensils in Punjab. The metals used – copper, brass and certain alloys – are believed to be beneficial for health. The process begins with procuring cooled cakes of metal that are flattened into thin plates and then hammered into curved shapes, creating the required small bowls, rimmed plates, to larger pots for water and milk, huge cooking vessels and other artefacts.</li> </ul>
46	<p><b>Who among the following was/were associated with the introduction of <b>Ryotwari Settlement in India during the British rule?</b></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lord Cornwallis</li> <li>2. Alexander Read</li> <li>3. Thomas Munro</li> </ol> <p><b>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 1 only</li> <li>(b) 1 and 3 only</li> <li>(c) 2 and 3 only</li> <li>(d) 1, 2 and 3</li> </ol>	<p><b>Consider the following statements about land revenue system of British in India.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The permanent settlement system introduced in Bengal fixed land revenue permanently.</li> <li>2. In Ryotwari system the land revenue was revised after every 30 years.</li> <li>3. In both Permanent Settlement and Ryotwari, Zamindars collected tax on behalf of British govt.</li> </ol> <p><i>Select the correct code:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 1 only</li> <li>(b) 2 and 3 only</li> <li>(c) 1 and 2 only</li> <li>(d) All of the above</li> </ol> <p><b>Explanation:</b> <b>Permanent Settlement was introduced by Lord Cornwallis in the year 1795 and in only Permanent</b></p>

		<p>Settlement, Zamindars collected tax on behalf of British govt.</p> <p>The Ryotwari system, instituted in some parts of India in the year 1820 by Sir Thomas Munro and Alexander Reed , was one of the main systems used to collect revenues from the cultivators of agricultural land. These revenues included undifferentiated land taxes and rents, collected simultaneously. Where the land revenue was imposed directly on the (the individual cultivators who actually worked the land)—the system of assessment was known as ryotwari.</p> <p>Where the land revenue was imposed indirectly—through agreements made with Zamindars—these system of assessment was known as zamindari. In Bombay, Madras, Assam and Burma the Zamindar usually did not have a position as a middleman between the government and the farmer.</p>
47	<p><b>In the context of solving pollution problems, what is/are the advantage/advantages of bioremediation technique?</b></p> <p>1. It is a technique for cleaning up pollution by enhancing the same biodegradation process that occurs in nature.</p> <p>2. Any contaminant with heavy metals such as cadmium and lead can be readily and completely treated by bioremediation using microorganisms.</p> <p>3. Genetic engineering can be used to create microorganisms specifically designed for bioremediation.</p> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p><b>Consider the following statements about oil spills and identify the incorrect one</b></p> <p>a) The recent Oil spill near Ennore port was the first case of Oil spill in Indian waters.*</p> <p>b) <b>Oil-zapper and Oilivorous – S are bacteria that are used as bioremediation tools against oil spills.</b></p> <p>c) Oil spills affect the marine as well as coastal areas.</p> <p>d) India is signatory to ‘International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution, 1969’</p> <p><b>Exp-</b> India has had several cases of Oil spill in the past too like 2010 Mumbai Oil Spill.</p> <p><b>Oil-zapper and Oilivorous-S are genetically designed bacteria that can be used as bioremediation tools for cleaning Oil Spills.</b></p> <p>Oil affects marine areas and Coastal areas both (Chocolate Mousse at coastline when oil mixes with sand)</p> <p>India is a signatory to ‘International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution, 1969’</p>
48	<b>The Trade Disputes Act of 1929 provided</b>	<b>Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt of HSRA threw</b>

	<p><b>for</b></p> <p>(a) the participation of workers in the management of industries.          (b) arbitrary powers to the management to quell industrial disputes.          (c) an intervention by the British Court in the event of a trade dispute.          (d) a system of tribunals and a ban on strikes.</p>	<p><b>harmless bombs in the Central legislative assembly to protest against:</b></p> <p>(a) <b>Public Safety Bill and Trade Dispute Act*</b>          (b) Against exploitative character of British rule          (c) For killing of Lala Lajpat Rai          (d) Against 1919 Act</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Public safety bill: Mainly to stop Communist movement in India by cutting it off from British &amp; foreign communist organizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trade dispute bill: jail and fine for striking workers and trade unions.</b></li> </ul>
49	<p><b>Local self-government can be best explained as an exercise in</b></p> <p>(a) Federalism  <b>(b) Democratic decentralisation</b>          (c) Administrative delegation          (d) Direct democracy</p>	<p><b>44. Consider the following statements regarding Balwant Rai Mehta:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. He served as Chief Minister of Gujarat</li> <li>2. He was president of Servants of People Society</li> <li>3. He also led All India States People Conference.</li> </ol> <p><b>Which of the above statement is/are correct?</b></p> <p>(a) 1 only          (b) 1 and 2          (c) 1,2 and 3*          (d) 2 and 3</p> <p><b>Explanation: Balwantraji Mehta</b> (19 February 1900 – 19 September 1965) was an Indian politician who served as the second <u>Chief Minister</u> of <u>Gujarat</u> state, <u>India</u>. He participated in Indian independence movement and later hold various public offices. <b>He is considered as the 'Architect of Panchayati Raj' due to his contributions towards democratic decentralisation.</b></p>
50	<p><b>Consider the following statements:</b></p> <p>With reference to the Constitution of India, the Directive Principles of State Policy constitute limitations upon</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. legislative function.</li> <li>2. executive function.</li> </ol> <p><i>Which of the above statements is/are correct?</i></p> <p>(a) 1 only          (b) 2 only</p>	<p><b>Choose the correct statement</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The purpose of including Directive Principles of State Policy to provide best opportunities for development.</li> <li>2) The purpose of including Directive Principles of State Policy to establish a welfare state.</li> <li>3) Directive principles are in the nature of request to the Government to pay attention to certain subjects.</li> <li>4) <b>Directive principles are in the nature of instructions to the Government to do certain things.</b></li> </ol> <p><b>Code:</b></p> <p>a) 1 and 3</p>



	<p>(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>b) 1 and 2 c) 2 and 3 d) 2 and 4</p>
51	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>1. In the election for Lok Sabha or State Assembly, the winning candidate must get at least 50 percent of the votes polled, to be declared elected.</p> <p>2. According to the provisions laid down in the Constitution of India, in Lok Sabha, the Speaker's post goes to the majority party and the Deputy Speaker's to the Opposition.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Who elects speaker of Lok-Sabha:</p> <p>(a) President (b) Vice-President (c) Member of Lok-Sabha from among themselves* (d) Members of Rajya-Sabha</p> <p><b>Exp-</b> The speaker is elected by the members of the Parliament from amongst themselves only. Over the years a healthy convention has evolved in the Indian Parliament as per which the speaker is elected from the ruling party while the Deputy Speaker is elected from the main opposition party.</p>
52	<p><b>With reference to the 'Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988 (PBPT Act)', consider the following statements:</b></p> <p>1. A property transaction is not treated as a benami transaction if the owner of the property is not aware of the transaction. 2. Properties held benami are liable for confiscation by the Government. 3. The Act provides for three authorities for investigations but does not provide for any appellate mechanism. Which of the statements .given above is/are correct?</p>	<p><b>Consider the following statements about Benami Transactions (prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016</b></p> <p>1. The main aim of the amendment is to curb the money laundering process involved in the real estate market. 2. As per the amendment Properties held benami are liable for confiscation by the Government without payment of compensation 3. The amendment prohibits recovery of the property held benami from benamidar by the real owner</p> <p><i>Select the correct answer using codes given below</i></p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only</p>

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

- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) All of the above\*

**Explanation:** The Benami Transactions (Prohibition)

Amendment Bill, 2015 was introduced in Lok Sabha on May 13, 2015 by the Minister of Finance Mr. Arun Jaitley. The Bill seeks to amend the Benami Transactions Act, 1988. **The Act prohibits benami transactions and provides for confiscating benami properties.**

The Bill seeks to: (i) amend the definition of benami transactions, (ii) establish adjudicating authorities and an Appellate Tribunal to deal with benami transactions, and (iii) specify the penalty for entering into benami transactions.

**The Act defines a benami transaction as a transaction where a property is held by or transferred to a person, but has been provided for or paid by another person. The Bill amends this definition to add other transactions which qualify as benami, such as property transactions where: (i) the transaction is made in a fictitious name, (ii) the owner is not aware of denies knowledge of the ownership of the property, or (iii) the person providing the consideration for the property is not traceable.**

The Bill also specifies certain cases will be exempt from the definition of a benami transaction. These include cases when a property is held by: (i) a member of a Hindu undivided family, and is being held for his or another family member's benefit, and has been provided for or paid off from sources of income of that family; (ii) a person in a fiduciary capacity; (iii) a person in the name of his spouse or child, and the property has been paid for from the person's income; and

The Bill defines benamidar as the person in whose name the benami property is held or transferred, and a beneficial owner as the person for whose benefit the property is being held by the benamidar.

**Under the Act, an Authority to acquire benami properties was to be established by the Rules. The Bill seeks to establish four authorities to conduct inquiries or investigations regarding benami transactions: (i)**

		<p><b>Initiating Officer, (ii) Approving Authority, (iii) Administrator and (iv) Adjudicating Authority.</b></p> <p>If an Initiating Officer believes that a person is a benamidar, he may issue a notice to that person. The Initiating Officer may hold the property for 90 days from the date of issue of the notice, subject to permission from the Approving Authority. At the end of the notice period, the Initiating Officer may pass an order to continue the holding of the property.</p> <p>If an order is passed to continue holding the property, the Initiating Officer will refer the case to the Adjudicating Authority. The Adjudicating Authority will examine all documents and evidence relating to the matter and then pass an order on whether or not to hold the property as benami.</p> <p>Based on an order to confiscate the benami property, the Administrator will receive and manage the property in a manner and subject to conditions as prescribed.</p> <p><b>The Bill also seeks to establish an Appellate Tribunal to hear appeals against any orders passed by the Adjudicating Authority.</b> Appeals against orders of the Appellate Tribunal will lie to the high court.</p> <p>Under the Act, the penalty for entering into benami transactions is imprisonment up to three years, or a fine, or both. The Bill seeks to change this penalty to rigorous imprisonment of one year up to seven years, and a fine which may extend to 25% of the fair market value of the benami property.</p>
53	<p><b>It is possible to produce algae based biofuels, but what is/are the likely limitation(s) of developing countries in promoting this industry?</b></p> <p>1. Production of algae based biofuels is possible in seas only and not on continents.</p> <p>2. Setting up and engineering the algae based biofuel production <b>requires high level of expertise/technology until the construction is completed.</b></p>	<p><b>Which of the following statement correctly describes second generation bio-fuels?</b></p> <p>(a) These are the bio-fuels which are directly produced from food crops i.e. starch, sugar, animal fats, and vegetable oil</p> <p>(b) They are <b>mostly made up of specially engineered energy crops such as algae as its energy source.</b></p> <p>(c) The second generation bio-fuels are manufactured from various types of biomass and non-food crops*</p> <p>(d) None of the above is correct</p>

	<p>3. Economically viable production necessitates the setting up of large scale facilities which may raise ecological and social concerns.</p> <p><b>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</b></p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p><b>Explanation:</b> First Generation Biofuel-The biofuels which are directly produced from food crops i.e. starch, sugar, animal fats, and vegetable oil</p> <p>Second Generation Biofuel-They are also known as advanced biofuels which are manufactured from various types of biomass and non-food crops.(Biomass is a wide-ranging term meaning any source of organic carbon that is renewed rapidly as part of the carbon cycle)</p> <p>Third Generation Biofuel-They are mostly made up of specially engineered energy crops such as algae as its energy source. The algae are cultured to act as a low-cost, high-energy and entirely renewable feedstock.</p> <p>Fourth Generation Biofuel-They are aimed at producing sustainable energy but also on way of capturing and storing CO<sub>2</sub>.This process differs from second and third generation production as at all stages of production the carbon dioxide is captured using processes such as oxy-fuel combustion.</p> <p>2nd Generation biofuels have been developed to overcome the limitations of first generation biofuels.</p> <p>As 2nd generation are produced from non-food crops such as wood, organic waste, food crop waste and specific biomass crops, therefore eliminating the main problem with first generation biofuels i.e. consumption of food resources. They aimed at being more cost competitive in relation to existing fossil fuels.</p> <p>But they still consume land resources so we are moving beyond them to third generation fuels. <b><u>But third generation fuels have problems also like lack of high end technology and resources for engineering such Algae.</u></b></p> <p>India's first 'Second Generation Bio-fuel Refinery' is to be set up in Bathinda, Punjab.</p>
54	<p><b>Consider the following statements:</b></p> <p>1. The Factories Act, 1881 was passed with a view to fix the wages of industrial workers and to allow the workers to form trade unions.</p> <p>2. N.M. Lokhande was a pioneer in organizing the labour movement in British India.</p> <p>Which of the above statements is/are correct?</p>	<p><b>Consider the following statements in the context of the working class movement:</b></p> <p>1. The Indian nationalists played an important role in supporting the cause of the workers from the very beginning of the national movement.</p> <p>2. A philanthropist, Narayan Meghaji Lokhande brought out an Anglo-Maratha weekly called Deen BAndhu from Bombay.</p> <p>3. All India Trade Union Congress(AITUC) was established as an apex body to address the concerns of workers at Bombay in 1920.</p>

	<p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>4. B.G.Tilak was the first president of AITUC. <i>Which of the above statements are correct:</i> (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 2 and 3* (c) 2 and 4 (d) 2,3 and 4</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> <b>Narayan Meghaji Lokhande</b> was a pioneer of the labour movement in India. He is remembered not only for ameliorating the working conditions of textile mill-hands in the 19th century but also for his courageous initiatives on caste and communal issues. The Government of India issued a post stamp with his photo in 2005.</p> <p>Narayan Meghaji Lokhande was a prominent colleague of Mahatma <u>Jyotirao Phule</u>. Lokhande is acclaimed as the Father of the Trade Union Movement in India.</p> <p>Along with Lokhande, Jyotirao also addressed the meetings of the textile workers in Bombay. It is significant that before Jotirao and his colleagues Bhalekar and Lokhande tried to organise the peasants and the workers, no such attempt was made by any organisation to redress their grievances. Mahatma Phule started the first Indian Workers organization – 'Bombay Mill Hands Association', with the help of Shri. Narayan Meghaji Lokhande.</p>
55	<p><b>In the context of mitigating the impending global warming due to anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide, which of the following can be the potential sites for carbon sequestration?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Abandoned and uneconomic coal seams</li> <li>2. Depleted oil and gas reservoirs</li> <li>3. Subterranean deep saline formations</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below: (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p><b>With reference to Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), consider the following statements:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is a type of carbon sequestration.</li> <li>2. It can be used in increasing the life of existing oil fields.</li> </ol> <p><i>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</i> (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Carbon capture and storage (CCS) (or carbon capture and sequestration) is the process of capturing waste carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from large point sources, such as fossil fuel power plants, transporting it to a storage site, and depositing it where it will not enter the atmosphere, normally an underground geological formation like deep rock stratas, abandoned coal seams, water bodies, empty oil wells etc.</p> <p>The aim is to prevent the release of large quantities of CO<sub>2</sub></p>

into the atmosphere (from fossil fuel use in power generation and other industries). It is a potential means of mitigating the contribution of fossil fuel emissions to global warming and ocean acidification.

Although CO<sub>2</sub> has been injected into geological formations for several decades for various purposes, including enhanced oil recovery, the long term storage of CO<sub>2</sub> is a relatively new concept.

The first commercial example was the Weyburn-Midale Carbon Dioxide Project in 2000. Other examples include SaskPower's Boundary Dam and Mississippi Power's Kemper Project. 'CCS' can also be used to describe the scrubbing of CO<sub>2</sub> from ambient air as a climate engineering technique.

**The term Carbfix refers to:**

1. A carbon sequestration technique that converts CO<sub>2</sub> into stone.
2. A health therapy that makes the heart pump blood at a faster rate.

*Choose the correct statement:*

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both
- (d) None

**Explanation:** • Till now carbon capture and sequester, or CCS, was seen as a potentially significant way to combat climate change. The idea is that storing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions underground would prevent the greenhouse gas from entering the atmosphere. **Most experiments involve pumping CO<sub>2</sub> into sandstone or deep aquifers, though there are concerns that the gas could eventually escape and reenter the atmosphere — whether through human error or seismic activity.**

- Experiment of converting Co<sub>2</sub> into stone is called Carbfix. In this experiment, Co<sub>2</sub> was injected into a deep well in Iceland.

- As a volcanic island, Iceland is made up of 90 per cent basalt, a rock rich in elements such as calcium, magnesium and iron that are required for carbon mineralisation. The CO<sub>2</sub> is dissolved in water and carried down the well. On contact with the target storage rocks, at 400-800 metres under the ground, the solution quickly reacts with the surrounding basaltic rock, forming carbonate minerals.

		<p><b>Consider the carbon sequestration techniques:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hydrodynamic trapping</li> <li>2. Solubility trapping</li> <li>3. Mineral carbonation</li> </ol> <p><i>Which of the following types of carbon sequestration does the techniques attach themselves to?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Oceanic Sequestration</li> <li>B. Geological Sequestration</li> <li>C. Terrestrial Sequestration</li> <li>D. Both B and C</li> </ol> <p><b>Answer: B</b></p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Hydrodynamic trapping, solubility trapping and mineral carbonation are types of geological sequestration. Hence, answer is B.</p>
56	<p><b>Recently there was a proposal to translocate some of the lions from their natural habitat in Gujarat to which one of the following sites ?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Corbett National Park</li> <li>(b) Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary</li> <li>(c) Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary</li> <li>(d) Sariska National Park</li> </ol>	<p><b>There have been proposals to shift some of the Lions of Gir National park to other locations within India. What could be the possible reasons behind this?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Gir forest has Lions beyond its sustaining capacity and this is leading to increased man-animal conflict.</li> <li>2. The move will improve the survival chances of the Lions by redistributing them to diverse locations.</li> </ol> <p><i>Select the correct answer using the codes given below</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 1 only</li> <li>b) 2 only</li> <li>c) Both are correct*</li> <li>d) Neither is correct</li> </ol> <p><b>Explanation:</b> The Gir forest now has 523 lions and it is beyond the sustainable capacity of the forest. This is leading to man-animal conflict in the region with the Maldhari community. <b>Hence there is plan to shift some lions to Kuno in Madhya Pradesh. (the plan to introduce Cheetah is also in Kuno)</b></p> <p>A species has more chances of survival against threats like diseases, poaching etc. if it is dispersed over wider geographical location.</p>