

Educrat IAS Academy

Mock Test: 15

Answer key

1. Consider the following statements about the fallouts of the Battle of Plassey:

1. The East India Company got the right to free trade in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.
2. The French were no longer a significant power in Bengal.
3. Use of 'dastaks' for private trades of British merchants was abolished.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Statement 3 is wrong: there was rampant abuse of 'dastaks' for their private trade. so after sometime Mir Jafar found it difficult to meet the financial demands of the EIC and was removed from the throne to be replaced by his son in law.

2. With reference to 1857 Revolt, which of the following pair is/are correctly matched?

Place -	Leader
1. Lucknow -	Begum Hazrat Mahal
2. Bareilly -	Kunwar Singh
3. Faizabad -	Azimulah
4. Delhi -	General Bakht Khan

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The correct pairs are as follows:

- Lucknow- Begum Hazrat Mahal
- Bareilly- Khan Bahadur
- Faizabad- Maulvi Ahmadullah
- Delhi- General Bhakt Khan
- Kanpur- Nana Sahib
- Bihar- Kunwar Singh

3. Which of the following were the grievances of the orthodox Indians against British rule:

1. Protection and encouragement given to the Christian missionaries by the British government.
2. Resentment against the social reforms and humanitarian measures introduced by the British government.
3. British policy of taxing lands belonging to temples, mosques and charitable institutions.
4. Refusal of the British to pay foreign service allowance (batta) while fighting in remote regions such as Punjab or Sindh.

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Statement 4 is wrong: it relates to the grievances of the sepoys not orthodox Indians.

4. Which of the following characteristics about the "Subsidiary Alliance" system is/are correct?

1. Permanent stationing of a British force within the allying state's territory.
2. Posting of a British Resident at the state's court.
3. In practice, internal day-to-day affairs of the state remained largely unaffected.

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Statement 3 is wrong: under the Treaty British undertook to defend the ruler from his enemies and promised non-interference in their internal affairs. But they didn't keep this promise. In practice, through the British resident, they interfered in the day-to-day administration of the state.

5. With reference to the administrative reorganisation happened after 1858, consider the following statements:

1. Lord Mayo's resolution of 1870 emphasised on providing finances to local bodies.
2. Lord Ripon's resolution of 1881-1882 reduced the strength of elected members in local bodies.
3. Calcutta Corporation Act, 1899, passed during Lord Curzon's tenure emphasized on elections in local bodies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Statement 2 is wrong: Lord Ripon's resolution of 1881-82, extended the election principle and local self-government.

Statement 3 is wrong: Calcutta corporation Act 1899, passed during Lord Curzon's tenure reduced the strength of elected members in the Calcutta corporation.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. The French were the first to intervene in the disputes of the Indian rulers to acquire political control over territories, a method later followed by the British.
2. European conflicts between France and England found a theatre in Anglo-French wars in India.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: French general Duplex was the first to intervene in the succession wars in Hyderabad and the Carnatic, which was later followed more successfully by the British to intervene in various conflicts.

The Anglo- French war of the eighteenth century such as the '7 years war' spread to India also.

7. Consider the following statements with respect to annexation of Indian states by East India Company:

1. Lord Dalhousie's policy of annexation of Indian states was aimed at expansion of British exports in India.
2. Policy of annexation of Indian states was stopped after the 1857 Revolt.
3. Awadh was annexed in 1856 by using Doctrine of Lapse.

Which of the options given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Statement 3 is wrong: Awadh was annexed in 1856 by accusing that navab is governing the state and refusing the introduction of reforms.

8. Consider the following statements about Swami Dayanand Saraswati:

1. Swami Dayanand Saraswati tried to project Hinduism as a religion of book like Islam and Christianity.
2. According to him, only Vedas contained the scientific truth hence Hinduism was a superior religion.
3. On the authority of Vedas, he rejected ritualism, caste system and untouchability.
4. He also denounced the Chatur Varna system, with an aim to reform the society.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Only statement 4 is wrong: Swami Dayanand upheld the varna system according to the Vedas.

Statements 1 2 and 3 are correct and are self-explanatory.

9. Which among the following is/are correct regarding the Moderate leaders of Indian Freedom Struggle:

1. They were not in favour of expelling the British out of India.
2. The Moderates used 'self- reliance' as a tool to win support of the Britishers.
3. They carried on an active propaganda in Britain to garner support for India.

Select the correct answers using code given below:

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Statement 2 is wrong: extremists believed in atmashakti or self-reliance as a weapon against British domination. Moderates believed in corporation and reconciliation to win over Britishers.

10. Consider the following statements about the "Doctrine of lapse" implemented by Lord Dalhousie. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Dalhousie made use of 'Doctrine of Lapse' for the first time in India as a part of Britisher's annexation policy.
2. After the death of a ruler, the adopted heir could not rule the state without prior British approval.
3. Satara was the first Indian state to be annexed under the doctrine.

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is wrong: this doctrine existed prior to Dalhousie also. The Court of Directors of the East India Company had articulated this as early as 1834. As per this policy the company annexed Mandvi in 1839, Colaba and Jalaun in 1840 and Surat in 1842.

11. Which of the following were the consequences of the revolt of 1857?

1. The British Crown assumed the direct responsibility of the country, and the East India Company was dissolved completely by the Proclamation of 1858.
2. The title of Governor-General was abolished, and the Crown's representative came to be known as the Viceroy.
3. India was made to bear the entire financial burden of the outbreak and suppression of the revolt.

Select the correct answers using code given below:

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is wrong: The East India company was not dissolved, it continued to exist. But the Company rule was abolished. The company was actually of dissolved in 1874.

Statement 2 is wrong: governor general was given the additional title of viceroy (the post of governor general was not done away with)

12. The French position, which at one time dazzled the Indian world by its political successes, was destined to end in humiliation and failure. Which of the following were the causes of failure of French in establishing an empire in India?

1. Inferior system of government prevalent in France.
2. The shareholders of the French Company took very little interest in promoting the prosperity of the Company.
3. The English conquest of Bengal.

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: All the above statements are correct.

13. Sanyasi Rebellion refers to:

- (a) Displaced peasants and demobilized soldiers of Bengal being led by religious monks and dispossessed zamindars against the British.
- (b) Sanyasis rising in objection to the regulation of religious practices by the British.
- (c) Dispossessed zamindars going on hunger and water strikes due to illegitimate annexation of agricultural land by the state.
- (d) The activities of an organized group of Sanyasis who resorted to print and mass media for exposing the British.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Displaced peasants and demobilized soldiers of Bengal led by religious monks and dispossessed zamindars were the first to rise up in the Sanyasi rebellion, made famous by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in his novel 'Ananda Math', that lasted from 1763 to 1800.

14. Who was the first Muslim president of the Indian National Congress?

- (a) Muhammed Ali Jinnah
- (b) Badruddin Tyabji
- (c) Sir Syed Ahmed Khan
- (d) Abul Kalam Azad

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The first Muslim president of Indian National Congress was Badruddin Tyabji in 1887.

Abul Kalam Azad became the youngest president of INC in 1923 at the age of 35.

15. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct about the Mahalwari settlement system?

- 1. 'Registered' land holder was responsible for direct payment of revenue to state.
- 2. Prevalent in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.
- 3. Covered majority of British areas in India.

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) None of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: All the given statements are wrong.

In mahalwari system, entire village as one unit (Mahal) was responsible.

Prevalent areas of mahalwari system: parts of up and Central province, N-W, Agra, Punjab, gangetic valley.

Area covered: 29% under mahalwari.

16. Which of the following statements is/are correct w.r.t. 'Ilbert Bill'?

1. Ilbert bill was a sort of judicial reform bill, whose objective was to give same powers to Indian judges as already assigned to their European counterparts.
2. This Bill was first time introduced during the period of Lord Lytton, but it got popularity during the period of Lord Ripon.
3. This Bill was introduced by C.P. Ilbert who was the then chairman of the Council of Secretary of State for India.

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The Ilbert bill was formally introduced during the viceroyship of Lord Ripon. Sir C.P. Ilbert was a law member of the viceroy's council.

17. Which of the following was/were the cause(s) of failure of the revolt of 1857?

1. The kings of Kashmir and Nepal helped in suppressing the revolt.
2. It was mainly feudal in character.
3. Lack of coordination in the uprisings in different parts of India.

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: All of these statements were the causes of failure of the revolt of 1857.

18. Who among the following was/were associated with Brahma Samaj?

1. Keshab Chandra Sen
2. Raja Rammohun Roy
3. Debendranath Tagore

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: All three were associated with Brahmo Samaj.

It was established by Raja Ram Mohan Roy and was carried forward after 1843 by Rabindranath Tagore and Keshab Chandra Sen.

19. Consider the following statements:

1. Nizam-ul-Mulk 'Qamar ud din Khan' was the first Mughal noble who founded the State of Hyderabad in Deccan.
2. The 2nd Battle of Panipat resulted in the Kohinoor Diamond being taken away by Nadir Shah, the king of Persia.
3. In 1761, Mughal empire ceased to exist in practice as an all-India empire and was reduced as the Kingdom of Delhi.
4. The Mughal monarchy after the Battle of Buxar till 1857, served as the titular head for the English East India Company, for it symbolized the political unity of the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Statement 2 is wrong: the battle of Karnal 1739 resulted in the Kohinoor diamond being taken away by Nadir Shah the King of Persia after defeating Mughal army. Second battle of Panipat was fought in 1556 between Hindu and Akbar.

20. Consider the following statement with reference to Swami Vivekananda:

1. He believed that Vedanta Darshan is capable of solving the day-to-day problems of life.
2. Subhash C. Bose symbolized Vivekananda as the spiritual father of the modern nationalist movement in Bengal.
3. Vivekananda emphasized to improve the condition of women and remove castesim.
4. He supported the Shuddhi movement (aimed to bring the converted Hindus back to the community).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Statement 4 is wrong: Shuddhi movement was the focus area of Arya Samaj and Swami Dayanand Saraswati. Rest all the given statements are true.

21. Arrange the following events in the correct chronological order:

- (i) Death of Mir Jafar
- (ii) Battle of Buxar
- (iii) Black Hole Tragedy
- (iv) Treaty of Allahabad

Choose the answer from the codes given below:

- (a) i, ii, iii and iv
- (b) iii, ii, iv and i
- (c) iii, ii, i and iv
- (d) i, iv, iii and ii

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- Black hole tragedy- 1756
- Battle of Buxar- 1764
- Death of Mir Jafar- 17 Jan 1765
- Treaty of Allahabad- 12 August 1765

22. With reference to the Theosophical society, consider the following statements:

1. The theosophists advocated revival of ancient religion of Hinduism, Buddhism and Zoroastrianism.
2. They recognized the doctrine of transmigration of soul.
3. It was headquartered at Bombay.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Theosophical society had its head quarter at Adyar near Madras. It was established in the year 1886.

23. Which of the following decisions was/were taken at the Lucknow Session of Congress, 1916?

1. The extremists were readmitted into the Indian National Congress.
2. Indian National Congress accepted the demand of separate electorates by Muslim League.
3. The Home Rule League movement was to be discontinued.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is wrong: moderates and extremists were reunited in 1915 Bombay session. In December 1915, Tilak group was allowed to re-enter the Congress. As a result, the number of delegates rises to 2259. Major inspiration of this was due to Annie Besant's intervention.

Statement 3 is wrong: The Home rule league was not discontinued by Lucknow session of Congress.

24. What were the reasons for the starting of 'Quit India Movement'?

1. Rising prices of essential commodities and growing anger among Indians.
2. Growing threat of Japanese invasion of India.
3. Failure of August Offer.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Statement 3 is wrong: failure of August offer was not one of the reasons for the starting of Quit India movement.

25. With reference to Ghadar Movement, consider the following statements:

1. The Ghadar party believed that the British rule could be overthrown by armed revolt only.
2. Based in San Francisco, the movement aimed to fight against the discrimination against Indian immigrants in North America.
3. The Defence of India Act was passed by British to suppress the movement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Statement 2 is wrong: it was believed that freedom available in America was not to be used to fight against Americans, for in any case Indians would never be accepted as equals abroad till they were free in their own land.

26. Consider the following events during India's Freedom struggle:

1. Jinnah's 14 Points
2. First Round Table Conference
3. Nehru Report

4. Gandhi-Irwin Pact

Which one of the following is the correct chronological order of the event above?

- (a) 1, 3, 2, 4
- (b) 3, 1, 4, 2
- (c) 3, 1, 2, 4
- (d) 1, 2, 4, 3

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- Nehru report: August 1928
- Jinnah's 14 points: March 1929
- First RTC: November 1930 to January 1931
- Gandhi Irwin pact: February 1931

27. Which of the following was NOT a recommendation of the Nehru Report, 1928?

- (a) There will be separate electorates for minorities.
- (b) There shall be no state religion.
- (c) India will be a federation which shall have a bicameral legislature at the centre.
- (d) India should be given dominion status within the British Commonwealth.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Refer spectrum.

28. Which of the following could be the reasons for not initiating an immediate movement by Gandhiji after the World War-II started?

1. Gandhiji and some other dominant leaders felt that the cause of Allies was just.
2. Gandhiji believed that there is an absence of Hindu-Muslim unity in the country.
3. He felt that masses were not ready for the struggle at that moment.
4. Gandhiji was of the opinion that Congress organization at the time was weak and had been corrupted during their 28 months rule.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: All the statements are correct. Refer Spectrum chapter 6.

29. Consider the following statements in relation to the events around Communal Award of 1932:

1. It had declared Sikhs, Christians and Depressed Classes as minorities, and provided separate electorates for them for first time.

2. Mahatma Gandhi had taken fast unto death in protest against Communal Award.
3. Poona Pact which was signed between B.R. Ambedkar and Gandhi, provided that provision for separate electorate for depressed classed was to be removed.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is wrong: Sikhs, Christians were already declared as minority in Government of India Act, 1919. In Communal Award 1932, depressed classes were declared and provision of separate electorate has been made for them.

30. For what reason was the 'Cunningham Circular' during the Civil Disobedience phase issued?

1. To debar all the government employees from forming any political organisation.
2. To suspend all the government employees who participated in Civil Disobedience Movement.
3. To forbid the students from joining any political activities.
4. To restrict railway workers from forming union.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Only statement 3 is correct.
Refer spectrum chapter 5.

31. After the termination of Non-Cooperation Movement, a new wave of revolutionary movement gathered momentum. Consider following statements about this new wave of "Revolutionary Terrorism":

1. Ideologically this new wave had some socialistic content in it and was inspired by Russian revolution.
2. This new wave was the result of the disenchantment with Gandhian methods.
3. Women took no part in it as the violence repulsed them.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are true?

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

(d) 1 and 2 only

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The second wave of revolutionary terrorism started after Gandhi stopped his Non-Cooperation movement. This forced youths to other ways to achieve freedom. Ideologically most of the revolutionaries in this new wave were inspired by Russian revolution based on socialist ideas. Women also participated in some revolutionary activities. As evident from Chittagong armoury raid, violence could not repulse women.

32. Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw bombs in the Central Legislative Assembly against the passage of:

1. Trade Disputes Bill
2. Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Bill
3. Public Safety Bill

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: When the British government promulgated the two bills 'Trade Union Dispute Bill' and 'Public Safety Bill' which Bhagat Singh and his party thought were Black laws aimed at curbing citizens freedom and civil liberties they decided to oppose these bills by throwing a bomb in the central assembly hall.

Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act 1919 is popularly known as the 'Rowlatt Act'.

33. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the "Salt Satyagrahas" during Civil Disobedience movement?

1. In Tamil Nadu, salt march from Trichinopoly to Vedaranniyam was led by Subramania Bharati.
2. In Malabar, the salt march from Calicut to Payannur was led by K. Kelappan.
3. Raid on Dharasana salt work was led by Sarojini Naidu.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: In Tamil Nadu, salt march from Trichinopoly to Vedaranniyam was led by C. Rajagopalachari.

The other two statements are correct.

34. Which among the following statements is INCORRECTLY stated?

- (a) Wavell Plan provided that the Viceroy of India would henceforth be an Indian.
- (b) Mountbatten Plan recommended formation of a Boundary Commission.
- (c) Rajagopalachari Formula recommended decision on formation of a separate sovereign by north-west and north-east people by plebiscite.
- (d) British Parliament passed the Mountbatten Plan as Independence of India Act of 1947.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Statement A is incorrect.

the travel plan recommended to set up a new executive council at the centre in which all will be Indians, except the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief.

35. Consider the following statements:

1. In the 2nd Round Table Conference, Sarojini Naidu represented the Indian women.
2. Poona Pact provided more seats to the depressed classes in provincial legislatures than was offered in Communal Award.
3. Dharasana Satyagraha was the protest against British salt tax in colonial India in 1930.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: All the statements are correct.

36. Regarding the Swadeshi and Boycott movement, consider the following statements:

1. 'Self-government' was declared as the goal of the Indian National Congress during this movement.
2. There was an internal conflict within the Congress during the movement.
3. The current national anthem of Bangladesh was composed during this movement only.

Which of the statements given above is/are INCORRECT?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: All the statements are correct.

37. Which of the following statements is true about the famous Gandhi-Irwin Pact of 1931?

- (a) The right to make salt for consumption and sale was accorded to all coastal villages.

- (b) Civil Disobedience Movement was to be discontinued after the Pact.
- (c) The agreement did not mention anything about the political prisoners of Civil Disobedience Movement.
- (d) The pact was signed by Jawahar Lal Nehru on behalf of Gandhiji.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Gandhi Irwin pact was signed by Gandhiji on behalf of the Congress and by Lord Irwin on behalf of the government.

The terms of agreement included the immediate release of all political prisoners not convicted for violence.

The government also conceded the right to make salt (w/o sale) for consumption to villages along the coast.

The Congress on its part agreed to discontinue the CDM.

It was also understood that the Congress would participate in the next Round Table Conference.

38. The proposal to create Pakistan was rejected by the Cabinet Mission. Which of the following were the reason(s) for it?

1. It would encourage Sikhs to demand separate statehood.
2. The proposed Pakistan had many Non-Muslim populations.
3. Regional ties of Bengal and Punjab would be disturbed.
4. Partition would result economic and administrative problems.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: All the statements are correct. Refer Spectrum chapter 6.

39. Which of the following organisations/newspapers is/are associated with Mahatma Gandhi's struggle in South Africa?

1. Indian Natal Organization
2. Indian Opinion
3. Passive Resistance Organization
4. The Indian League
5. Indian Mirror

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 5 only
- (c) 2, 4 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The Indian league was started in 1875 by Sushil Kumar Ghosh. It was not related with Mahatma Gandhi struggle in South Africa.

Indian mirror was an English paper founded by Rabindranath Tagore at Calcutta in 1862.

40. Consider the following statements regarding "Home Rule League" movement:

1. Tilak's Home Rule League covered whole India, while Besant's League was restricted to southern parts of India.
2. Home Rule movement was joined by both extremist leaders as well as moderate leaders.
3. Home Rule League movement promoted political education among youths.

Which of statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is wrong: Tilak Home rule league was restricted to Maharashtra only. While Annie Besant's league covered whole India including Maharashtra.

41. Consider the following statements about Mahatma Gandhi:

1. In Champaran, he opposed Tinkathia system in which the peasants were forced to grow paddy on three-twentieth part of their land.
2. In Kheda, the rich peasants' proprietors called upon Gandhi to lend support to the already ongoing campaign for remission of the revenues in the face of poor harvest.
3. In Ahmedabad, he threatened to fast if mill workers' demand for higher wages were not met.
4. The chronological order of these movements is: Kheda, Champaran and Ahmadabad.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is wrong: in Champaran, he opposed Tinkathia system in which the peasants were forced to grow Indigo and other cash crops (not paddy), instead of the food crops which was necessary for their survival.

Statement 4 is wrong: the chronological order of these movements is: Champaran, Ahmedabad and Kheda.

42. Match List-I and List-II given below:

List-I:

- A. Chauri Chaura Incident
- B. Dandi March

C. Jallianwala Massacre
D. Congress Radio

1. Rowlatt Act
2. Non-Cooperation Movement
3. Quit India Movement
4. Civil Disobedience Movement

List-II:

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4
(b) A-2, B-4, C-1, D-3
(c) A-2, B-4, C-3, D-1
(d) A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- Chauri Chaura incident- Non-Cooperation Movement
- Dandi March- Civil Disobedience Movement
- Jallianwala massacre- Rowlatt Act
- Congress Radio- Quit India Movement.

43. With reference to Gandhi's Eleven Point Ultimatum for administrative reforms to Lord Irwin, consider the following statements:

1. He declared the Congress would participate in any conference if these demands were met.
2. Apart from general demands, the Ultimatum also made bourgeois specific and peasant specific demands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Both the statements are correct. Refer spectrum.

44. Who among the following was/were among the founding fathers of the All-India Muslim League?

1. Mohammad Ali Jinnah
2. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan
3. Aga Khan
4. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: At the end of 1907, All India Muslim League was founded by people like Aga Khan, the Nawab of Dacca and Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk.

Jinnah was a member of Congress when League was founded and he joined it later.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan died before the formation of All India Muslim League.

45. Which of the following decisions were taken at Delhi Durbar, 1911?

1. Announcement of annulment of the partition of Bengal.
2. It was decided to shift the capital of British India from Delhi to Calcutta.
3. It was decided to release Tilak and many extremist leaders.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) None

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: In 1910, King George V ascended the throne in England. In 1911, he paid a visit to India. A 'Delhi Darbar' was held to commemorate the coronation of King George V and Queen Mary as Emperor and Empress of India.

Concession for annulment of partition of Bengal was given.

Shifting of capital was announced from Calcutta to Delhi.

46. Consider the following statements:

1. Dadabhai Naoroji first put forward "the theory of drain of wealth".
2. The Indian National Congress adopted a resolution to criticize the drain of wealth in its annual session at Calcutta in 1896.

Which of the statements given above is/are INCORRECT?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Statement 2 is wrong: Congress officially adopted the drain theory only in 1896 at its Calcutta session. But it did not pass any resolution against it in 1896.

47. How did Industrial Revolution in England affect Britain's economic relations with India during the Company's rule?

1. It led to emergence of local manufacturing class in England which opposed trade activities of East India Company.
2. One-sided free trade to benefit British manufacturers was initiated by Charter Act of 1853.

3. Indian export of indigo and tea decreased.
4. It was accompanied by gradual decline of Indian textile industries.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Statement 2 is wrong: Charter Act of 1813 initiated this process by which trade to India except Tea was thrown open to all.

Statement 3 is wrong: after the industrial revolution, Indian export of raw materials like raw cotton, silk and plantation goods like tea and Indigo increased.

48. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Arya Samaj movement?

1. It accepted the authority of Vedas but disregarded the authority of the Puranas and later Hindu scriptures.
2. It accepted the doctrine of karma and rejected the theory of destiny.
3. It supported the Vedic notion of the four-fold Varna System.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: All the statements above are correct.

49. Consider the following statements regarding the Rowlatt Act, 1919:

1. It allowed certain political cases to be tried without juries.
2. It allowed the government to confiscate arms from any non-British subject.
3. It gave the government powers of preventive detention for indefinite period of time without trial.
4. Rowlatt Act was opposed by all the elected Indian members of the Imperial Legislative Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Only statements 2 is wrong: there was no such provision of confiscating Arms in the Rowlatt Act.

Rest all the statements are correct.

50. Zimmerman Plan is associated with which of the following?

- (a) Gadar party
- (b) Berlin Committee
- (c) Home Rule league
- (d) Indian National Army

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The 'Berlin committee for Indian Independence' was established in 1915 by Virendra Nath Chattopadhyay including Bhupendra Nath Dutta and Lala Hardayal under 'Zimmerman Plan' with the full backing of German foreign office.

51. With reference to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), consider the following statements:

1. It is a public–private global health partnership with the goal of increasing access to immunization in poor countries.
2. GAVI has observer status at the World Health Assembly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has been nominated by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) as a member on the GAVI Board.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan will be representing the South East Area Regional Office(SEARO)/ Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) constituency on the GAVI Board.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan will be representing India from 1st January 2021 until 31st December 2023.

The Board normally meets twice a year in June and November/ December and holds an annual retreat, normally in March or April.

The GAVI Board is responsible for strategic direction and policy-making, oversees the operations of the Vaccine Alliance and monitors programme implementation.

GAVI, officially Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is a public–private global health partnership with the goal of increasing access to immunisation in poor countries.

GAVI has observer status at the World Health Assembly. It was founded in 2000 and is located at Geneva, Switzerland.

GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance as part of its mission to save lives, reduce poverty and protect the world against the threat of epidemics, has helped vaccinate more than 822 million children in the world's poorest countries, preventing more than 14 million future deaths. Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala presently serves as Chair of the GAVI Alliance Board. Hence both statements are correct.

52. With reference to the ethanol distillation capacity, consider the following statements:

1. Union Cabinet has recently approved modified scheme to enhance ethanol distillation capacity in the country.
2. Government has fixed a target of 10% blending of fuel grade ethanol with petrol by 2022, 15% blending by 2026 & 20% blending by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Union Cabinet has approved modified scheme to enhance ethanol distillation capacity in the country.

This will increase income of farmers as other feed stocks such as cereals (rice, wheat, barley, corn & sorghum), sugarcane and sugar beet to be used for production of ethanol. For benefiting a large population of farmers, Government is encouraging distilleries to produce ethanol from maize & rice available with FCI. India is well on the path of achieving a 10% blending target by 2022. This will help increase the income of our farmers and enhance their livelihoods. Government has fixed a target of 10% blending of fuel grade ethanol with petrol by 2022, 15% blending by 2026 & 20% blending by 2030. Government also planning to prepone achievement of 20% blending target by year 2025. Hence both statements are correct.

53. With reference to the Kochi - Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline, consider the following statements:

1. The 450 km long pipeline has been built by GAIL (India) Ltd.
2. Laying of the pipeline was done through a special technique called Horizontal Directional Drilling method.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate the Kochi - Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline to the nation on 5th January 2021.

The 450 km long pipeline has been built by GAIL (India) Ltd.

It has transportation capacity of 12 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metres per day.

It will carry natural gas from the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Regasification Terminal at Kochi (Kerala) to Mangaluru (Dakshina Kannada district, Karnataka), while passing through Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod districts.

Laying of the pipeline was an engineering challenge as the route of the pipeline necessitated it to cross water bodies at more than 100 locations. This was done through a special technique called Horizontal Directional Drilling method.

Significance:

The event marks an important milestone towards the creation of 'One Nation One Gas Grid'.

The pipeline will supply environment friendly and affordable fuel in the form of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) to households and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to the transportation sector.

It will also supply Natural Gas to commercial and industrial units across the districts along the pipeline. Consumption of cleaner fuel will help in improving air quality by curbing air pollution.

Hence both statements are correct.

54. With reference to 40th Indian scientific expedition to Antarctica, consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Antarctic expeditions began in 1981.
2. The Indian Antarctic programme has now credited to have built three permanent research base stations in Antarctica—named Dakshin Gangotri, Maitri, and Bharati.
3. The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa, manages the entire Indian Antarctic program.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: India launched the 40th scientific expedition to Antarctica.

This Indian expedition marks four decades of country's scientific endeavour to the southern white continent.

The 40th expedition journey will be flagged off from Goa on January 5, 2021, with 43 members onboard.

The chartered ice-class vessel MV Vasiliy Golovnin will make this journey and will reach Antarctica in 30 days. After leaving behind a team of 40 members, it would return to India in April 2021. On return, it will also bring back the winter team of the preceding trip.

The Indian Antarctic expeditions began in 1981. The first trip comprised of a team of 21 scientists and support staff led by Dr SZ Qasim.

The Indian Antarctic programme has now credited to have built three permanent research base stations in Antarctica—named Dakshin Gangotri, Maitri, and Bharati. As of today, India has two operational research stations in Antarctica named Maitri and Bharati.

The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa, manages the entire Indian Antarctic program.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

55. With reference to the SwasthVayu, consider the following statements:

1. SwasthVayu was developed by DRDO.
2. It is a microcontroller based precise closed-loop adaptive control system with a built-in biocompatible “3D printed manifold and coupler” with HEPA filter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The expert committee constituted by Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, has concluded that SwasthVayu may be used on Covid-19 patients who require oxygen supplementation up to 35%.

To address the shortages of ventilators in the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) scientists indigenously designed and developed the non-invasive bi-level positive airway pressure ventilator –SwasthVayu.

SwasthVayu developed by CSIR-NAL is a microcontroller based precise closed-loop adaptive control system with a built-in biocompatible “3D printed manifold and coupler” with HEPA filter (Highly Efficient Particulate Air Filter).

These unique features help to alleviate the fear of the virus spread. It has features like CPAP, Bi-Timed, Spontaneous / AUTO modes with provision to connect Oxygen concentrator or Enrichment unit externally.

CSIR-NAL has commercialized this technology with six private companies.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

56. With reference to the vertical and horizontal reservations, consider the following statements:

1. Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes is referred to as horizontal reservation.
2. Vertical reservation refers to the equal opportunity provided to other categories of beneficiaries such as women, veterans, the transgender community, and individuals with disabilities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The Supreme Court clarified the position of law on the interplay of vertical and horizontal reservations. The decision in Saurav Yadav versus State of Uttar Pradesh dealt with issues arising from the way different classes of reservation were to be applied in the selection process to fill posts of constables in the state.

Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes is referred to as vertical reservation. It applies separately for each of the groups specified under the law. Horizontal reservation refers to the equal opportunity provided to other categories of beneficiaries such as women, veterans, the transgender community, and individuals with disabilities, cutting through the vertical categories.

The horizontal quota is applied separately to each vertical category, and not across the board. The interlocking of the two types of reservation throws up a host of questions on how certain groups are to be identified. For example would an SC woman be put in the category of women or SC?

Saurav Yadav case:

The court ruled that if a person belonging to an intersection of vertical-horizontal reserved category had secured scores high enough to qualify without the vertical reservation, the person would be counted as qualifying without the vertical reservation, and cannot be excluded from the horizontal quota in the general category.

It argued that if both vertical and horizontal quotas were to be applied together then the overall selection would have candidates with lower scores.

Hence both statements are incorrect.

57. G Kishan Reddy committee, recently in news, is related to:

- (a) protect the language, culture and land of Ladakh and ensuring citizen's participation in the Union Territory's development
- (b) On Small Scale Industries
- (c) decide the appropriate level of reserves that the RBI should hold
- (d) None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Centre has decided to form a committee to protect the language, culture and land of Ladakh and ensuring citizen's participation in the Union Territory's development.

The Committee will be headed by the Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy and will include elected representatives from Ladakh, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, central government, and the Ladakh administration.

The decision to form the Committee came after Union Home Minister Amit Shah met a 10-member delegation from Ladakh who expressed their views about the need to protect Ladakh's unique cultural identity.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

58. Consider the following statements:

1. Mass slaughter of domestic poultry birds, such as chickens and ducks, to contain the spread of bird flu is called culling.
2. In India, culling is done in a radius one kilometer from the site of infection, which is called the 'infected zone'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: After culling of ducks and chickens in Kerala, the Haryana government has decided to cull poultry birds in Barwala after some of them tested positive for the avian influenza.

Mass slaughter of domestic poultry birds, such as chickens and ducks, to contain the spread of bird flu is called culling.

During culling operations, all domestic birds in an infected area, i.e., an area in which a case of bird flu has been detected, are slaughtered and their remains buried.

Though wild and other birds may also carry the bird flu, only domestic poultry birds are culled since they are present in close proximity with people, raising the chances of transmission of the virus to humans.

In India, culling is done in a radius one kilometre from the site of infection, which is called the 'infected zone'. This means all domestic birds present in commercial farms, backyard farms or live bird markets in the infected zone are culled.

Hence both statements are correct.

59. With reference to the payment infrastructure development fund (PIDF) scheme introduced by RBI, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme is intended to subsidise deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure in tier-3 to tier-6 centres, with a special focus on the north-eastern states of the country.
2. The fund will be operational for three years effective from January 1, 2021 and may be extended for two more years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the operationalisation of the payment infrastructure development fund (PIDF) scheme.

The scheme is intended to subsidise deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure in tier-3 to tier-6 centres, with a special focus on the north-eastern states of the country.

An advisory council (AC) under the chairmanship of RBI deputy governor BP Kanungo has been constituted for managing the PIDF.

The fund will be operational for three years effective from January 1, 2021 and may be extended for two more years.

The implementation of targets shall be monitored by the RBI with assistance from card networks, the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the Payments Council of India (PCI).

The PIDF presently has a corpus of Rs 345 crore, with Rs 250 crore contributed by the RBI and Rs 95 crore by the major authorised card networks in the country.

The authorised card networks shall contribute in all Rs 100 crore.

The card issuing banks shall also contribute to the corpus based on the card issuance volume — covering both debit and credit cards — at the rate of `1 and `3 per debit and credit card issued by them, respectively.

Besides, the PIDF shall also receive annual contributions from card networks and card issuing banks.

Hence both statements are correct.

60. With reference to the “Khadi Prakritik Paint”, consider the following statements:

1. It is a first-of-its-kind product, with anti-fungal, anti-bacterial properties.
2. It is based on cow dung as its main ingredient.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Union Minister for MSME will be launching an innovative new paint developed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission on 12th January.

The eco-friendly, non-toxic paint, called “Khadi Prakritik Paint” is a first-of-its-kind product, with anti-fungal, anti-bacterial properties.

The paint has been certified by Bureau of Indian Standards. Khadi Prakritik Emulsion paint meets BIS 15489:2013 standards; whereas Khadi Prakritik Distemper paint meets BIS 428:2013 standards.

Khadi Prakritik Paint is available in two forms – distemper paint and plastic emulsion paint. The project was conceptualized by Chairman KVIC in March 2020, and later developed by Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute, Jaipur (a KVIC unit).

Based on cow dung as its main ingredient, the paint is cost-effective and odorless.

The paint is free from heavy metals like lead, mercury, chromium, arsenic, cadmium and others.

It will be a boost to local manufacturing and will create sustainable local employment through technology transfer.

This technology will increase consumption of cow dung as a raw material for eco-friendly products and will generate additional revenue to farmers and gaushalas. This is estimated to

generate additional income of Rs 30,000 (approx.) per annum per animal to farmers/ gaushalas.

Utilization of cow dung will also clean the environment and prevent clogging of drains. Hence both statements are correct.

61. With reference to the LCA Tejas, consider the following statements:

1. Light Combat Aircraft Mk-1A variant is an indigenously designed, developed and manufactured state-of-the-art modern 4+ generation fighter aircraft.
2. It is the first “Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)” category procurement of combat aircrafts with an indigenous content of 50% which will progressively reach 60% by the end of the programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The Union Cabinet has approved procurement of 73 LCA Tejas Mk-1A fighter aircrafts and 10 LCA Tejas Mk-1 Trainer aircrafts at the cost of Rs. 45,696 Crore along with Design and Development of Infrastructure sanctions worth Rs.1,202 Crore.

Light Combat Aircraft Mk-1A variant is an indigenously designed, developed and manufactured state-of-the-art modern 4+ generation fighter aircraft.

This aircraft is equipped with critical operational capabilities of Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radar, Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Missile, Electronic Warfare (EW) Suite and Air to Air Refuelling (AAR) would be a potent platform to meet the operational requirements of Indian Air Force, IAF.

It is the first “Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)” category procurement of combat aircrafts with an indigenous content of 50% which will progressively reach 60% by the end of the programme.

The Cabinet has also approved infrastructure development by IAF under the project to enable them handle servicing at their base depot so that the turnaround time would get reduced for mission critical systems and would lead to increased availability of aircraft.

Hence both statements are correct.

62. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently constituted a working group chaired by Jayant Kumar Dash which is related to:

- A. Conversion of big Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) into banks
- B. Digital lending
- C. Review Extant Ownership Guidelines and Corporate Structure for Indian Private Sector Banks
- D. None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a working group on digital

lending — including online platforms and mobile apps — to study all aspects of digital lending activities in the regulated financial sector as well as by unregulated players.

The working group consists of both internal and external members and is chaired by Jayant Kumar Dash, Executive Director, RBI

The working group will

evaluate digital lending activities and assess the penetration and standards of outsourced digital lending activities in RBI regulated entities;

identify the risks posed by unregulated digital lending to financial stability, regulated entities and consumers; and

suggest regulatory changes to promote orderly growth of digital lending.

It will also recommend measures for expansion of specific regulatory or statutory perimeter and suggest the role of various regulatory and government agencies. It will also recommend a robust fair practices code for digital lending players.

The group will submit its report within three months.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

63. Jaya Jaitley task force, recently in news, is related to:

- (a) take a re-look at the age of marriage for women
- (b) working of capital market infrastructure institutions (MIIs)
- (c) decide the appropriate level of reserves that the RBI should hold
- (d) analyze Fund Requirement in Power Sector

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The task force set up to take a re-look at the age of marriage for women has submitted its report to the Prime Minister’s Office and the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Chairperson of the committee Jaya Jaitley refused to comment on the contents of the report submitted after a delay of five months.

When the panel was formed in June last year, it was given until July 31, 2020, to finalise its report.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech last year spoke about a panel formed to decide on the “right age of marriage” for women.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech last year proposed a panel on the “age of a girl entering motherhood” to lower maternal mortality rates and improve nutrition levels.

Women’s rights activists have opposed the suggestion of raising the age of marriage from 18 to 21 for women and have cited evidence to show that such a move may be used to incarcerate young adults marrying without parents’ consent.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

64. Rajesh Verma committee, recently seen in news, is related to:

- (a) implementation of the Companies Act as well as the Limited Liability Partnership Act
- (b) evaluate governance of board of banks and examine criteria to select directors, as well as their term
- (c) assess the functioning of the Indian Monetary system
- (d) None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The Company Law Committee (CLC), headed by the Corporate Affairs Secretary Rajesh Verma, has recommended that 12 offences under the LLP Act be decriminalised and that LLPs be allowed to issue NCDs to raise funds with the aim of improving ease of doing business for limited liability partnership (LLP) firms.

Several offences related to timely filings, including annual reports and filings on changes in partnership status of the LLP, not related to fraud have been recommended for decriminalisation.

the panel has recommended that companies be required to pay penalties for non-compliance, instead of fines which are imposed after a partner or the LLP is found guilty of misconduct by a court.

The Registrar of Companies would have the authority to levy penalties for any contravention of provisions of the LLP Act.

The CLC has also recommended that LLPs which are currently not allowed to issue debt securities be permitted to issue non-convertible debentures (NCDs) to facilitate raising of capital and financing operations.

The move is likely to benefit startups and small firms in sectors which require heavy capital investment.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

65. With reference to the DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019, consider the following statements:

1. The Bill proposes DNA sampling and profiling of citizens accused of crime or reported missing, and storing their unique genetic information for administrative purposes.
2. The objective of the Bill is limited to the establishment of a regulatory board to regulate the use of DNA technology in consonance with international standards.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Asaddudin Owaisi, president of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM), and CPI leader Binoy Viswam have filed dissent notes to the parliamentary standing committee's report on the DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019 on the grounds that it does not take into account their concerns over privacy violations.

The Bill proposes DNA sampling and profiling of citizens accused of crime or reported missing, and storing their unique genetic information for administrative purposes.

The objective of the Bill is limited to the establishment of a regulatory board to regulate the use of DNA technology in consonance with international standards.

Hence both statements are correct.

66. With reference to the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty), consider the following statements:

1. United States has extended the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) nuclear arms control treaty with Russia for five years.
2. The treaty, which first went into effect in 2011, limits the United States and Russia to deploying no more than 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads each and imposes restrictions on the land- and submarine-based missiles and bombers to deliver them.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: United States has extended the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) nuclear arms control treaty with Russia for five years.

President Joe Biden and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin reportedly discussed it by phone a week ago, and subsequently Mr Putin signed it into law on Friday.

The treaty had been set to lapse on 5 February, as the Trump administration had refused to approve the extension. Now the pact has been extended to 5th February 2026.

The treaty, which first went into effect in 2011, limits the United States and Russia to deploying no more than 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads each and imposes restrictions on the land- and submarine-based missiles and bombers to deliver them.

Hence both statements are correct.

67. Which of the following sectors comes under the Strategic Sector to be disinvested?

1. Atomic energy, Space and Defence
2. Transport and Telecommunications
3. Power, Petroleum, Coal and other minerals
4. Banking, Insurance and financial services

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Union Minister for Finance while presenting the Union Budget FY 2021-22 announced that government has approved a policy of strategic disinvestment of public sector enterprises that will provide a clear roadmap for disinvestment in all non-strategic and strategic sectors.

Existing CPSEs, Public Sector Banks and Public Sector Insurance Companies to be covered under it.

Two fold classification of Sectors to be disinvested :

Strategic Sector : Bare minimum presence of the public sector enterprises and remaining to be privatised or merged or subsidiarized with other CPSEs or closed. Following 4 sectors to come under it :

Atomic energy, Space and Defence

Transport and Telecommunications

Power, Petroleum, Coal and other minerals

Banking, Insurance and financial services

Non- Strategic Sector : In this sector, CPSEs will be privatised, otherwise shall be closed. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

68. Which of the following are the objectives of Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness Campaign (KAPILA)?

1. creating awareness regarding Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
2. enabling of IP protection of inventions originating from faculty and students of HEIs
3. development of Credit Course on IPR

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The Government has launched a campaign namely Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness Campaign (KAPILA) for Intellectual Property Literacy and creating patent awareness on 15th October, 2020.

The objectives of the scheme include creating awareness regarding Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Higher Education Institutions(HEIs), enabling of IP protection of inventions originating from faculty and students of HEIs, development of Credit Course on IPR, training program on IPR for faculty and students of HEIs and sensitization and development of vibrant IP filing system. So far, total 46,556 users have been registered for KAPILA. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

69. With reference to the MK III Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH), consider the following statements:

1. The naval version of ALH is fitted with an array of advanced sensors that can detect Mumbai terror attacks like intrusions on Indian waters.
2. It has a nose mounted surveillance radar with 270-degree coverage that can detect and track multiple marine targets.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The Indian Navy received three "made in India" Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) from the state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL). The helicopters are customised for coastal security.

The naval version of ALH is fitted with an array of advanced sensors that can detect Mumbai terror attacks like intrusions on Indian waters.

These helicopters have latest generation avionics, indigenous low frequency dunking sonar, full glass cockpit with integrated architecture display system and the powerful Shakti engines.

It also has a nose mounted surveillance radar with 270 degree coverage that can detect and track multiple marine targets. Its synthetic aperture radar and inverse synthetic aperture radar can detect targets on sea.

Hence both statements are correct.

70. Recently seen in news, Dobhi – Durgapur Natural Gas Pipeline section, is part of which of the following scheme?

- (a) Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana
- (b) Project "Sudoor Drishti"
- (c) Pratyaksh Hanstantrit Labh Scheme
- (d) Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The Prime Minister Modi visited Haldia, West Bengal and dedicated to the nation the LPG import terminal, 348 km Dobhi – Durgapur Natural Gas Pipeline section, which is part of the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project.

He also laid the foundation stone of the second Catalytic-Isodewaxing unit of Haldia Refinery and dedicated to the nation the 4 Lane ROB-cum-Flyover at Ranichak, Haldia on NH 41.

These projects will also help Haldia to grow into a major hub of export-import.

350 km Dobhi-Durgapur Pipeline will directly benefit not only West Bengal but also 10 districts of Bihar and Jharkhand.

This second Catalytic Dewaxing Unit will reduce our dependence on import with regard to lube-based oils.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

71. With reference to the "Nai Roshni", consider the following statements:

1. "Nai Roshni", a scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women by Ministry of Women and Child Development is being implemented across India.

2. The scheme provides for six days training programme followed by handholding for a period of one year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: “Nai Roshni”, a scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women by Ministry of Minority affairs is being implemented across India.

Its aims is to empower and instill confidence in women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks and other institutions at all levels. This includes empowerment of the trainee women so that they become independent and confident members of the society.

The scheme provides for six days training programme followed by handholding for a period of one year.

The training covers issues relating to women viz. Leadership of Women through participation in decision making, Educational Programmes for women, Health and Hygiene, Legal rights of women, Financial Literacy, Digital Literacy, Swachh Bharat, Life Skills, and Advocacy for Social and Behaviourial change.

The Scheme is being implemented through Non-Governmental Organisations empanelled under the NaiRoshni Scheme as per scheme guidelines in force.

Other schemes

While NaiRoshni scheme targets women beneficiaries specifically, other schemes of the Ministry also lay lot of emphasis on minority women.

In Seekho Aur Kamao (Learn & Earn) Scheme, 33% of the total beneficiaries are women.

Similarly in Nai Manzil scheme , 30% of the total beneficiaries are women.

These schemes help in economic empowerment of the Minority women.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

72. With reference to the UN Human Rights Council, consider the following statements:

1. The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system.
2. It was founded in 2014.
3. The Council is made of 47 Member States, which are elected by the UN General Assembly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The U.S. announced plans to reengage with the much-maligned UN Human Rights Council that former President Donald Trump withdrew from almost three years ago.

The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system.

Location: It meets at the UN Office at Geneva.

Establishment: It was founded in 2006. It replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) that had been strongly criticised for allowing countries with poor human rights records to be members.

Functions:

It investigates allegations of breaches of human rights in UN member states.

It also addresses important thematic human rights issues such as freedom of expression, women's rights, LGBT rights, and the rights of racial and ethnic minorities.

The UNHRC works closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Membership:

The Council is made of 47 Member States, which are elected by the UN General Assembly. The Council's Membership is based on equitable geographical distribution.

Members of the Council serve for a period of three years and are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.

India has been elected to the UNHRC for a period of three years beginning January 1, 2019.

India had previously been elected to the UNHRC for the 2011-2014 and 2014-2017 terms.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

73. With reference to the glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), consider the following statements:

1. A GLOF refers to the flooding that occurs when the water dammed by a glacier or a moraine is released suddenly.

2. Unlike earthen dams, the weak structure of the moraine dam leads to the abrupt failure of the dam on top of the glacial lake, which holds large volume of water.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: A glacier break is suspected to have caused the flash floods in Uttarakhand's Chamoli.

When glaciers melt, the water in glacial lakes accumulates behind loose, natural "glacial/moraine dams" made of ice, sand, pebbles and ice residue.

A GLOF refers to the flooding that occurs when the water dammed by a glacier or a moraine is released suddenly.

Unlike earthen dams, the weak structure of the moraine dam leads to the abrupt failure of the dam on top of the glacial lake, which holds large volume of water.

A failure of the dam has the potential of releasing millions of cubic metres of water in a short period, causing catastrophic flooding downstream.

Reasons

Glacial retreat due to climate change occurring in most parts of the Hindu Kush Himalaya has given rise to the formation of numerous new glacial lakes, which are the major cause of GLOFs.

An “Inventory and Monitoring of Glacial Lakes / Water Bodies in the Himalayan Region of Indian River Basins” found that there are 352, 283 and 1,393 glacial lakes and water bodies in the Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra basins respectively.

Recommendation

NDMA has recommended use of Synthetic-Aperture Radar imagery to automatically detect changes in water bodies, including new lake formations, during the monsoon months. Hence both statements are correct.

74. Lalandar [Shatoot] Dam, often mentioned in news, is located in:

- (a) Iraq
- (b) Iran
- (c) Sudan
- (d) Afghanistan

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: A signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding [MoU] for the construction of the Lalandar [Shatoot] Dam in Afghanistan took place over VTC on 9 February 2021.

The MoU was signed by EAM Dr. Jaishankar and Foreign Minister Mr. Hanif Atmar, in the presence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of Afghanistan H.E. Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani.

The project is a part of the New Development Partnership between India and Afghanistan. The Lalander [Shatoot] Dam would meet the safe drinking water needs of Kabul City, provide irrigation water to nearby areas, rehabilitate the existing irrigation and drainage network, aid in flood protection and management efforts in the area, and also provide electricity to the region.

This is the second major dam being built by India in Afghanistan, after the India- Afghanistan Friendship Dam [Salma Dam], which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister and the President in June 2016.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

75. With reference to the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill 2021, consider the following statements:

1. It seeks to amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

2. The Bill removes the Schedule for arbitrators and states that the qualifications, experience, and norms for accreditation of arbitrations will be specified under the regulations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Lok Sabha today gave its nod to Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill 2021.

The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in Lok Sabha on February 4, 2021.

It seeks to amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The Act contains provisions to deal with domestic and international arbitration and defines the law for conducting conciliation proceedings.

The Bill replaces an Ordinance with same provisions promulgated on November 4, 2020.

Automatic stay on awards: The Bill specifies that a stay on the arbitral award can be provided (even during the pendency of the setting aside of the application) if the court is satisfied that: the relevant arbitration agreement or contract, or the making of the award, was induced, or effected by fraud or corruption.

This change will be effective from October 23, 2015.

Qualifications of arbitrators: The Bill removes the Schedule for arbitrators and states that the qualifications, experience, and norms for accreditation of arbitrations will be specified under the regulations.

Hence both statements are correct.

76. With reference to the SANKALP (Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion), consider the following statements:

1. It is a World Bank loan assisted programme to strengthen the district skill administration and the District Skill Committees (DSCs).
2. The two-year academic programme comes with an in-built component of on-ground practical experience with the district administration.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship chaired a function 'Transforming skilling through strategic partnerships under SANKALP'.

SANKALP (Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion) is a World Bank loan assisted programme to strengthen the district skill administration and the District Skill Committees (DSCs).

The two-year academic programme comes with an in-built component of on-ground practical experience with the district administration.

To further bolster the trainer ecosystem, the SANKALP programme will also support in Training of Trainer (ToT) system in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode that a collaborative approach between industry and the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) ecosystem.

MSDE has instituted the "Awards for Excellence in District Skill Development Planning (DSDP Awards)" under SANKALP in 2018.

Hence both statements are correct.

77. Consider the following statements:

1. CRISPR technology is a gene-editing tool which allows researchers to easily alter DNA sequences and modify gene function.

2. Recently Scientists produced a new reference genome for the Asian malaria vector mosquito *Anopheles stephensi*.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Scientists have unveiled the detailed genome of the malaria mosquito vector, revealing thousands of new genes vital for the development of genetic control strategies of disease transmission.

In order to engineer advanced forms of defence against malaria transmission, including targeted CRISPR and gene drive-based strategies, scientists require intricate knowledge of the genomes of vector mosquitoes.

CRISPR technology is a gene-editing tool which allows researchers to easily alter DNA sequences and modify gene function.

They produced a new reference genome for the Asian malaria vector mosquito *Anopheles stephensi*.

With the newly upgraded *Anopheles stephensi* genome, the team unearthed more than 3,000 genes that previously evaded scrutiny and which offer fresh gene-drive targets, play key roles in blood feeding and the metabolism of ingested blood meal, reproduction and immunity against microbial parasites.

This reference genome should help malaria biologists in India, particularly in view of the national goal of malaria elimination in India by 2030.

Hence both statements are correct.

78. What is Sagarika, recently seen in news?

- (a) It is the country's first full-fledged international cruise terminal

- (b) A human atlas initiative.
- (c) Genetically modified rice variety.
- (d) None of the above.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stone of various projects in Kochi, Kerala.

The inauguration of Sagarika, the International Cruise Terminal in Kochi will cater to over a lakh cruise guests. It is the country's first full-fledged international cruise terminal.

He also inaugurated the Marine Engineering Training Institute of Cochin Shipyard Ltd.

Vigyan Sagar, the new knowledge campus of Cochin Shipyard would particularly help those wanting to study marine engineering.

South Coal Berth would bring down logistics costs and improve cargo capacities.

Propylene Derivative Petrochemical Project (PDPP) will help strengthen India's journey towards being Aatmanirbhar as it will save foreign exchange.

With Ro-Ro Vessels, a distance of almost thirty kilometres on road will become 3.5 kilometers through waterways leading to less congestion and more convenience, commerce and capacity-building.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

79. With reference to the Mandarin duck, consider the following statements:

1. It is a "small-exotic looking bird" native to East Asia.
2. Its IUCN Status is Endangered.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Floating in the Maguri-Motapung beel (or wetland) in Assam's Tinsukia district for over a week is the spectacular and rare Mandarin duck. First spotted on February 8 by Madhab Gogoi, the duck has since become the star of the wetland.

Considered the most beautiful duck in the world, the Mandarin duck, or the (*Aix galericulata*) was first identified by Swedish botanist, physician and zoologist Carl Linnaeus in 1758.

It is a "small-exotic looking bird" native to East Asia.

The migratory duck breeds in Russia, Korea, Japan and northeastern parts of China, explained Gogoi. It now has established populations in Western Europe and America too.

The duck, however, rarely visits India as it does not fall in its usual migratory route.

Its IUCN Status is Least Concern.

While the duck is not a globally threatened species, spotting one is always considered significant because they only make "rare appearances."

The Maguri Motapung wetland — an Important Bird Area as declared by the Bombay Natural History Society — is located close to the Dibru Saikhowa National Park in Upper Assam.

In May 2020, the beel was adversely affected by a blowout and fire at an Oil India Limited-owned gas well.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

80. Kotia cluster, recently seen in news, is a dispute between Andhra Pradesh and which of the following state?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Telangana
- (d) Odisha

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Andhra Pradesh held panchayat elections in three villages in the Kotia cluster, which is at the centre of a dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. This is the first time Andhra has held panchayat polls in any of these villages.

These villages, with a population of nearly 5,000, are located on a remote hilltop on the inter-state border and are inhabited by Kondh tribals.

The region is also rich in mineral resources like gold, platinum, manganese, bauxite, graphite and limestone.

In the early 1980s, Odisha filed a case in the Supreme Court demanding right and possession of jurisdiction over the 21 villages.

In 2006 however, the court ruled that since disputes belonging to the state boundaries are not within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, the matter can only be resolved by Parliament and passed a permanent injunction on the disputed area.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

81. With reference to the Leatherback sea turtle, consider the following statements:

1. It is largest of the seven species of sea turtles on the planet.
2. They are listed in Schedule II of India's Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Proposals for tourism and port development in the Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) Islands have conservationists worried over the fate of some of the most important nesting populations of the Giant Leatherback turtle in this part of the Indian Ocean.

Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) is largest of the seven species of sea turtles on the planet and also the most long-ranging, being found in all oceans except the Arctic and the Antarctic.

Within the Indian Ocean, they nest only in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

It is the only living species in the genus *Dermochelys* and family *Dermochelyidae*. It can easily be differentiated from other modern sea turtles by its lack of a bony shell, hence the name. Instead, its carapace is covered by skin and oily flesh. They are listed in Schedule I of India's Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, according to the highest legal protection.
Budget 2021:

The A&N Islands are prominent in the National Marine Turtle Action Plan released on February 1, 2021, by the Ministry of Environment.

The plan notes that "India has identified all its important sea turtle nesting habitats as 'Important Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Areas' and included them in the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) – 1".

South Bay and West Bay on Little Andaman and Galathea on Great Nicobar, along with other nesting beaches in the islands, find a specific mention here as "Important Marine Turtle Habitats in India" and the largest Leatherback nesting grounds in India.

There is concern that at least three key nesting beaches — two on Little Andaman Island and one on Great Nicobar Island — are under threat due to mega "development" plans announced in recent months.

These include NITI Aayog's ambitious tourism vision for Little Andaman and the proposal for a mega-shipment port at Galathea Bay on Great Nicobar Island.

The Little Andaman plan, which proposes phased growth of tourism on this virtually untouched island, has sought the de-reservation of over 200 sq km of pristine rainforest and also of about 140 sq km of the Onge Tribal Reserve.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

82. Tianwen-1, often mentioned in news, is an initiative of which of the following country?

- (a) Japan
- (b) South Korea
- (c) North Korea
- (d) China

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Two more rovers — NASA's Perseverance and China's Tianwen-1 — are set to land on Mars on February 18 and in May 2021 respectively.

NASA's Perseverance Rover

The most sophisticated mission from an engineering standpoint, NASA's Perseverance Rover, is en route to Mars, and is set to land on Thursday at Jezero Crater, which was likely filled with water in the past.

Perseverance is NASA's 4th generation Mars Rover

The goal is to look for biosignatures in the dried up lake bed at Jezero Crater.

Tianwen-1

Tianwen-1, the first mission to Mars from China, successfully underwent orbital insertion on February 10. Tianwen-1 carries an orbiter, a lander, and a rover. China's approach for landing a rover is somewhat different. Unlike NASA rovers, Tianwen-1 will orbit Mars for a few months before attempting to land in May this year.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

83. With reference to the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA), consider the following statements:

1. The India-South Africa CECPA will be the first trade Agreement to be signed by India with a country in Africa.
2. CECPA provides for an institutional mechanism to encourage and improve trade between the two countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The Union Cabinet has approved signing of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) between India and Mauritius.

The India-Mauritius CECPA will be the first trade Agreement to be signed by India with a country in Africa.

The Agreement is a limited agreement, which will cover Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, Trade in Services, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Dispute Settlement, Movement of Natural Persons, Telecom, Financial services, Customs Procedures and Cooperation in other Areas

CECPA provides for an institutional mechanism to encourage and improve trade between the two countries.

Both sides have also agreed to negotiate an Automatic Trigger Safeguard Mechanism (ATSM) for a limited number of highly sensitive products within two years of the Signing of the Agreement.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

84. With reference to the TROPEX-21 (Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise), consider the following statements:

1. The exercise had commenced in January 2021 involving all three Commands of the Indian Navy, the Tri-Services Command at Port Blair, and elements of Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard.
2. The Biennial exercise is the largest exercise conducted by Indian Navy aimed to validate its concepts of war-fighting across the entire spectrum of warfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Admiral Karambir Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff presided over the debrief of TROPEX-21 (Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise) at Kochi.

The exercise had commenced in January 2021 involving all three Commands of the Indian Navy, the Tri-Services Command at Port Blair, and elements of Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard.

The Biennial exercise is the largest exercise conducted by Indian Navy aimed to validate its concepts of war-fighting across the entire spectrum of warfare.

The exercise was spread over the vast geographical expanse of Indian Ocean and its adjunct waters, with exercise scenarios centred around the extant geopolitical situation in IOR.

As a prelude to this Theatre Level exercise, a coastal defence exercise – Sea Vigil was conducted in mid Jan 2021 which witnessed all stakeholder Ministries of Govt of India, State Governments of all coastal states and UTs, the Coast Guard, Port Authorities, shipping and fishing communities, with the Indian Navy as the lead agency.

This was followed by an amphibious exercise (AMPHEX- 21) in which Indian naval amphibious ships, units of the Indian Army and Indian Air Force undertook joint exercise in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea, with an aim to validate India’s capabilities to safeguard the territorial integrity of its Island territories.

Hence both statements are correct.

85. What is gig economy?

- (a) A free market system in which temporary positions are common and organizations hire independent workers for short-term commitments.
- (b) An economic system aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources.
- (c) A free market system in which Permanent positions are common.
- (d) None of the above.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The UK Supreme Court ruled that Uber drivers were to be considered workers and not freelance contractors, thereby making them eligible for all employment related benefits such as minimum wage, annual leaves, and insurance.

With this ruling, Uber and other service providing platforms could also potentially face legal and regulatory challenges in India, as big tech companies from across the globe are under government scrutiny for the differential terms of service and engagement in geographies such as the EU and in locations such as India.

The increased focus on big tech aside, the central government has already put in place some legal protection for gig economy workers.

The budget for the 2021-22 has already mandated that the law on minimum wages would now apply to workers of all categories including those associated with platforms such as Uber.

Such workers would now be covered by the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), which mandates employers depositing a certain amount of money with the state insurer, the rest of which is paid by the government.

November last year, the central government had come out with specific norms for ride hailing apps such as Uber and Ola.

Under the new rules, ride hailing apps could charge a maximum of 20 per cent commission per ride from driver partners, while also capping the total number of working hours per day at 12.

The new regulations also provided for the maximum fare that these platforms could charge customers even during high demand peak hours, and that they would have to provide drivers with insurance.

A gig economy is a free market system in which temporary positions are common and organizations hire independent workers for short-term commitments.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

86. With reference to the RBI Ombudsman Schemes, consider the following statements:

1. RBI has three Ombudsmen- Banking, Non-Banking Finance Company and digital transactions.
2. The three Ombudsman Schemes are being merged and integrated into a single scheme which will be rolled out starting from June this year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the Annual Report of the Ombudsman Schemes for the year 2019-20.

RBI has three Ombudsmen- Banking, Non-Banking Finance Company (i.e. NBFC) and digital transactions. A common man can approach these Ombudsmen for their grievances. As announced in the recent Monetary Policy Statement, the three Ombudsman Schemes are being merged and integrated into a single scheme which will be rolled out starting from June this year.

Key highlights of the report:

There was an increase of around 65 per cent in the receipt of complaints out of which almost 92 per cent have been disposed of.

Banking Ombudsman received major complaints regarding ATM & Debit Cards, Mobile & Electronic Banking while NBFC's Ombudsmen received most complaints about non-observance of regulatory guidelines, lack of transparency in contract/ loan agreement and levy of charges without notice.

Digital Transactions Ombudsmen received most complaints about fund transfer. RBI has taken various measures for creating awareness among various stakeholders to minimise the grievances.

Hence both statements are correct.

87. Which of the following species are included under recovery programme for critically endangered species in India by National Board for Wildlife?

1. Caracal

2. Snow Leopard
3. Malabar Civet

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The National Board for Wildlife and Union Ministry of Environment included the caracal, a medium-sized wildcat found in parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat, in the list of critically endangered species.

Though not under grave threat in its other habitats, the animal is on the verge of extinction in India, some experts believe. The recovery programme for critically endangered species in India now includes 22 wildlife species.

Besides India, the caracal is found in several dozen countries across Africa, the Middle East, Central and South Asia. While it flourishes in parts of Africa, its numbers in Asia are declining.

The wildcat has long legs, a short face, long canine teeth, and distinctive ears — long and pointy, with tufts of black hair at their tips.

The iconic ears are what give the animal its name — caracal comes from the Turkish karakulak, meaning ‘black ears’.

In India, it is called siya gosh, a Persian name that translates as ‘black Ear’. A Sanskrit fable exists about a small wild cat named deergha-karn or ‘long-eared’.

The other species are Snow Leopard, Bustard (including Floricans), Dolphin, Hangul, Nilgiri Tahr, Marine Turtles, Dugongs, Edible Nest Swiftlet, Asian Wild Buffalo, Nicobar Megapode, Manipur Brow-antlered Deer, Vultures, Malabar Civet, Indian Rhinoceros, Asiatic Lion, Swamp Deer and Jerdon’s Courser.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

88. Recently seen in news, Amazonia-1 is the optical earth observation satellite of which of the following country?

- (a) Brazil
- (b) U.S.A
- (c) Mexico
- (d) Germany

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch Amazonia-1 satellite of Brazil and 18 Co-passenger satellites through PSLVC51 rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota on February 28, 2021.

PSLV-C51, which is the 53rd mission of PSLV, will launch Amazonia-1 of Brazil as primary satellite and 18 Co-passenger satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.

PSLV-C51/Amazonia-1 is the first dedicated commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a Government of India company under Department of Space. NSIL is undertaking this mission under a commercial arrangement with Spaceflight Inc. USA. Amazonia-1 is the optical earth observation satellite of National Institute for Space Research (INPE).

This satellite would further strengthen the existing structure by providing remote sensing data to users for monitoring deforestation in the Amazon region and analysis of diversified agriculture across the Brazilian territory.

The 18 co-passenger satellites include four from IN-SPACE (three UNITYsats from consortium of three Indian academic institutes and One Satish Dhawan Sat from Space Kidz India) and 14 from NSIL.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

89. With respect to “lateral entry”, consider the following statements:

1. The induction of personnel at middle and senior management levels recommended by NITI Aayog, in its three-year Action Agenda.
2. Individuals would be contracted for three to five years for “reserved/unreserved” posts in the central government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) issued an advertisement seeking applications “from talented and motivated Indian nationals willing to contribute towards nation building” for three posts of Joint Secretary and 27 of Director in central government Departments.

These individuals, who would make a “lateral entry” into the government secretariat, would be contracted for three to five years. These posts were “unreserved”, meaning were no quotas for SCs, STs and OBCs. Hence Statement 2 is incorrect.

NITI Aayog, in its three-year Action Agenda, and the Sectoral Group of Secretaries (SGoS) on Governance in its report submitted in February 2017, recommended the induction of personnel at middle and senior management levels in the central government. Hence Statement 1 is correct.

These ‘lateral entrants’ would be part of the central secretariat which in the normal course has only career bureaucrats from the All India Services/ Central Civil Services. Lateral recruitment is aimed at achieving the twin objectives of bringing in fresh talent as well as augment the availability of manpower.

90. With reference to the Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), consider the following statements:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
2. Implementing Agencies (IAs) are engaging Cluster-Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) to aggregate, register & provide professional handholding support to each FPO for a period of 5 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Union Ministers for Agriculture celebrated the first anniversary of the Central Sector Scheme on "Formation & Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)".

The scheme was launched by Prime Minister on 29.02.2020 at Chitrakoot (Uttar Pradesh) with a budgetary provision of Rs 6865 crore.

FPOs will make farming more viable by aggregating land.

More than 2200 FPOs produce clusters have been allocated for the formation of FPOs in the current year, of which 100 FPOs for specialized Organic produce, 100 FPOs from Oilseeds & 50 commodity-specific FPOs with value chain development will be formed.

Implementing Agencies (IAs) are engaging Cluster-Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) to aggregate, register & provide professional handholding support to each FPO for a period of 5 years.

CBBOs will be the platform for an end to end knowledge for all issues related to FPO promotion.

FPOs will be provided financial assistance up to Rs 18.00 lakh per FPO for a period of 03 years.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

91. With reference to the "Sugamya Bharat App", consider the following statements:

1. The App has been developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. It is a Crowdsourcing Mobile Application is a means for sensitizing and enhancing accessibility in the 3 pillars of the Accessible India Campaign i.e., built environment, transportation sector and ICT ecosystem in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Union Minister for Social justice and Empowerment will virtually launch "Sugamya Bharat App"

The App has been developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Sugamya Bharat APP — a Crowdsourcing Mobile Application is a means for sensitising and enhancing accessibility in the 3 pillars of the Accessible India Campaign i.e. built environment, transportation sector and ICT ecosystem in India.

The app provides for five main features, 4 of which are directly related to enhancing accessibility, while the fifth is a special feature meant only for Divyangjan for COVID related issues.

The accessibility related features are: the registration of complaints of inaccessibility across the 3 broad pillars of the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan; positive feedback of examples and best practices worth emulating being shared by people as jan-bhagidhari; Departmental updates; and guidelines and circulars related to accessibility.

Hence both statements are correct.

92. With reference to the new regulations by SEBI, consider the following statements:

1. Under this, the managing director (MD) or chief executive officer (CEO) of market infrastructure institutions (MIIs) will be obligated to frame a code of conduct and put in place an institutional mechanism.

2. Market infrastructure institutions (MIIs) will have to formulate a code of conduct to regulate, monitor and report trading by their designated persons and immediate relative of designated persons towards achieving compliance with the prohibition of insider trading regulations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: SEBI asked stock exchanges, clearing corporations and depositories to put in place a code of conduct and institutional mechanism to prevent fraud or market abuse by them and their designated persons.

Under this, the managing director (MD) or chief executive officer (CEO) of market infrastructure institutions (MIIs) will be obligated to frame a code of conduct and put in place an institutional mechanism.

Further, the board of directors needs to ensure compliance by the MD/CEO in this regard.

MIIs will have to formulate a code of conduct to regulate, monitor and report trading by their designated persons and immediate relative of designated persons towards achieving compliance with the prohibition of insider trading regulations.

Hence both statements are correct.

93. With reference to the Himalayan serow, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is listed as Near threatened on IUCN Red list.
- 2. It is listed in CITES Appendix II.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Himalayan serow was spotted in the Manas Tiger Reserve in Assam. It was spotted close to the border with Bhutan in Manas's Bansbari-Mathanguri forest.

The Himalayan serow is a subspecies of the mainland serow native to the Himalayas. An appearance of a goat with long, donkey like ears, and a habit of standing with forelegs astraddle, make the Serow an ungainly goat antelope. Its coarse coat(long hair length than the Goral) varies from black to red.

IUCN status: Near threatened.

It is listed in CITES Appendix I.

In February 2021, birders had sighted the colourful Mandarin duck in the Maguri-Motapung wetland near eastern Assam's Dibru-Saikhowa National Park. This duck was last spotted in Assam 118 years ago.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

94. Which of the following schemes comes under the Ministry of Women and Child Development?

1. Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0
2. Mission VATSALYA
3. Mission Shakti

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: For effective implementation of various schemes and programmes of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, all major schemes of the Ministry have been classified under 3 umbrella schemes viz. Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti.

Schemes included under the Umbrella Scheme are as follows:

Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0:

Umbrella ICDS - Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls, National Creche Scheme.

Mission VATSALYA:

Child Protection Services and Child Welfare Services.

Mission Shakti (Mission for Protection and Empowerment for Women):
SAMBAL (One Stop Centre, Mahila Police Volunteer, Women's Helpline/Swadhar/Ujjawala/Widow Homes etc.)
SAMARTHYA (Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Creche, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana/ Gender Budgeting/Research/
Mission Shakti will run in convergence with the other Missions/ Umbrella Schemes of M/o WCD [viz. Mission POSHAN 2.0; Mission VATSALYA; & Mission SAKSHAM-ANGANWADI (including-common-knowledge-cum-admin-backbone-from-national-to-panchayat-level).
Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

95. The bridge 'Maitri Setu' has been built over which of the following river?

- (a) Ganga
- (b) Teesta
- (c) Damodar
- (d) Feni

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Maitri Setu' between India and Bangladesh

The bridge 'Maitri Setu' has been built over Feni river which flows between Indian boundary in Tripura State and Bangladesh.

The 1.9 Km long bridge joins Sabroom (in Tripura) with Ramgarh (in Bangladesh).

The name 'Maitri Setu' symbolises growing bilateral relations and friendly ties between India and Bangladesh.

The construction was taken up by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd at a project cost of Rs 133 crore.

With this bridge, Tripura is set to become the 'Gateway of North East' with access to Chittagong Port of Bangladesh, which is just 80 km from Sabroom.

PM Modi also laid the foundation stone for setting up an Integrated Check Post at Sabroom.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

96. India and which of the following country is participating in the joint military exercise called "DUSTLIK II"?

- (a) Uzbekistan
- (b) Mongolia
- (c) U.K
- (d) France

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The India – Uzbekistan joint military exercise "DUSTLIK II" commenced in Foreign Training Node Chaubatia, Ranikhet (Uttarakhand). It will continue till 19th March 2021.

45 Soldiers each from Uzbekistan and Indian Army are participating in the exercise.

Both contingents will be sharing their expertise and skills in the field of counter terrorist operations in mountainous/rural/urban scenario under UN mandate.

This is the Second Edition of annual bilateral joint exercise of both armies.
The first edition of the exercise was held at Uzbekistan in Nov 2019.
Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

97. With reference to the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, consider the following statements:

1. Rule 4(2) makes it mandatory for every social media intermediary to enable tracing of originators of information on its platform.
2. It deprived the intermediaries of their “safe-harbor protections” under Section 79 of the IT Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The Kerala High Court restrained the Centre from taking coercive action against Live Law Media Private Ltd., which owns a legal news portal, for not complying with Part III of the new IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

The court issued notice to the Centre on a petition filed by the firm challenging the rules regulating digital news media, curated content (OTT platforms), and social media intermediaries.

The petition said Part III of the rules imposed an unconstitutional three-tier complaints and adjudication structure on publishers.

The creation of a grievance redressal mechanism, through a governmental oversight body (an inter-departmental committee constituted under Rule 14) amounted to excessive regulation. Rule 4(2), which makes it mandatory for every social media intermediary to enable tracing of originators of information on its platform, purportedly in furtherance of Section 69 of the IT Act, violated Article 19(1)(a) (freedom of speech and expression).

It also deprived the intermediaries of their “safe-harbour protections” under Section 79 of the IT Act.

The rules obligating messaging intermediaries to alter their infrastructure to “fingerprint” each message on a mass scale for every user to trace the first originator was violative of the fundamental right to privacy of Internet users.

Hence both statements are correct.

98. With reference to the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2021, consider the following statements:

1. The 2011 Act provided for the regularization of unauthorized colonies in the National Capital which existed as on 31st March, 2002, and where construction took place till 1st June, 2014.
2. The legislation provides that the unauthorized colonies which existed as on 1st June 2014, and have 50 per cent development as on 1st January, 2015, will be eligible for regularisation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The Parliament has passed the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2021 with Lok Sabha approving it. Rajya Sabha had already passed the bill last month.

The legislation aims to amend the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Act, 2011. The 2011 Act was valid till 31st December last year. The Bill seeks to extend this deadline to till the end of December 2023.

The 2011 Act provided for the regularisation of unauthorised colonies in the National Capital which existed as on 31st March, 2002, and where construction took place till 1st June, 2014. The Bill amends this to provide that unauthorised colonies will be identified for regularisation as per the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Act, 2019, and the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Regulations, 2019.

The legislation provides that the unauthorised colonies which existed as on 1st June 2014, and have 50 per cent development as on 1st January, 2015, will be eligible for regularisation. Hence both statements are correct.

99. Which of the following country has recently decided to ban the burkha or face veil?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) India
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) Sri Lanka

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Sri Lanka will soon ban the burkha or face veil, a Cabinet Minister said, as he announced the Rajapaksa administration's latest policy decision impacting the minority Muslim community.

The authorities would henceforth use the Prevention of Terrorism (PTA) law — that human rights defenders have termed “draconian” — to deal with religious extremism, with wide-ranging powers to detain suspects for up to two years, to “deradicalise” them.

According to the minister, the burkha affects their national security as it is a symbol of their religious extremism. This dress came into Sri Lanka only recently.

While the Minister had signed documents outlawing the burkha, the move awaits Cabinet approval. Over 1,000 madrasas would be shut.

Following the Islamic State-inspired Easter terror bombings in Sri Lanka in April 2019, attributed to a local Islamist radical network, the government temporarily banned the face veil using emergency laws.

The announcement on the burkha ban comes after a year-long controversy over the government's policy of mandatory cremation of COVID-19 victims, based on unsubstantiated claims that the bodies would contaminate ground water. The government reversed its decision recently, amid persistent calls for burial rights from Muslims, who make up about 10% of the 21-million population, as well as international bodies including the U.N. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

100. With reference to the Places of Worship (Special Provision) Act, 1991, consider the following statements:

1. The Act mandates that the character of all religious places of worship should be maintained as it was on August 15, 1947.
2. This effectively barred courts from entertaining cases which raise disputes over places of worship that existed as of August 15, 1947.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The CPI(M) Polit Bureau called the Supreme Court notice to the government seeking a response on the PIL petition filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay challenging the Places of Worship (Special Provision) Act, 1991, "unfortunate".

The Act mandates that the character of all religious places of worship should be maintained as it was on August 15, 1947, and no suit or proceedings shall lie in a court of law with respect to the character of places of worship.

This effectively barred courts from entertaining cases which raise disputes over places of worship that existed as of August 15, 1947.

While invoking this exemption, the Supreme Court in the 2019 Ayodhya verdict reaffirmed that similar such cases cannot be entertained with respect to other sites in view of this Act. Hence both statements are correct.