

Simulator Test - X : Solution

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Q.1)

Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) -2 only, is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Independent judiciary is considered to be a core of federal feature whereas integrated judiciary is a core feature of unitary type of government. Hence, independent and integrated judiciary as envisaged in the Indian Constitution doesn't satisfy the core feature of federalism.

Statement 2 is correct. The Supreme Court has been conferred with power to direct transfer of any civil or criminal case from one State High Court to another State High Court or from a Court subordinate to another State High Court. The Supreme Court, if satisfied that cases involving the same or substantially the same questions of law are pending before it and one or more High Courts or before two or more High Courts and that such questions are substantial questions of general importance, may withdraw a case or cases pending before the High Court or High Courts and dispose of all such cases itself.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Special leave Petition can be presented under the following circumstances:

- It can be filed against any judgment or decree or order of any high court /tribunal in the territory of India, or
- It can be filed in case a high court refuses to grant the certificate of fitness for appeal to the Supreme Court of India.

Source) <u>http://www.theindianlawyer.in/blog/2016/09/09/special-leave-petition/</u> <u>https://www.sci.gov.in/jurisdiction</u> Subject) Polity

Q.2)

Ans) c

Exp) Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (b) is correct. The Committee consists of 22 Members, 15 Members are elected by Lok Sabha and 7 Members of the Rajya Sabha are associated with it.

Option (c) is incorrect. The minister in Government of India cannot be a member of Public Accounts Committee and hence cannot be a chairman. In current PAC, Mallikarjun Karge (leader of opposition) is the chairman of the PAC.

Option (d) is correct. The Committee on Public Accounts scrutinizes the Appropriation Accounts of the Government of India and the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The Committee can examine accounts showing the appropriation of sums granted by Parliament for expenditure of Government of India, the annual Finance Accounts of Government of India, and such other accounts laid before Parliament as the Committee may deem fit such as accounts of autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies (except those of Public Undertakings and Government Companies which come under the purview of the Committee on Public Undertakings).

Source)

http://164.100.47.194/loksabha/writereaddata/RTI/righttoinformationact/publicaccount scommitte.htm Subject) Polity

Q.3) Ans) a

Exp) Option (a) -1, 2 and 3 are correct.

Statement 1 is correct.

- Tagore was a recipient of the Nobel Prize in literature, which was awarded by the Swedish Academy in 1913.
- The award that he renounced, as a mark of protest against the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar in 1919, was the knighthood bestowed upon him by the British.

Statement 2 is correct.

- Gandhi returned the Kaiser-i-Hind Gold medal given to him for his work during the Boer war.
- The Kaisar-i-Hind Medal for Public Service in India was a medal awarded by the Emperor/Empress of India between 1900 and 1947, to "any person without distinction of race, occupation, position, or sex ... who shall have distinguished himself (or herself) by important and useful service in the advancement of the public interest in India.

Statement 3 is correct.

- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre was followed by establishment of a non-official enquiry committee was Congress. The British Government did not initiate such inquiry till Congress had set up such committee.
- Later, the Government established a committee headed by Lord Hunter a Senator of the "College of justice of Scotland". This committee had 7 members viz. 4 British and 3 Indians.
- The Indian Members were in this committee included Sir Chimanlal Setalvad, Pandit Jagat Narayan and Sardar Sultan Ahmed Khan.

Statement 4 is incorrect.

- Rowlatt Acts(February 2019) were passed before the Jallianwala Bagh massacre(April 2019).
- Rowlatt Acts, (February 1919), legislation passed by the Imperial Legislative Council, the legislature of British India. The acts allowed certain political cases to be tried without juries and permitted internment of suspects without trial. Their object was to replace the repressive provisions of the wartime Defence of India Act (1915) by a permanent law.

Subject) Modern History

Q.4)

Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) - Caspian Sea, is the correct answer.

- Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland body of water.
- It is an endorheic basin (a basin without outflows) located between Europe and Asia, to the east of the Caucasus Mountains and to the west of the broad steppe of Central Asia. The sea is bordered in the northeast by Kazakhstan, in the southeast by Turkmenistan, in the south by Iran, in the southwest by Azerbaijan, and in the northwest by Russia.
- In August 2018 the five Caspian Sea states reached a breakthrough agreement on sovereign rights to the sea, paving the way for new oil and gas extraction -- and pipelines -- after more than two decades of disputes.

- The <u>treaty ends a spat over whether the Caspian is a sea or a lake, granting it special</u> <u>legal status</u> and clarifying the maritime boundaries of each surrounding country.
- It also allows each to lay pipelines offshore with consent only from the neighboring states affected, rather than from all Caspian Sea nations.
- It states that the development of seabed reserves will be regulated by separate deals between Caspian nations, in line with international law.

 Source)
 https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-08-12/caspian-sea

 breakthrough-treaty-set-to-boost-oil-pipeline-plans

 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caspian_Sea

 Subject)
 Geography

Q.5)

Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) - All of the above, is the correct answer.

Option (a) is correct. Jainism is a much more ancient religion as compared to Buddhism. According to Jaina traditions it had twenty-four Tirthankaras and Mahavira was the last of them. That is why, while Mahavira has been regarded as a reformer of an already existing religion, the Buddha has been regarded as the originator of a new one.

Option (b) is correct. The Jaina concept of soul is different from that of Buddhism. Jainism believes that everything in nature, even stone and water, has a soul of its own. Buddhism does not believe so. According to the anatta doctrine of Buddhism, at the core of all human beings and living creatures, there is no "eternal, essential and absolute something called a soul, self or atman". Buddhism, from its earliest days, has denied the existence of the "self, soul" in its core philosophical and ontological texts

Option (c) is correct. Jainism advised practice of strict asceticism to attain salvation while Buddhism advised its Upasakas to follow the middle path or Tathagata marg.

Subject) Ancient History

Q.6)

Ans) c

Exp) Option (c) -1 and 3 only, is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Project Sashakt is a five-pronged strategy to resolve bad loans, with the larger ones going to an Asset Management Company (AMC) or an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF). It was proposed by a panel led by PNB chairman Sunil Mehta.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Bad loans of up to ₹ 50 crore will be managed at the bank level, with a deadline of 90 days. For bad loans of ₹ 50-500 crore, banks will enter an Inter Creditor Agreement (ICA), authorizing the lead bank to implement a resolution plan in 180 days, or refer the asset to National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

Statement 3 is correct. For loans above ₹ 500 crore, the panel recom-mended an independent AMC, supported by institutional funding through the AIF. The idea is to help consolidate stressed assets. The banks will have to set up an AMC under which there will be multiple sector-specific AIFs. These funds will invest in the stressed assets bought by existing ARCs, such as ARCIL. The ARCs will use the funds to redeem security receipts issued to

banks against the bad loans. Other AMC-AIFs and ARCs will be allowed to bid for these assets, and match the pricing offered by ARCIL or the national AMC. The AMC will be responsible for the operational turnaround of the asset. The ARC after buying the asset from lenders will transfer ownership to the AIF. The new owner, the AMC-AIF, will hold a stake of at least 76%.

Source) <u>https://www.livemint.com/Industry/xx5DASBD0xB9fgEPzKGwUO/Mint-Primer-What-is-Project-Sashakt-and-how-it-will-work.html</u> Subject) Economics

Q.7)

Ans) a

Exp) Option (a) -1, 2 and 3 only, is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. The great Indian Bustard (Ardeotis nigriceps) is a bustard found on the Indian subcontinent. Once common on the dry plains of the Indian subcontinent, as few as 150 individuals were estimated to survive in 2018 (reduced from an estimated 250 individuals in 2011). The species is Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection)Act, 1972, in the CMS Convention and in Appendix I of CITES, as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List and the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016). It has also been identified as one of the species for the recovery programme under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

Statement 2 is correct. The lesser florican, Sypheotides indicus, also known as the likh or kharmore, is the smallest bustard in the world, weighing 500 to 750 grams, and is found only in India. It is endemic to the Indian Subcontinent where it is found in tall grasslands and is best known for the leaping breeding displays made by the males during the Monsoon season. Historically, the lesser florican's habitat spanned from Gujarat and Rajasthan to West Bengal and Odisha, from eastern Uttar Pradesh to Kerala. It was once also found in Nepal, and there were occasional reports of sightings from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. Today, its viable population is restricted mainly to just two locations: Velavadar, with 96 to 115 territorial males, and Shokaliya-Bhinai villages of Rajasthan with 110 to 136 territorial males.

Statement 3 is correct. The Bengal florican (Houbaropsis bengalensis), also called Bengal bustard, is a bustard species native to the Indian subcontinent, Cambodia and Vietnam. According to the IUCN Red list, Bengal florican (Houbaropsis bengalensis) is a Critically Endangered bustard with a "very small, declining population; a trend that has recently become extremely rapid and is predicted to continue in the near future, largely as a result of the widespread and on-going conversion of its grassland habitat for agriculture."

Statement 4 is incorrect. The houbara bustard (Chlamydotis undulata), also called the "African houbara", is a large bird in the bustard family. he houbara bustard is found in North Africa west of the Nile, mainly in the western part of the Sahara desert region in Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. Some old records exist from Sudan as well. A small population is found in the Canary Islands. These are characterized as Vulnerable in IUCN Red List.

Source) <u>https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/rajasthan-announces-project-great-indian-bustard-41269</u> **Subject)** Environment and Biodiversity

Q.8) Ans) c Exp) Option (c) - 2, 3 and 4 only are correct. Statement 1 is incorrect

- Model Code of Conduct was first not introduced in Assembly Elections in Nagaland.
- The MCC was first mooted by Kerala in its 1960 assembly elections. It was later adopted by the Election Commission (EC) during mid-term elections in 1968 and 1969.

Statement 2 is correct

- The MCC kicks in as soon as the EC announces the election schedule.
- No separate procedure is there for bringing MCC into force.

Statement 3 is correct

- The MCC lays down good behaviour norms covering eight areas of electioneering, which include general conduct of candidates and also their meetings/processions, appointment of observers, maintenance of polling booths on D-Day, and what should go into their election manifestos.
- Inducements to voters, bribery, intimidation or any undue influence is would amount to violation under the Model Code of Conduct Rules

Statement 4 is correct

- Election Commission of India had launched the Mobile App "cVIGIL" to enable citizens to report on violation of election code of conduct.
- "cVIGIL" is a user-friendly and easy to operate Android application. It will be operational only where elections are announced.
- "cVIGIL" will allow anyone in the election-bound state to report violations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) that comes into effect from the date of announcement of elections and goes on till a day after the polls. By using this app, citizens can immediately report on incidents of misconduct within minutes of having witnessed them and without having to rush to the office of the returning officer to lodge a complaint.

Source: <u>https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/laying-down-the-dos-and-donts-of-elections/article26449376.ece</u> **Subject**) Polity

Q.9)

Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) is correct answer.

Option (a) is a correct statement.

• The World Bank releases Human Capital Index (HCI) as part of the World Development Report. The theme of the World Development Report (WDR) this year is "The Changing Nature of Work". The HCI has been constructed for 157 countries.

Option (b) is a correct statement.

• It seeks to measure the amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by age 18. The HCI index values are contended to convey the productivity of the next generation of workers, compared to a benchmark of complete standard education and full health.

Option (c) is a correct statement.

The HCI has three components:

(i) **Survival**, as measured by under-5 mortality rates (uses *survival rates and stunting rate*);

(ii) **Expected years of Quality-Adjusted School** which combines information on the quantity and quality of education (*quality is measured by harmonizing test scores* from major international student achievement testing programs and quantity from number of years of school that a child can expect to obtain by age 18 given the prevailing pattern of enrolment rates across grades in respective countries); and

(iii) **Health environment** using two proxies of (a) adult survival rates and (b) *the* rate of stunting for children under age 5.

Option (d) is the incorrect statement.

• UNDP constructs Human Development Index (HDI) for several years. The HCI uses *survival rates and stunting rate instead of life expectancy* as a measure of **health**, and *quality-adjusted learning instead of merely years of schooling* as a measure of education. HCI also excludes per capita income whereas the HDI uses it. Two significant changes from HDI are exclusion of income component and introduction of quality adjustment in learning. Exclusion of income element and introduction of quality adjustment makes HCI far less representative of Human Capital Development than the Index claims it to be.

Source) <u>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184131</u> Subject) Economics - Social Development

Q.10)

Ans) a

Exp) Option (a) - 1 only, is the correct answer.

Pradhan Mantri Shramyogi Yojna offers every individual with a regular minimum assured pension of Rs 3000/- per month after they attain 60 age. It is a pension scheme for the labour class people who are associated with the unorganized sector.

Statement 1 is correct.

- Contribution by the Subscriber: The subscriber's contributions to PM-SYM shall be made through 'auto-debit' facility from his/ her savings bank account/ Jan- Dhan account. The subscriber is required to contribute the prescribed contribution amount from the age of joining PM-SYM till the age of 60 years.
- Matching contribution by the Central Government: PM-SYM is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme on a 50:50 basis where prescribed age-specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary and the matching contribution by the Central Government as per the chart. For example, if a person enters the scheme at an age of 29 years, he is required to contribute Rs 100/ per month till the age of 60 years. An equal amount of Rs 100/- will be contributed by the Central Government.

Statement 2 is incorrect. If a beneficiary has given regular contribution and died due to any cause (before the age of 60 years), his/her spouse will be entitled to join and continue the scheme subsequently by payment of regular contribution or exit the scheme as per provisions of exit and withdrawal.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The unorganised workers (not children) mostly engaged as home based workers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, head loaders, brick kiln workers, cobblers, rag pickers, domestic workers, washer men, rickshaw pullers, landless labourers, own account workers, agricultural workers, construction workers, beedi workers, handloom workers, leather workers, audio- visual workers and similar other occupations whose monthly income is Rs 15,000/ per month or less and belong to the age group of <u>18-40 years</u> are eligible for the scheme. They should not be covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). Further, he/she should not be an income tax payer.

Source) <u>http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1567493</u> Subject) Economics – Social Schemes

Basis	Dravida style of architecture	Nagara style of architecture
Location	According to the Silpasastras, those temples which are situated between the Krishna River and Kanyakumari are Dravida style.	north Indian temples are Nagar
Central Tower It has pyramidal shaped central tower (called Vimana in Dravidian style). In this style, there is only one single Shikhara or Vimana.		It is characterized by a beehiv shaped curvilinear tower (called Shikhara, in northern terminology) made up of laye upon layer of architectura elements and a cruciform ground plan. In this style, there is multiple Shikharas.

Gopuram	Gopuram is the most prominent. It is stylized and big in size.	In Nagara style, the Shikhara remains the most prominent element of the temple and the gateway is usually modest or even absent.
Boundary (Statement 1 is incorrect.)	In this style, temples have elaborated boundary.	In this style, boundary has less emphasised.
Entrance (Statement 3 is incorrect.)	In this style, Dwarpalas are there on the entrance.	In this style, Ganga and Yamuna rivers are depicted in personified form at the entrance of Garbhagriha or sanctum sanctorum.
Tower	In this style, there is always a single tower.	In this style, there are multiple towers. For example- Khajuraho temple.
Pedestal	In this style, pedestals are more or less at ground level.	In this style, pedestals are higher than ground.

Deities on the outside	In this style, temples have deities outside.	In this style, temples have deities inside.
Purpose (Statement 2 is correct.)	Temples in South have not only been religious centres, but were also used for administrative activities, controlling vast areas of land and were also centres of education.	

Source) <u>https://www.jagranjosh.com/general-knowledge/what-is-the-difference-between-dravida-and-nagara-style-of-architecture-1552983274-1</u> **Subject)** Art and Culture

Q.12)

Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) -1 and 3 only, is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are organic compounds that contain fluorine and hydrogen atoms, and are the most common type of organofluorine compounds. HFCs are entirely man-made. They are primarily produced for use in refrigeration, air-conditioning, insulating foams and aerosol propellants, with minor uses as solvents and for fire protection.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Many HFCs are very powerful greenhouse gases and a substantial number are short-lived climate pollutants with a lifetime of between 15 and 29 years in the atmosphere. Though HFCs currently represent around 1% of total greenhouse gases, their impact on global warming can be hundreds to thousands of times greater than that of carbon dioxide per unit of mass. Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are a group of industrial chemicals primarily used for cooling and refrigeration. HFCs were developed to replace stratospheric ozone-depleting substances that are currently being phased out under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Statement 3 is correct. The Kigali Amendment to phase down HFCs under the Montreal Protocol entered into force in 2019. Under the amendment, countries commit to cut the production and consumption of HFCs by more than 80% over the next 30 years to avoid more than 70 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions by 2050 -- and up to 0.5° C warming by the end of the century.

Source) <u>http://www.ccacoalition.org/fr/slcps/hydrofluorocarbons-hfc</u> **Subject)** Environment & Biodiversity

Q.13)

Ans) c

Exp) Option (c) -1, 2 and 3, is the correct answer.

Big data is a field that treats ways to analyze, systematically extract information from, or otherwise deal with data sets that are too large or complex to be dealt with by traditional data-processing application software. The Three Vs of Big Data: Volume, Velocity and Variety. Two more Vs have emerged over the past few years: value and veracity. Current usage of the term *big data* tends to refer to the use of predictive analytics, user behavior analytics, or certain other advanced data analytics methods that extract value from data, and seldom to a particular size of data set.

All the above statements can be attributed to Big Data except statement 2.

Subject) Science and Technology

Q.14)

Ans) c

Exp) Option (c) – Tsunami, is the correct answer. Tsunamis are tall, surf-like waves, but in the deep ocean, their amplitude is actually quite small. Tsunamis get much taller as they approach the continental shelf and coastline. This process is known as shoaling, and the devastation caused by tsunamis is linked to how high they shoal. Shoaling is an increase in wave amplitude that happens when water waves (not just tsunamis) go from deep to shallow water – particularly at the coast. Tsunamis have a small amplitude in deep water (often much less than a metre), but they can shoal up to many metres high in shallow waters.

Q.15)

Ans) a

Exp) Option (a) -1 and 3 only, is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana –"Saubhagya" is a scheme to ensure electrification of all willing households in the country in rural as well as urban areas. The objective of the 'Saubhagya' is to provide energy access to all by last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all remaining un-electrified households in rural as well as urban areas to achieve universal household electrification in the country. The Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) will remain the nodal agency for the operationalisation of the scheme throughout the country.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The beneficiaries for free electricity connections would be identified using Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data. However, un-electrified households not covered under the SECC data would also be provided electricity connections under the scheme on payment of Rs. 500 which shall be recovered by DISCOMs in 10 instalments through the electricity bill.

Statement 3 is correct. The expected outcome of the Scheme is as follows:

- Environmental upgradation by substitution of Kerosene for lighting purposes
- Improvement education services
- Better health services
- Enhanced connectivity through radio, television, mobiles, etc.
- Increased economic activities and jobs
- Improved quality of life especially for women

Source) <u>http://vikaspedia.in/energy/policy-support/pradhan-mantri-sahaj-bijli-har-ghar-yojana</u>

Subject) Economics – Schemes

Q.16)

Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) – 1, 2 and 3, is the correct answer. CRR stands for Cash Reserve Ratio and SLR is Statutory Liquidity Ratio. CRR and SLR are the basic tools in the economy which manages inflation and flow of money in the country. RBI control bank capacity of lending through CRR and SLR.

Statement 1 is correct. SLR is Statutory Liquidity Ratio which is calculated by RBI, this is the ratio of compulsory ratio of deposit that bank has to maintain in the form of cash, gold, other securities prescribed by RBI. In short, it is kept by the bank in for of liquid assets. The purpose of maintaining SLR is that bank will have an amount in form of liquid assets which can be used to handle a sudden increase in demand of amount from the depositor. It is used by RBI to limit credit facility offered by the bank to borrowers which maintain the stability of the bank. SLR can be said as a percentage of net time and demand liability kept by the bank.

Statement 2 is correct. CRR is the ratio of total deposits that banks need to keep as a reserve with RBI (Reserve Bank of India) in the form of cash instead of keeping amount with them. This is a powerful tool to control the flow of money in the market.

Statement 3 is correct. Under CRR, as the cash is kept with RBI, banks do not have access to this amount for any economic activity or commercial activity. Banks can't lend money to the corporates or individual borrowers, banks can't use that money for investment purposes. So, that CRR remains in current account and banks don't earn anything on that.

Subject) Economics

Q.17)

Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) -1 and 3 only, is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Many hot deserts lie along the Horse Latitudes or Subtropical High Pressure Belts. At such high pressure regions the air is naturally descending, which conditions least favorability for precipitation of any kind to take place.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Nearness to the sea is neither a necessary condition nor a favourable condition, especially in the case of eastern coasts. Rather, eastern coasts are favourable for healthy vegetation due to higher rates of precipitation received in case of trade winds. The case in point maybe of Siberian desert. It lies far away from the coast and is one of the largest cold deserts in the world. Thus, the nearness to the sea has only limited favorability.

Statement 3 is correct. On the other hand, the turning of the earth sets currents in motion in the oceans, just as it does in the atmosphere, and they are another major determinant of deserts. Cold currents from the Polar Regions flow towards the equator and, in places, come up against the edges of continents. Additional masses of cold water are added to them by upwelling from the frigid ocean depths. Winds blowing landwards over this cold water become cold and can carry little moisture; they may bring fog and mist but it rarely condensed into

rain. The Falkland current en-fogs the southern Patagonian Desert just as the Peru current shrouds the Atacama-Peruvian; the Canaries and Benguela currents help to keep the western Sahara and the Kalahari dry, and the California current does the same for the Sonoran Desert, while misting the west coast of arid Baja California.

Subject) Geography

Q.18)

Ans) a

Exp) Option (a) - World Economic Forum, is the correct answer.

Future of Jobs is a biennial Report from the World Economic Forum which provides valuable insight into trends impacting the workforce across the world. In its latest edition, the report suggests that in less than seven years, by 2025, machines are projected to overtake humans in workplace task hours in 12 key industry sectors. Globally, almost half of all companies expect automation to cut their full-time workforce in the next four years. However, new jobs will still lead to a net gain in employment opportunities if sufficient reskilling is done.

Highlights on Future of Jobs by 2022

- 37% would be deployed in jobs that have radically changed skill sets
- Exponential technologies and demographic changes will have most impact
- Exponential technologies in advanced markets is expected to improve productivity by 15-20% in the next five years
- New business process offshoring opportunities in North America/ European markets will fade away
- Migration of workers to overseas markets will decline by 25-30%
- IT & BFSI sectors will see the highest impact, while for auto and retail sectors it shall be moderate
- In India, 54% of employees in these sectors will need reskilling by 2022.

Subject) International Relations

Q.19) Ans) a Exp) Option (a) – 1, 3 and 4, is the correct answer.

This is a chronology based question.

- Sepoy mutiny : 1857
- The **Tebhaga movement** was significant peasant agitation, initiated in Bengal by the Kisan Sabha (peasant front of the Communist Party of India) in 1946–47.
- **Pagal Panthis:** Adherents of a syncretic mixture of Hinduism, Sufism and Animism, the order sought to uphold religious principles and the rights of landless peasants in Bengal; under the leadership of Tipu Shah, the movement soon evolved into a popular, armed struggle against British Raj and the zamindar system. It was crushed with the help of the army in 1833.
- **Deccan riots:** In May and June 1875, peasants of Maharashtra in some parts of Pune, Satara and Ahmednagar districts revolted against increasing agrarian distress. The Deccan Riots of 1875 targeted conditions of debt peonage (kamiuti) to moneylenders. The rioters' specific purpose was to obtain and destroy the bonds, decrees, and other documents in the possession of the moneylenders.

• **Eka Movement or Unity Movement** is a peasant movement which surfaced in Hardoi, Bahraich and Sitapur during the end of 1921 by Madari Pasi, an offshoot of Non Cooperation Movement. The initial thrust was given by the leaders of Congress and Khilafat movement. The main reason for the movement was a high rent, which was generally higher than 50% of recorded rent in some areas. Oppression by thikadhars who were entrusted to collect rent and practice of share rent also contributed to this movement.

Subject) Modern History

Q.20) Ans) d Exp) Option (d) is the correct answer.

Option (a) is correct.

- It was enacted to curtail the freedom of the Indian language press.
- The latter half of the 19th century saw a remarkable growth in the Vernacular Press of the country and newspapers played a role of catalyst in the new socio-political consciousness.
- In 1878, when this act was passed, the number of English Newspapers was 20 and Vernacular newspapers were 200.

Option (b) is correct.

• Lord Lytton passed the Vernacular Press Act in 1878.

Option (c) is correct.

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

Option (d) is incorrect.

- This Act came under a lot of criticism and was nicknamed as "The Gagging Act" as it tried to strangulate the Indian press. It created discrimination between the vernacular press and English press.
- Finally, in 1882, Lord Ripon repealed the Act thus allowing equal freedom to all Indian press.

Subject) Modern History

Q.21)

Ans) a

Exp) Option (a) is the correct answer. Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme having central sector component under Ayushman Bharat Mission anchored in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). It is an umbrella of two major health initiatives, namely Health and Wellness Centres and

National Health Protection Scheme. Under this 1.5 lakh existing sub centres will bring health care system closer to the homes of people in the form of Health and wellness centres. These centres will provide comprehensive health care, including for non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services.

Option (b) is incorrect. AB-PMJAY provides a defined benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year. This cover will take care of almost all secondary care and most of tertiary care procedures.

Option (c) is incorrect. To ensure that nobody is left out (especially women, children and elderly) there will be no cap on family size and age in the scheme.

Option (d) is incorrect. The beneficiaries can avail benefits in both public and empanelled private facilities. All public hospitals in the States implementing AB-PMJAY, will be deemed empanelled for the Scheme. Hospitals belonging to Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) may also be empanelled based on the bed occupancy ratio parameter. As for private hospitals, they will be empanelled online based on defined criteria

 Source)
 http://vikaspedia.in/health/nrhm/national-health-mission/ayushman

 bharat2013national-health-protection-mission

 Subject)

Q.22) Ans) cExp) Option (c) – Both 1 and 2, is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. The following table represents the Types of Iron ores along with % of Iron contained in them.

Mineral	Formula	% of Iron
Hematite	Fe ₂ O ₃	70.0
Magnetite	Fe ₃ O ₄	72.4
Limonite	$2Fe_2O_3.3H_2O$	59.8
Siderite	FeCO ₃	48.2

Thus, Magnetite is the purest form of Iron ore present with a percentage of 72.4 iron in it. Close to it purity is Hematite with the iron percentage of 70%.

Statement 2 is correct. Karnataka with 73% of the Magnetite reserves in India is the largest magnetite iron ore reserves in the country. It is followed by Andhra Pradesh 14% and Rajasthan 5%.

Subject) Geography

Q.23) Ans) d Exp) Option (d) - 1, 2 and 3 is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: NITI Aayog organized the first regional workshop on the School Education Quality Index (SEQI) in collaboration with the Ministry of HRD to improve the learning outcomes among school children in the national capital.

Statement 2 is correct: In pursuit of cooperative and competitive federalism, NITI Aayog has prepared a report on Composite Water Management Index (CWMI).The CWMIis an important tool to assess and improve the performance of States/ Union Territories in efficient management of water resources.

Statement 3 is correct: To make India an innovation-driven economy, NITI Aayog, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) together launched a mega initiative "India Innovation Index" that will rank states on Innovations through country's first online innovation index portal that will capture data on innovation from all Indian states on innovation and regularly update it in real time.

Source) <u>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=153425</u> <u>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179962</u> <u>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157941</u> Subject) Economics – Social Development

Q.24)

Ans) c

Exp) Option (c) -1 and 3 only is the correct answer.

Ireland has become the second nation in the world after **Britain** to declare a climate emergency. The declaration of climate emergency is a call for governments across the world to change their behavior towards the climate and biodiversity. It also involves drastic cut down of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Source) <u>http://factly.forumias.com/ireland-declares-climate-emergency/</u> Subject) Environment & Biodiversity

Q.25)

Ans) a

Exp) Option (a) -1 and 3 only is the correct answer.

The GEF provides funding to assist developing countries in meeting the objectives of international environmental conventions. The GEF serves as "financial mechanism" to five conventions, which are **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and **Minamata Convention on Mercury**.

Source) <u>https://www.thegef.org/partners/conventions</u> **Subject)** Environment and Biodiversity

Q.26) Ans) d Exp) Option (d) - 1, 2 and 3, is the correct answer. Statement 1 is correct.

• Black Hole is a region in space which contains a huge amount of mass within a relatively small volume.

• Near a black hole the gravitational field is very intense because a black hole contains a huge amount of mass within a relatively small volume. Matter going into it increases the mass of the black hole.

Statement 2 is correct.

- For the first time, scientists have revealed the first ever photograph of a supermassive black hole present at the heart of the distant galaxy Messier 87 in the Virgo constellation.
- The snapped black hole is 55 million light-years from Earth and has a mass 6.5 billion times that of the Sun.

Statement 3 is correct.

- The photo was clicked by the Event Horizon Telescope—a virtual earth-sized array of eight ground-based radio telescopes located at different parts of the planet by synced through atomic clocks. Observations collected from these telescopes were then processed simultaneously to stitch them together.
- This data was then processed in batches, like solving a jigsaw puzzle, to construct the image entirely. Overall, it was decades of hard work by an international collaboration of astronomers, observationalists, theorists and facilities from over 40 countries.

Subject) Science and Technology

Q.27)

Ans) Option (d) - 1, 2 and 3 is correct.

- Firecrackers are essentially made up of four components: Oxidisers, fuel, colouring agents and binder.
- The oxidiser is usually a **perchlorate salt.** It serves the function of releasing the oxygen required for the explosion.
- The fuel in the firecracker is generally **charcoal** which sustains the fire. Burning this results in the release of a large amount of air pollutants, particularly sulphur dioxide, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide (CO) and particulate matter into the atmosphere.
- **Aluminium** causes contract dermatitis and bio-accumulation. It also causes bronchoconstriction in susceptible individuals.
- **Copper** compounds can cause cancer.
- **Barium nitrate** can cause an irritated respiratory tract in addition to a possible radioactive fallout. **Barium chromate** was also found to be toxic to living cells and genes in the human lung cells.
- **Antimony** sulphide produces toxic smoke and is a carcinogen.

Source)<u>https://www.firstpost.com/india/what-is-in-a-firecracker-chemical-composition-of-</u> <u>diwali-fireworks-is-a-recipe-for-human-illness-on-a-mass-scale-4154327.html</u> **Subject**) Science and Technology

Q.28) Ans) a Exp) Option (a) – Supercomputer, is the correct answer.

- 'Param Shivay' is a supercomputer of 833 teraflop capacity, built at the cost of Rs 32.5 crore, under the National Supercomputing Mission at IIT-BHU. The supercomputer is named after the Indian god Shiva.
- This is part of the NSM (National Supercomputing Mission) a seven-year plan of Rs 4500 crores (\$ 650mn) led by the Government of India which aims to create a network of over 70 high-performance supercomputing facilities for various academic and research institutions across India.
- The agreement was signed by C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing), an organization within the MeitY (Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, India) and French company Atos.

Subject) Science and Technology

Q.29)

Ans) c

Exp) Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (a) is correctly matched. Kundhei is a string puppetry Orissa. The puppets are known as Kundhei. Made of light wood, the Orissa puppets have no legs but wear long flowing skirts.

Option (b) is correctly matched. The Chithirai festival of Tamil Nadu happens to be one of the longest stretched festivals to be celebrated anywhere in the world. The festival is celebrated in the city of Madurai of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu and is celebrated for one whole month. It re-establishes of the wedding of Lord Sundereswara (embodiment of Lord Shiva) and Goddess Meenakshi (Lord Vishnu's Sister).

Option (c) is incorrectly matched. Pandavani (literally meaning 'songs of the Pandavas'), is a lyrical folk ballad form that narrates the story of the Pandavas. Pandavani theatre usually has a lead artist and some supporting singers and musicians.Teejan Bai and Ritu Verma are renowned singers of Pandvani.

Option (d) is correctly matched. Tholu Bommalata refers to shadow puppetry of Andhra Pradesh. The puppets are large in size and have jointed waist, shoulders, elbows and knees. They are coloured on both sides. The theme of the puppet plays are drawn from the Ramayana, Mahabharata and Puranas.

Subject) Art and Culture

Q.30) Ans) b Exp) Option (b) is the correct answer. Option (a) is incorrect.

- Under Article 352, the President can declare a national emergency when the security of India or a part of it is threatened by war or external aggression or armed rebellion.
- A proclamation of national emergency may be applicable to the entire country or only a part of it. The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 enabled the president to limit the operation of a National Emergency to a specified part of India.

Option (b) is correct.

- Originally, the Constitution mentioned 'internal disturbance' as the third ground for the proclamation of a National Emergency, but the expression was too vague and had a wider connotation.
- Hence, the 44th Amendment Act of 1978 substituted the words 'armed rebellion' for 'internal disturbance'. Thus, it is no longer possible to declare a National Emergency on the ground of 'internal disturbance' as was done in 1975 by the Congress government headed by Indira Gandhi.

Option (c) is incorrect.

- According to Article 358, when a proclamation of national emergency is made, the six Fundamental Rights under Article 19 are automatically suspended. No separate order for their suspension is required.
- President's order is not required.

Option (d) is incorrect.

- A proclamation of emergency may be revoked by the President at any time by a subsequent proclamation. Such a proclamation does not require the parliamentary approval.
- Further, the President must revoke a proclamation if the Lok Sabha passes a resolution disapproving its continuation.

Source) Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth; Chapter # 16 Subject) Polity

Q.31)

Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) -1, 2 and 3 only, is the correct answer.

- The current account records exports and imports in **goods** and **services** and transfer payments. Trade in services denoted as invisible trade (because they are not seen to cross national borders) includes both factor income (net income from compensation of employees and net investment income, the latter equals, interest, profits and dividends on our assets abroad minus the income foreigners earn on assets they own in India) and net non-factor income (shipping, banking, insurance, tourism, software services, etc.).
- Transfer payments are receipts which the residents of a country receive 'for free', without having to make any present or future payments in return. They consist of **remittances**, gifts and grants. They could be official or private.
- The balance of exports and imports of goods is referred to as the trade balance. Adding trade in services and net transfers to the trade balance, we get the **current account balance**.
- FDI in under capital account

Source) NCERT http://ncert.nic.in/ncerts/l/leec106.pdf Subject) Economics

Q.32) Ans) d Exp) Option (d) is the correct answer.

Statement (d) is incorrect.

- In the Indian Ocean, the summer currents are more regular than those of the winter.
- In summer, the northern part comes under the influence of the South West Monsoon.
- This leads to an easterly movement of water in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea in a clockwise direction. This current is called as the South West Monsoon Drift.

Subject) Geography

Q.33)

Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) -1 and 3 only, is the correct answer. Statement 1 is correct.

• The RBI has different tools through which it **injects liquidity** into financial markets. Adjusting repo rates and purchasing bonds by conducting open market operations (OMO) are a couple of tools which the **RBI uses regularly either to increase or decrease the currency supply in the market. The recently announced 'swap auction' is one such tool.** This is being done to **increase the supply of rupees in the market**. Technically, this activity is being termed as a USD/INR Buy/Sell Swap Auction.

Statement 2 is incorrect.

• Through this auction, the RBI will buy US dollars from banks totalling to \$5 billion. In turn the RBI will pay rupees to the participating banks at the current spot rate. At an average spot rate of 70 per dollar, the RBI will able to infuse about ₹35,000 crore into the system through this auction process.

Statement 3 is correct.

• For the RBI, **the auction will help boost its forex reserves by another \$5 billion.** The reserves as on March 15, is \$405.6 billion. The forex reserve is one tool which the RBI uses to intervene in the currency market at times of abnormal volatility.

Source) <u>https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/slate/all-you-wanted-to-know-about/article26636240.ece</u> **Subject)** Economics

Q.34)

Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) -1 and 3 only, is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. At the end of summer and with the onset of winters high air pressure develops over large parts of north-west India due to low temperatures coupled with divergence induced by the ridge of the STJ.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Shifting of westerly jet stream south of Himalayas aids in the retreat of monsoon.

Statement 3 is correct. As the sun starts to move away from the tropic of cancer towards the tropic of capricorn, the ITCZ also shifts southward weakening the low pressure and development of high pressure over northern India aiding in the retreat of monsoon.

Subject) Geography

Q.35)

Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) is the correct answer.

LOHAFEX (Loha means iron in Hindi while Fex is an acronym for fertilisation) experiment in the Southern Ocean, Antarctica, was aimed at increasing CO sequestration through ocean iron fertilisation as part of studies on global warming mitigation.

The Council of Scientific Industrial Research (CSIR), India, and Helmholtz Foundation, Germany jointly planned LOHAFEX.

Subject) Environment & Biodiversity

Q.36) Ans) c Exp) Option (c) – Both 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 1 is correct.

- Gahirmatha Beach is a beach in the Indian state of Odisha.It is the world's largest nesting beach of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles.
- The beach is the world's most important nesting beach for Olive Ridley Sea Turtles and separates the Bhitarkanika mangroves from the Bay of Bengal.
- The beach is part of Gahirmatha Marine Wildlife Sanctuary, which also includes the adjacent portion of the Bay of Bengal.Apart from Gahirmatha rookery, two other masses are there where nesting beaches have been located which are at the mouth of rivers Rushikulya and Devi.

Statement 2 is correct.

- Mangrove forests of India are globally unique with the highest record of biodiversity, gifted with the mangrove genetic paradise at Bhitarkanika, and the globally threatened wildlife species in the Sundarbans.
- The Sundarbans of India and Bangladesh is the only largest mangrove forest in the world colonized by the Royal Bengal Tigers. Mangroves are dense and floristically diverse along the east coast of India and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. India also has a lot of sparse patches of mangroves.

Source) <u>https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/wildlife-biodiversity/mass-nesting-of-olive-ridleys-starts-in-odisha-s-gahirmatha-63392</u> **Subject)** Environment and Biodiversity

Q.37)

Ans) a

Exp) Option (a) is the correct answer.

Subject) Economics – Social Development

According to the economic survey 2016-17 - Soil rate is the rate at which notes are considered to be too damaged to use and have been returned to the central bank.

Source) <u>https://yourstory.com/2017/01/economic-survey-demonetisation</u>

Q.38) Ans) a

Exp) Option (a) is the correct answer.

- Coal production (weight: 10.33per cent)
- Crude Oil production (weight: 8.98per cent)
- The Natural Gas production (weight: 6.88per cent)
- Petroleum Refinery production (weight: 28.04per cent)
- Fertilizers production (weight: 2.63 per cent)
- Steel production (weight: 17.92per cent)
- Cement production (weight: 5.37per cent)
- Electricity generation (weight: 19.85per cent)

Source) <u>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183195</u> Subject) Economics

Q.39)

Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) – All of the above, is the correct answer. Order (a) is correct.

- In the East India Company territories, the Ryotwari system was introduced by Thomas Munroe and Captain Reed first in Madras presidency.
- In this system, peasants were given the ownership and proprietorship and they would make direct payment to state as 55% of produce.

Order (b) is correct.

- Mahalwari system was introduced in 1833 during the period of William Bentick.
- It was introduced in Central Province, North-West Frontier, Agra, Punjab, Gangetic Valley, etc of British India.
- The Ownership rights were vested with the peasants.
- The villages committee was held responsible for collection of the taxes.

Order (c) is correct.

- Zamindari System was introduced by Cornwallis in 1793 through Permanent Settlement Act.
- It was introduced in provinces of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Varanasi.
- Zamindars were recognized as owner of the lands. Zamindars were given the rights to collect the rent from the peasants.

Subject) Modern History

Q.40) Ans) a Exp) Option (a) - 2 and 3 only Statement 1 is correct. Gandhiji gave the call of DO or DIE.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It was in response to the failure of Cripps Mission 1942.Cripps Mission was sent by the British Government in March 1942 to India with key objective to secure Indian cooperation and support for British War. Cabinet mission came in 1946

Statement 3 is incorrect. Gandhi announced 'Quit India' as the war cry for the Indians. The All India Congress Committee accepted this resolution with some modifications, on 8th August, 1942 in Bombay.

The very next day, on 9th August, eminent Congress leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Vallabhbhai Patel, Jawaharlal Nehru and Abul Kalam Azad were arrested. The masses were left without any guidance. Gandhi's 'do or die' call for the people created an upheaval in the country. So the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi took place in the beginning of the movement.

Statement 4 is correct. At the national level the ability to galvanize rebellion was limited, the movement is notable for regional success especially at Satara, Talcher, and Midnapore. In Tamluk and Contai subdivisions of Midnapore, the local populace was successful in establishing parallel governments, which continued to function, until Gandhi personally requested the leaders to disband in 1944.

Subject) Modern History

Q.41)

Ans) a and d

Exp) Option (a) and (d) both are the correct answers.

Statement (a) is incorrect: The Government with a view to augment the income of the Small and Marginal farmers has approved a Central Sector Scheme, namely,"Pradhan Mantri KIsan SAmman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)" in the current financial year.

Under Central sector schemes, it is **100% funded** by the Union government and implemented by the Central Government machinery. Central sector schemes are mainly formulated on subjects from the Union List.

Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) a certain percentage of the funding is borne by the States in the ratio of **50:50**, **70:30**, **75:25 or 90:10** and the implementation is by the State Governments. Centrally Sponsored Schemes are formulated in subjects from the State List to encourage States to prioritise in areas that require more attention.

Statement (b) is correct: Under the scheme, financial benefit as given below will be provided to all Small and Marginal landholder farmer families across the country. Landholder Farmer families with total cultivable holding upto 2 hectares shall be provided a benefit of Rs.6000 per annum per family payable in three equal installments, every four months.

Statement (c) is correct: Responsibility of identifying the landholder farmer family eligible for benefit under the scheme shall be of the State/UT Government.

Statement (d) is incorrect: The States shall prepare database of eligible beneficiary landholder farmer families in the villages capturing the Name, Age, Gender, Category(SC/ST), Aadhaar Number (in case Aadhaar Number has not been issued then Aadhaar Enrollment Number together with any other prescribed documents for purposes of the identification such as Driving Licence, Voters' ID Card, NREGA Job Card, or any other identification documents issued by Central/State/UT Governments or their authorities, etc.), Bank Account Number and the Mobile Number of the beneficiaries.

Source) <u>http://vikaspedia.in/agriculture/policies-and-schemes/crops-related/pradhan-mantri-kisan-samman-nidhi</u>

Subject) Economics - Schemes

Q.42)

Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) -1 and 3 only is correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: Tropical cyclone form only on seas with temperature more than 26-270 C. They dissipate on reaching the land. Thus they are thermally induced. Temperate cyclone is dynamic in origin because of Coriolis Force and Movement of air masses.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Temperate cyclone generally flows eastward movement (west -> east).

Statement 3 is correct: Tropical cyclone dissipate on reaching the land but temperate can form both on land and seas.

Subject) Geography

Q.43) Ans) d Exp) Option (d) - neither 1 nor 2 is correct answer

Statement 1-The largest source of fresh water on the earth surface is Ice caps and glaciers. **Statement 2**-Groundwater is the second largest source of fresh water on the earth.



Subject) Geography

Q.44) Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) is correct

The Economic Survey 2017-18, in its first ever estimate of number of 'unwanted girls', has said that India could have as many as 21 million 'unwanted girls.' i.e., girls whose parents instead wanted to have sons. The huge number of 'unwanted girls' is a direct result of the

'**son meta preference**' where parents do not stop having children until they have the desired number of sons.

 Source)
 https://thewire.in/economy/indias-preference-sons-resulted-21-millionunwanted-girls

 Subject) Economics

Q.45)

Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) – None of the above is correct answer. Statement 1 is correct.

- Before the 42nd Constitutional Amendment of 1976, the calculations behind the number of Lok Sabha seats was based on "population as ascertained at the last preceding Census of which the relevant figures have been published."
- But the 1971 Census figures showed a dramatic increase in population, after which the concept of family planning was introduced at the policy level.

Statement 2 is correct.

- States that complied with policy would lose out on all the areas where population was taken into account.
- Hence, the 42nd Amendment picked the 1971 Census as the base for all calculations and froze it till the 2001 Census. The 84th Amendment further extended that to the first Census after 2026, which will be the Census of 2031.

 Source)
 https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/the-hindu-explains-why-the-15th-finance-commission-has-some-states-riled/article23384141.ece

 Subject)
 Polity

Q.46)

Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) -1, 2 and 3

Economic survey CHAPTER 4: RECONCILING FISCAL FEDERALISM AND ACCOUNTABILITY: IS THERE A LOW EQUILIBRIUM TRAP?

Taxation is not just a vehicle for raising state revenue. It can also be critically important for **economic and political development.** There is a **social contract** between citizens and the state. "The state's role is to create the conditions for prosperity for all by providing essential services and protecting the less well-off via redistribution. The citizen's part of the contract is to hold the state accountable when it fails to honour that contract. But when citizens fail to pay taxes they lose their interest to hold **state accountable**. If a citizen does not pay, he becomes a free rider (using the service without paying), and cannot complain if the state provides a poor quality service. Only, if he pays and uses the service then he will try to hold the state accountable.

Source) GK, Economic Survey **Subject)** Economics

Q.47) Ans) c

Exp) Option (c) is correct answer.

Option (a) is correct.

- In Brahmanical theory, jati, like varna, was based on birth. However, while the number of varnas was fixed at four, there was no restriction on the number of jatis.
- In fact, whenever Brahmanical authorities encountered new groups for instance, people living in forests such as the nishadas or wanted to assign a name to occupational categories such as the goldsmith or suvarnakara, which did not easily fit into the fourfold varna system, they classified them as a jati.

Option (b) is correct.

- Jatis which shared a common occupation or profession were sometimes organised into shrenis or guilds.
- Thus Shrenis or guilds were organisation of Jatis which shared a common occupation or profession.
- Although membership was based on a shared craft specialisation, some members adopted other occupations. It also indicates that the members shared more than a common profession they collectively decided to invest their wealth, earned through their craft, to construct a splendid temple in honour of the sun god

Option (c) is incorrect.

• Jatis were based on the birth of an individual.

Option (d) is correct.

• Jati was the name given to occupational categories which did not easily fit into the fourfold varna system.

Source) NCERT 12th Standard; Themes in Indian History Part 1; Chapter # 3 **Subject)** Ancient History

Q.48)

Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) -1 and 2 only, is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct-François Bernier was a French physician and traveller. He was physician to Mughal prince Dara Shikoh and after Dara Shikoh's demise, was attached to the court of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb for around 12 years during his stay in India.

Statement 2 is correct-Jean-Baptiste Tavernier was a 17th-century French gem merchant and traveler. Tavernier, made six voyages to Persia and India.

Statement 3 is incorrect-Duarte Barbosa was a Portuguese at Cannanore and Cochin in between 1503 and (about) 1517 and had left behind an interesting account on trade and political events of the southeast including Bengal.

Statement 4 is correct-Ibn Battuta was a Muslim Moroccan scholar, and explorer who widely travelled the medieval world. He visited India during the reign of Muhammad bin tuglak

Source) NCERT 12th Standard; Themes in Indian History Part 2; Chapter # 1 (<u>http://ncert.nic.in/textbook/textbook.htm?lehs2=1-5</u>) **Subject)** Medieval History

Q.49)

Ans) c

Exp) Option (c) – Both 1 and 2, is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: International Law doesn't require 'declared war' in order to classify the conflict as international and consequently, begin the application of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

Statement 2 is correct: Convention relating to the treatment of Prisoners of War (GC III) comes into play the instance a combatant is captured by the enemy state irrespective of the use of force prior to the event. The reason for the automatic application of IHL in this scenario is that international community considers such acts as 'hostile' and award the captured force member the status of 'prisoner of war'.

 Source)
 https://www.livelaw.in/columns/international-armed-conflict-and-pakistans

 obligations-under-geneva-convention-143221

 Subject)
 International Relations

Q.50)

Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) -1, 2, 3 and 4 is correct answer.

- The Supreme Court delivered the judgment in Sabarimala case by a 4:1 majority. The Court has permitted entry of women of all age groups to the Sabarimala temple, holding that 'devotion cannot be subjected to gender discrimination'.
- The lone woman in the bench, Justice Indu Malhotra, dissented.
- Preventing women from worship goes against Article 14, 15, 17 and 25 i.e. right to equality, the right against discrimination based on gender, abolition of untouchability and freedom of religion respectively.
- Justice Indu Malhotra said "What constitutes essential religious practice under article 25 is for the religious community to decide, not for the court".

Source) <u>https://blog.forumias.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/PT-Polity-2019-Part-1.pdf</u> Subject) Polity

Q.51)

Ans) c

Exp) Option (c) -3 only is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect-Strengthening of El-Nino is detrimental to Indian monsoon as it weakens the low pressure in the Indian ocean leading to poor south west monsoon. Rather weakening of El-Nino is favourable for Indian monsoon.

Statement 2 is incorrect- Establishment of subtropical westerly jet stream should be north of Himalayas so that low pressure to be maintained in the Indian subcontinent.

Statement 3 is correct- Intense heating of the Tibetan plateau intensifies the low pressure forcing the south west monsoon to gush into the subcontinent.

Subject) Geography

Q.52)

Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) - Black Soil, is the correct answer.

Black soil is referred to as Regur soil. The black soil is very retentive of moisture. It swells greatly and becomes sticky when wet in rainy season. However, in the hot dry season, the moisture evaporates, the soil shrinks and is seamed with broad and deep cracks, often 10 to 15 cm wide and upto a meter deep. This permits oxygenation of the soil to sufficient depths and the soil has extraordinary fertility. Remarkably "self-ploughed" by loosened particles fallen from the ground into the cracks, the soil "swallows" itself and retains soil moisture.

Source) NCERT 11th Standard; Indian Physical Environment; Chapter # 6 Subject) Geography

Q.53)

Ans) c

Exp) Option (c) -2 only is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect- it is an extreme assertion,full of inefficiency, incompetence and corruption. There are examples of some PSBs that are not corrupt.

Statement 2 is correct- PSBs had a higher exposure to the five most affected sectors — mining, iron and steel, textiles, infrastructure and aviation. These sectors accounted for 29% of advances and 53% of stressed advances at PSBs in December 2014. Thus PSBs has higher NPAs.

Statement 3 is incorrect-Again it an extreme assertion. Political and public policy exigencies influence business decisions in PSBs but not always.

Source) Resolving India's Banking Crisis, The Hindu **Subject)** Economics

Q.54)

Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) - Ilbert Bill, is the correct answer.

According to the system of law, a European could be tried only by a European judge. The disqualification was unjust and sought to dishonour Indian born members of the judiciary. Thus Ilbert (The law member of the Viceroy's Council) introduced a bill in 1883 to do away with this discrimination. However it met with strong opposition from the European. Hence, Ripon amended the bill to satisfy the English. The Ilbert Bill Controversy is a high watermark in the history of India. Ripon, who was in favour of the bill, was totally disillusioned and heartbroken and he tendered his resignation.

Subject) Modern History

Q.55)

Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) is the correct answer.

Union Budget 2018-19, a new Scheme "Operation Greens" was announced on the line of "Operation Flood", with an outlay of Rs.500 crore to promote Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management. This is a scheme for

integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) value chain. The idea behind Operation Greens is to double the income of farmers by end of 2022.

Source) <u>http://vikaspedia.in/agriculture/market-information/operation-greens</u> **Subject**) Economics – Schemes

Q.56)

Ans) a

Exp) Option (a) is the correct answer.

Mediterranean climate is found between the 30 degrees and 45 degree latitudes. This climate is often found on the western sides of continents. Mediterranean climate gets its name from the climate found around the Mediterranean Sea. Its unique feature is winter wet, summer dry. This attributed to shifting of pressure belts due to which in winter it is under the influence of westerlies and experience rainfall. The resulting vegetation of Mediterranean climates are the **garrigue or maquis** in the Mediterranean Basin, the **chaparral** in California, the **fynbos** in South Africa, the **mallee** in Australia, and the **matorral** in Chile.

Source) NCERT 11th Standard; Fundamental of Physical Geography; Chapter # 12 Subject) Geography

Q.57)

Ans) c

Exp) Option (c) - Both 1 and 2, is the correct answer.

The bugdet 2018-19 announced the development and upgradation of existing 22,000 rural haats into **Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs)**. The scheme seems to strengthen more than 86% of farmers in India that are small and marginal and who are not always in a position to directly transact at APMCs and other wholesale markets. In these GrAMs, physical infrastructure will be strengthened using MGNREGA and other Government Schemes and would be electronically linked to e-NAM and exempted from regulations of APMCs. This would provide farmers facility to make direct sale to consumers and bulk purchasers.

Source) <u>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176061</u> Subject) Economics – Schemes

Q.58) Ans) c Exp) Option (c) – 1 only, is the correct answer. Statement 1 is correct-Golan Heights is a dispute between Israel and Syria.

Statement 2 is incorrect-The Israeli–Palestinian conflict in Hebron refers to an ongoing conflict between Palestinians and Jewish settlers in the West Bank city of Hebron.

Statement 3 is incorrect-The Sinai Peninsula is an ongoing dispute between Israel and Egypt.

Subject) International Relations

Q.59)

Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) is the correct answer.

Appendix I lists species that are the most endangered among CITES-listed animals and plants. They are threatened with extinction and CITES prohibits international trade in specimens of these species except when the purpose of the import is not commercial, for instance for scientific research. In these exceptional cases, trade may take place provided it is authorized by the granting of both an import permit and an export permit.

Appendix II lists species that are not necessarily now threatened with extinction but that may become so unless trade is closely controlled. It also includes so-called "look-alike species", i.e. species whose specimens in trade look like those of species listed for conservation reasons. International trade in specimens of Appendix-II species may be authorized by the granting of an export permit or re-export certificate.

Appendix III is a list of species included at the request of a Party that already regulates trade in the species and that needs the cooperation of other countries to prevent unsustainable or illegal exploitation International trade in specimens of species listed in this Appendix is allowed only on presentation of the appropriate permits or certificates.

Subject) Environment & Biodiversity

Q.60)

Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) – Earth Day is the correct answer.

World Earth Day is celebrated every year on the 22nd of April. The theme for Earth Day 2019 is 'Protect Our Species'. It aims to draw attention to the rapid extinction of species across the world. The extinction of species is directly linked to human activity which causes climate change, deforestation and pollution.

It was first celebrated in the year 1970. The idea of commemorating such a day was propounded by Gaylord Nelson, a US senator from Wisconsin. It is coordinated by Earth Day Network, a US based international environmental NGO.

Source) <u>http://factly.forumias.com/happy-earth-day-2019-this-years-theme-is-protect-our-species/</u>

Subject) Environment and Biodiversity

Q.61) Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) is the correct answer.

More than sixty sites have been found with mural paintings which include three

palaces—**Dutch palace in Kochi**, **Krishnapuram palace in Kayamkulam** and Padmanabhapuram palace. Among the sites where one can see the mature phase of Kerala's mural painting tradition are **Pundareekapuram Krishna temple**, Panayanarkavu, Thirukodithanam, Triprayar Sri Rama temple and Trissur Vadakkunathan temple.

Tirumalaipuram caves is in Tamil Nadu.

Source) NCERT 11th Standard; An Introduction to Fine Arts; Chapter # 5

(http://ncert.nic.in/textbook/textbook.htm?kefa1=5-8) **Subject)** Art and Culture

Q.62) Ans) d Exp) Option (d) – 1, 2 and 3, is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: In Bharatnatyam Dance accompanying orchestra consists of a vocalist, a **mridangam** player, violinist or veena player, a flautist and a cymbal player. The person who conducts the dance recitation is the Nattuvanar.

Pair 2 is correct: The Kirtan form of congregational singing accompanies the dance which is known as Sankirtana in Manipur. The male dancers play the **Pung** and Kartal while dancing. The masculine aspect of dance - the Choloms are a part of the Sankirtana tradition. The Pung and Kartal choloms are performed at all social and religious festivals.

Pair 3 is correct: An Odissi orchestra essentially consists of a **pakhawaj** player (usually the Guru himself), a singer, a flutist, a sitar or violin player and a manjira player.

Source) <u>http://ccrtindia.gov.in/bharatnatyam.php</u> <u>http://ccrtindia.gov.in/manipuri.php</u> <u>http://ccrtindia.gov.in/odissi.php</u> Subject) Art and Culture



Subject) Science and Technology

Q.64) Ans) b Exp) Option (b) – 1 and 3 only is the correct answer. Statement 1 is correct.

• Gaganyaan ("Orbital Vehicle") is an Indian crewed orbital spacecraft intended to be the basis of the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme. The spacecraft is being designed to carry three people, and a planned upgraded version will be equipped with rendezvous and docking capability.

Statement 2 is incorrect.

• It is conceived as a part of the Human Space Flight program - a venture of ISRO and not of NASA.

Statement 3 is correct.

• It will be using a GSLV - III rocket, which uses a cryogenic engine.

Statement 4 is incorrect.

• India will be the fourth nation after USA, Russia, China to accomplish this, if the mission is successful.

Subject) Science and Technology

Q.65)

Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) is the correct answer.

Statement (a) is correct.

- MPs and MLAs, as members of the legislature, hold the government accountable for its work. The essence of disqualification under the office of profit law is if legislators holds an 'office of profit' under the government, they might be susceptible to government influence, and may not discharge their constitutional mandate fairly.
- Hence, the office of profit law simply seeks to enforce a basic feature of the Constitution- the principle of separation of power between the legislature and the executive.

Statement (b) is incorrect.

- The law does not clearly define what constitutes an office of profit but the definition has evolved over the years with interpretations made in various court judgments. An office of profit has been interpreted to be a position that brings to the office-holder some financial gain, or advantage, or benefit. The amount of such profit is immaterial.
- Thus it has not been defined either in the Constitution or in the Rules of Lok Sabha.

Statement (c) is correct.

- Supreme Court has ruled that test for determining whether a person holds an office of profit is the test of appointment.
- In 1964, the Supreme Court ruled that the test for determining whether a person holds an office of profit is the test of appointment.

• Several factors are considered in this determination including factors such as: (i) whether the government is the appointing authority, (ii) whether the government has the power to terminate the appointment, (iii) whether the government determines the remuneration, (iv) what is the source of remuneration, and (v) the power that comes with the position.

Statement (d) is correct.

- Different offices has been made immune from being tagged as an office of profit through enactment of different laws.
- Provisions of Articles 102 and 191 also protect a legislator occupying a government position if the office in question has been made immune to disqualification by law.
- In the recent past, several state legislatures have enacted laws exempting certain offices from the purview of office of profit.
- Parliament has also enacted the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, which has been amended several times to expand the exempted list.

Source) <u>https://www.prsindia.org/theprsblog/explained-law-holding-%E2%80%98office-profit%E2%80%99</u> Subject) Polity

Q.66) And) d Exp) Option (d) – 1, 2 and 4 only

- The most common chemicals used for cloud seeding include **silver iodide**, **potassium iodide** and dry ice (solid carbon dioxide).
- Liquid propane, which expands into a gas, has also been used. This can produce ice crystals at higher temperatures than silver iodide. After promising research, the use of hygroscopic materials, such as table salt, is becoming more popular.

Statement 3 is incorrect.

- Potassium nitrate occurs in nature as a mineral, niter. It is a source of nitrogen, from which it derives its name. Potassium nitrate is one of several nitrogen-containing compounds collectively referred to as saltpeter or saltpetre.
- It is not used as an agent in cloud seeding

Source) <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud_seeding#Methodology</u> **Subject**) Science and Technology

Q.67)

Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) -1, 2 and 3, is the correct answer.

All the statements given above are correct.

These forests are found in the Tropics $(23.5^{\circ} \text{ N} - 23.5^{\circ} \text{ S})$. Hence they are called Tropical. Evergreen, means that they do not shed leaves seasonally like Deciduous trees that they are always green.

Tropical Evergreen forests of India are found in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Western Ghats which fringe the Arabian Sea, the coastline of peninsular India and Small portion of are found in Odisha state.

Source) NCERT 11th Standard; India Physical Environment; Chapter # 5 Subject- Geography

Q.68)

Ans) c

Exp) Option (c) is the correct answer.

Statement (a) is incorrect.

• The Cripps mission which was a move to appease the Congress, Muslim League and Indian states at the same time was rejected by all of them.

Statement (b) is incorrect.

- Indians were given promise of liberty to frame their own constitution.
- It promised that immediately after the war is stopped, steps would be taken up to set up an elected body charged with the task of making the constitution for India and provisions would be made so that the Indian states could participate in the framing of the constitution.

Statement (c) is correct.

• Cripps Mission was sent by the British Government in March 1942 to India with key objective to secure Indian cooperation and support for British War Efforts. Headed by Sir Stafford Cripps, this mission sought to negotiate an agreement with Indian leaders.

Statement (d) is incorrect.

- It proposed setting up of the executive council but there was no mention on the number of Indians who were to be the part of the executive council.
- a vague commitment was made to increase the number of Indian members of the Viceroy's Executive Council.

Subject) Modern History

Q.69) Ans) a Exp) Option (a) – 1 and 3 only, is the correct answer. Statement 1 is correct.

- The Charter Act of 1833 made the Governor-General of Bengal as the Governor-General of India and vested in him all civil and military powers.
- Thus, the act created, for the first time, a Government of India having authority over the entire territorial area possessed by the British in India.
- Lord William Bentick was the first governor-general of India.

Statement 2 is incorrect.

- The Charter Act of 1833 attempted to introduce a system of open competition for selection of civil servants, and stated that the Indians should not be debarred from holding any place, office and employment under the Company. However, this provision was negated after opposition from the Court of Directors.
- Charter Act of 1853 introduced an open competition system of selection and recruitment of civil servants. The covenanted civil service3 was thus thrown open to

the Indians also. Accordingly, the Macaulay Committee (the Committee on the Indian Civil Service) was appointed in 1854.

Statement 3 is correct.

- Act of 1909 introduced a system of communal representation for Muslims by accepting the concept of 'separate electorate'. Under this, the Muslim members were to be elected only by Muslim voters. Thus, the Act 'legalised communalism and Lord Minto came to be known as the Father of Communal Electorate.
- Thus it is said to have legalised communalism.

Source) Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth; Chapter # 1 **Subject)** Polity

Q.70) Ans) c Exp) Option (c) is the correct answer.

Statement (a) is correct.

- The recommendations made by the Finance Commission are only of advisory nature and hence, not binding on the government.
- It is up to the Union government to implement its recommendations on granting money to the states.

Statement (b) is correct.

• Article 280 of the Constitution of India provides for a Finance Commission as a quasi judicial body. It is constituted by the president of India every fifth year or at such earlier time as he considers necessary.

Statement (c) is incorrect.

- The Constitution authorises the Parliament to determine the qualifications of members of the commission and the manner in which they should be selected.
- Accordingly, the Parliament has specified the qualifications of the chairman and members of the commission

Statement (d) is correct.

- The Finance Commission consists of a chairman and four other members to be appointed by the president. They hold office for such period as specified by the president in his order.
- They are eligible for reappointment.

Source) <u>https://blog.forumias.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/PT-Polity-2019-Part-1.pdf</u> Subject) Polity

Q.71) Ans) b Exp) Option (b) - 2 only, is the correct answer. Statement 1 is incorrect.

- Both interim budget and the general budget include both income and expenditure.
- Vote on Account represents the expenditure side of the budget.

Statement 2 is correct.

• A Vote-On-Account is treated as a formal matter and passed by the Lok Sabha without discussion as opposed to the General budget.

Statement 3 is incorrect.

- The budget presented during the election year is an interim budget which seeks a vote-on-account for four months to help the government machinery to run smoothly till a new government is selected.
- It is incorrect to say that Vote on Account is not required during an interim budget.

 Source)
 http://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2019/feb/01/vote-on-account-1932874.html

 Subject)
 Polity

Q.72)

Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) -1 only, is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: United Nations Security Council resolution 1267 was adopted unanimously on 15 October 1999. After recalling resolutions the Council designated Osama bin Laden and associates as terrorists and established a sanctions regime to cover individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida, Osama bin Laden and/or the Taliban wherever located.

Pair 2 is incorrect: Initiated by France, Resolution 2462 is intended to update existing resolutions and adapt them to new forms of financing of terrorism and new challenges in this field.

Pair 3 is incorrect: Resolution 2396, was unanimously adopted by the Security Council in to reinforce methods for countries and organisations to stop terrorist travel. **Subject)** International Relations

Source) <u>https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/countering-china-us-draft-resolution-at-unsc-to-blacklist-jem-chief-masood-azhar/article26660858.ece</u>

https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/un-security-council-adopts-resolution-to-counterterror-funding-1489076-2019-03-29

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/initiative-to-stop-terrorist-travel-launched-on-unga-sidelines-118092800882_1.html

Q.73)

Ans) a

Exp) Option (a) -1 only, is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The GDP deflator, also called implicit price deflator, is a measure of inflation. It is the ratio of the value of goods and services an economy produces in a particular year at current prices to that of prices that prevailed during the base year. Since the deflator covers the entire range of goods and services produced in the economy — as against the limited commodity baskets for the wholesale or consumer price indices — it is seen as a **more comprehensive measure of inflation**.
Statement 2 is incorrect: CPI is used by RBI as the inflation measure for the purpose of inflation targeting.

 Source)
 https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/what-is-the-gdp

 deflator/article24489279.ece

 Subject)
 Economics

Q.74)

Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) – World Economic Forum, is the correct answer.

The Global Gender Gap Report was first published in 2006 by the World Economic Forum. The Global Gender Gap Index is an index designed to measure gender equality. The Global Gender Gap Report benchmarks 149 countries on their progress towards gender parity across four thematic dimensions: Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment. India is at 108th position in the index.

Source) <u>https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-ranks-108th-in-</u> wef-gender-gap-index-scores-third-lowest-on-health-118121900039_1.html Subject) Economics – Social Development

Q.75)

Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) - Turkey and Greece, is the correct answer.

This is a Turkish-Greek dispute over territorial claims in the continental shelf areas in the Northeastern and Southwestern Aegean Sea. The Aegean Sea is an elongated embayment of the Mediterranean Sea located between the Greek and Anatolian peninsulas i.e. between the mainlands of Greece and Turkey. In the north, the Aegean is connected to the Marmara Sea and Black Sea by the Dardanelles and Bosphorus. The Aegean Islands are within the sea and some bound it on its southern periphery, including Crete and Rhode.

Subject) International Relations

Q.76)

Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) -2 and 3 is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect. A bilateral currency swap is an open-ended credit line from one country to another at a fixed exchange rate. The country which avails itself of this loan pays interest to the country which provides it, at a benchmark interest rate such as Libor (London Interbank rate). The agreement between the governments of Japan and India to provide bilateral currency swap facility worth **\$75 billion** will, however, be more effective in improving the sentiment towards the rupee. Therefore this **currency Swap is not an open ended arrangement**, there is a limit of **\$75 Billion** in the agreement.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct. Recently the rupee has been falling against the dollar because of its widening current account deficit (the difference between imports and exports of goods and services). This leads to importers upping their demand for dollars far beyond what exporters bring into the country.

Since the exchange rate will be fixed in the swap deal, the foreign exchange risk is mitigated. The finance cost is also lower since interest will be charged only on the amount drawn through the facility.

Source) <u>https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/editorial/both-india-and-japan-stand-to-gain-from-their-bilateral-currency-swap/article25382529.ece</u> <u>https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/slate/all-you-wanted-to-know-aboutep/article25429318.ece?utm_source=taboola</u> Subject) Economics

Q.77)

Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) - 2 and 4 only is the correct answer

The Tropic of Cancer passes through total 8 states of India-6 in the mainland and 2 in the northeast-Tripura and Mizoram.

Subject) Geography

Q.78)

Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Vaisheshika is not a heterodox school of philosophy.

The heterodox (nastika) schools, do not accept the authority of the Vedas, include: Carvaka, Buddhist philosophy, Jain philosophy etc.

Vaisheshika is the orthodox school of philosophy.

Source) https://www.philosophybasics.com/general_eastern_indian.html

Subject) Art and Culture

Q.79)

Ans) c

Exp) Option (c) – Both 1 and 2 is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted on 22 March 1989 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Basel, Switzerland.

Statement 2 is correct. Recently around 180 governments agreed on a new UN accord to regulate the export of plastic waste, some eight million tonnes of which ends up in the oceans each year.

The Geneva meeting amended the 1989 Basel Convention on the control of hazardous wastes to include plastic waste in a legally-binding framework.

Source) <u>https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/180-nations-agree-on-a-new-un-accord-to-curb-export-of-plastic-waste/article27104379.ece</u>

Subject) Environment and Biodiversity

Q.80)

Ans) c

Exp) Option (c) Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve is the correct answer.

Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve (ABR): ABR in situated at the southernmost end of the Western Ghats and spread over two southern states Kerala and Tamil Nadu. It was established in 2001. It is named after Agastya Mala peak that rises up to almost 1868 metres above sea level, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. In March 2016, it was included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO.

The reserve includes the Indian Ecoregions of South Western Ghats moist deciduous forests, South Western Ghats montane rain forests and Shola. It is the habitat for 2,000 varieties of medicinal plants, of which at least 50 are rare and endangered species. Rare animals include the tiger, Asian Elephant, and Nilgiri Tahr. Agasthyamalai is also home to the Kanikaran, one of the oldest surviving ancient tribes in the world.

Source)<u>http://www.kerenvis.nic.in/Database/BiosphereReservesinKerala_1293.aspx</u> Subject) Environment and Biodiversity

Q.81)

Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) – 1 and 3 only, is the correct answer. Statement 1 is correct.

• Farmers are entitled to save, use, sow, re-sow, exchange, share or sell their farm produce, including seed of protected varieties, in the same manner as they were entitles to before the coming into force to the PPV&FR Act.

Statement 2 is incorrect.

• The farmers are not entitled to sell branded seed of a variety protected under this Act. Farmers can use farm saved seed from a crop cultivated in their own.

Statement 3 is correct.

- The PPV&FR Act is the first that integrates a provision for access and benefit-sharing (ABS) along with Plant Breeder's Rights (PBRs).
- Accession of the genetic resource used in breeding is permitted under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- However, the PPV&FR Act requires a breeder to make a sworn declaration on the geographical origin of the genetic resources used in the pedigree of the new variety, and its accession.

Source) <u>http://vikaspedia.in/agriculture/policies-and-schemes/crops-related/protection-of-plant-varieties-and-rights-of-farmers/farmers2019-rights-in-the-ppv-fr-act-2001</u> **Subject)** Polity

Q.82) Ans) $\rm c$ Exp) Option (c) is the correct answer. Statement (a) is correct.

• The CBI draws its legality from the 1946-Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (DSPE). The precursor to the CBI was the Special Police Establishment, which was India's first agency to investigate corruption.

- Before the Lokpal Act was legislated, the CBI director was appointed by the DSPE Act. Now, the Lokpal Act governs the appointment of the CBI director.
- The CBI director is appointed by the Centre on the basis of the recommendation of a search committee comprising of the Prime Minister as the chairperson, the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of Opposition.

Statement (b) is correct.

- The selection of the Chairperson and the members of Lokpal shall be through a Selection Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India or a sitting Supreme Court Judge nominated by the Chief Justice of India and an eminent jurist to be nominated by the President of India on the basis of recommendations of the first four members of the selection committee.
- A Search Committee will assist the Selection Committee in the process of selection. 50% of the members of the Search Committee shall also be from amongst the SCs, the STs, the OBCs, minorities and women.

Statement (c) is incorrect.

• The Prime Minister has been brought under the purview of the Lokpal with subject matter exclusions and specific process for handling complaints against the Prime Minister.

Statement (d) is correct.

• It has provided the states with flexiblity to decide upon the contours of Lokayukta mechanism.

Source) Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth; Chapter # 59 Subject) Polity

Q.83) Ans) d Exp) Option (d) - 1, 2 and 3, is the correct answer. Statement 1 is correct.

• Scheduled areas are mentioned in 5th schedule of constitution while tribals areas of Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Assam are mentioned in 6th schedule.

Statement 2 is correct.

- The president is empowered to declare an area to be a scheduled area. He can also increase or decrease its area, alter its boundary lines, rescind such designation make fresh orders for such redesignation on an area in consultation with the governor of the state concerned.
- The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts. Thus, he can increase or decrease their areas or change their names or define their boundaries and so on.

Statement 3 is correct.

- Tribes Advisory Councils are constituted under the fifth schedule while Autonomous District Councils are constituted under sixth schedule.
- Each state having scheduled areas has to establish a tribes advisory council to advise on welfare and advancement of the scheduled tribes. It is to consist of 20 members,

three-fourths of whom are to be the representatives of the scheduled tribes in the state legislative assembly.

Source) Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth; Chapter # 41 **Subject)** Polity

Q.84)

Ans) a

Exp) Option (a) is the correct answer.

Fiscal drag is an economics term referring to a situation where a government's net fiscal position does not meet the net savings goals of the private economy. This can result in deflationary pressure attributed to either lack of state spending or to excess taxation. One cause of fiscal drag is the consequence of expanding economies with progressive taxation. In general, individuals are forced into higher tax brackets as their income rises. The greater tax burden can lead to less consumer spending. For the individuals pushed into a higher tax bracket, the proportion of income as tax has increased, resulting in fiscal drag.

Source)https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/fiscal-drag.asp https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/glossary/fiscal-drag/ Subject) Economics

Q.85)

Ans) a

Exp) Option (a) - Ireland is the correct answer.

The "**backstop**" **agreement** reached between the EU and the UK in December 2017 stated that, in the absence of another solution for the Border, Northern Ireland would effectively remain within the EU customs union.

This would ensure no hard border on the island of Ireland, where the UK and the rest of the European Union share their only land border. However, Northern Ireland's unionists and others are insisting that Northern Ireland be treated no differently than the rest of the UK after Brexit comes into effect in March 2019. They are therefore opposed to a border between Ireland and Britain, or a border in the Irish sea.

Source) <u>https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/uk/brexit-what-is-the-backstop-agreement-and-why-does-it-matter-1.3571135</u> Subject) International Relations

Q.86)

Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) -1, 2 and 3 is the correct answer.

First pair is correct.

- Prarthana Samaj, or "Prayer Society" in Sanskrit, was a movement for religious and social reform in Bombay based on earlier reform movements.
- Prarthana Samaj was founded by **Atmaram Pandurang** in 1867 when Kesab Chandra sen visited Maharashtra, with an aim to make people believe in one God and worship only one God.
- It became popular after **Mahadev Govind Ranade** joined.

Second pair is correct.

• The Nirankari sect was founded by Baba Dyal, a Sahajdhari, who aimed at refocusing Sikhs on the Adi Granth, the religion's central holy text.

Third pair is correct.

• The Western-educated progressive Parsis like Dadabhai Naoroji, J.B. Wacha, S.S. Bangali and Naoroji Furdonji founded the Rahanumai Mazdayasanan Sabha (Religious Reform Association) in 1851. The association had for its object "the regeneration of the social condition of the Parsis and the restoration of the Zoroastrian religion to its pristine purity".

Subject) Modern History

Q.87)

Ans) b

Exp) Option (b) - 2 and 3 only is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Nitrogen is the dominant gas in the atmosphere, it is inert and doesn't react. However, when it is released as part of compounds from agriculture, sewage and biological waste, nitrogen is considered "reactive", and it may be polluting and even exert a potent greenhouse gas (heat trapping) effect.

Statement 2 is correct. Agriculture remains the largest contributor to nitrogen emissions, the non-agricultural emissions of nitrogen oxides and nitrous oxide are growing rapidly, with sewage and fossil-fuel burning for power, transport and industry leading the trend.

Statement 3 is correct. Nitrogen pollution is an emerging environmental problem linked with air pollution, biodiversity loss, pollution of rivers and seas and ozone depletion. Nitrogen pollution is caused, among other things, by emissions from chemical fertilisers, livestock manure, and burning of fossil fuels. Gases such as ammonia and nitrogen dioxide contribute to poor air quality and can aggravate respiratory and heart conditions, while nitrous oxide is a greenhouse gas that depletes the ozone layer. Nitrate from chemical fertilisers, manure and industry pollutes rivers and seas, posing a health risk for humans, fish, coral and plant life.

Source) <u>https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/18-indian-institutions-to-study-nitrogen-pollution/article26082806.ece</u>

https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/nitrogen-emissions-goingup-study/article24090131.ece

https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/environment/uk-to-support-nitrogen-research-inindia-62953

Subject) Environment and Biodiversity

Q.88)

Ans) c

Exp) Option (c) – Both 1 and 2, is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. The Economic Survey 2016-17 has advocated the concept of Universal Basic Income (UBI) as an alternative to the various social welfare schemes in an effort to reduce poverty. UBI is based on the principles of universality, unconditionality and agency, is a conceptually appealing idea but with a number of implementation challenges

lying ahead especially the risk that it would become an add-on to, rather than a replacement of, current anti-poverty and social programmes, which would make it fiscally unaffordable

Statement 2 is correct. Targeted Basic Income (TBI) concepts have made a big splash as India goes into the election season. While variants of TBI have been tried in various states in the past few years, the Union Budget presented in January unveiled the first nation-wide programme – in the form of PM-KISAN, promising Rs 6,000 every year to every farmer with landholding of two acres or less

There are really **two policy issues to solve for in any large TBI programme – the targeting algorithm and the funding plan**. Targeting is in some ways, a techno-managerial issue, once the political decision on the coverage universe is taken. For example, in PM-KISAN, once the political decision of defining the beneficiary pool (as farmers with less than two acres) has been taken, identifying the relevant farmers, eliminating duplication etc are technical challenges. The real political decision is the one on funding – and that is exactly where details are fuzzy.

Source) <u>http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157804</u> <u>https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/targeted-basic-income-needs-bold-policy-decisions/articleshow/68898419.cms</u> Subject) Economics – Schemes

Q.89)

Ans) c

Exp) Option (c) – Alvars, is the correct answer.

- One of the major anthologies of compositions by the Alvars, the Nalayira Divyaprabandham, was frequently described as the Tamil Veda, thus claiming that the text was as significant as the four Vedas in Sanskrit that were cherished by the Brahmanas.
- The Nalayira Divya Prabandham is a collection of 4,000 Tamil verses (Naalayiram in Tamil means 'four thousand') composed the 12 Alvars, and was compiled in its present form by Nathamuni during the 9th 10th centuries.
- The work, an important liturgical compilation of the Tamil Alvars, marks the beginning of the canonization of 12 Vaishnava poet saints, and these hymns are still sung extensively today. The works were lost before they were collected and organized in the form of an anthology by Nathamuni.

Source) NCERT 12th Standard; Themes in Indian History Part 2; Chapter # 2 (http://ncert.nic.in/textbook/textbook.htm?lehs2=2-5) **Subject)** Medieval History

Q.90)

Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) - All of the above, is the correct answer.

All the statements are correct.

- They lay the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the society.
- They represent conditions that society collectively sees as a source of self-respect and dignity.
- They are essentially an entitlement or a justified claim needed to lead a dignified life.

Source) NCERT 11th Standard: Political Theory: Chapter 5 (<u>http://ncert.nic.in/textbook/textbook.htm?keps1=5-10</u>) **Subject)** Polity

Q.91) Ans) d Exp) Option (d) – 1, 2 and 3, is the correct answer. Women Poets of Bhakti

The contribution of women writers in different languages during that period deserves special attention. Women writers like Ghosha, Lopamudra, Gargi, Maitreyi, Apala, Romasha Brahmavadini, etc., right from the days of the Vedas (6000 B.C. – 4000 B.C.), focused on the image of women in mainstream Sanskrit literature. The songs of Buddhist nuns (6th century B.C.) like Mutta and Ubbiri and Mettika in Pali express the torment of feelings for the life left behind. The Alwar women poets (6th century A.D.), like Andal and others, gave expression to their love for the divine. Lal Ded (1320-1384), the Muslim poetess from Kashmir Lalded & Habba Khatun, represented the sant tradition of bhakti and wrote Vakhs (maxims), which are peerless gems of spiritual experience.

Meera Bai in Gujarati, Rajasthani and Hindi (she wrote in three languages).

Avvayyar, in Tamil, and Akkamahadevi in Kannada, are well known for their sheer lyrical intensity and concentrated emotional appeal. Their writings speak to us about the social conditions prevailing at that time, and the position of women at home and in society. They all wrote small lyrics or poems of devotional fervour, metaphysical depth, and with a spirit of dedication and utmost sincerity.

Source) <u>http://ccrtindia.gov.in/literaryarts.php#women_poets_of_bhakti</u> Subject) Art and Culture

Q.92)

Ans) a

Exp) Option (a) -1 and 2 only, is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct. Kamlang Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh, India's 50th Tiger Reserve The Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary, established in 1989, is rich in flora and fauna. It is situated in the Lohit District of the northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. The park is named after the Kamlang River which flows through it.

Pair 2 is correct. In 2013, the **Supreme Court had quashed a decision** of the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest to introduce African cheetahs to Kuno-Palpur.

Another plan to translocate 20 cheetahs from Namibia to Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, also in Madhya Pradesh had hit a roadblock for want of funds, recently the Supreme Court has agreed to consider its 2013 decision even as the Madhya Pradesh government has written to the National Tiger Conservation Authority to revive the Nauradehi project

Pair 3 is incorrect. Twenty three Asiatic lions died between September 12 and October 1 and three on October 22. This has made wildlife activists ask Gujarat to translocate lions outside the state to ensure that the population is spread out and the danger of a species wipe out is averted.

In its judgement delivered on April 15, 2013, the Supreme Court agreed with the idea of shifting lions outside Gujarat to the **Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh**

Source) <u>https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/tiny-orang-roars-on-tiger-density/article18718989.ece</u>

 $\frac{https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/wildlife-biodiversity/the-fate-of-the-cheetah-reintroduction-plan-hangs-in-the-balance-62391$

https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/wildlife-biodiversity/is-it-time-to-find-a-second-home-for-asiatic-lions--62012

Subject) Environment and Biodiversity

Q.93)

Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) -1, 2 and 3 is the correct answer.

MPI is a measure that takes into account the incidence of poverty and the extent of deprivation. Going beyond just monetary measures, the MPI takes into account several factors. Here's a look at the various indicators involved and their weightage.



Global comparison

India's MPI is lower than the global average of 0.159 and the South Asian countries, but is higher (worse) than BRICS countries (excluding Russia). The MPI has been calculated for 105 developing economies.

Source)https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/multidimensional-poverty-index-india/article25359230.eceSubject)Economics – Social Development

Q.94) Ans) c Exp) Option (c) -1, 2, 3 and 4

1	Soyuz	Russian spacecraft that carried people and supplies to and fro from the International Space Station	
2	Cassini	Joint Collaboration between NASA, European Space Agency and Italian Space Agency to study Saturn	
3	Chandra X Observatory	X Ray telescope launched by NASA	
4	Bepi Colombo	Europe's First Mission to Mercury	

Subject) Science and Technology

Q.95)

Ans) a

Exp) Option (a) is the correct answer. In response to well-documented patterns of abuse, a distinguished group of international human rights experts met in Yogyakarta, Indonesia to **outline a set of international principles relating to sexual orientation and gender identity.** The result was the Yogyakarta Principles: a universal guide to human rights which affirm binding international legal standards with which all States must comply.

Recently, The five-judge Constitution Bench declared that once a nine-judge Bench had declared privacy to be a part of the fundamental right to life, nothing could stop the Supreme Court from upholding bodily autonomy and sexual orientation as a fundamental right too. It was held that homosexuals had a fundamental right to live with dignity. They were entitled to be treated as human beings and should be allowed to imbibe the spirit of fraternity. Justice Nariman embraced the Yogyakarta Principles, which recognise freedom of sexual orientation and gender identity as part of human rights.

Source)https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/section-377-verdict-community-
needed-the-rainbow-of-hope-says-cji/article24885601.ecehttps://yogyakartaprinciples.org/principles-en/Subject)International Relations

Q.96)

Ans) d

Exp) Option (d) -1, 2 and 3 is the correct answer.

India has designated Sundarban Wetland as a Wetland of International Importance, its 27th. The Site (Ramsar Site no. 2370) is located within the largest mangrove forest in the world, the Sundarbans, that encompasses hundreds of islands and a maze of rivers, rivulets and creeks, in the delta of the Rivers Ganges and Brahmaputra on the Bay of Bengal in India and Bangladesh.

List of Ramsar sites in India.

SI. No.	Name of Site	State Location	Date of Declaration	Area (in Sq. km.)
1	Asthamudi Wetland	Kerala	19.8.2002	614
2	Bhitarkanika Mangroves	Orissa	19.8.2002	650
3	Bhoj Wetlands	Madhya Pradesh	19.8.2002	32.01
4	Chandertal Wetland	Himachal Pradesh	8.11.2005	0.49
5	Chilka Lake	Orissa	1.10.1981	1165
6	Deepor Beel	Assam	19.8.2002	40
7	East Calcutta Wetlands	West Bengal	19.8.2002	125
8	Harike Lake	Punjab	23.3.1990	41
9	Hokera Wetland	Jammu and Kashmir	8.11.2005	13.75
10	Kanjli Lake	Punjab	22.1.2002	1.83
11	Keoladeo Ghana NP	Rajasthan	1.10.1981	28.73
12	Kolleru Lake	Andhra Pradesh	19.8.2002	901
13	Loktak Lake	Manipur	23.3.1990	266
14	Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary	Gujarat	24/09/12	120
15	Point Calimere	Tamil Nadu	19.8.2002	385
16	Pong Dam Lake	Himachal Pradesh	19.8.2002	156.62
17	Renuka Wetland	Himachal Pradesh	8.11.2005	0.2
18	Ropar Lake	Punjab	22.1.2002	13.65
19	Rudrasagar Lake	Tripura	8.11.2005	2.4
20	Sambhar Lake	Rajasthan	23.3.1990	240
21	Sasthamkotta Lake	Kerala	19.8.2002	3.73
22	Sunderbans Wetland	West Bengal	30.1.2019	4230
23	Surinsar-Mansar Lakes	Jammu and Kashmir	8.11.2005	3.5
24	Tsomoriri Lake	Jammu and Kashmir	19.8.2002	120
25	Upper Ganga River (Brijghat to Narora Stretch)	Uttar Pradesh	8.11.2005	265.9
26	Vembanad Kol Wetland	Kerala	19.8.2002	1512.5
27	Wular Lake	Jammu & Kashmir 📃	23.3.1990	189
		Total Area (<i>in</i>	11121.31	

Source) <u>http://wiienvis.nic.in/Database/ramsar_wetland_sites_8224.aspx</u> Subject) Environment & Biodiversity

Q.97)

Ans) c

Exp) Option (c) -2 and 3 only, is the correct answer.

The difference between ozone content in the two polar regions (Antarctic and Arctic) is caused by dissimilar weather patterns.

Statement 2 is correct.The Antarctic continent is a very large land mass surrounded by oceans.This symmetrical condition produces very low stratospheric temperatures within a meteorologically isolated region, the so-called **polar vortex**, which extends from about 65 degrees south to the pole.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The cold temperatures lead in turn to the formation of clouds, known as **polar stratospheric clouds.** These clouds provide surfaces that promote production of forms of chlorine and bromine that are chemically active and can rapidly destroy ozone. The conditions that maintain elevated levels of chemically active chlorine and bromine persist into September and October in Antarctica, when sunlight returns over the region to initiate ozone depletion.

Statement 3 is correct. The main cause of ozone depletion and the ozone hole is manufactured chemicals, especially manufactured halocarbon refrigerants, solvents, propellants and foam-blowing agents (chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), HCFCs, halons), referred to as ozone-depleting substances (ODS). These compounds are transported into the stratosphere by turbulent mixing after being emitted from the surface.

Source) <u>https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/csd/assessments/ozone/1998/faq7.html</u> Subject) Environment & Biodiversity

Q.98)

Ans) a

Exp) Option (a) - 1 only, is the correct answer.

The most outstanding leaders of militant nationalism, apart from Lokamanya Tilak, were Bipin Chandra Pal, Aurobindo Ghose and Lala Lajpat Rai. The distinctive political aspects of the programme of the militant nationalists were as follows.

Statement 1 is correct. They believed that Indians themselves must work out their own salvation and make the effort to rise from their degraded position. They declared that great sacrifices and sufferings were needed for this task. Their speeches, writings and political work were full of boldness and self-confidence, and they considered no personal sacrifice too great for the good of their country.

Statement 2 is incorrect. They denied that India could progress under the 'benevolent guidance' and control of the English. They deeply hated foreign rule, and they declared in a clear-cut manner that swaraj or independence was the goal of the national movement.

Statement 3 is incorrect. They had deep faith in the strength of the masses and they planned to achieve swaraj through mass action. They, therefore, pressed for political work among the masses and for direct political action by the masses.

Source)http://www.historydiscussion.net/history-of-india/nationalist-movement/thenationalist-movement-1905-18-indian-history/6312 Subject) Modern History

Q.99) Ans) c Exp) Option (c) is the correct answer. Cultural and Educational Rights:

- Article 29. Protection of interests of minorities.
- Article 30. Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions.

Right to Freedom of Religion

- Article 25. Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion.
- Article 26. Freedom to manage religious affairs.
- Article 27. Freedom as to payment of taxes for promotion of any particular religion.
- Article 28. Freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in certain educational institutions.

Source) Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth; Chapter # 7

Subject) Polity

Q.100)

Ans) d Exp) Option (d) – 1, 2 and 3, is the correct answer. Statement 1 is correct.

- Panchayati Raj or the system of rural local self-government was constitutionalised through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992.
- The act has given a practical shape to Article 40 of the Constitution which recommends the State to take steps to organise village panchayats.
- It has brought them under the purview of the justiciable part of the Constitution.

Statement 2 is correct.

- The act provides for setting up of State finance commission and State election commission.
- The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of all elections to the panchayats shall be vested in the state election commission.
- The governor of a state shall, after every five years, constitute a finance commission to review the financial position of the panchayats.

Statement 3 is correct.

- In Nagaland Meghalaya & Mizoram there are no any Panchayati Raj as because they exempted under Article 243M(2) and also enjoying Special Constitutional Provision under Article 371A, 371B, 371C,371F,371G,371H by the Constitution of India.
- Similarly, J&K enjoys special powers under Article 370 and the PRI Act is not applicable to it.

Source) Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth; Chapter 38 Subject) Polity