

ANSWERS TEST: 7 – CURRENT AFFAIRS - II

1. Solution: B

It will serve entire India.

2. Solution: C

All the above statements are correct. UIP prevents mortality and morbidity in children and pregnant women against 12 vaccine preventable diseases.

3. Solution: C

Statement 1: The amendment Bill seeks to remove immunity provided to whistle-blowers from prosecution under the draconian Official Secrets Act (OSA) for disclosures made under the WBP law. Offences under the OSA are punishable by imprisonment of up to 14 years. Threat of such stringent penalties would deter even genuine whistle-blowers. The basic purpose of the WBP Act is to encourage people to report wrongdoing. If whistle-blowers are prosecuted for disclosing information as part of their complaints and not granted immunity from the OSA, the very purpose of the law would be defeated.

Statement 2: The amendment bill tries to bring the WBP act in line with the RTI Act. The amendments ignore the fact that the two laws have completely different objectives. The RTI Act seeks to provide information to people, while the WBP Act provides a mechanism for disclosures to be made to competent authorities within the government to enable inquiry into allegations of corruption and provide protection to whistle-blowers.

4. Solution: C

- Amritsar declaration is associated with Heart of Asia summit which was held in Amritsar, India for the first time since its inception. HoA summit focus on stability and tranquillity of Afghanistan. It has 14-member countries.

5. Solution: A

Statement 2 is incorrect as the project is funded by UK Govt.

6. Solution: C

- e-Mitra is an initiative of Rajasthan govt. It is a service which provide utility services to common man in Raj. Through e-governance.
- MITRA (Maharashtra In-Service Teacher Resource Application) is an initiative of Maharashtra.
- AP E-Knowledge exchange- APeKX is portal of Andhra Pradesh state.

7. Solution: A

Statement 1 is correct.

Statement 2 is incorrect .Article 35A, which was added to the Constitution by a Presidential Order in 1954, accords special rights and privileges to citizens of Jammu and Kashmir. The Presidential Order was issued under Article 370 (1) (d) of the Constitution.

8. Solution: D

Operation Insaniyat:

- Under it India distributed relief material consisting of items required urgently by the affected people. These materials are rice, pulses, sugar, salt, cooking oil, tea, ready to eat noodles, biscuits, mosquito nets etc. The relief material delivered in multiple consignments.

Operation Clean and Beautiful Nation:

- It is also known as Operation Pyi Thaya, was a large-scale military operation conducted by the Tatmadaw (Myanmar Armed Forces) in northern Rakhine State, near Myanmar's border with Bangladesh .The operation took place between 1991 and 1992, under the military junta of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), officially as a response to the military expansion of the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO).

Operation Dragon King:

- It is also known as Operation Nagamin or Operation King Dragon, was a large scale military operation conducted by the Tatmadaw in northern Arakan, Burma (present-day northern Rakhine State, Myanmar), during the rule of General Ne Win.

9. Solution: C

Mission XI Million is a joint programme, of this Ministry, All India Football Federation (AIFF) and Federation International de Football Association (FIFA) to popularise football across the country. The programme targets to reach 11 Million boys and girls across the country for promotion of football by 30th September 2017. Government of India has allocated around Rs.12.55 crores towards the said programme and an equal amount will be spent by AIFF/ FIFA. Around 6 Million children have already been covered under the said programme. The allocated resources are sufficient to cover 11 Million students, parents, and coaches as part of Mission XI Million Programme to popularize football in the country.

10. Solution: C

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is operating a scheme titled “Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development (TREAD)” to promote women entrepreneurs. The scheme envisages

economic empowerment of women through trade related training, information and counselling activities related to trades, products, services, etc. Under the scheme, there is a provision for Government of India grant up to 30% of the loan/ credit maximum up to Rs. 30.00 lakh as appraised by lending institutions/ banks. The lending institutions/ banks would finance loan assistance for a group of women through NGOs for undertaking non- farm activities.

11. Solution: C

E-Shakti or Digitisation of SHGs is an initiative of Micro Credit and Innovations Department of NABARD is a Rs 1.13-lakh crore initiative of Government of India to integrate the government departments and the people of India and to ensure effective governance. It is to "transform India into digital empowered society and knowledge economy".

Keeping in view the Government of India's mission for creating a digital India, NABARD launched a project for digitisation of all Self Help Group (SHG) in the country. The project is being implemented in 100 districts across the country.

12. Solution: A

90–90–90 is an ambitious treatment target to help end the aids epidemic. By 2020, 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status. By 2020, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy. By 2020, 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.

13. Solution: D

Aditya-L1 is a spacecraft whose mission is to study the Sun. It was conceptualised by the Advisory Committee for Space Research in January 2008. It has been designed and will be built in collaboration between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and various Indian research organizations and will be launched by ISRO around 2019 or 2020. This will be the first Indian space mission to study the Sun.

14. Solution: A

India has been placed at a low 103 rank, the lowest among BRICS economies. India also ranks —among the lowest in the world when it comes to the employment gender gap, but has fared well when it comes to development of skills needed for the future with a rank of 65 out of total 130 countries surveyed. Among the South Asian countries also, India was ranked lower than Sri Lanka and Nepal, although higher than neighbouring Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The overall list was topped by Norway, followed by Finland and Switzerland in the second and third place respectively. Hence, statement 3 is wrong.

15. Solution: B

16. Solution: B

Adhering to the Supreme Court verdict, the Centre decided to grant citizenship to all Chakma and Hajong refugees living in the Northeast for the past five decades.

Arunachal Pradesh witnessed widespread protests against the Centre's decision to grant citizenship

They were originally inhabitants of the Chittagong Hill Tracts of erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) who were forced out of that country.

While the Chakmas are Buddhists, the Hajongs are Hindus.

17. Solution: C

51% Attack:

- 51% attack refers to an attack on a blockchain – usually bitcoin's, for which such an attack is still hypothetical – by a group of miners controlling more than 50% of the network's mining hashrate, or computing power.
- The attackers would be able to prevent new transactions from gaining confirmations, allowing them to halt payments between some or all users. They would also be able to reverse transactions that were completed while they were in control of the network, meaning they could double-spend coins.

18. Solution: A

The Sardar Sarovar Project is an inter-state project with a terminal dam on river Narmada at Kevadia in Gujarat.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Four states namely Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan will receive water and electricity.

19. Solution: C

Both the statements are correct.

The scheme funds the cost of last-mile connectivity to willing households to help achieve the goal of lighting every household by 31 December 2018.

Under the scheme, modern technology will be used for household survey by using Mobile App. Beneficiaries shall be identified and their application for electricity connection along with applicant photograph and identity proof shall be registered on spot.

The Gram Panchayat/Public institutions in the rural areas may be authorised to collect application forms along with complete documentation, distribute bills and collect revenue in consultation with the Panchayat Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies.

20. Solution: D

Statement 1 is incorrect. The vision of the program is to initiate transformation in the education and Health sectors.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The program aims to identify and build three future 'role model' states for Health systems.

NITI Aayog has launched SATH, a program providing Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital with the State Governments. The vision of the program is to initiate transformation in the education and health sectors. The program addresses the need expressed by many states for technical support from NITI. SATH aims to identify and build three future role model states for health systems. NITI will work in close collaboration with their state machinery to design a robust roadmap of intervention, develop a program governance structure, set up monitoring and tracking mechanisms, hand-hold state institutions through the execution stage and provide support on a range of institutional measures to achieve the end objectives. The program will be implemented by NITI along with McKinsey & Company and IPE Global consortium, who were selected through a competitive bidding process.

21. Solution: A

Statement 1 is correct. Bitcoin is an electronic or digital currency that works on a peer-to-peer basis.

Statement 2 is incorrect: It is an electronic or digital currency that works on a peer-to-peer basis. This means that it is decentralised and has no central authority controlling it. Like currency notes, it can be sent from one person to another, but without a central bank or the government attempting to track it. The system depends on cryptography to control the creation of the currency.

22. Solution: C

23. Solution: C

The Election Commission of India (ECI) issued directives for providing the NOTA option in elections in October 2013 after the Supreme Court observed that NOTA is also used in 13 countries including the United States, France, Brazil, Bangladesh, Sweden and Spain.

Recently, the SC refused to stay an Election Commission circular issued in January 2014 that introduced NOTA in the Rajya Sabha elections.

24. Solution: D

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems.

The GEF is

- A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP of 18 agencies — including United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, national entities and

international NGOs — working with 183 countries to address the world's most challenging environmental issues. The GEF has a large network of civil society organizations, works closely with the private sector around the world, and receives continuous inputs from an independent evaluation office and a world-class scientific panel.

- A FINANCIAL MECHANISM for 5 major international environmental conventions: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
- AN INNOVATOR AND CATALYST that supports multi-stakeholder alliances to preserve threatened ecosystems on land and in the oceans, build greener cities, boost food security and promote clean energy for a more prosperous, climate-resilient world; leveraging \$5.2 in additional financing for every \$1 invested.

25. Solution: D

The Union Cabinet has accorded its approval today for creation of a non-lapsable pool in the Public Account for secondary and higher, education known as "Madhyamik and Uchchar Shiksha Kosh" (MUSK) into which all proceeds of "Secondary and Higher Education Cess" will be credited.

The funds arising from the MUSK would be utilized for schemes in the education sector which would be available for the benefit of students of secondary and higher education, all over the country.

In connection with the above fund, the Union Cabinet also accorded its approval to the following:

- (i). Administration and maintenance of the above pool by Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- (ii). Accruals from the Cess would be utilized in the ongoing schemes of Secondary and Higher Education. However, the Ministry of Human Resources Development can allocate funds for any future programme/scheme of secondary and higher education, based on the requirement, as per prescribed procedure,
- (iii). In any financial year, the expenditure on ongoing schemes of the Department of School Education & Literacy and Department of Higher Education would be initially incurred from the gross budgetary support (GBS) and the expenditure would be financed from the MUSK only after the GBS is exhausted.

(iv). The MUSK would be maintained as a Reserve Fund in the non-interest bearing section of the Public Accounts of India.

26. Solution: A

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) and the six states with which ASEAN has existing free trade agreements (Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand).

The 19th round of RCEP negotiation was held on July 24–28 in Hyderabad, India.

The 16 countries agreed to constitute a Working Group on government procurement to take forward negotiations on the topic and include it as a separate chapter in the final agreement. They, however said India would not given in to the demands from these countries for "market access and national treatment (equal treatment of foreign and local firms)" pertaining to government procurement in the RCEP agreement, and not even undertake any commitment on a "best endeavour basis. Even in India's separate FTAs with Japan, South Korea and Singapore (that are already in force), "market access and national treatment" have been kept out of the government procurement chapter. The maximum extent that India could go to, is to agree to ensure transparency and cooperation in government procurement matters (including information exchange and sharing of knowledge) as part of the RCEP agreement.

27. Solution: C

During the 7th BRICS Summit held on 9th July 2015 at Ufa in Russia, Prime Minister Shri Modi proposed to establish BRICS Agriculture Research Centre which will be a gift to the entire world. The Centre will promote sustainable agricultural development and poverty alleviation through strategic cooperation in agriculture to provide food security in the BRICS member countries.

In order to further intensify cooperation among BRICS countries in agricultural research policy, science and technology, innovation and capacity building, including technologies for small-holder farming in the BRICS countries, an MoU on establishment of the Agricultural Research Platform was signed by the foreign Ministers of BRICS countries in the 8th BRICS Summit held on 16th October, 2016 at Goa.

BRICS-ARP will be the natural global platform for science-led agriculture-based sustainable development for addressing the issues of world hunger, under-nutrition, poverty and inequality, particularly between farmers' and non-farmers' income, and enhancing agricultural trade, bio-security and climate resilient agriculture.

28. Solution: B

Statement 1 is incorrect. Using CRISPR system, scientists can add, remove or alter specific DNA sequences in the genome or higher organisms.

Statement 2 is correct. It has two components, a single-guide RNA that contains a sequence that can bind to DNA and Cas9 enzyme which acts as a molecular scissor that can cut specific DNA sequence.

29. Solution: A

Statement 3 is incorrect. The 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol is from 2013-2020 and was adopted in 2012 at Doha Amendment.

The ratification of 2nd commitment period of Kyoto Protocol reaffirms India's stand on climate action. Under the 2nd commitment period, implementation of clean development mechanism (CDM) projects will help India attract some investments.

30. Solution: B

The Ken-Betwa ILR project aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken River to the Betwa basin through concrete canal to irrigate India's worst drought -prone Bundelkhand region.

The project will benefit Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in terms of meeting irrigation, drinking water and electricity needs of people. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Ken-Betwa river interlinking project will be the first river project that will be located within a tiger reserve. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

31. Solution: A

Hyper spectral imaging or hypspx imaging (imaging spectroscopy) combines the power of digital imaging and spectroscopy. It collects and processes information from across the electromagnetic spectrum. Hypspx' imaging enables distinct identification of objects, materials or processes on Earth by reading the spectrum for each pixel of a scene from space. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to launch a full-fledged niche Earth observation (EO) satellite — called the Hyper spectral Imaging Satellite (HySIS).

32. Solution: D

National Highways Authority of India launched two mobile Apps – My FASTag and FASTag Partner. My FASTag is a consumer App that can be downloaded from the App Store for both Android and iOS systems. A consumer can purchase or recharge FASTags on this App. The App also helps to keep track of transactions and provides for online grievance redressal. FASTag Partner is a merchant App. Agencies like Common Services Centre, banking partners and vehicle dealers can sell and enroll FASTag through this App. In addition

to this, the App can also be used to activate the RFID tags that came built in with around 74 lakh cars in the country following the 2013 Gazette Notification in this regard. These RFID tags are already fixed on the cars but are dormant. This App will convert these RFID tags into ETC Tag (FASTag).

33. Solution: C

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, or the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty, is the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons, with the goal of leading towards their total elimination. It was passed on 7 July 2017. In order to come into effect, signature and ratification by at least 50 countries is required. For those nations that are party to it, the treaty prohibits the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as assistance and encouragement to the prohibited activities. For nuclear armed states joining the treaty, it provides for a time-bound framework for negotiations leading to the verified and irreversible elimination of its nuclear weapons programme.

34. Solution: A

Innovate in India- The first ever Industry-Academia mission to accelerate biopharmaceutical development in India. The program named *Innovate in India* (i3) will witness an investment of USD 250 million with USD 125 million as a loan from World Bank and is anticipated to be a game changer for the Indian Biopharmaceutical industry. It aspires to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the sector. i3 is committed to addressing these gaps with a Mission to make India a hub for design and development of novel, affordable and effective biopharmaceutical products and solutions.

The Mission to be implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a Public Sector Undertaking of Department of Biotechnology, and is partially being funded by the World Bank.

35. Solution: C

- The Logistics Data Bank (LDB) project, unveiled in July 2016 to make India's logistics sector more efficient through the use of Information Technology, will soon expand operations to the country's southern region. So far, it had covered only the western logistics corridor.
- The facility — where every container is attached to a Radio Frequency Identification Tag (RFID) tag and then tracked through RFID readers — aids importers and exporters in tracking their goods in transit. This has, in turn, cut the overall lead time of container movement as well as reduced transaction costs that consignees and shippers

incur. It is billed as a major 'ease of doing business' initiative aimed at boosting India's foreign trade and ensuring greater transparency.

- The LDB is being implemented through a Special Purpose Vehicle called Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Logistics Data Services Ltd. (DLDSL) — that is jointly (50:50) owned by the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) Trust and Japanese IT services major NEC Corporation.

36. Solution: A

The Government of India has decided to launch a new sub-scheme named "Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)" as part of the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). The Self Help Groups under DAY-NRLM will operate road transport service in backward areas. This will help to provide safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services to connect remote villages with key services and amenities (such as access to markets, education and health) for the overall economic development of backward rural areas. This will also provide an additional avenue of livelihood for SHGs.

37. Solution: C

Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches are the passenger coaches of Indian Railways that have been developed by Linke-Hofmann-Busch of Germany mostly produced by Rail Coach Factory in Kapurthala, India. They have been used since 2000 on the broad gauge (1676 mm) network of Indian railways. Initially, 24 air conditioned coaches were imported from Germany for use in the Shatabdi Expresses, after which the Rail Coach Factory started manufacturing after technology transfer.

They are considered to be "anti-telescopic", which means they do not get turned over or flip in case of a collision (chiefly head-on).

38. Solution: D

The objective of PMKSY is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease Agri-Waste. The implementation of PMKSY will

- result in creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.
- provide a big boost to the growth of food processing sector in the country.
- help in providing better prices to farmers and is a big step towards doubling of farmers' income.
- create huge employment opportunities especially in the rural area
- help in reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing the processing level, availability of safe and convenient processed foods at affordable

price to consumers and enhancing the export of the processed foods.

39. Solution: C

- G5 Sahel or G5S (French: G5 du Sahel) is an institutional framework for coordination of regional cooperation in development policies and security matters in central Africa.
- It was formed on 16 February 2014 in Nouakchott, Mauritania, at a summit of five Sahel countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.
- It adopted a convention of establishment on 19 December 2014, and is permanently seated in Mauritania.
- The purpose of G5 Sahel is to strengthen the bond between economic development and security, and together battle the threat of jihadist organisations operating in the region (AQIM, MUJWA, Al-Mourabitoun, Boko Haram).

40. Solution: D

The Justice Dispensing System in India has come under great stress for various reasons including huge pendency of cases in various courts. The injustice is particularly egregious in commercial disputes, where cases remain pending for years. Accordingly, arbitration provides an effective and efficient alternative window for dispute resolution.

The Government of India has laid emphasis on making Arbitration a preferred mode for settlement of commercial disputes. We have been taking legislative and administrative initiatives on arbitration which aim at minimizing court intervention, bring down costs, fix timelines for expeditious disposal, and ensure neutrality of arbitrator and enforcement of awards. The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015 envisages quick enforcement of contracts, easy recovery of monetary claims, reduce the pendency of cases in courts and hasten the process of dispute resolution through arbitration, so as to encourage foreign investment by projecting India as an investor friendly country having a sound legal framework and ease of doing business in India.

In order to ensure speedy resolution of commercial disputes and to facilitate effective conduct of international and domestic arbitrations raised under various agreements, it has been considered necessary to go into various factors to accelerate arbitration mechanism and strengthen the arbitration ecosystem in the country. It is also important to examine specific issues and roadmap required to make India a robust centre for international and domestic arbitration.

With the above end in view, the Government had decided to constitute a High Level Committee (HLC) in

the Ministry of Law and Justice under Justice B.N. Srikrishna.

41. Solution: A

The Ministry of Rural Development Government of India, commenced the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011, in June 2011 through a comprehensive door to door enumeration across the country. This is the first time such a comprehensive exercise has been carried out for both rural and urban India.

42. Solution: A

INSV Tarini Inducted - All Woman Crew Scheduled to Sail her around The Globe Commencing August 2017

The Indian Navy's second ocean going sailboat Tarini was inducted, in presence of host of dignitaries at a glittering ceremony at INS Mandovi Boat Pool. Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chief of Naval Staff, along with other senior Naval Officers was also present on this historic occasion to wish the boat and her crew success in their endeavors. INSV Tarini is a sloop built by M/s Aquarius Shipyard Pvt Ltd at Divar, Goa. The sail boat Tarini is being inducted into the Navy and is slated to be the platform for First Indian All Women Circumnavigation of the Globe expedition of the Indian Navy.

43. Solution: C

Both statements are correct. CSCs offer both, G2C and B2C services.

CSC programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY), Government of India. CSCs are the access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages in India, thereby contributing to a digitally and financially inclusive society.

CSCs are more than service delivery points in rural India. They are positioned as change agents, promoting rural entrepreneurship and building rural capacities and livelihoods. They are enablers of community participation and collective action for engendering social change through a bottom-up approach with key focus on the rural citizen.

44. Solution: C

Hybrid Annuity based PPP model has been adopted for the first time in the country in sewage management sector. Such a model has earlier been adopted successfully in highway sector only.

About Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) and Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT):

- Under the EPC model, NHAI pays private players to lay roads. The private player has no role in the road's ownership, toll collection or maintenance (it is taken care of by the government).
- Under the BOT model though, private players have an active role — they build, operate and maintain

the road for a specified number of years — say 10-15 years — before transferring the asset back to the government. the private player arranged all the finances for the project, while collecting toll revenue or annuity fee from the Government, as agreed (BOT-Annuity).

About HAM

- HAM is a good trade-off, spreading the risk between developers and the Government. It combines EPC (40%) and BOT-Annuity (60%).
- Here, the government pitches in to finance 40 per cent of the project cost (EPC component) — a sort of viability-gap funding. This helps cut the overall debt and improves project returns.
- The annuity payment structure means that the developers aren't taking 'traffic risk'.
- From the Government's perspective, it gets an opportunity to flag off road projects by investing a portion of the project cost. While it does take the traffic risk, it also earns better social returns by way of access and convenience to daily commuters.

45. Solution: A

Hortinet is an INTEGRATED TRACEABILITY SYSTEM developed by APEDA for providing Internet based electronic services to the stakeholders for facilitating farm registration, testing and certification of Grape, Pomegranate and Vegetables for export from India to the European Union in compliance with standards.

46. Solution: D

The 2008 IGF was hosted by Hyderabad.

The IGF is a forum for MULTI-STAKEHOLDER dialogue (and not just 'intergovernmental') on public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance issues, such as the Internet's sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development.

The purpose of the IGF is to maximize the opportunity for open and inclusive dialogue and the exchange of ideas on Internet governance (IG) related issues; create opportunities to share best practices and experiences; identify emerging issues and bring them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public; contribute to capacity building for Internet governance.

47. Solution: C

Intended to bring relief to both employers and employees, the Code amalgamates, simplifies and rationalises the relevant provisions of the four Central labour enactments, namely the Payment of Wages Act, 1936; the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965; and the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. The four Acts will stand repealed with the passage of the Bill. Facilitating easier compliance of the

law, the Code will ultimately create conditions for setting up of more enterprises and fresh employment opportunities.

48. Solution: A

Earth Overshoot Day is hosted and calculated by Global Footprint Network, an international think tank that coordinates research, develops methodological standards and provides decision-makers with a menu of tools to help the human economy operate within Earth's ecological limits. It was earlier known as 'Ecological Debt Day'.

49. Solution: B

Though the trilateral highway includes Thailand, the KMTTP does not. KMTTP is restricted to Myanmar and India.

50. Solution: A

In an attempt to address illegal wildlife trade across 19 countries of Asia and Africa, India is hosting the Global Wildlife Programme (GWP) jointly with World Bank and United Nations Development Programme.

- The Global Environment Facility (GEF) in June 2015 launched the "Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development" program also known as the Global Wildlife Program (GWP).
- The GWP is a World-Bank led global partnership that promotes wildlife conservation and sustainable development by combating illicit trafficking in wildlife. By approaching the poaching crisis holistically through various country projects and a larger global project, it seeks to reduce both the supply and demand that drives the illegal wildlife trade, and protect species and habitats through integrated landscape planning.
- The program also focuses on improving wildlife management, providing livelihood opportunities through tourism, and improving governance throughout the supply chain for illegal wildlife products. In addition, the program will support integrated landscape management, land use zoning and natural resource management best practices. Currently, the GWP has programmes in 19 countries across Africa and Asia.
- The implementing agencies channeling the funds to the governments or other partners for the national projects are the World Bank Group, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- GWP also collaborates with the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and other donors and conservation partners such as:

Wildlife Conservation Society, CITES, WWF, IUCN, TRAFFIC etc.

51. Solution: B

The Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India is all set to launch 'Deep Ocean Mission' by January 2018. Deep Ocean Research will include, for instance, exploration and exploitation of polymetallic nodules in the Central Indian Ocean Basin, upto depths of around 5,000-6,000 metres.

52. Solution: B

The Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) Portal was recently launched at the National Conference on Child Labour organised by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India. PENCIL is an electronic platform that aims at involving Centre, State, District, Governments, civil society and the general public in achieving the target of child labour free society. Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the enforcement of legal framework against child labour was also launched.

53. Solution: B

Global RE-Invest 2017 is being organised in partnership with the International Solar Alliance (ISA). It will deliberate upon and evolve strategies for financing renewable energy and also showcase the Government of India's commitment to the development and scaling up of renewable energy to meet the national energy requirement in a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable manner.

Global Renewable Energy Investors' Meet & Expo is organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in partnership with the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (FICCI), with YES Bank as the knowledge partner.

54. Solution: C

The Seven-point Strategy includes:

- Increasing production (by improving irrigation efficiency)
- Effective use of input cost (through initiatives such as the Soil Health Card Scheme and Neem-coated Urea)
- Reduction of post-harvest losses (by providing loans against negotiable warehouse receipts with interest subvention benefits, building storage facilities and integrated cold chains in rural areas)
- Value addition (through food processing)
- Reforms in agriculture marketing (through initiatives such as e-NAM, circulating a model APMC act)

- Risk, Security and Assistance (PM Fasal Bima Yojana)
- Promotion of Allied Activities (such as horticulture, integrated farming, white and blue revolution, agro-forestry, Beekeeping and rural backyard poultry development)

55. Solution: B

India is at the cusp of a next generation of wireless technology 5G. 5G has been conceived as a foundation for expanding the potential of the Networked Society. A digital transformation brought about through the power of connectivity is taking place in almost every industry. The landscape is expanding to include massive scale of "smart things" to be interconnected. Therefore, the manner in which future networks will cope with massively varied demands and a business landscape will be significantly different from today.

The Government has constituted High Level 5G India 2020 Forum with three Secretaries of key Ministries/Departments namely Telecom, Meity and DST, and also comprising of renowned experts.

As per the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) Committee on Digital Economic Policy, 5G technologies rollout will help in

- (a) Increasing GDP
- (b) Creating Employment
- (c) Digitizing the economy

56. Solution: D

The North East Connectivity Summit (NECS) was conceived and designed by FICCI in 2014. The summit was designed as a cross-sectoral initiative with the objective of highlighting the connectivity gaps and proposing a comprehensive connectivity agenda for the Northeast Region. Encouraging private sector investment in connectivity infrastructure was further built into the program.

- The theme for this year is 'Act East from Nagaland'. This is particularly apt because of its shared boundary with Myanmar which has now emerged as a democratic country. It is envisaged that Nagaland, due to its unique location, may become the connecting link between Northeast India and Myanmar.
- At the 4th Northeast Connectivity Summit in Kohima from September 22 to 23, a representative of the Embassy of Japan said Tokyo would invest in the region's infrastructure, education and people-to-people sectors. Japan has already undertaken works on road connectivity, energy projects, water supply and sanitation, forest resources management, Japanese language education and post-war

reconciliation, which aimed to build a deeper understanding of the actions of Japanese forces in the region during the Second World War.

- The 2018 North East Connectivity Summit will be in Tawang.

57. Solution: D

- SEBI introduced the measure to keep a tab on securities that witness an abnormal price rise that is not commensurate with financial health and fundamentals of the company such as earnings, book value, price to earnings ratio among others.
- The underlying principle behind the graded surveillance framework is to alert and protect investors trading in a security, which is seeing abnormal price movements. SEBI may put shares of companies under the measure for suspected price rigging or under the ambit of 'shell companies'. The measure would provide a heads up to market participants that they need to be extra cautious and diligent while dealing in such securities put under surveillance.

58. Solution: A

- The 1st Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction AFTER the introduction of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) was hosted by the Government of India. Beijing hosted the first AMCDRR conference in 2005, followed by India in 2007.
- The First 'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise-2017' (BIMSTEC DMEx-2017) will be conducted by the National Disaster Response Force as the lead agency in October, 2017 in the National Capital Region.
- India has been at the forefront of DRR efforts by hosting the South Asian Annual Disaster Management Exercise (SAADMEx-2015) and the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR). India has also offered its expertise and capabilities in DRR such as the South Asia satellite, GSAT-9, and the Tsunami Early Warning Centre to other countries. Disaster Management was one of the important Agenda items the BIMSTEC leaders deliberated upon during the Goa BRICS Summit in October 2016 where BIMSTEC leaders were the Special Invitees.

59. Solution: B

The Phyto-Pharma Plant Mission is aimed at a) conservation and cultivation of endangered and threatened endemic medicinal plants, and b) discovery of new botanical drugs for unmet medical needs using the rich traditional ethno-botanical knowledge and biodiversity of these states.

Brahmaputra Biodiversity and Biology Boat (B4): On the Brahmaputra River, a major ecology hotspot, in NER, in collaboration with DoNER. B4 will establish a large barge on the river with a well-equipped laboratory for analysis of all components of the entire ecosystem of the river and surroundings. B4 will be linked with all the local research institutions along the river, as well as national and international laboratories.

Frugal Microscopy through the Fold scope: a frugal microscope assembled from simple components, including a sheet of paper and a lens, is acting as a tool connecting students and science from the region, with the rest of the country.

60. Solution: D

- The Angio Chip is a tiny patch of heart tissue with its own blood vessels and heart cells beating with a regular rhythm.
- Scientists have developed an injectable tissue bandage smaller than a postage stamp that can repair damaged hearts.
- Repairing heart tissue destroyed by a heart attack or medical condition with regenerative cells usually requires invasive open-heart surgery.

61. Solution: C

The Standing Committee on Agriculture in its report stated that availability of good quality of seeds ensures high productivity of agriculture. Share of area sown using certified or quality seeds out of the total area sown is called the seed replacement ratio. The Committee stated that this ratio is skewed as 65% of the seed requirement is met by farmers' own seeds or seeds distributed among themselves. It also noted that the private sector contributes to 50- 57% of the seed production in India. The Committee stated that high yielding varieties of improved seeds need to be developed. Further, it recommended that the process of production, procurement and distribution of these improved seeds should be centralised.

62. Solution: B

The policy envisages:

- Increasing per capita steel consumption to 160 kg by 2030, from the present levels of 61 kg
- Reduction on the dependence of imported coking coal
- A crude steel production capacity of 300 million tonnes per year (far lesser than what China's capacity today is) by 2030. This would translate into additional investment of Rs. 10 lakh Crore by 2030-31.
- Adoption of energy efficient technologies in the MSME steel sector to improve the overall productivity & reduce energy intensity

- R&D in the sector through the establishment of Steel Research and Technology Mission of India
- Housing, automobiles and infrastructure to be the major segments that will consume steel.

63. Solution: D

Operation Insaniyat: In response to the humanitarian crisis being faced on account of the large influx of refugees into Bangladesh, Government of India has decided to extend assistance to Bangladesh. The relief material consists of items required urgently by the affected people, namely rice, pulses, sugar, salt, cooking oil, tea, ready to eat noodles, biscuits, mosquito nets etc.

64. Solution: A

Statement 2 is incorrect. REDD+ is a mechanism developed by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It creates a financial value for the carbon stored in forests by offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development. Developing countries would receive results-based payments for results-based actions. REDD+ goes beyond simply deforestation and forest degradation, and includes the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

65. Solution: A

Inclusive India Initiative is a mass awareness campaign of the National Trust aimed at reducing the barriers for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, by making the workplaces, public zones and educational institutes more inclusive and accessible. Aligned with the goals of the United Nations Convention for the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD), this initiative aims at full participation by persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (PwIDDs) in their schools, colleges, communities and workplaces.

66. Solution: C

India and Japan have signed an agreement under which their airlines can operate an unlimited number of flights between the two countries. The pact is as per National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016, which allows 'open sky' air services agreement on a reciprocal basis with SAARC nations as well as countries with territory located entirely beyond a 5,000 kilometre radius from New Delhi.

67. Solution: C

"Solar Mamas" come from across Africa (and now from other regions too – Latin America, West Asia) and are trained at the Barefoot College in Rajasthan's Tilonia village. In recent years, the Barefoot college has opened up branches in other countries (ex: Tanzania). The Barefoot College is an actual centre for learning, and can also be regarded as a movement supporting

women empowerment with its impact felt across the world.

68. Solution: C

The decision regarding setting up the ITEC programme in 1964 was predicated on the underlying belief that "it was necessary to establish relations of mutual concern and inter-dependence based not only on commonly held ideals and aspirations, but also on solid economic foundations. Technical and economic cooperation was considered to be one of the essential functions of an integrated and imaginative foreign policy."

- The ITEC Programme is essentially bilateral in nature. However, in recent years, ITEC resources have also been used for cooperation programmes conceived in regional and inter-regional context such as Commonwealth Secretariat, Group of 77 and G-15, among others. In more recent years, its activities have also been associated with regional and multilateral organizations and cooperation groupings like Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC), Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) and Caribbean Community (CARICOM), among others.
- For over half a century, ITEC has offered training and skill development to 161 partner countries from Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America, Caribbean and Pacific Island states

69. Solution: B

- The recently published NFHS-4 results reflect some progress, with a decline in the overall levels of under nutrition in both women and children. However, the pace of decline is far below what numerous countries with similar growth trajectories to India have achieved. Moreover, India pays an income penalty of 9% to 10% due to a workforce that was stunted during their childhood.
- To address this and to bring nutrition to the centre-stage of the National Development Agenda, NITI Aayog has drafted the National Nutrition Strategy. Formulated through an extensive consultative process, the Strategy lays down a roadmap for effective action, among both implementers and practitioners, in achieving our nutrition objectives.
- The nutrition strategy envisages a framework wherein the four proximate determinants of nutrition – uptake of health services, food, drinking water & sanitation and income & livelihoods – work together to accelerate decline of under nutrition in India. Currently, there is also a lack of real time measurement of these determinants, which reduces our capacity for

targeted action among the most vulnerable mothers and children.

- The Nutrition Strategy framework envisages a Kuposhan Mukh Bharat - linked to Swachh Bharat and Swasth Bharat. The aim is to ensure that States create customized State/ District Action Plans to address local needs and challenges. This is especially relevant in view of enhanced resources available with the States, to prioritise focussed interventions with a greater role for panchayats and urban local bodies.
- The strategy enables states to make strategic choices, through decentralized planning and local innovation, with accountability for nutrition outcomes.

70. Solution: A

According to the UN World Population Prospects: 2017 Revision, India will continue to grow until 2061 or so and only start to decline when its population has gone well past 1678.7 million people, when it will be the most populous country the world has ever seen.

- The key strategic focus of Mission Parivar Vikas, a central family planning initiative, is on improving access to contraceptives through delivering assured services, ensuring commodity security and accelerating access to high quality family planning services.
- The mission is being implemented in 146 high focus districts with the highest total fertility rates in the country (3 and above). These districts are in the seven high focus, high Total Fertility Rates (TFR) states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Assam, which constitute 44% of the country's population.
- The main objective of the Mission Parivar Vikas family planning initiative is to bring down the Total Fertility Rate to 2.1 by the year 2025.

71. Solution: B

Key observations and recommendations in the report include:

- Growth rate: There may be a link between ease of doing business and growth in state economies. The survey found that faster growing states exhibited fewer delays in granting clearances, and were more flexible in implementing labour and environment laws.
- Labour: The survey found that compliance with labour laws was difficult. It noted that reforming labour laws and bringing flexibility in their implementation may make it easier to do business.

- Power: Facilitating power sector reforms will ensure that businesses have steady and uninterrupted access to electricity. Further, with the country reporting a surplus in power generation, there may be an opportunity to lower costs, and opening up the distribution sector for competition.
- Access to finance: Half of the businesses do not borrow from financial institutions, and one-third consider access to finance as a major business obstacle. The report suggested that enhancing low cost access to capital may improve the business environment.
- Dissemination of information: There is a need to ensure better dissemination of government information related to procedures, to businesses. For example, the survey found that some businesses were unaware about the single window facilities created by the states to facilitate grant of clearances and permissions.

72. Solution: C

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and UNESCO have called for the creation of a multi-stakeholder partnership to advance literacy in the era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The new Global Alliance for Literacy is the response to this call to action. This fifteen-year initiative will be based at UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) at Hamburg, and comprise UN specialized agencies and institutes, donors, private sector, civil society and others. Participation in the Alliance will be based on the commitments of those willing to contribute to a coherent action plan designed to foster literacy and sustainable development.

- India is a part of the UNESCO-led initiative called the 'Global Alliance for Literacy within the Framework of Lifelong Learning'. India can take a lead in contributing to this global effort to transform the literacy landscape of the world in the next 15 years.

73. Solution: A

- According to a research paper titled 'Indian income inequality, 1922-2014: From British Raj to Billionaire Raj?' by renowned economists Thomas Piketty and Lucas Chancel, income inequality in India is at its highest level since 1922, the year the Income Tax Act was passed.
- The top 1% of earners captured less than 21% of total income in the late 1930s, before dropping to 6% in the early 1980s and rising to 22% today.
- In December, they will release the first 'World Inequality Report' where they will compare India's inequality trajectory with other emerging,

industrialised and low-income countries and suggest ways to tackle global and national inequality.

74. Solution: A

The DGCA has revised the relevant sections of the Civil Aviation Requirement to bring in a deterrent for passengers who engage in unruly behaviour on board aircrafts. The revision has been done in accordance with the provisions of Tokyo Convention 1963.

75. Solution: B

A Bengaluru firm has become India's first to receive the international CARB-X grant to develop antibiotics to treat hospital-acquired infections.

- CARB-X, or Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria Biopharmaceutical Accelerator, is a public-private international partnership (US Dept. of Health and Human Services, and London-based biomedical research charity Wellcome Trust), which was set up in 2016 to focus on innovations to improve diagnosis and treatment of drug-resistant infections. It grew out of President Barack Obama's 2015 Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (CARB) initiative.
- Bacteria are classified as Gram-positive and Gram-negative. Gram-negative bacteria are responsible for 20-25% of infections, and are multi drug resistant. All CARB-X funding so far is focused on projects to address the most resistant "Gram-negative" bacteria.
- Additional Information: Technically, antibiotic resistance is a subset of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which is a wider category that covers resistance in all microorganisms — bacteria, parasites, viruses and fungi — to drugs. But as antibiotics (drugs against bacteria) are the commonest antimicrobials, the two terms are often used interchangeably.

76. Solution: D

The Government of Telangana and WRI India have jointly organized the Smart Streets Lab – Telangana to pilot innovative road-safety and women-safety solutions by leveraging new developments in technology and IT to transform Hyderabad's streets. The programme will largely be data-driven.

77. Solution: C

India has deep cultural ties with Southeast Asian nations, and from time to time carries out restoration work at temples overseas. Funds are released through the Ministry of External Affairs as part of India's diplomatic outreach to these nations. The ASI, under the Ministry of Culture, is the implementing agency. Work can go on for decades, and is often monitored by

third-party agencies such as the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

78. Solution: D

Every private detective agency will require a licence to operate. Licences shall be granted by regulation boards established at the central and state level. In a number of other countries that regulate private detectives, it is the agent that is licensed rather than the agency.

Any agent violating a person's right to privacy and freedom shall be punishable with imprisonment and a fine.

The Bill specifies that a private detective must be an Indian citizen. Such a requirement does not exist in similar legislation in several other countries.

79. Solution: C

In order to revive such games and promote them among the masses, Sports Authority of India (SAI) has adopted the following indigenous games disciplines for their promotion:

- (a) Kalaripayatu, Kerala
- (b) Silambam, Tamilnadu
- (c) Kabaddi, Telengana
- (d) Archery, Jharkhand
- (e) Malkhamb, Maharashtra
- (f) Mukna, Imphal
- (g) Thangta, Imphal
- (h) Khomlainai, Assam
- (i) Gatka, Punjab

80. Solution: C

The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the ISARC at campus of National Seed Research and Training Centre (NSRTC) in Varanasi.

Under the proposal, a Centre of Excellence in Rice Value Addition (CERVA) will be set up in Varanasi. This will include a modern and sophisticated laboratory with capacity to determine quality and status of heavy metals in grain and straw. The Centre will also undertake capacity building exercises for stakeholders across the rice value chain.

This centre will be the first international Centre in the eastern India and it will play a major role in harnessing and sustaining rice production in the region.

The Centre will help in utilizing the rich biodiversity of India to develop special rice varieties. This will help India to achieve higher per hectare yields and improved nutritional contents. India's food and nutritional security issues will also be addressed. This will reduce wastage, add value and generate higher income for the farmers. The farmers in Eastern India will benefit in

particular, besides those in South Asian and African countries.

81. Solution: D

Some of the provisions of the Law Commission of India's draft bill for the use and regulation of DNA-based technology are:

- DNA Profiling Board – A statutory body: A DNA Profiling Board be constituted, which would undertake functions such as (among others) laying down procedures and standards to establish DNA laboratories and granting accreditation to such laboratories (not responsible for establishing laboratories)
- Only for identification: DNA profiling would be undertaken exclusively for identification of a person and would not be used to extract any other information. Further no bodily substances will be taken from a person unless the consent is given for the same;
- DNA Data Bank: The Bill proposes a National DNA Data Bank and Regional DNA Data Banks (for the states). The Data Banks will be responsible for storing DNA profiles received from the accredited laboratories; and
- Penalties: The violators of the provisions would be liable for punishment of imprisonment, which may extend up to three years and also a fine which may extend up to Rs two lakhs.

82. Solution: C

The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 24, 2017. It seeks to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to insert provisions for handling cases related to stressed assets. Stressed assets are loans where the borrower has defaulted in repayment or where the loan has been restructured (such as by changing the repayment schedule). It will replace the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017.

83. Solution: C

- A roadmap to tackle the challenge of antimicrobial resistance", was the first ever joint meeting of medical societies in India addressing antibiotic resistance, held in Chennai in August 2012. The high antimicrobial resistance rate in the country and the inspiration received from the on-going international efforts prompted Indian doctors to organise the Chennai meeting.
- It witnessed participation of all major medical societies, as well as representatives from of governmental bodies such as the office of Drugs Controller General of India, Medical Council of

India, National Accreditation Board of Hospitals, and Indian Council of Medical Research.

84. Solution: A

Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (PMEAC) is a non-constitutional, non-permanent and independent body constituted to give economic advice to the Government of India, specifically the Prime Minister. The council serves to highlight key economic issues facing the country to the government of India from a neutral viewpoint. It advises the Prime Minister on a whole host of economic issues like inflation, microfinance, industrial output, etc.

The PMEAC is chaired by a Chairperson and consists of eminent economists as members. It is supported in its functions by a team of officials and administrators. There is no fixed definition on the exact number of members and staff of the PMEAC. For administrative, logistic, planning and budgeting purposes, the NITI Aayog serves as the Nodal Agency for the PMEAC.

85. Solution: A

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Global Competitiveness Report (GCR) is a yearly report published by the World Economic Forum.

Statement 2 is correct. India has been ranked the 40th most competitive economy slipping one place from last year's ranking on the World Economic Forum's global competitiveness index, which is topped by Switzerland.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Among the BRICS, China and Russia (38) are placed above India. South Africa and Brazil are placed at 61st and 80th spots, respectively.

86. Solution: C

There is no clear definition of what shell company is in the Companies Act, or any other Act. But typically shell companies include multiple layers of companies that have been created for the purpose of diverting money or for money laundering. Most shell companies do not manufacture any product or deal in any product or render any service. They are mostly used to make financial transactions. Generally, these companies hold assets only on paper and not in reality. These companies conduct almost no economic activity.

87. Solution: C

The Ministry of Defence had constituted a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Lt Gen (Retd) (Dr.) DB Shekatkar with a mandate to recommend measures for enhancing of Combat Capability & Rebalancing Defence Expenditure of the Armed Forces with an aim to increase "teeth to tail ratio".

The Committee of experts had submitted its report to the Ministry in December, 2016, which was considered by the Ministry of Defence and 99 recommendations were sent to the Armed Forces for making an

implementation plan. The Defence Minister has approved 65 of these recommendations pertaining to the Indian Army for implementation.

These reforms will be completed in all respects by 31 December 2019. Restructuring by the Indian Army is aimed at enhancing Combat Capability in a manner that the officers/JCOs/ORs will be used for improving operational preparedness and civilians will be redeployed in different wings of the Armed Forces for improving efficiency.

88. Solution: A

India and Japan will hold their second 2 + 2 dialogue on Monday in Tokyo involving the Foreign and Defence Secretaries of both sides.

India employs the 2 + 2 format only with Japan to address cross-cutting security and foreign policy issues such as maritime security, cyber security and space.

India and Japan decided to enhance cooperation key bilateral areas, including maritime, cyber, outer space security and also deliberated on regional and international security situation.

It was second India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue held in Tokyo which involved discussions on foreign policy issues and security.

Both the nations reviewed bilateral security and defence cooperation and discussed ways to expand these ties further.

Japan is India's first 2+2 dialogue partner with any country.

First 2+2 India-Japan interaction was held in July 2010.

89. Solution: A

The Cassini-Huygens Mission was collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Italian Space Agency (ASI) to send a probe to study the planet Saturn and its system, including its rings and natural satellites. The Flagship-class unmanned robotic spacecraft comprised both NASA's Cassini probe, and ESA's Huygens lander which would be landed on Saturn's largest moon, Titan. Cassini was the fourth space probe to visit Saturn and the first to enter its orbit.

Launched aboard a Titan IVB/Centaur on October 15, 1997, Cassini was active in space for nearly 20 years, with 13 years spent orbiting Saturn, studying the planet and its system after entering orbit on July 1, 2004. The voyage to Saturn included flybys of Venus (April 1998 and July 1999), Earth (August 1999), the asteroid 2685 Masursky, and Jupiter (December 2000). Its mission ended on September 15, 2017

90. Solution: C

- The Asia-Africa Growth Corridor is an India-Japan economic cooperation agreement aimed at the socio-economic development of Asia and Africa.

The vision document for AAGC was released by India in the 2017 African Development Bank meeting.

- The aim of the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor is to develop infrastructure and digital connectivity in Africa through Indo-Japan collaboration. It will envisage a people-centric sustainable growth strategy by engaging various stakeholders. The priority areas will be health and pharmaceuticals, agriculture and agro-processing, disaster management and skill enhancement.
- The Asia-Africa Growth Corridor is to be based on four pillars:
 - (i) Enhancing capacity and skills
 - (ii) Quality Infrastructure and Institutional Connectivity
 - (iii) Development and Cooperation Projects
 - (iv) People-to-People partnership

91. Solution: D

The Uttarakhand Heritage Law seeks to preserve its heritage having historic, cultural, aesthetic and environmental value and restore heritage buildings and sites which are not protected by Archaeological Survey of India or by any other government policies (like Almorajail where Jawaharlal Nehru was imprisoned).

92. Solution: B

- According to study one of the biodiversity-rich uninhabited islands part of Lakshadweep has vanished due to coastal erosion and another four such territories in the sea are shrinking fast.
- Parali I island, part of Bangaram atoll, which was 0.032 km in 1968 has been eroded to an extent of 100%, resulting in its inundation.

93. Solution: B

The Sardar Sarovar Dam is a gravity dam on the Narmada river near Navagam, Gujarat in India. Four Indian states, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, receive water and electricity supplied from the dam. The foundation stone of the project was laid out by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on April 5, 1961. The project took form in 1979 as part of a development scheme to increase irrigation and produce hydroelectricity. The dam was inaugurated by Prime Minister on September 17, 2017

Statement 1 is incorrect. It is the second biggest concrete gravity dam by volume after Grand Coulee Dam in the US.

94. Solution: B

The Haryana Government has chalked out its draft cyber security policy 2017 with an aim to spread awareness and ensure that critical IT and Information

Communication Technology (ICT) information is protected from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, modification and disposal.

95. Solution: B

The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, commonly known as IONS, is a forum to increase maritime cooperation among the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region. The forum helps to preserve peaceful relations between nations, and thus is critical to building an effective maritime security architecture in the Indian Ocean Region and is also fundamental to our collective prosperity.

Members:

- South Asian Littorals: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and United Kingdom (British Indian Ocean Territory)
- West Asian Littorals: Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates
- East African Littorals: France (Reunion), Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, and Tanzania.
- South East Asian and Australian Littorals: Australia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

Observers

- China, Germany, Japan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Russia and Spain.

96. Solution: A

Crude and natural gas imports to India from the U.S is a new thrust area of bilateral cooperation, and the first shipment of American crude for India will leave from Texas and arrive at Paradip Port, Odisha.

97. Solution: B

SHAKTI Scheme:

- On May 17, 2017, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a new policy for allocation of future coal linkages in a transparent manner for power sector.
- This policy was christened as Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala (Coal) Transparently in India (SHAKTI).
- The policy was an important initiative in alleviating one key challenge in power sector, viz. lack of coal linkage and is expected to positively contribute in resolution of a number of stressed assets.
- As a part of this policy, CIL/SCCL is to grant coal linkages on notified price on auction basis for Independent Power Producers (IPPs) having already concluded domestic coal based Power Purchase Agreement (PPAs), with the bidding parameter being levelized discount on existing tariff that the IPP is willing to provide.

98. Solution: D

The government's proclivity to litigate crowds private citizens out from accessing justice. At least two of the PM's speeches mentioned this undesirable trait. In the first, he referred to the government as a litigant. In the second, he mentioned the phenomenon of two government departments litigating against each other.

- There was a National Litigation Policy (NLP) in 2010. Its aim is to transform Government into an Efficient and Responsible litigant. There were platitudes in plenty, but nothing to pin down. A specific LIMBS (Legal Information Management & Briefing System) is better than a vague Litigation Policy.
- As part of the e-Governance initiative, the government has started working on putting in place this online system of managing and monitoring all court cases in which Government of India is a party. This means that once fed, information relating to all court/tribunal cases being handled by the various Ministries/Departments and other organs of the Government of India will be available on a single web-based online application. Also, this application caters to a wide range of requirements for various departments and administrative authorities for effective monitoring of court matters.
- This will not only help to introduce transparency but also a sense of ownership among various stakeholders during the life cycle of a court case. Among others, it will help authorities to take 'data driven decision making' and to evaluate performance of various stake holders and to conduct legal audit.

99. Solution: A

100. Solution: A

INS Kalvari:

- India's first indigenously built Scorpene submarine "INS Kalvari" has been delivered to the Indian Navy at the Mazagon Dock Ltd shipyard and will soon be commissioned.
- Kalvari is named after the dreaded Tiger Shark, a deadly deep-sea predator of the Indian Ocean. It can carry 18 torpedoes and travel 1,020km underwater.
- It has superior stealth and the ability to launch crippling attacks on the enemy with precision-guided weapons.
- This Scorpene submarine is designed to operate in all theatres of war, including the tropics. Kalvari is capable of handling various missions such as anti-surface warfare (attacking surface ships), anti-submarine warfare (destroying submarines), intelligence gathering, mine-laying and area surveillance.