



INSIGHTSIAS  
SIMPLIFYING  
IAS EXAM PREPARATION

INSIGHTSONINDIA

DAILY  
QUIZ

DECEMBER

2015

1. Karwar district in Karnataka recently hosted various games under the State-level Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan. Which of the following statements about this scheme is/are correct?

1. Sports complex is to be constructed in each block of the country, both for outdoor and indoor sports disciplines
2. It also consists of provisions for financing purchase of sports equipment and furniture

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: c.

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2015/11/13/insights-daily-current-events-13-november-2015/>

2. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is not guided by procedures laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure
2. Each state has its own NGT bench
3. 'Right to decent environment and protection against hazardous industries' is a part of Article 21

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: c.

“The NGT is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to

handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues. The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.

The Tribunal’s dedicated jurisdiction in environmental matters shall provide speedy environmental justice and help reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts. The Tribunal is mandated to make and endeavour for disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same. Initially, the NGT is proposed to be set up at five places of sittings and will follow circuit procedure for making itself more accessible. New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other four place of sitting of the Tribunal.”

Pg 7.11, 4th Edition, Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2015/11/13/insights-daily-current-events-13-november-2015/>

3. Subir Gokarn was recently appointed to represent the Indian constituency in the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund, which is responsible for conducting its day-to-day business. The Indian constituency comprises

1. India
2. Sri Lanka
3. Bangladesh
4. Bhutan
5. Nepal
6. Maldives

Select the correct answer using codes given below:



- a) 1, 2 and 4 Only
- b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 4 5 and 6 only
- d) 1, 4 and 5 only

Ans: b.

“The Executive Board (the Board) is responsible for conducting the day-to-day business of the IMF. It is composed of 24 Directors, who are appointed or elected by member countries or by groups of countries, and the Managing Director, who serves as its Chairman. The Board usually meets several times each week. It carries out its work largely on the basis of papers prepared by IMF management and staff.”

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2015/11/13/insights-daily-current-events-13-november-2015/>

4. The ‘Bharat Darshan’ is an annual tour conducted within India by the

- a) Ministry of Human Resource and Development as part of the student exchange programme among different states
- b) Border Security Force for children from Jammu & Kashmir to witness the rich cultural heritage and diversity of India
- c) Ministry of Tourism for 60+ aged citizens at subsidized rates to pilgrimage destinations
- d) Ministry of Culture for 60+ aged citizens at subsidized rates to pilgrimage destinations

Ans: b.

“..Rajnath Singh lauded the Border Security Force (BSF) for arranging the Bharat Darshan tour for the children from the Kashmir region, to witness the

rich cultural heritage and diversity, which is the identity of our nation.

Speaking on the occasion, Director General, BSF, Shri D.K. Pathak said the concept of Bharat Darshan tours started in the year 2000 and it is conducted every year for the children from Jammu & Kashmir. Till date 1,499 children from J&K have participated in BSF-sponsored 52 Bharat Darshan tours.

This tour is conducted to expose them to the historical, cultural and social profile of the country and the progress made in industrial, technological and scientific fields and also to inculcate in them a sense of pride for the nation. During the tours, the children visit places of historic and cultural importance in different parts of India..”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=130433>

5. Consider the following statements about the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF):

1. The purpose of the fund earlier was to receive disinvestment proceeds of central public sector enterprises and invest the same to generate earnings from any projects
2. The fund now cannot be utilized towards infrastructure development of brownfield projects
3. It could also consider funding other greenfield projects, for example, in manufacturing

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



Ans: d.

NIIF is a fund created by the Government of India for enhancing infrastructure financing in the country. This is different from the National Investment Fund.

Objective:

To maximize economic impact mainly through infrastructure development in commercially viable projects, both greenfield and brownfield, including stalled projects. It could also consider other nationally important projects, for example, in manufacturing, if commercially viable.

Statement 3 is true; full information has not been provided by it though. It can be greenfield or brownfield manufacturing projects, as long as the projects “are commercially viable”.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=130431>

1. There exists a 'Japan Plus' cell for expediting clearances for Japanese investments in India. The nodal agency in the Central government which houses this cell, and also deals with matters relating to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is

- a) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- c) Ministry of Finance
- d) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

Ans: b.

“..The commerce and industry ministry is the nodal agency in the Central government for matters relating to JICA and also houses the 'Japan Plus' cell for expediting clearances for Japanese investments in India..”

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/rs-15000cr-north-east-connectivity-project-struggling-to-clear-roadblocks/article7874680.ece>

2. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): The North East connectivity project is struggling to take off one year after India and Japan jointly agreed to work on the project

Reason (R): Japan is insisting, among others, on a full-scale Environmental Impact Assessment even for improvement of existing single-lane highways

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

a) A and R both are true, and R is the correct explanation for A

- b) A and R both are true, and R is the NOT the correct explanation for A
- c) A is correct, R is incorrect
- d) A and R both are incorrect

Ans: a.

“..Sources in one of the many Japanese agencies said Japan is insisting on a full-scale Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) even for improvement of existing single-lane/two-lane highways such as the ones in the North East. NHIDCL (National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation) and MORTH (Ministry of Road Transport & Highways) have for their part referred to a Central government notification, according to which easier clearance can be given for road widening in border areas such as the North East.

They said Japan also wants NHIDCL to adopt the latest 'slope protection technique and methods to balance cut and fill volumes' for greater durability of the road and to make the construction environmentally sustainable.

Though NHIDCL has agreed to adopt these techniques, it wants the costs involved in it to be rationalised. Negotiations are continuing regarding costs, they said..”

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/rs-15000cr-north-east-connectivity-project-struggling-to-clear-roadblocks/article7874680.ece>



3. Consider the following statements about household savings in the form of physical assets:

1. Its contribution to household savings has stood around 50% all through the last decade (2004-05 – 2013-14)
2. It typically does not lend itself easily to financial intermediation in the economy

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 only
- d) None of the above

Ans: a.

“..Finance minister Arun Jaitley today called for improving the credibility and integrity of all market participants, including the regulators and corporates, to channel more household savings into the system..”

“..Household savings continue to be the largest contributor to gross capital formation. Household savings has two components- financial and physical, where the latter typically does not lend itself easily to financial intermediation (Note: the role of financial intermediaries is to channel funds from lenders to borrowers by intermediating between them) in the economy. As can be seen from Table 5.1, the contribution of physical assets to household savings has stood stubbornly above 60 per cent all through the last decade..”

Pg. 78-79, Economic Survey 2014-15, Volume 1

4. Chinese currency, noted the IMF's (International Monetary Fund) Managing Director, could possibly be included in the IMF's benchmark foreign exchange basket. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The IMF's Executive Board has the final say in deciding whether a currency joins the basket of reserve currencies
2. Review of the SDR (Special Drawing Rights) takes place once every ten years
3. The ability of China to manipulate its exchange rate has now become more restricted

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: b.

“...The staff of the IMF has today issued a paper to the Executive Board on the quinquennial review (recurring every 5 years) of the SDR (Special Drawing Rights).

While the IMF's Executive Board has the final say in deciding whether the yuan joins the basket of reserve currencies, the matter is not yet certain. Complicating the issue is the fact that the U.S. Congress has been stymieing reforms that would increase China's voting powers at the IMF.

“The ability of China to manipulate its exchange rate has become more restricted. Not only did India have to deal with China's over-capacity, but also its devalued currency,” he said, adding



that the latter will be less of a problem once the yuan enters the SDR basket...”

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/chinas-yuan-takes-another-step-towards-sdr-basket-inclusion/article7878320.ece>

5. ‘Fisheries’ is a subject under which list of the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

- a) List I
- b) List II
- c) List III
- d) Both a and b

Ans: d.

Entry of ‘non-local’ boats leading to clashes among fishermen

‘Fishing and fisheries beyond territorial waters’ is a subject under the Union list, while ‘fisheries’ (within territorial waters) is a subject under the State list:

[http://lawmin.nic.in/olwing/coi/coi-english/Const.Pock%20Pg.Rom8Fsss\(35\).pdf](http://lawmin.nic.in/olwing/coi/coi-english/Const.Pock%20Pg.Rom8Fsss(35).pdf)



1. Farmers in Punjab are being pushed into the debt trap of exploitative non-institutional sources of credit. What may be reasons for the same?

1. High transaction cost of institutional credit
2. Non-availability of institutional non-collateral loans
3. Time-consuming procedure to avail Institutional loans
4. Some farmers are illiterate
5. Poor customer-service offered by banks

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: d.

“..A study on farmers’ issues conducted by Dr. Sukhpal and the PAU team revealed that the most common problem faced by about 85 per cent of the respondents [farmers] was complicated and time-consuming procedure of availing themselves of loan from the banks.

Other common problems faced by about 47 per cent and 42 per cent of the farmers were non-availability of non-collateral loans and high transaction cost of credit, respectively.

About 30 per cent of sampled farmers could not establish links with bank officials as they were uneducated. Further, about 22 per cent each of the sampled farmers complained about the bureaucratic behaviour of bank officials and lack of banking facility at the village level.

Apart from these, corruption, non-availability of domestic loan, insufficient loan amount and inability of marginal farmers and tenants to hypothecate their land value were some of the other problems..”

2. Evidence submitted to the judiciary by a police officer who is part of a probe team
  - a) Is unworthy of acceptance
  - b) Is worthy of acceptance
  - c) May or may not be worthy of acceptance
  - d) Police officers are not part of probe teams

Ans: c.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/evidence-by-probe-officer-holds-weight-sc/article7881786.ece>

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The port of Singapore is an important sea-route connection for India with Bangladesh
2. The biggest impediment in commencing coastal shipping between India and Bangladesh has been non-availability of the adequate ‘class’ of vessels in Bangladesh

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Ans: d.

“..The present connectivity through sea route with Bangladesh is through ports



of Colombo and Singapore. The long sea route adds significantly to the transportation costs of EXIM trade. There is no significant cargo movement between sea ports of Bangladesh and India as it is not profitable for the big vessels to operate between these sea ports. Under such circumstances there is a need for smaller ships to provide direct connectivity of eastern sea ports of India with Chittagong and other ports in Bangladesh. This, besides improving the connectivity will also provide competitive freight rates.

The biggest impediment in commencing coastal shipping between India and Bangladesh was the non-availability of River Sea Vessel class of vessels in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has foreign going vessels of higher technical and manning standards which are not cost effective for coastal voyage between the two countries..”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=130487>

Ans: b.

“..The Second Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety, hosted by the Government of Brazil and supported by the WHO, will be a milestone for road safety. For only the second time in history, government ministers and their partners in key decision-making roles from nearly every country of the world will convene to address road safety. The Conference seeks to share knowledge and spur action on what works to prevent these tragedies and improve safety on the roads for all who use them..”

“..One of the major objectives of the event is to review the progress made by countries in implementing the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020..”

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/meetings/2015/conference-road-safety/en/>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=130489>

4. The second “High Level Global Conference on Road Safety” was recently held in Brasilia. With reference to it, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The ‘Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2016-2025’ was adopted at this conference
2. This conference was supported by the World Health Organisation

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 only
- d) None of the above

5. The first Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) outlet was recently inaugurated in New Delhi. AMRIT outlets will sell highly discounted drugs

- a) For two ailments only – Cancer and Heart diseases
- b) Which are on the National List of Essential Medicines only
- c) For accident-related medical problems only
- d) For ailments afflicting old age (above 65) persons only

Ans: a.



“..With the aim to reduce the expenditure incurred by patients on treatment of cancer and heart diseases, the Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Shri J P Nadda inaugurated the Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) outlet at AIIMs, here today. The retail outlet will sell drugs for the two ailments at highly discounted rates at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to begin with..”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=130495>

married daughters in Manipur. On this special day, a grand feast of ‘iinjang mathen-mathen‘ (various cuisines) is prepared in the honor of the daughter at her ‘mapam‘ (mother’s house)..”

6. ‘Ningol Chakouba’ is a festival – a grand feast for married daughters is prepared and hosted by parental households – celebrated in

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Manipur
- c) Ladakh
- d) Sikkim

Ans: b.

“..Manipur will get an exclusive Sports University soon. This was disclosed here today by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh while addressing a function organised to celebrate the Manipur’s “Ningol Chakkouba” festival, traditionally observed by hosting a special feast for “married daughters” by their parental households..”

“..In Manipuri, ‘Ningol‘ means daughter and ‘Chakouba‘ means invitation for a lunch in the mother’s house. ‘Ningol Chakouba‘ is a special day for the



1. Consider the following statements:

1. The first newspaper in India was the 'Hickey's Gazette'
2. It was launched by William and James Augustus Hickey

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: b.

"..The first newspaper in India was the 'Hickey's Gazette' or 'Bengal Gazette' started on January 29, 1780 by an Irishman, James Augustus Hickey. This weekly political and commercial paper declared itself as "open to all parties but influenced by none" and its content included criticism of the British East India Company.."

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=130516>

2. Consider the following statements about India's first regional language newspaper:

1. 'Amrita Bazar Patrika' was its name
  2. It was a Bengali-language newspaper
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 or 2

Ans: b.

"..'Samachar Darpan' in Bengali founded in 1818 was the first regional language newspaper.."

"..The Amrita Bazar Patrika was founded on February 20, 1868 as a Bengali weekly by Sisir Ghosh and Moti Lal Ghosh.."

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=130516>

3. This newspaper overnight turned into an English weekly in order to escape the provisions of the oppressive Vernacular Press Act. This newspaper was the

- a) Samachar Darpan
- b) Amrita Bazar Patrika
- c) Bengali Gazette
- d) Kesari

Ans: b.

"..The Amrita Bazar Patrika was founded on February 20, 1868 as a Bengali weekly by Sisir Ghosh and Moti Lal Ghosh. It became instantly popular because of its campaign against injustice and inequality. It overnight turned into an English weekly from March 21, 1878 in order to escape the provisions of the oppressive Vernacular Press Act.."

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=130516>

4. The 'Indian Opinion' was a newspaper launched in

- a) The Bengal Presidency
- b) Britain
- c) South Africa
- d) France

Ans: c.



“..The Indian Opinion was a newspaper established by Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi. The publication was an important tool for the political movement led by Gandhi and the National Indian Congress to fight racial discrimination and win civil rights for the Indian immigrant community in South Africa..”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=130516>

states/regions, can significantly contribute towards reducing cost-push food inflation..”

Pg 77-78, Economic Survey 2014-15, Volume 2

“..Shri Singh on the occasion said that “there are still large productivity gaps in the potential and the realized farm output and with development and infusion of new technologies our farm production will go up to meet the rising domestic food demand..”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=130514>

5. Consider the following statements with regard to agricultural yield and productivity in India:

1. Despite being among the leading producers of several food items, the yield gaps vis-à-vis other countries are wide
2. An inverse relationship exists between increase in yield over time and the average cost of production of various crops

Which of the above statements is/are *incorrect*?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 or 2

Ans: d.

“..An inverse relationship is noticed between increase in yield over time and the average cost of production of various crops in real terms. For example, for rabi crops a 10 per cent increase in yield resulted in a 2.1 per cent to 8.1 per cent decline in the average cost of production of various crops in real terms. (Price Policy for Kharif Crops, February 2014, pp. 67—69, CACP). This clearly points towards the fact that productivity increases, especially in low productivity



1. Agricultural yield is contingent upon several factors. These include:

1. Labour
2. Extension Services
3. Quality of water
4. Prices received by farmers

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: d.

“..Yield is contingent upon several factors like variety and quality of seeds, soil quality, irrigation – including quality of water—fertilizers—including their proportion—pesticides, labour, and extension services. Prices received by farmers and the certainty or assurance of getting a particular price also incentivize farmers to take to a particular crop and use quality inputs in its cultivation..”

Pg 78, Economic Survey 2014-15, Volume 2

“..Shri Singh on the occasion said that “there are still large productivity gaps in the potential and the realized farm output and with development and infusion of new technologies our farm production will go up to meet the rising domestic food demand..”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=130514>

2. The ‘Rice Bowl of India’ refers to

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Odisha-Jharkhand rice belt
- d) Punjab

Ans: a.

“..As rice is the major food crop and staple food of the State, Andhra Pradesh is also known as Rice Bowl of India. Agriculture contributes about one-fourth of the State’s GDP..”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=130514>

3. Amur falcons are the longest travelling raptors in the world and come to Doyang Lake in Nagaland every year. With reference to these falcons, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Until recently, Naga tribesmen used to hunt Amur falcons for their meat
  2. It has been classified as a ‘vulnerable’ species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature
  3. They come to the lake during their flight from Mongolia to South Africa
- Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: c.

Amur Falcon: Current IUCN Red List category: Least concern

“Today, the world has recognized Pangti village in Nagaland as the world’s Amur Falcon capital, as more than one million birds can be seen in just 30 minutes. It is a very rare and exciting sight”, the Minister said.



“..Amur falcons are the longest travelling raptors in the world and come to Doyang every year in millions. Until recently, Naga tribesmen used to hunt thousands of Amur falcons for meat. But last year, after a vigorous campaign by wildlife activists, they pledged to protect the bird and since then, not a single bird has been hunted in the area..”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=130503>

4. Which of the following statements about the ‘Chhath puja’ is/are correct?

1. It consists of four days of ritual dedicated to the Sun God and Chhathi Maiyya
2. Mainly men do the puja, and have to go for long durations without food and water

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 or 2

Ans: a.

“..With the rituals actually spanning over four days, Chhath is also considered one of the most difficult festivals. Those doing the puja, mostly women, have to go without food and water for long durations over these four days..”

<http://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/art-and-culture/chhath-puja-all-that-you-need-to-know-about-this-festival/>

5. The foundation stone of the first Mega Food Park in Telangana was recently laid. Which of the following statements about the Mega Food Parks Scheme is/are *incorrect*?

1. Every state must set up at least one Mega Food Park under this scheme
  2. It includes the creation of Primary as well as Central Processing Centres
- Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: a.

“..The scheme is demand-driven and would facilitate food processing units to meet environmental, safety and social standards.

The Scheme has a cluster based approach based on a hub and spokes model. It includes creation of infrastructure for primary processing and storage near the farm in the form of Primary Processing Centres (PPCs) and Collection Centres (CCs) and common facilities and enabling infrastructure at Central Processing Centre (CPC)..”

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2015/11/17/insights-daily-current-events-17-november-2015/>



1. The Indian silk industry is expected to become self-reliant by 2020. In this context, consider the following statements:

1. India enjoys a unique distinction of producing all five major silk varieties
2. India has nearly doubled its raw silk production in the last 10 years

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: c.

“..India enjoys a unique distinction of producing all five major silk varieties — Mulberry, Eri, Tropical Tasar, Temperate Tasar, and Muga..”

“..With a growth rate of 7.5 per cent per annum, the Indian silk industry — which contributes nearly 28,700 tonnes (16.12 per cent) of silk to the total world output, is expected to become self-reliant by 2020, meeting the demands of domestic silk market..”

“..India doubled its raw silk production in the last 10 years from 15,000 tonnes a year to almost 29,000 tonnes a year. Research and development had contributed immensely to boost production, in addition to the new silkworm productive breeds, high yielding mulberry varieties, quality disease-free layings, scientifically-designed rearing shed, mounting devices, and high performance reeling devices..”

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/indian-silk-industry-hopes->

[to-become-selfreliant-by-2020/article7885584.ece](http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/indian-silk-industry-hopes-to-become-selfreliant-by-2020/article7885584.ece)

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/indias-unique-distinction/article7885587.ece>

2. Which of the following pairs associated with the ‘International Film Festivals of India’ is/are correctly matched?

1. Permanent insignia – A celluloid camera with a single reel
2. Permanent venue – Goa
3. Permanent motto – ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: b.

Fifth IFFI: The Fifth International film festival of India was held at Delhi from 30th December 1974 to 12th January 1975. Following the international recognition of 3rd IFFI, India adopted, at its fifth festival, a permanent insignia. This comprises a representation of the peacock, India’s national bird, with a permanent motto of the festival ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ (The whole world is a family).

The 35th IFFI was held in Goa for the first time from November 29 to December 9, 2004, making Goa the permanent venue. Since then IFFI is being held in Goa every year.

“Few Facts About International Film Festivals of India”, 17th November, PIB Releases



3. Which one of the following best describes the main objective of 'Seed Village Concept'?

- a) Encouraging the farmers to use their own farm seeds and discouraging them to buy the seeds from others
- b) Involving the farmers for training in quality seed production and thereby to make available quality seeds to others at appropriate time and affordable cost
- c) Earmarking some villages exclusively for the production of certified seeds
- d) Identifying the entrepreneurs in village and providing them technology and finance to set up seed companies

Solution: b)

CS(P) 2015, UPSC

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=130546>

4. A joint sitting in the Parliament of India is convened by the

- a) President
- b) Speaker
- c) Vice President
- d) Prime Minister

Ans: a.

“..The President can summon both the houses to meet in a joint sitting for the purpose of deliberating and voting on the bill..”

A joint sitting is presided by the Speaker.

Pg. 22.21, The President, Indian Polity 4th Edition by M. Laxmikanth

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-case-for-the-rajya-sabha/article7888714.ece>

5. Consider the following statements with regard to the provision of 'joint sitting' in the Indian Constitution:

- 1. In the absence of the Speaker, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha presides over it
  - 2. This provision is not available for a Constitutional Amendment
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: b.

“.. In the event of a disagreement between the two Houses on a bill, the option of a joint sitting of both chambers is available. However, this will not apply to a money bill or a Constitution amendment..”

Pg. 22.21, The President, Indian Polity 4th Edition by M. Laxmikanth

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-case-for-the-rajya-sabha/article7888714.ece>



1. Consider the following statements with regard to the consequences of passing a bill by means of a joint sitting of the two houses in the Parliament of India:

1. It could dilute the country's federal character
2. The Lok Sabha normally wins the 'battle'

Which of the above statements is/are *incorrect*?

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

Ans: d.

"..This constitutional scheme should not be trifled with just because of a political stalemate between the principal parties. Any such attempt would dilute the country's federal character and weaken the ties between the Centre and the States. Governments that are keen on specific legislative measures must make pragmatic concessions and should adopt political moves to get them passed, instead of hoping that the numbers should always favour them.."

Pg. 22.21, The President, Indian Polity 4th Edition by M. Laxmikanth

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-case-for-the-rajya-sabha/article7888714.ece>

2. Which of the following are some applications of Nuclear sciences?

1. Management of water resources
2. Food security
3. Measuring and controlling soil erosion

4. Diagnosis and treatment of a large numbers of health problems

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: d.

Mauro Vieira, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, said, "Nuclear energy is important for our development and nuclear science has many applications in non-military areas as in the sphere of medicine and health. We want to make a new beginning in that direction for India-Brazil cooperation,"

You can glance through the IAEA website to get an idea of the various applications of Nuclear Sciences.

"..A project in Senegal to eradicate tsetse flies that is supported by the FAO/IAEA successfully improved food security and public health in target areas of Senegal through reducing the tsetse fly population by up to 95% using nuclear and other techniques.."

"..The IAEA, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), helps scientists and farmers in measuring and controlling soil erosion through the use of various nuclear techniques.."

"..Nuclear Science has developed an array of methodologies and analytical techniques which use various isotopes of water to characterize water masses and trace their history and movement through the hydrological cycle. Isotope techniques can help determine the



origin, age and renewal rate of groundwater, and whether it is at risk of salt water intrusions or contamination...”

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/telanganas-tribal-master-craftsman-set-to-zoom-into-big-league/article7893626.ece>

3. Which of the following statements about ‘Dhokra art’ is/are correct?

1. It is unique to the Ojha artisan community
2. The statue of the bronze ‘dancing girl’ from the Harappan civilization was cast using the same technique as in the case of Dhokra artefacts

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: b.

Dhokra art is not unique to the Ojha community.

“..Dhokra art is basically a brass-work (Metal Craft) done by the Malhore castes of the state of Jharkhand. The artisans of Jharkhand practice the traditional “Lost Wax Technique” to craft their imaginations..”.. The statue of the bronze ‘dancing girl’ from the Harappan civilization was cast using the same technique.

“..Naneshwar’s selection is a matter of pride for Telangana State as well as the tiny Ojha artisan community which primarily makes brass metal objects for the Gond Adivasis in this district to which he belongs. The brass metal casting of Ojhas is popularly known as Dhokra art..”

4. The ‘Press Council of India’ is

- a) A voluntary self-regulatory body
- b) A body formed by an executive resolution
- c) The India-branch of the International body, ‘Reporters Without Borders’
- d) A statutory body

Ans: d.

“..The Press Council of India was first set up in the year 1966 by the Parliament on the recommendations of the First Press Commission with the object of preserving the freedom of the press and of maintaining and improving the standards of press in India..”

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/press-council-serves-notice-on-assam-rifles/article7896850.ece>

5. River Ken passes through which tiger reserve?

- a) Pench
- b) Panna
- c) Tadoba Andhari
- d) Similipal

Ans: b.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=131646>

<http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/modis-victory-may-mean-push-for-kenbetwa-riverlink-project-44482>



1. 'Hydroponics' is the process of
  - a) Growing plants in sand, gravel, or liquid, with added nutrients but without soil
  - b) The chemical breakdown of a compound due to reaction with water; a principle which is useful for vehicle green technologies
  - c) Growing plants in shallow water bodies using some fish species for the purpose of 'fishnure' or fish manure
  - d) None of the above

Ans: a.

“..Hydroponic technology can be used for fodder production..”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=131734>

2. 'Enable Makeathon' is
  - a) An initiative of the Department of Electronics and Information Technology to assist start-ups contributing towards the 'Make in India' initiative
  - b) An initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to increase the number of vocational programmes across Tier-II cities
  - c) A project initiated by the International Committee of the Red Cross and its partners to help create new assistive devices for persons with disabilities living in rural areas across the world
  - d) None of the above

Ans: c.

“..The Enable Makeathon is a project initiated by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and its partners to help create new assistive devices for persons with disabilities living in rural

areas across the world. It is motivated by the spirit of broad collaboration with the government, the private sector, the academia as well as other interested individuals. It is a 60-day programme by the end of which participants – including technology and design experts, persons with disabilities and mentors – would have developed solutions and products for persons with disabilities in the form of prototypes..”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=131576>

3. Consider the following statements about the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India:

1. It is a Government of India undertaking
2. It designs and produces products only for the orthopedically disabled

Which of the above statements is/are **incorrect**?

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

Ans: b.

“..Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Manohar Lal, inaugurated a Mega Camp for free distribution of Assistive Aids and Appliances for persons with disabilities (PwDs)..”

Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), works under the aegis of Department Of Empowerment Of Person with Disability (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Government of India.



The Corporation produces 355 different types of quality aids and appliances required by orthopedically, visually & hearing handicapped persons. ALIMCO has been in the forefront in providing innovative and appropriate solutions to the problems facing the disabled.

4. Consider the following statements about the office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM) in India:

1. It is under the aegis of Ministry of Science & Technology
2. Providing facilitation and techno-financial support for filing patent application is one of its important activities

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: d.

The office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM) is under the aegis of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

The National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), is an Enterprise of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Ministry of Science & Technology. NRDC has so far licensed patents/technologies to more than 4800 entrepreneurs/ companies in the country in almost all sector of industry. Providing facilitation and techno-financial support for filing patent application in India is one of the

important promotional activities of NRDC.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=131723>

5. Consider the following statements about 'Consultative Committees' of the Indian Parliament:

1. These are headed by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (PA)
2. These provide a forum for informal discussions among the Members of Parliament on various business to be taken up by both houses of the Parliament
3. Guidelines regarding their composition, functions and procedures are formulated by Ministry of PA

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: c.

These are attached to various ministries/depts of the central government. The Minister/Minister of state-in-charge of the Ministry concerned acts as the chairman of the consultative committee of that ministry.

These committees provide a forum for informal discussions between ministers and MPs on policies and programmes of the Government and the manner of their implementation. Meetings can take place both during the session and the inter-session period of Parliament.



Pg 22.34, Indian Polity 4th Edition, M. Laxmikanth

“..Parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Coal held its meeting here today and reviewed the performance of Neyveli Lignite Corporation ( NLC) Ltd ..”

6. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

1. *Banni Grassland: Gujarat*
2. *Kangayam Grassland: Mizoram*
3. *Korangadu Grassland: Tamil Nadu*

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2 Only
- b) 2 and 3 Only
- c) 1 and 3 Only
- d) All the above

Ans: c.

The management of Kangayam grassland spread over 4000 sq km, in a sustainable way for hundreds of years hardly make a news in spite of the frequent drought because of the collective action of the people and use of innovative technologies. The Kangayam region is located in the rain-shadow region of south India in Tamil Nadu and is a drought-prone area where pasture grass is the main crop and livestock rearing a major occupation of the farmers.

Like Savanna grasslands in Africa and Steppes in Europe, Tamil Nadu was known for the Korangadu grassland. The grassland promotes robust varieties of birds and native species of cattle.

Banni Grasslands Reserve or Banni grasslands form a belt of arid grassland

ecosystem on the outer southern edge of the desert of the marshy salt flats of Rann of Kutch in Kutch District, Gujarat State, India.

“..In India several grasslands like Banni grasslands reserve, Kangayam grassland, Korangadu grassland, Shola grassland, Cold desert of the Indian Trans-Himalayas grasslands, Terai grasslands, Thar desert etc are situated in poor soil categories and their productivity mainly depend on precipitation..”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=131734>



1. Which of the following statements associated with implementation of successive Pay Commissions' recommendations in India have been true?

1. The manufacturing sector activity usually got a fillip
2. States have also in the past tended to implement the recommendations

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Ans: c.

“..The impact of the salary raises on the States' fiscal resources — considering that States have also in the past tended to implement the recommendations — cannot be underestimated..”

“.. The assumption is that higher incomes will lead to higher spending by employees on consumer goods, which, in turn, will spur the manufacturing sector out of its stupor. But the flip side to this is higher inflation and the possible negation of all that the Reserve Bank of India has been doing this past year. The implementation of recommendations by successive Pay Commissions has been followed by a jump in retail inflation, which can be assumed to occur again..”

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/an-expected-raise/article7900779.ece>

2. “The Governor shall hold office during the pleasure of the President” is a provision made by which article of the Indian Constitution?

- a) Article 153 (1)
- b) Article 143 (1)
- c) Article 156 (1)
- d) Article 166 (1)

Ans: c.

Article 156 (1): The Governor shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.

“..The Supreme Court has sought a response from the Centre, the Madhya Pradesh government and the State's Governor, Ram Naresh Yadav, on a plea seeking the removal of the Governor owing to his alleged involvement in the multi-crore Vyapam scam, which is currently being probed by the CBI. The petition sought the apex court to direct the MHA to move a proposal for “withdrawal of pleasure” of the President under Article 156 (1) of the Constitution, thus facilitating the Governor's removal..”

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2015/11/21/insights-daily-current-events-21-november-2015/>

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Air Force as well as the Indian Army now grant Permanent Commission to women
2. A Permanent Commission in the Indian military entitles 20 years of service

Which of the above statements is/are correct?



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

Ans: c.

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2015/11/21/insights-daily-current-events-21-november-2015/>

4. The National Commission on Agriculture in India defines three types of droughts. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Meteorological drought is defined as a situation when there is significant decrease of normal precipitation over an area
- 2. Hydrological drought results from prolonged meteorological drought
- 3. Agricultural drought is a situation when there is significant decrease of normal crop yield

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2 Only
- b) 1 and 3 Only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None of the above

Ans: a.

“..The National Commission on Agriculture in India defines three types of droughts: meteorological, agricultural and hydrological. Meteorological drought is defined as a situation when there is significant decrease from normal precipitation over an area (i.e. more than 10 %). Hydrological drought results from prolonged meteorological drought manifested in depletion of surface and subsurface water resources. It must be noted that hydrological drought could

occur even when the rainfall is normal, if there has been a substantial reduction in surface water holding capacity..”

The decrease in crop yield may have occurred due to improper methods of nurturing or due to pest attacks or some other reason. Agricultural drought, however, is “a situation when soil moisture and rainfall are inadequate to support healthy crop growth”.

This is a heavy document on drought management, provided only for the sake of mentioning the source of the question. If you find time, you could glance through it. Given that we just experienced two consecutive years of drought, a question (essay?) may be asked on the topic in this year’s mains.

50 Uttar Pradesh districts declared drought-hit

5. Legislation on the India-Bangladesh land swap agreement is which amendment to the Indian Constitution to have been passed by the Parliament?

- a) 119th
- b) 120th
- c) 99th
- d) 100th

Ans: d.

First batch of enclave residents from Bangladesh arrives in West Bengal

This was the 119th Amendment which was introduced in the Parliament, but the 100th amendment



6. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): The flame of a candle can be spherical in shape

Reason (R): In a region of microgravity, hot gases are not pulled in an upward direction

Which of the above statements is/are true?

- a) A and R both are true, and R is the correct explanation for A
- b) A and R both are true, and R is the NOT the correct explanation for A
- c) A is correct, R is incorrect
- d) A and R both are incorrect

Ans: a.

“..Take the flame of a candle, the kind you might find on a birthday cake. The flame takes the familiar shape — as, basically, a gaseous teardrop — because of gravity. The hot air rises and draws fresh, cool air behind it. The buoyancy makes the flame shoot up and flicker..”

“..In microgravity, according to this NASA video, flames behave differently than they do here on Earth. Instead of the tear shape we’re used to from our birthday cakes or what have you, the gravity-challenged flames form fire balls. Unlike Earth-bound flames which expand greedily when they need more fuel, flame balls let the oxygen come to them..”

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/question-corner/article7876983.ece>

1. Consider the following list of countries:

1. Brazil
2. Russia
3. India
4. China
5. South Africa

Which of the above are members of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)?

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

Ans: b.

“The goal of CCAMLR, now numbering 25 members (24 nations and the European Union), is to preserve marine life and environmental integrity in and near Antarctica. It meets every year in late October to deliberate on the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Antarctic Ocean. Unfortunately, this year too the CCAMLR meeting ended without reaching an agreement on the establishment of the MPAs.”

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-educationplus/antarctica-sanctuaries-talks-fail/article7881243.ece>

2. Which of the following statements regarding the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is/are correct?

1. It is not responsible for monetary policy formulations
2. Official board directors are appointed by the RBI governor, whereas non-officials are appointed by the Government

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: a.

The Board consists of official and non-official directors, both of whom are appointed by the Government of India.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/central-bank-to-take-up-issue-with-government/article7904779.ece>

3. Which of the following statements about the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is/are true?

1. Title rights are to be granted to concerned families only for land that is being cultivated by them as on December 13, 2005 and not thereafter
2. The rights to use and/or collect Minor Forest Produce, which includes timber
3. Prior to the enactment of this law, the Forest Department was the only legally recognized guardian/protector of forests in India

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: c.

[“What kind of rights do forest dwellers get under this Act?”](#)

—

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/centre-waging-war-against-tribals-says-brinda-karat/article7906718.ece>

4. Which among the following dams constructed in the Godavari river basin caters to the some parts of the Marathwada region?

- a) Gangapur dam
- b) Jayakwadi dam
- c) Sriram Sagar dam
- d) Shivaji Sagar dam

Ans: b.

“On Saturday, farmers of Nasik in north Maharashtra gheraoed State Water Resources Minister Girish Mahajan over water release into the Jayakwadi dam, which caters to the Marathwada region. Citing drought, they said water should not be released into the dam when their water needs are not fulfilled.”

There are other dams too, that cater to the Marathwada region. This question was framed based on [this article](#) that appeared in the Hindu.

5. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): Usage of biodegradable plastics helps lower the physical and chemical pollution of marine ecosystems

Reason (R): Biodegradable plastics are made up of ‘micro-plastic’ particles which can quickly disintegrate

Which of the above statements is/are true?

- A) A and R both are true, and R is the correct explanation for A
- B) A and R both are true, and R is the NOT the correct explanation for A
- C) A is correct, R is incorrect
- D) A and R both are incorrect

Ans: d.

Plastics labelled “biodegradable” are not quite so innocuous after all, and can add considerably to the physical and chemical pollution of marine ecosystems, a newly-released UN report says. Some ‘biodegradable’ plastics need industrial composters and exposure



to temperatures over 50°C to completely disintegrate — and “such conditions are rarely if ever met in the marine environment,” says the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report titled “Biodegradable Plastics and Marine Litter: Misconceptions, Concerns and Impacts on Marine Environments”.

Every year, around 280 million tonnes of plastic are produced globally, of which 20 million tonnes enter oceans, choking coral reefs, entangling marine wildlife, and when breaking down into microplastic (plastic particles of 5mm or less) then ingested by sea birds, fish and other marine organisms.

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/keep-this-plastic-too-out-of-the-ocean/article7904389.ece>

6. Antibiotics are said to be losing their effectiveness. Consider the following statements with regard to them:

1. The outcome of surgical procedures is strongly linked to the success of antibiotics
2. India has a ‘National Policy for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance’
3. The ‘World Antibiotic Awareness Week’ was observed for the first time in 2015

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: d.

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/antibiotics-losing-their-edge/article7904388.ece>



1. The Seventh Pay Commission recently submitted its recommendations to the Government of India (GoI). In this context, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. For around the past two decades, pay, allowances and pension (PAP) as a proportion of government revenue expenditure has remained stable
2. Increased pay for government employees could be interpreted as a form of fiscal stimulus

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: b.

“Pay, allowances and pension (PAP) as a proportion of government expenditure has been declining sharply. In 1998-99, PAP was 38 per cent of revenue expenditure. The SPC estimates that this figure has fallen to 18 per cent in 2015-16. (It will go up to 22 per cent in 2017-17 consequent to the SPC award, but will decline thereafter, as pay grows at a lower rate than government expenditure). The implication is striking: in financial terms, the workforce in government has been effectively downsized by nearly half over the past 17 years.

Increased pay for government employees means greater government expenditure and hence a fiscal stimulus — provided government expenditure on other counts is not reduced and the fiscal deficit rises. This happened at the time of the Sixth Pay Commission. Higher wages for government employees

contributed to a higher fiscal deficit and helped stimulate growth in the short run.”

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/why-we-must-not-grudge-them-a-pay-hike/article7909203.ece>

2. With reference to the steel sector in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. India is one of the world’s largest crude steel producing country
2. The Government of India has set upon itself a target of nearly trebling steel-making capacity to 300 million tonnes by 2025
3. The share of stressed advances to the steel sector has been one of the highest among various sectors

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- a) 1 and 3 Only
- b) 2 and 3 Only
- c) 1 and 2 Only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: d.

“..Speaking on the ‘Challenges in the Steel Sector’ Shri Narendra Singh Tomar said that India’s is on its way to be the world’s third largest crude steel producing country surpassing USA, as per trend in the current calendar year (CY 2015). However, the per capita steel consumption in India is still very low, about 60 kg compared to the global average of about 217 kg per capita.

With anticipated growth in the economy, government initiatives like Make in India and likely increased investment in infrastructure, the future growth of Indian Steel sector is expected to be



positive and the government has set upon itself an ambitious target of nearly trebling our steel-making capacity to 300 million tonnes in the next decade, i.e. by 2025.

The rising debt of the steel industry is also a major concern. The share of stressed advances to the steel sector has been the highest among various sectors excluding infrastructure..”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=131824>

3. With reference to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, which among the following countries is its non-founder member?

- a) Myanmar
- b) Maldives
- c) Afghanistan
- d) Bhutan

Ans: c.

There are eight SAARC nations- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Srilanka. Afghanistan is the only non-founder member till date.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=131816>

4. With reference to the immunization in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Thus far, only 65% children had access to all vaccines during the first year of their life
- 2. Haemophilus influenzae type B is one of seven vaccine-preventable diseases being covered under Mission Indradhanush

3. Pregnant women too are covered under Mission Indradhanush  
Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: c.

The objective of Mission Indradhanush is to ensure that all children under the age of two years as well as pregnant women are fully immunized against seven vaccine preventable diseases.

The Mission Indradhanush, depicting seven colours of the rainbow, targets to immunize all children against seven vaccine preventable diseases, namely: Diphtheria, Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Tetanus, Tuberculosis, Polio, Hepatitis B, Measles.

In addition to this, vaccines for Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Haemophilus influenzae type B (HIB) are also being provided in selected states.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=131828>

5. With reference to the National Food Security Act, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It guarantees 5 kg of wheat, rice and coarse cereals per month per person at Rs. 3, Rs. 2 and Re. 1 respectively to 67 percent of the country's population
- 2. The deadline for its implementation has seen repeated extensions, one among other reasons being that states have not yet identified beneficiaries



Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- A) 1 Only
- B) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: b.

[NFSA](#) guarantees 5 kg of rice, wheat and coarse cereals per month per person at Rs. 3, Rs. 2 and Re. 1 respectively to 67 percent of the country's population.

“..In [response](#) to a Right to Information query filed with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, respondents have noted that the deadline has been extended, for the second time, because States have not yet identified beneficiaries, and also due to lack of preparedness in 25 States/Union Territories for implementing the Act..”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=131819>

6. Consider the following statements associated with the bamboo plant sector in India:

1. The Government has committed itself to developing Karnataka as the 'Bamboo State of India'
2. The 'National Bamboo Mission' seeks to promote the growth of bamboo sector

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

Ans: b.

“..Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a press conference at Aizawl, Mizoram said, the government is committed to develop Mizoram as the 'Bamboo State of India'.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the State of Mizoram is blessed with very high production of bamboo, which can be turned into a major source, not only for furniture but also for paper supply to the rest of the country. This could, not only generate revenue for the State, but also create opportunities for youth outside India..”

The [National Bamboo Mission](#) was launched in 2006-07 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to promote the growth of bamboo sector. The programmes address four major areas of bamboo development as follows:

- Research and Development
- Plantation Development
- Handicrafts Development
- Marketing

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=131812>



1. Consider the following statements with regard to educational loans in India:

1. Due to rising bad loans, the finance ministry has created a credit guarantee fund for it
2. They represent maximum number of bad loans among Public Sector Banks

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a.

Maximum number of bad loans, **within the education loans segment**, belongs to the bracket for which banks cannot demand any collateral. The education sector does not represent maximum number of bad loans among Public Sector Banks.

“..A student, under the educational loan scheme, can borrow up to Rs.10 lakh for domestic education and Rs.20 lakh for studying in foreign colleges. Borrowers need not pay during the tenure of the course and for an additional year. The repayment period is five to seven years.

For loans up to Rs.4 lakh, banks cannot demand any collateral. According to bankers, the maximum number of bad loans is in this segment..”

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/student-loans-dry-up-as-bad-debts-climb-at-banks/article7913751.ece>

2. With reference to the Indian railways, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. A one rupee investment in railways has a multiplier of about five rupees in the Economy
2. Indian (Purchasing-Power-Parity adjusted) freight rates remain one of the lowest in the world

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: a.

Page 97-98, Volume 1, Economic Survey 2014-15

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/rail-upgrade-to-boost-economic-growth-by-3/article7913753.ece>

3. Consider the following statements with regard to ‘masala bonds’:

1. Offshore rupee bonds have not been issued before these came into being
2. They are named so, because the term evokes the culture and cuisine of India
3. The International Finance Corporation has issued them in the past

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 and 3 Only
- c) 1 and 3 Only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: b.



Masala bonds are Indian rupee denominated bonds issued in offshore capital markets. These will be offered and settled in US dollars to raise Indian rupees from international investors for infrastructure development in India. IFC will convert bond proceeds from dollars into rupees and use the rupees to finance private sector investment in India.

IFC has named these 'Masala' bonds as 'masala' is a globally recognized term that evokes the culture and cuisine of India. This is not the first time that a bond has been named after the food or culture of a country. Chinese bonds, for example, are called Dim sum bonds, and Japanese ones as Samurai bonds.

This is a 10-year bond with a yield of 6.3% and a AAA benchmark rating. This is not the first rupee denominated offshore issuance to be settled in dollars. **IFC had earlier issued offshore rupee bonds with maturities up to seven years.** Though there are other offshore rupee bonds, this issuance will be the first to be listed on a stock exchange.

<http://www.livemint.com/Money/tFaLkRI1OakLIEvRhTDgDO/Dejargoned-Masala-bond.html>

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/india-to-sell-rupee-bonds-modi/article7913758.ece>

4. Which of the following example-pairs of Intellectual Property Rights is/are correct?

1. Patent – An Industrial process
2. Copyright– A brand-name which determines the source of the service or good

3. Trademark – A brand-logo which determines the source of the service or good

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: c.

“..A trademark is a word, phrase, symbol, and/or design that identifies and distinguishes the source of the goods of one party from those of others. A service mark is a word, phrase, symbol, and/or design that identifies and distinguishes the source of a service rather than goods. Think brand names, slogans, and logos. The term “trademark” is often used to refer to both trademarks and service marks.

A patent is a limited duration property right relating to an invention, granted by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in exchange for public disclosure of the invention. Patentable materials include machines, manufactured articles, industrial processes, and chemical compositions.

A copyright protects works of authorship that have been tangibly expressed in a physical form. Think songs, books, movies, and works of art..”

<http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks-getting-started/trademark-basics/trademark-patent-or-copyright>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ramayan-cannot-be-anyones-trade-mark-sc/article7912921.ece>



5. New Census data indicate that the preference for a male child persists in India. In this context, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The male-gender has a genetic and biological advantage – under natural circumstances, the number of boys born are more than girls
2. China has a worse sex ratio at birth than India
3. Southern Indian states have reached replacement levels of fertility

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- A) 1 and 3 Only
- B) 2 and 3 Only
- c) 1 and 2 Only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: d.

“.. In 2010-15, according to the UN Population Division, China’s sex ratio at birth was 116 boys to 100 girls; in India the figure was 111. Though these ratios have fallen a little since their peaks, they are still far above the natural rate, which is 105 to 100..”

<http://www.economist.com/news/asia/21648715-distorted-sex-ratios-birth-generation-ago-are-changing-marriage-and-damaging-societies-asias>

“..Among women who had one child, 22 million said that they had a girl and 28.5 million had a boy, clearly indicating a disproportionately large number of boys being born. Even given the small genetic and biological advantage that boys enjoy, meaning that a slightly larger number of boys than girls are naturally born, there is an implication of pre-natal sex selection which is leading to more boys being born..”

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/census-data-2015-not-without-our-girls/article7912963.ece>

6. With reference to the 12th century social reformer ‘Basaveshwara’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. He fought against untouchability
2. He did not fight against gender discrimination

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: a.

“The firm and final goal of Basavanna was to establish a democratic set up of society. Hence he fought against all types of inequalities which were existing in the rigid society at that time. He raised his voice against untouchability, which was in practice since ages. Anubhavamantapa, which was established by him was a common forum for all, including downtrodden, untouchables and women to discuss about the prevailing problems of socio, economic and political strata including religious and spiritual principles along with personal problems.”

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/PM-Modi-unveils-12th-century-social-reformer-Basavannas-statue-in-London/articleshow/49784040.cms>

<http://www.pib.nic.in/newsite/efeatures.aspx?relid=130442>



1. A granite bust of the 12th century social reformer 'Basaveshwara' was recently unveiled by the Prime Minister of India, in London. With reference to Basaveshwara, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The main foundation stones of his revolutionary ideology were the concepts of 'Sthavara' and 'Jangama'
2. His principles of 'Kayaka' and 'Dasoha' are socio-economic in nature

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: c.

“Basaveshwara gave two important and innovative concepts called “Sthavara” and “Jangama”, the meaning of which is “Static” and “Dynamic”- respectively. Both of these concepts are the main foundation stones of the revolutionary ideology of Basavanna. By ridiculing the physical structure of temple and God; which are perishable, Basavanna gave a new dimension to the human body and soul (inner spirit), by which the self-respect of all human beings was boosted.”

“He gave two more very important socio-economic principles. They are- “Kayaka” (Work-Divine work) and “Dasoha” (Distribution-Equal distribution). According to this, every individual of the society should take up the job of his choice and perform it with all sincerity. There is no discrimination in vocations. Kayaka must be followed

by an accurate income. The income should not be more or less. There must be an equal income for equal work. The worker (Kayakajeevi) may lead his day-to-day life by his hard earned income. But he should not preserve the money or property for tomorrow. He must utilise the surplus money for the society and poors. This concept is called – “Dasoha”.”

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/PM-Modi-unveils-12th-century-social-reformer-Basavannas-statue-in-London/articleshow/49784040.cms>

<http://www.pib.nic.in/newsite/efeatures.aspx?relid=130442>

2. Consider the following statements:

1. He established the 'Anubhavamantapa' which was a common forum for all, including women
2. Discussions held in the Anubhavamantapa were written in the form of 'Vachanas'

Which of the statements above is/are correct with regard to Kandukuri Veerasalingam?

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

Ans: d.

The above statements are associated with Basaveshwara.

“Basavanna brought the women folk to the forefront of the society and gave them courage to sit along with men and to express their inner feelings along with pains. Anubhavamantapa, which was



established by him, was a common forum for all, including downtrodden, untouchables and women to discuss about the prevailing problems of socio, economic and political strata including religious and spiritual principles along with personal problems. Hence it was an open platform for all those activists who involved themselves in bringing a radical change in the contemporary society. Thus Anubhavamantapa was the first and foremost Parliament of India, where Sharanas (Citizens of welfare society) sat together and discussed about the socialistic principles of a Democratic set up. All those discussions of Sharanas were written in the form of Vachanas and they form a dynamic type of constitution where Liberty, Equality and Fraternity are the prominent principles which are aiming towards social justice and progress.”

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/PM-Modi-unveils-12th-century-social-reformer-Basavannas-statue-in-London/articleshow/49784040.cms>

<http://www.pib.nic.in/newsite/efeatures.aspx?relid=130442>

3. With reference to upper limits of investments in plant and machinery under the manufacturing sector, which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

1. Micro Enterprise – twenty five lakh rupees
2. Small Enterprise – one crore rupees
3. Medium Enterprise – five crore rupees

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 Only
- d) 1 and 3 Only
- d) 2 and 3 Only

Ans: a.

For the manufacturing sector, an enterprise is classified as:

micro enterprise, if investment in plant and machinery does not exceed twenty five lakh rupees;

small enterprise, if investment in plant and machinery is more than twenty five lakh rupees but does not exceed five crore rupees; or

medium enterprise, if investment in plant and machinery is more than five crore rupees but does not exceed ten crore rupees;

In case, the enterprise is engaged in providing or rendering of services, it is classified as:

micro enterprise, if investment in equipment does not exceed ten lakh rupees;

small enterprise, if investment in equipment is more than ten lakh rupees but does not exceed two crore rupees; or medium enterprise, if investment in equipment is more than two crore rupees but does not exceed five crore rupees.

[Page 14-15, Annual Report MSME 2014-15](#)

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<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/backgrounders.aspx?relid=131634>



4. The 'Blue Growth Initiative' was launched by the

- a) Food and Agriculture Organisation
- b) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- c) International Chamber of Shipping
- d) Ministry of Shipping, Government of India

Ans: a.

“The concept of a “blue economy” came out of the 2012 Rio+20 Conference and emphasizes conservation and sustainable management, based on the premise that healthy ocean ecosystems are more productive and a must for sustainable ocean-based economies. To support a shift to this new approach, [FAO](http://www.fao.org/) launched the Blue Growth Initiative, through which it will assist countries in developing and implementing blue economy and growth agendas.”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/backgrounders.aspx?relid=131696>

5. The 'Blue Growth Initiative' seeks to

- a) Transform the Indian shipping sector through ports-led development
- b) Exploit the potential of the national waterways of India
- c) Transform the economy of Northeast India by promotion of water-based tourism
- d) None of the above

Ans: d.

“The concept of a “blue economy” came out of the 2012 Rio+20 Conference and emphasizes conservation and sustainable management, based on the premise that healthy ocean ecosystems are more productive and a must for sustainable ocean-based economies. To support a shift to this new approach, [FAO](http://www.fao.org/) launched the Blue Growth Initiative, through which it will assist countries in developing and implementing blue economy and growth agendas.”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/backgrounders.aspx?relid=131696>

1. Which of the following forces are a part of the paramilitary forces of India?

1. Sashastra Seema Bal
2. Indo Tibetan Border Police Force
3. National Disaster Response Force
4. Assam Rifles
5. Rapid Action Force

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: b.

The Rapid Action Force (RAF) is a specialised wing of the Indian CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force).

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/33-quota-for-women-in-forces/article7920300.ece>

2. ‘Sankalp’, ‘Anubhav’ and ‘Bhavishya’ are initiatives introduced by the Ministry of

- a) Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- b) Health and Family Welfare
- c) Planning
- d) Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

Ans: d.

“A pensioner’s cognitive skills by and large remain intact for ten to fifteen years. These groups of personnel have maturity, experience and stability. The voluntary or other organisations working towards building society may be looking for expertise, skill and maturity which can be offered by these retired government servants. Another

possibility is to bring together groups of like-minded pensioners /Pensioners’ Associations and the ministries which are looking for concurrent audit or evaluation of development schemes being implemented all over the country. Accordingly, an activity called “Sankalp’ has been initiated.”

“Anubhav is another innovative step where retiring employees will share their experience for the benefit of posterity. Officers retiring within a period of six months are advised to leave behind a note or write-up on their achievements as well as outstanding work done by them which could have, according to them, contributed to efficient functioning of the government or any innovation introduced by them which could have led to improvement in work culture.”

“Realizing that a retiring employee is at a vulnerable stage, Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare has introduced an online Pension Sanction and Payment Tracking System called ‘BHAVISHYA’ for the Civil retirees. It is an online Pension Sanction and Payment Tracking System.”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=131919>



3. India's first Constitution Day was observed recently. Which of the following statements with regard to the Preamble to our Constitution is/are correct?

1. It specifies the objectives of the Constitution
2. It was adopted by the Constituent Assembly after the rest of the Constitution was already enacted
3. It has been amended once to include three new words – 'socialist', 'secular' and 'integrity'

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: d.

“The reason for inserting the Preamble at the end was to ensure that it was in conformity with the Constitution as adopted by the Constituent Assembly.”

Chapter 4, “Preamble of the Constitution”, Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth

4. Which of the following nations/regions is a part of what is known as the 'Sahel' region?

- a) Namibia
- b) Mali
- c) Tunisia
- d) Egypt

Ans: b.

You may have attempted an earlier question on the Sahel region here. And after reading about the recent [terrorist](#)

[attack](#) in Mali, you would (should) have searched for where the country is, if you did not know its geographical location.

‘Sahel’ is a semi-arid region of western and north-central Africa extending from Senegal eastward to The Sudan. It forms a transitional zone between the arid Sahara (desert) to the north and the belt of humid savannas to the south. It is now a region flooded with arms, illicit drugs and terrorist groups.

5. Which one of the following issues the “World Energy Outlook” report annually?

- a) The World Bank
- b) Organisation for economic cooperation and development
- c) International Energy Agency
- d) International Association for Energy Economics

Ans: c.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/time-good-for-india-to-firm-up-longterm-lng-contracts-ia/article7925338.ece>

6. Which of the following statements associated with organ donation is/are correct?

1. While there is an acute shortage of kidneys for transplantation purpose in India, it exports surplus livers
2. Some organs and tissues can be donated by a living human

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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



Ans: b.

“It is becoming more common to donate organs and partial organs while living. Kidneys are the most common organs donated by living donors. Other organs that can be donated by a living donor include a lobe of a lung, partial liver, pancreas or intestine.”

“Against a requirement of 1 to 2 Lakh kidneys, only about 5000 transplantations are being done annually. Similarly against a requirement of 30000 Liver transplantation requirements, we are currently doing about 1000 only.”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=131941>

7. With reference to the Conference of the Parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It meets every year, unless the Parties decide otherwise
2. It guides the UN General Assembly, which is the de jure decision making body of the Convention
3. The first meeting was held in Rio, Brazil

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: a.

This is a general question (because of COP21).

What is the COP?

The COP is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention. All States that are Parties to the Convention are represented at the COP, at which they review the implementation of the Convention and any other legal instruments that the COP adopts and take decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention, including institutional and administrative arrangements.

The COP meets every year, unless the Parties decide otherwise. The first COP meeting was held in Berlin, Germany in March, 1995.

8. There are certain exceptions to the general rule of non-discrimination under Article 15 of the Indian Constitution. Which of the following is/are one of these exceptions?

1. The state is permitted to make any special provision for women and children
2. The state is empowered to make any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens regarding their admission to Minority educational institutions

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: a.

“The state is empowered to make any special provision for the advancement of



any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens regarding their admission to **private educational institutions, except** the minority educational institutions.”

“...Mr. Jaitley attacked the recommendations of the UPA-constituted Ranganath Mishra Commission that had recommended minority quotas. His logic: under the Constitution minorities got a package under Articles 29 and 30 – dealing with minority educational institutions and quotas therein – and SCs/STs and OBCs under Article 15, but the Commission’s recommendation amounted to a possibility to claim both if one “converted.”...”

Pg7.6, Fundamental Rights, Indian Polity 4th Edition, M Laxmikanth

9. Consider the following statements with regard to the Indian Constitution:

1. The scope of Article 29 is not necessarily restricted to minorities only
2. Article 30 is confined only to minorities – religious or linguistic

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

Solution : c

“...Mr. Jaitley attacked the recommendations of the UPA-constituted Ranganath Mishra Commission that had recommended minority quotas. His logic: under the Constitution minorities got a package

under Articles 29 and 30 – dealing with minority educational institutions and quotas therein – and SCs/STs and OBCs under Article 15, but the Commission’s recommendation amounted to a possibility to claim both if one “converted.”...”

Pg7.16, Fundamental Rights, Indian Polity 4th Edition, M Laxmikanth

10. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) recently imposed penalties upon airlines for concerted action in fixing fuel surcharge on cargo transport. With reference to the CCI, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It promotes and sustains competition
2. It regulates combinations, viz. mergers and acquisitions
3. It protects the interests of consumers

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: d.

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2015/11/18/insights-daily-current-events-18-november-2015/>



11. There are three pillars of cooperation under the IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) Dialogue Forum. Which of the following is/are the pillars?

1. IBSA Fund for the Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger
2. Trilateral collaboration on issues affecting women around the world
3. Consultation and coordination on global political issues

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- A) 1 and 2 Only
- B) 2 and 3 Only
- c) 1 and 3 Only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: c.

“The IBSA Fund for the Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger was set up in 2004 as one of the three pillars of cooperation under the IBSA Dialogue Forum. The other two pillars are consultation and coordination on global political issues and trilateral collaboration in concrete areas and projects.”

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2015/11/19/insights-daily-november-2015/>

12. With reference to Li-Fi, which of the following statements is correct?

1. It uses radio waves to transmit data
  2. It can deliver internet access 100 times faster than traditional wi-fi
  3. For its functioning, it requires a light source such as Light Emitting Diodes
- Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: b.

Statements 1 and 3 contradict each other.

“Li-fi, a new method of delivering data, which uses the visible spectrum rather than radio waves, has been tested in a working office. It can deliver internet access 100 times faster than traditional wi-fi, offering speeds of up to 1Gbps (gigabit per second). It requires a light source, such as a standard LED bulb, an internet connection and a photo detector.”

[http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-34942685?post\\_id=1635637843352227\\_1635637836685561](http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-34942685?post_id=1635637843352227_1635637836685561)

13. “One Vision, One Identity, One Community” is the motto of

- a) Association for South East Asian Nations
- b) South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
- c) Trans-Pacific Partnership
- d) Indian Ocean Rim Association

Ans: a.

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2015/11/23/insights-daily-current-events-23-november-2015/>

14. With reference to the Zero Tuberculosis Cities Project, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It uses methods and tools that already exist
2. It has been launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India
3. Lima (Peru) is being assisted by the Indian Health Ministry to implement a similar project there

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 1 and 2 Only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: a.

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2015/11/24/insights-daily-current-events-24-november-2015/>

15. With reference to India-Singapore relations, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. India was one of the first countries to recognize Singapore's sovereignty
2. 'INDORE' is an annual bilateral naval exercise between the two nations
3. Singapore is one of the largest sources of foreign investment into India

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 and 3 Only
- c) 1 and 3 Only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: c.

'SIMBEX' is the annual bilateral naval exercise between the two.

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2015/11/25/insights-daily-current-events-25-november-2015/>



1. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): Countries cannot eliminate the use of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) entirely

Reason (R): In contrast to OPV, since it does not replicate in the gut, Inactivated Polio Vaccine induces lower levels of intestinal immunity

Which of the above statements is/are true?

- a) A and R both are true, and R is the correct explanation for A
- b) A and R both are true, and R is the NOT the correct explanation for A
- a) A is correct, R is incorrect
- d) A is incorrect, R is correct

Ans: d.

The global focus is now expanding to plan for the replacement of trivalent OPV (tOPV) with bivalent OPV (bOPV) in all OPV-using countries. With at least one dose of IPV in place as a risk mitigation measure, OPVs will be removed in a phased approach, beginning with removal of the type 2 poliovirus strain in a switch from tOPV to bOPV. bOPV contains types 1 and 3, and therefore will continue to protect against transmission of WPV1 and WPV3. **Once all wild polioviruses have been fully eradicated, then all OPVs will be withdrawn.**

**Why can't countries eliminate the use of OPV entirely, rather than switch to bOPV?**

Because IPV is an inactivated vaccine and not a "live" attenuated vaccine, it carries no risk of VAPP. However, in contrast to OPV, since it does not

replicate in the gut, IPV induces lower levels of intestinal immunity and does not confer protection to others. IPV is also less effective than OPV in reducing fecal-oral transmission. Using both vaccines together provides the best form of protection.

**When is it expected we will cease all use of OPV?**

The goal is to cease all use of OPV by 2020. Depending on the timing of the switch and the detection of further transmission of polioviruses, countries may be able to cease all use of OPV as early as 2019.

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/a-vaccine-boost-to-indias-polio-fight/article7927744.ece>

2. Consider the following list of countries:

- 1. United States of America
- 2. Afghanistan
- 3. Myanmar
- 4. Singapore
- 5. Nepal
- 6. Australia

Which of the above list of countries can become members of the ISA (International Solar Alliance)?

- a) 1, 5 and 6 only
- b) 3, 4 and 6 only
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 only

Ans: b.

"India launched an International Solar Alliance (ISA) at the CoP21 Climate Conference here on Monday. The new body, which has invited all countries **located fully or partly between** the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn to join,



is to function from the National Institute of Solar Energy in India, Gurgaon.”

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/modi-launches-international-solar-alliance/article7934560.ece>

3. The National Innovation Foundation is an autonomous body of the
- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
  - Department of Industrial Policy, Promotion and Innovation
  - Department of Science and Technology
  - Ministry of Human Resource Development

Ans: c.

“National Innovation Foundation and IIM-Ahmedabad, has given a global identity to the Indian model of social innovation.”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=132119>

4. The principle of ‘Nai Talim’ was propounded by
- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
  - Mahatma Gandhi
  - Syed Ahmed Khan
  - Debendranath Tagore

Ans: b.

“For social reconstruction, Gandhiji had propounded the principle of *Nai Talim* which states that knowledge and work are not separate. The constituents of *Nai Talim* are the 3-H: heart, hand and head.”

“To put this philosophy into practice, Gandhiji promoted an academic curriculum of ‘basic education for all’. With ashram *shalas* and *buniyadi* schools operating in the remote areas, Gujarat is perhaps the only state where Nai Talim exists in an institutional form. Gandhiji had said and I quote: “Literary education is of no value, if it is not able to build up a sound character” (unquote). Nai Talim infers *charitra nirman* or character building, whose relevance is increasing by the day. Without doubt, learning with value-orientation must guide our approach in education.”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=132143>

5. The ‘Global Innovation Index’, a leading benchmarking tool for anyone seeking insight into the state of innovation of a country, is co-published by?

- World Bank
- Cornell University
- INSEAD (European Institute of Business Administration)
- Innovation International
- The World Intellectual Property Organization, an agency of the United Nations
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 1, 4 and 5 only
- 2, 3 and 5 only
- 1, 2 and 6 only
- 4, 5 and 6 only

Ans: b.

“Despite focused attention on innovation in recent years, India lags



behind many countries on this front. At 81st position in the Global Innovation Index 2015, we have much ground to cover.”

<https://www.globalinnovationindex.org/content/page/GII-Home>

6. The ‘ebird’ platform has been designed for

a) Documentation of the presence or absence of bird species, as well as their abundance

b) Crowdsourcing information on critically endangered and endangered species of birds

c) Creating awareness among netizens on biodiversity conservation

d) Sharing information on the discovery of new and endemic bird species

Ans: a.

“Till last month, over 4,000 dedicated volunteer birders have uploaded over 20 lakh bird sightings from India, which has caught even the seasoned ornithologists pleasantly off guard. Birders of all hues and shades are flocking together with their bird sighting data on an electronic platform eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)) in a big way.”

“According to the site, anyone taking a stroll or even peering from a window can contribute to the careful documentation of nature. eBird is a “platform for birdwatchers” to upload their data and keep track of their sightings.”

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/ebird-india-lists-20-lakh-sightings/article7927191.ece>

7. With reference to the Indian Constitution, which of the following statements is/are *incorrect*?

1. Article 12 is enshrined in Part-III of the Constitution

2. Article 15 says that the State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India

3. Article 19 guarantees to all citizens the right to freedom of speech and expression only

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

a) 1 Only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1 and 2 Only

d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: b.

The Fundamental Rights are enshrined in Part-III of the Constitution from articles 12 to 35. Article 15 prohibits discrimination on certain grounds. Article 19 guarantees to all citizens six rights and not only the right to freedom of speech and expression.

Fundamental Rights, Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth

“The Sikkim Promotion of Local Employment Bill was rejected on September 26 because it violated Sections 14, 15 and 19 of the Constitution.”

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/gujarats-controversial-labour-laws-bill-gets-presidential-assent/article7938265.ece>



8. Consider the following statements about Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets, or 'LLIN':

1. These are alternatives to conventional pest control methods for farming and agriculture
2. These require no re-treatment during their expected life span

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: b.

“The [Tripura government has procured](#) nearly nine lakh medicated mosquito nets from the UNICEF and the Union government for free distribution in malaria-prone areas. Health officials said the long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLIN) are helpful to contain the disease that often erupts in hills and interior locations of the State, claiming several lives.”

“[LLINs](#) have been developed in response to the low re-treatment rates of conventional insecticide-treated nets, especially in Africa. A long-lasting net is a ready-to-use, pre-treated mosquito net, which requires no further treatment during its expected life span.”

9. Which of the following statements associated with the wheat crop in India is/are correct?

1. It is primarily a crop of the temperate zone
2. It is grown as a rain-fed crop in Himalayan highlands

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- d) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: c.

About 85 per cent of total area under this crop is concentrated in north and central regions of the country i.e. Indo-Gangetic Plain, Malwa Plateau and Himalayas up to 2,700 m altitude. Being a rabi crop, it is mostly grown under irrigated conditions. But it is a rainfed crop in Himalayan highlands and parts of Malwa plateau in Madhya Pradesh.

Page 47, 12th Geography (India: People and Economy), NCERT

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/wheat-sowing-apace-in-punjab/article7937825.ece>



10. Consider the following statements associated with Polio Vaccines (PV):

1. Inactivated PV (IPV) when used in combination with Sabin vaccine offers double protection against Poliovirus
2. Type-1 strain of Poliovirus is responsible for most of the Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus cases

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

Ans: a.

The oral polio vaccine (OPV) was developed in 1961 by Albert Sabin. Also called “trivalent oral polio vaccine” or “Sabin vaccine”, OPV consists of a mixture of live, attenuated (weakened) poliovirus strains of all three poliovirus types.

Type-2 strain of Poliovirus is responsible for most of the Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus cases.

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/a-vaccine-boost-to-indias-polio-fight/article7927744.ece>

1. With reference to the pardoning power of the President of India, consider the following statements:

1. Remission denotes the substitution of one form of punishment for a lighter form
2. Reprieve implies a stay of the execution of a sentence for a temporary period
3. Respite denotes awarding a lesser sentence in place of one originally awarded due to some special fact

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

- a) 3 Only
- b) 2 and 3 Only
- a) 1 and 3 Only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: b.

Commutation denotes the substitution of one form of punishment for a lighter form. Remission implies reducing the period of sentence without changing its character.

President, Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/sc-verdict-today-on-remission-of-rajiv-killers-sentences/article7938110.ece>

2. With reference to the State Governor and the President's powers over bills passed by the state legislature, which of the following statements is/are NOT correct?

1. In all cases, the Governor is entirely at his discretion whether or not to reserve the bill for the consideration of the President
2. The Governor has no further role to play in the enactment of the bill if he reserves it for the consideration of the President
3. The President cannot return a state legislature's money bill for reconsideration

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: a.

In one case, the governor has no discretion. Where the bill passed by the state legislature endangers the position of the state high court, the governor must reserve the bill for the consideration of the President.

The President, unlike in the case of the Parliament, cannot return a money bill for the reconsideration of the state legislature. But he may withhold his assent to the bill, which then ends and does not become an act.

Governor, Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/gujarats-controversial-labour-laws-bill->



[gets-presidential-assent/article7938265.ece](http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/satellite-navigation-system-115120200589_1.html)

3. With reference to the question hour in every parliamentary sitting, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. A starred question requires a written answer
2. An unstarred question requires an oral answer
3. A short notice question is answered orally

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Ans: c.

If you observed, many PIB releases (on days when the Parliament functions) end with a statement, “This information was given by so-and-so in reply to a starred/unstarred question by so-and-so in Rajya/Lok Sabha today”. That’s why, the question.

Parliament, Indian Polity 4th Edition by M Laxmikanth

4. The remaining three satellites in the IRNSS constellation (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System) are targeted for launch during January 2016 to March 2016. With reference to the IRNSS constellation, consider the following statements:

1. Its service area encompasses all South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries except Afghanistan
2. The satellites are located in geosynchronous/geostationary orbits but all are launched on-board the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

Ans: b.

Its service area encompasses all South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries.

“The space segment consists of the IRNSS constellation of seven satellites. Three satellites will be located in suitable orbital slots in the geostationary orbit and the remaining four will be located in geosynchronous orbits. All the satellites of the constellation are being configured identically. The satellites are configured with I-1K Bus to be compatible for launch on-board PSLV.”

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/satellite-navigation-system-115120200589\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/satellite-navigation-system-115120200589_1.html)



5. Consider the following statements:

1. Plants cannot absorb nitrogen found in urea to its maximum extent
2. The consumption of urea can be reduced if it is replaced by neem-coated urea

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: b.

“Lauding the Fertilizer Industry for making India proud, [Shri Ananth Kumar said](#) that the domestic industry has risen to the occasion in producing neem coated urea in shortest possible time.”

“..Urea is an important supplier of nitrogen, which is necessary for the development of plants. “But only 30-40 per cent of nitrogen present in the urea is utilised by crops. The rest gets degraded,” explains Rajendra Prasad, a scientist at the Delhi-based Indian Agriculture Research Institute..”

<http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/urea-coated-with-neem-12520>

6. ‘MADAD’, as an online grievance monitoring system will ensure accountability, accessibility and responsiveness. It has been launched by

- a) Ministry of External Affairs
- b) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- c) Ministry of Tourism
- d) Ministry of Labour and Employment

Ans: a.

“..In pursuance of “good governance” initiatives, the Ministry of External Affairs has launched an online Consular Grievances Monitoring System, named MADAD, on 21 February 2015, to extend a helping hand to Indians abroad requiring consular assistance. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) work together to address complaints received through MADAD..”

<http://mea.gov.in/lok-sabha.htm?dtl/26093/Q+NO603+MADAD>



1. Consider the following statements regarding United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child (UNCRC):

1. The Convention defines a child as any human being under the age of eighteen.
2. Nations that ratify this convention are not bound to it by international law.
3. India ratified the convention.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: c

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/lawmaking-amid-moral-outrage/article8023106.ece>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convention\\_on\\_the\\_Rights\\_of\\_the\\_Child#India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convention_on_the_Rights_of_the_Child#India)

2. Minimum Export Price (MEP) of vegetables is decided by

- (a) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- (b) Ministry of Finance
- (c) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- (d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Solution: d

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133928>

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Multi-drug resistant TB develops when first line drugs are not taken properly.
2. MDR-TB has to be treated with second line drugs

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: c

<http://mrunal.org/2014/09/current-sepw1-public-health-ebola-cavilon-kala-azar-brca-notto.html#250>

4. Agriculture Ministry launched two mobile apps for farmers. In the light of this consider following statements:

1. 'Crop Insurance' would help the farmers to find out complete details about insurance cover available in their area only.
2. 'AgriMarket' could be used by the farmers to get the prices of crops in the market.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/agriculture-ministry-launches-two-mobile-apps-for-farmers/article8023150.ece>

