

# "aim4mains" - because, you can !

The method and approach provided below shall in no way replace your extensive, honest and comprehensive coverage of each and every topic as mentioned in the syllabus of Civil Services (Preliminary and mains) Exam as there is no "one best" way. Each one of us is gifted with amazing sense of critical analysis. This "analysis" part is what we aim to develop. That is the aim of our "aim4mains" venture.

But, we are "confidently positive" that our ingeniously crafted methods of "Thinking Stimulus" and "common sense" would help you cross "the cut off – cat on the wall" nightmare with ease. Why we say that – because if we – as average aspirants can do it – so can you!

## Introduction:

In the absence of a comprehensive understanding and holistic coverage of syllabus set by UPSC, it is commonly seen that aspirants rely on "Tukke-baji" or "guessmastergiri" to answer prelims questions thus increasing their margin of error. However, if such errors are avoided, they can't be kept away from their Mains admit card.

Therefore, we can help you rise above the "trauma of cut off prediction" by developing your skills to solve questions effectively using "thinking stimulus" and a common sense approach. We will show you how we did it.

We have solved CSP 2017 GS 1 paper using the above mentioned approach of "common sense", and "thinking stimulus"). Please note that in each and every question whatever dilemma and confusion we faced or came across, we have noted them in the explanation section for easy relation as we know that dilemma and confusion are natural to all of us. Let's have a swift look at the paper below:-

## **1. Which one of the following was a very important seaport in the Kakatiya kingdom?**

- (a) Kakinada
- (b) Motupalli
- (c) Machilipatnam (Masulipatnam)
- (d) Nelluru

Explanation: Unfamiliar factual question. **Must be attempted only when one is sure of the answer.** When we (Aim4Mains group members) encountered this question in the exam – none of us dared to attempt this question because of the unfamiliarity of the question.

[Unfamiliar factual questions must not be answered except in the scenario where candidate is substantially scoring low (i.e. below 50% marks) in the exam.

Further, attempt to answer these questions depends on the level of the paper, if the difficulty level is *low or intermediate* and candidate is securing below 50% marks then only the candidate may attempt such unfamiliar questions AND if the difficulty level is high, it is strictly advised to **NOT** to attempt such unfamiliar factual questions. However, judging the level of difficulty of the paper is a tough task which requires experience, vision and wisdom. That is the reason why we recommend to skip such kind of questions because it is most likely that you will end up selecting incorrect answers and **it will increase your margin of error** and eventually you will fall short of the cut off marks].

**Correct Answer – (b).**

## **2. With reference to 'Global Climate Change Alliance', which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- 1. It is an initiative of the European Union.
- 2. It provides technical and financial support to targeted developing countries to integrate climate change into their development policies and budgets.

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3. It is coordinated by World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Explanation:-** Difficult question. So, it deserves your respect. (*Namaste karo and aage badho ...*



But, one of our members did attempt this question using the following logic: -

European Union is a developed region and is also affected by Climate change. They are more conscious about Environment as evident in the Paris Deal, International Solar Alliance.etc. Many of them are coastal and island nations. Remember, most European countries will be severely hit due to climate change as their economy and way of life are fully dependent on "Mediterranean climatology". So Global Climate Change Alliance could be an initiative of EU. So Option (b) & (c) can be eliminated.

Now look at statement-3. It talks about World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). This council is engaged in creating a forum to deliver sustainable business solutions to its associate companies and employees. WBCSD does not link itself with climate related - sovereign - responsibilities. Our group member had no idea about World Resource Institute (WRI). Hence, going by WBCSD elimination, Statement-3 can be ruled out.

**Correct Answer – (a).**

**3. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:**

1. Sautrantika and Sammitiya were the sects of Jainism.
2. Sarvastivadin held that the constituents of phenomena were not wholly momentary, but existed forever in a latent form.

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

**Explanation:** Unfamiliar factual question. Unless you are familiar with the question, it is **recommended to skip this question** unanswered [none of us (group members) dared to attempt this question because of the unfamiliarity of the fact provided in the question].

Statement 1- Both sects were related to Buddhism, not Jainism (many books mention only three sects of Buddhism i.e. Hinayana, Mahayana and Theravada), so statement 1 is wrong.

Statement 2- This sect believes in the eterna existence of all things, so it is a correct statement.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**4. Mediterranean Sea is a border of which of the following countries?**

1. Jordan
2. Iraq
3. Lebanon
4. Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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**Explanation:-** Intermediate/medium question. It is expected from the aspirants to have good knowledge of the world map. However, in case of doubt it is recommended to leave this question unanswered. Please observe the extract of the map for your better understanding.



**Correct Answer – (c).**

**5. With reference to ‘National Investment and Infrastructure Fund’, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. It is an organ of NITI Aayog.
  2. It has a corpus of Rs. 400,000 crore at present.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Explanation:** Intermediate/medium question. NITI Aayog has been formed as a **planning and advisory body** of the Government of India. National Investment and Infrastructure Fund is outside of its domain. Why – because NITI Aayog does not have any monetary authority, unlike its predecessor i.e. Planning Commission. So *first statement is wrong.*

Though the second statement is completely factual still you can utilize your **analytical reasoning** to reach a conclusion of whether the second statement is correct or not. Suppose that you don't know their corpus size. You might find it tempting to go with 2<sup>nd</sup> statement. But stop, Here is a red flag for you. Just think this through – if government had so much of fund lying idle – that too in infrastructure domain- would it not have reformed Railways and road infrastructure? So, second statement is also incorrect. However, for your information the corpus of NIIF is ₹ 40,000 crore at present.

**Correct Answer – (d).**

**6. The Global Infrastructure Facility is a/an**

- (a) ASEAN initiative to upgrade infrastructure in Asia and financed by credit from the Asian Development Bank.
- (b) World Bank collaboration that facilitates the preparation and structuring of complex infrastructure Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to enable mobilization of private sector and institutional investor capital.
- (c) Collaboration among the major banks of the world working with the OECD and focused on expanding the set of infrastructure projects that have the potential to mobilize private investment.
- (d) UNCTAD funded initiative that seeks to finance and facilitate infrastructure development in the world.

**Explanation:** Intermediate Question

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**Global Infrastructure Facility** must be initiated by some **Global Institutions/organisations**

(Though aaj kal har koi global ho rha h... 😊). Option (a) and (c) have ASEAN and Asian Development Bank and OECD which denote **regional presence**.

Similarly UNCTAD (United Nation Conference on Trade and Development) does not primarily engage itself with funding of global infrastructure (Didn't notice such information even while reading reports on these bodies). So option B is correct.

World Bank has global presence in its operation and also provides funding for infrastructure projects in public and private domain. Moreover, UPSC has some secret love for IMF and WB- *toh hamara answer yaha World Bank hoga.*

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**7. For election to the Lok Sabha, a nomination paper can be filed by**

- (a) anyone residing in India.
- (b) a resident of the constituency from which the election is to be contested.
- (c) any citizen of India whose name appears in the electoral roll of a constituency.
- (d) any citizen of India.

**Explanation:-** Easy question.

See everyone knows that for elections in India **citizenship** is mandatory. Age may differ from elections to elections.

**Correct Answer – (c).**

**8. Consider the following statements:**

- 1. In India, the Himalayas are spread over five States only.
- 2. Western Ghats are spread over five States only.
- 3. Pulicat Lake is spread over two States only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Explanation:** Easy question, if you have gone through Indian map and NCERT diligently. Since all the statements are having extreme term '**only**' so extra caution need to be taken.

Himalaya stretches from J&K in North West to Purvanchal Hill of North East region (J&K, HP, UK, Sikkim, Aarunchal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram ) . i.e more than 5 states. So statement-1 is wrong and options (a) & (d) eliminated.

Western Ghat stretches from Tapi River to Kanyakumari from Gujrat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Kerala. So statement-2 is also wrong.

Now only statement-3 is left which has to be correct.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**9. Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) is a standard criterion for**

- (a) Measuring oxygen levels in blood
- (b) Computing oxygen levels in forest ecosystems
- (c) Pollution assay in aquatic ecosystems
- (d) Assessing oxygen levels in high altitude regions

**Explanation:** Easy question. As an aspirant, we are supposed to have read certain books (mostly NCERTs) and, Biology (class 12) Unit 10 (ecology) Shankar's Environment is also a good book for reference.

Anyhow – visit our website – [www.aim4mains.in](http://www.aim4mains.in) to get exhaustive list of what to read and what to avoid.



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Biological Oxygen Demand is the measure of **demand of free oxygen** by biological organisms. We measure free Oxygen content to find its "scarcity" level. Consider this BOD with human society. In a society, members need water to perform their daily chores. Imagine, what would happen in case this stable human population increases. Naturally, there would be an increase in demand for water. That's what happens in an ecosystem – either due to "eutrophication" or natural increase – living organisms in the ecosystem compete for scarce "oxygen". This is calculated by BOD.

Hence, according to this background, option (a) and (d) can be easily eliminated because they do not talk about ecosystems. Now confusion is between option (b) and (c) because both options are talking about ecosystems. Oxygen demand is a good indicator of pollution level. So option (c) is correct.

**Correct Answer – (c).**

**10. With reference to the role of UN-Habitat in the United Nations programme working towards a better urban future, which of the statements is/are correct?**

1. UN-Habitat has been mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities to provide adequate shelter for all.
2. Its partners are either governments or local urban authorities only.
3. UN-Habitat contributes to the overall objective of the United Nations system to reduce poverty and to promote access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Explanation:** Easy question. Based on current affairs.

Even if you have missed or are unable to recall this topic then simple or ordinary use of common sense will help you find the right answer. Statement-2 has extreme word 'only'. In present time Govt/world bodies are reluctant to work alone and very eager to cooperate with private players ( due to comparative advantage). Statement-2 which is limited to state, is wrong. Thus option (a) & (c) get eliminated.

Both statement-1 & statement-3 talk about **sustainable settlement** directly or indirectly which is in-line with the objective of the question statement. So option (b) is most suitable answer.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**11. With reference to 'National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)', which of the statements given below is/are correct?**

1. Under NSQF, a learner can acquire the certification for competency only through formal learning.
2. An outcome expected from the implementation of NSQF is the mobility between vocational and general education.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Explanation:-** Factual question but relatively easy. NSQF was in news related to Skill Development Initiative of the Govt.

Statement 1 is has extreme word 'only'. We all know that since the BJP Government came into power at the centre it has been pushing for **skill development** by whatever means possible (PMKVY, RPL, APY etc). Then how can this be limited to formal learning only? What about the informal learning like traditional arts and crafts etc. (there are schemes like USTAAD)? So statement-1 is wrong.

Statement-2 talks of mobility between vocational and general education. This is required very much to reap the true dividend of "demographic window of opportunity". NSQF is related to Skill Development. There is virtually no difference between traditional and "demand driven" vocational course now – ideally there shouldn't be. Hence, statement - 2 is correct.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

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**12. In the context of Indian history, the principle of “Dyarchy (diarchy)” refers to**

- (a) Division of the central legislature into two houses.
- (b) Introduction of double government i.e., Central and State governments.
- (c) Having two sets of rulers; one in London and another in Delhi.
- (d) Division of the subjects delegated to the provinces into two categories

**Explanation:** Easy question, if Modern Indian history has been diligently gone through. It was introduced by Govt. of India Act 1919.

In NCERT and Laxmikanth's polity study you must have studied 'division of legislature' which is also called bicameral legislature.

Similarly, 'double govt.' is called as dual govt. i.e. two sets of rule one in London and another in Delhi.

So 'dyarchy' is related to division of subjects (Beginning of 7<sup>th</sup> schedule of constitution). So option (d) is the right answer.

**Correct Answer – (d).**

**13. Consider the following in respect of ‘National Career Service’:**

1. National Career Service is an initiative of the Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India.
2. National Career Service has been launched in a Mission Mode to improve the employment opportunities to uneducated youth of the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Explanation:-** Factual question.

Thinking Stimulus can help us solve this question. Dept. of personnel and training mostly caters to well organised and prestigious services like All India Services, Central Civil Services etc. So by application of logic, the handling of National Career Services by DoPT does not seem right. As per India Year Book this was the initiative of Ministry of Labour and Employment. So statement-1 is wrong.

National Career Service was in news related to Skill Development. The Skill Development Initiative aims for increasing employment opportunity. So this statement-2 correct.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**14. Which of the following statements best describes the term ‘Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A)’, recently seen in the news?**

- (a) It is a procedure for considering ecological costs of developmental schemes formulated by the Government.
- (b) It is a scheme of RBI for reworking the financial structure of big corporate entities facing genuine difficulties.
- (c) It is a disinvestment plan of the Government regarding Central Public Sector Undertakings.
- (d) It is an important provision in ‘The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code’ recently implemented by the Government.

**Explanation:** Easy question. It was in the news quiet often due to rising NPA and 'recapitalisation' demands.

By using logic also **Stressed Assets** and NPA are related to financial sector (decode S4A). This rules out option (a) and (c).

Option (d) talks of "Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code" - something which does not call for "revival" of stressed company. This code is about "Organ Harvesting"=once the patient (the company) is comatose - or brain dead. Hence, by this logic, you may eliminate Option (d) too.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

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## 15. Consider the following statements:

1. Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants is a unique initiative of G20 group of countries.
2. The CCAC focuses on methane, black carbon and hydrofluorocarbons.

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

**Explanation:** Difficult question unless you are aware of CCAC.

By using logic one can say that statement 1 has the extreme word 'unique'. Climate change and air related problems have been occurring since a long time. Many countries are affected by these problems. There may be a chance that such kind of initiatives might have been taken by other groups earlier. So, it may be wrong.

But what about the second statement. One may also say that CCAC is related to **Climate** and **Clean Air** and statement-2 is also talking about some air (gaseous) pollutant and greenhouse gases. So statement-2 can be correct.

Note- Base of the of logic here is weak so when faced with such questions "हाथ जोड़कर प्रणाम करके आगे बढ़ने में ही समझदारी है"

**Correct Answer – (b).**

## 16. With reference to 'Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)' sometimes mentioned in the news while forecasting Indian monsoon, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. IOD phenomenon is characterised by a difference in sea surface temperature between tropical Western Indian Ocean and tropical Eastern Pacific Ocean.
2. An IOD phenomenon can influence an El Nino's impact on the monsoon.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Explanation:-** Intermediate question. Now let's make it easier.

IOD is a **dipole** meaning **two poles with opposite properties in same platform/body**. Statement 1 talks about temperature difference but of different ocean bodies (i.e. Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean). The name Indian Ocean Dipole suggests it must be **of the Indian Ocean only** (remember dipole must be within same platform/body). So statement-1 is wrong.

Question itself is saying that IOD is in the news related to *monsoon forecasting* so definitely it may have direct or indirect influence on monsoon and can influence El Nino's impact on monsoon. So statement-2 is correct.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

## 17. If you want to see gharials in their natural habitat, which one of the following is the best place to visit?

- (a) Bhitarkanika Mangroves
- (b) Chambal River
- (c) Pulicat Lake
- (d) Deepor Beel

**Explanation:-** Factual Question.

Anyway, Gharial project and Chambal habitat was in the news for the entire year of 2016.

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This question requires diligent study of NCERT Environment book. If you missed or are unable to recall this topic then it will be better to leave/skip the question.

Correct Answer – (b).

## 18. Consider the following in respect of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS):

1. Inaugural IONS was held in India in 2015 under the chairmanship of the Indian Navy.
2. IONS is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime co-operation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Explanation:-** Factual and Difficult Question, because it has asked typical factual data of past year and chairmanship.

About the 2<sup>nd</sup> statement **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium** by name is related to Indian Ocean. In present, many such events have been organised to enhance maritime security and co-operation. So statement-2 is correct. But correctness of statement-1 is still unknown. (Hence भलाई इसी में है कि, अँधेरे में तीर न चलायें, गलत target par hit ho sakta hai...)

**Note-** IONS was hosted by South Africa with co-chair of Tanzania in the year 2015. It was initiated by littoral nations of Indian Ocean to promote friendly relation and maritime co-operation.

Correct Answer – (b).

## 19. The painting of Bodhisattva Padmapani is one of the most famous and oft-illustrated paintings at

- (a) Ajanta
- (b) Badami
- (c) Bagh
- (d) Ellora

**Explanation:** Factual question.

**Note-** most of the one liner questions are tempting. But they are "members of sleeper cells" as they can backfire and you may get killed (negative markings). They are very much responsible for reducing our chances of crossing cut-off marks.

So attempt only when you are able to distinguish/ascertain correct one from similar looking options. Otherwise, leave it simply without emotional attachments.

**Note :** Please revert to our site (aim4mains) and pack your study palace with the list of book we have provided. Just the basics – we know that all of us have paucity of time and other limitations- hence we believe in " minimum study books – maximum application".

Correct Answer – (a).

## 20. Consider the following pairs:

**Traditions - Communities**

1. Chaliha Sahib Festival- Sindhis
2. Nanda Raj Jaat Yatra- Gonds
3. Wari-Warkari- Santhals

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

**Explanation:** Factual and difficult question.. Advice=skip such questions unless you have familiarity with the question.

Chaliha Sahib Festival is related to Sindhis. So it is a correct match.



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Nanda Raj Jaat Yatra is related to Nandadevi which is in Uttarakhand but Gonds are not found there. So wrong match.

Wari-Warkari is related to Warkari Sect in Maharashtra, so this also a wrong match.

**Correct Answer – (a).**

**21. Which of the following practices can help in water conservation in agriculture?**

1. Reduced or zero tillage of the land
2. Applying gypsum before irrigating the field
3. Allowing crop residue to remain in the field

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Explanation:** Intermediate question.

A bit difficult to attempt. Ohh really...? Now let us make it easy through logic.

Start from statement-3 first. (No one is forcing to you to start from statement-1. “हमें अपने Level के हिसाब से टारगेट चुनने का जन्मसिद्ध अधिकार है”). Statement-3 – ‘allowing crop residue to remain in the field’ helps in water conservation by reducing water losses (relate it to tree plantation drive). So statement -3 is correct, thus option (a) is eliminated.

*Gypsum is of the family of limestone which stores water.* Something which stores water definitely help in reducing water loss. Hence statement-2 is also correct. And, only option (d) is having statement-2 & statement-3 together. Option (d) is the correct answer.

Tillage means soil preparation before sowing. Zero tillage means no soil preparation i.e. no ploughing of the land will keep the moisture in the land because ploughing leads to evaporation of the moisture content from the land, if you cannot figure out the 1<sup>st</sup> statement still you have already solved the question effectively by elimination method

**Correct Answer – (d).**

**22. Consider the following statements :**

The nation-wide ‘Soil Health Card Scheme’ aims at

1. expanding the cultivable area under irrigation.
2. enabling the banks to assess the quantum of loans to be granted to farmers on the basis of soil quality.
3. checking the overuse of fertilizers in farmlands.

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

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

**Explanation:** Easy question related to health scheme of soil, it's quality. Soil Health card scheme was launched to arrest the degrading soil quality.

Statement-1 is related to **irrigation expansion** and statement-2 is about **enabling banks for farm loan to farmers**. Both statements have nothing about soil health or soil quality. Hence, statement-1 & statement-2 are wrong. So option (b) is correct.

Statement 3- we know that overuse of fertiliser degrades farmland. To check this degradation 'Soil Health card scheme' was launched so that optimum fertilisation could be possible.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**23. Consider the following pairs:**

Commonly used material vs. Unwanted or controversial chemicals found in them

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1. Lipstick: Lead
  2. Soft drinks: Brominated vegetable oils
  3. Chinese fast food: Monosodium glutamate
- Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?**
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Explanation:** Intermediate/medium question. Any wild guess must be avoided.

**Correct Answer – (d).**

**24. Organic Light Emitting Diodes (OLEDs) are used to create digital display in many devices. What are the advantages of OLED displays over Liquid Crystal displays?**

1. OLED displays can be fabricated on flexible plastic substrates.
2. Roll-up displays embedded in clothing can be made using OLEDs.
3. Transparent displays are possible using OLEDs.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Explanation:-** Difficult Question. Save yourself from falling in the trap of negative marking unless you have exact details of OLEDs.

**Correct Answer – (c).**

**25. Which of the following is/are famous for Sun temples?**

1. Arasavalli
2. Amarakantak
3. Omkareshwar

**Select the correct answer using the code given below :**

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

**Explanation:** Factual question. it is tough to recall all the locations where Sun temples are present. So unless you know the exact location, this question should not be touched upon.

**Sun temple is at Modhera (Gujrat), Konark (Odisha), Arsavalli (Andhrapradesh).**

Amarakantak and Omkareshwar are the places of pilgrimage in Madhya Pradesh. They don't have any Sun temples. So only 1 is correct.

**Correct Answer – (a).**

**26. Consider the following statements:**

1. In the election for Lok Sabha or State Assembly, the winning candidate must get at least 50 percent of the votes polled, to be declared elected.
2. According to the provisions laid down in the Constitution of India, in Lok Sabha, the Speaker's post goes to the majority party and the Deputy Speaker's to the Opposition.

**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

**Explanation:-** Easy Question.

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In Lok Sabha and State Assembly Elections we follow 'first past the post' wherein getting 50% of votes is not mandatory. So statement 1 is wrong.

In second statement - we follow such a practice as convention but it's not mentioned in the Constitution, so statement-2 is also wrong.

Note- { while attempting any polity question the terms like 'may' , 'must', 'shall', 'constitution', 'convention' , 'statutory', 'legal' etc. should be given extra caution.} Read Polity - by M. Laxmikanth at once.

**Correct Answer – (d).**

**27. Which of the following has/have occurred in India after its liberalization of economic policies in 1991?**

1. Share of agriculture in GDP increased enormously.
2. Share of India's exports in world trade increased.
3. FDI inflows increased.
4. India's foreign exchange reserves increased enormously.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**Explanation:** Intermediate/medium question.

This question is loaded with concept based facts. In solving such questions "thinking stimulus" is effective.

You know, Post 1991 India started moving towards service sector dominated economy. As a result share of tertiary sectors in GDP has increased but share of **agriculture in GDP has declined**. Hence statement-1 is wrong. Options (a) & (d) are automatically eliminated.

Both remaining options (b) & (c) consists statement 2 & 3, so our task is to check the correctness of statement-4.

Statement-4 says that forex increased enormously. We know that 1991 was the year of balance of payment crisis in India, means we did not have enough forex. Now our forex is soaring close to \$400 billion. Thus enormous increase of forex post 1991 is correct. Hence statement-4 is correct.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**28. What is the application of Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer Technology?**

- (a) Production of biolarvicides
- (b) Manufacture of biodegradable plastics
- (c) Reproductive cloning of animals
- (d) Production of organisms free of diseases

**Explanation:-** Difficult Question.

It is a typical Science & Tech question which is hard to answer unless you have diligently gone through it. If you have skipped such topics during your study then follow the same trend here also. This is imperative to avoid negative marking. (because *nobody knows how much fortunate he/she is?*)

**Correct Answer – (c).**

**29. Consider the following statements:**

1. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) helps in promoting the financial inclusion in the country.
2. NPCI has launched RuPay, a card payment scheme.

**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

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**Explanation:-** Easy question based on current affairs.

If we missed this topic in Current affairs section then by applying common-sense THE correct answer can be figured out.

National **Payment** Corporation of **India** is a Payment Corporation so it must be related to Finance. Financial inclusion is a top priority for the Govt. since 2011. So every step of the govt. in the financial sector should be meant to promote financial inclusion. Hence statement-1 is correct.

Similarly RuPay is **India's** indigenous ATM cum Debit Card (*by name its apparent that "Ru-Pay" is made in India*) launched by **National** Payments Corporation of **India**. So we can mark this statement as correct. So both 1 and 2 is correct.

**Correct Answer – (c).**

**30. The term M-STRIPES' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of**

- (a) Captive breeding of Wild Fauna
- (b) Maintenance of Tiger Reserves
- (c) Indigenous Satellite Navigation System
- (d) Security of National Highways

**Explanation:** Factual question.

It is an easy but factual question related to current affairs. But if unable to recall the term then just scratch your head and use some common sense.

In **M- STRIPES**, '**M**' may stand for 'Maintenance' and STRIPES is something related to Tigers which have stripes on the body. So option (b) should be the suitable answer.

In reality **M-STRIPES** Stands for- *Monitoring System for Tiger, Intensive Patrolling and Ecological Status*, which is a new computerised tiger monitoring protocol in all tiger reserves of the country.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**31. What is/are the most likely advantages of implementing 'Goods and Services Tax (GST)'?**

1. It will replace multiple taxes collected by multiple authorities and will thus create a single market in India.
2. It will drastically reduce the 'Current Account Deficit' of India and will enable it to increase its foreign exchange reserves.
3. It will enormously increase the growth and size of economy of India and will enable it to overtake China in the near future.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Explanation:** Intermediate question.

GST was one of the hot topics of the year. So one must know about it before appearing in the CSP.

Statement 1 is absolutely correct about GST because it replacing multiple taxes and creating a single market in India are it's primary objectives.

Jump to statement-3, **Enormous** increase of growth and size of economy that too overtake china in near future seems non feasible. So statement-3 is wrong & only option (a) is without statement-3.

GST has been brought to overhaul domestic market. Though it has indirect impact on Current Account deficit and forex but '**drastic**' changes are questionable. Hence statement-2 is also wrong. **Correct Answer – (a).**

**32. 'Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of negotiations held between India and**

- (a) European Union
- (b) Gulf Cooperation Council
- (c) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- (d) Shanghai Cooperation Organization



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**Explanation:** Factual question. It was often in the News. It is between *EU and India*. So, diligently following of current affairs can save you. If you have missed then **it is recommended to avoid attempting to this question.**

**Correct Answer – (a).**

### 33. Consider the following statements:

1. India has ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of WTO.
2. TFA is a part of WTO's Bali Ministerial Package of 2013.
3. TFA came into force in January 2016.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Explanation:** Difficult Question.

It is a tough question requiring recalling old factual data. It frequently appeared in newspapers after Bali Ministerial Summit of 2013. TFA is a part of Bali Summit of WTO 2013 with aim to improve movement of Goods across the world and India has ratified TFA. *But on what date it came into force is difficult to recall.* Wild guess at this juncture could be harmful so better to avoid attempting this question.

Note - TFA came into force in February 2017 so statement 3 is wrong.

**Correct Answer – (a).**

### 34. What is the importance of developing Chabahar Port by India?

- (a) India's trade with African countries will enormously increase.
- (b) India's relations with oil-producing Arab countries will be strengthened.
- (c) India will not depend on Pakistan for access to Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- (d) Pakistan will facilitate and protect the installation of a gas pipeline between Iraq and India.

**Explanation:** Easy question. Chabahar Port in Iran is being developed by India so that Pakistan can be bypassed in accessing Afghanistan and Central Asia. So option (c) is correct.

Chahbahar port which is in Iran has nothing to do with African Countries as India has direct access there. Same is the case with oil producing Arab Countries. Pakistan is nowhere involved in this port project. **Correct Answer – (c).**

### 35. In India, it is legally mandatory for which of the following to report on cyber security incidents?

1. Service providers
2. Data centres
3. Body corporate

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Explanation:** Intermediate/medium question. Legally mandatory obligation is little bit difficult to figure out. Now let's apply some logic here.

We know that Cyber Attacks is one of the major threats in present scenario to **every computer connected with the internet including the computers of service providers, data centres and body corporate.** By logic we can guess that Service Providers might have such obligation to report because they are providing internet services to many users. So, it must be correct.

In case of Data Centres and Body Corporates also, many users are directly associated with them. They act as distributors of certain services. So, as a *nodal body*, they should also have such legal obligation to report. Hence option (d) is the most correct option.

**Correct Answer – (d).**

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## 36. Right to vote and to be elected in India is a

- (a) Fundamental Right
- (b) Natural Right
- (c) Constitutional Right
- (d) Legal Right

**Explanation:** Easy question.

Right to Vote is enforced by an Act of the legislature (i.e. Representation of People Act) so it is a legal right.

By logic also- Right to vote is not mentioned under Fundamental right. Similarly it is neither explicitly mentioned directly under constitution nor naturally available to people. So only legal right is correct.

**Correct Answer – (d).**

## 37. What is the purpose of 'evolved Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (eLISA)' project?

- (a) To detect neutrinos
- (b) To detect gravitational waves
- (c) To detect the effectiveness of missile defence system
- (d) To study the effect of solar flares on our communication systems

**Explanation:** Easy question based on current affairs.

Laser interferometer was in news related to measurement of gravitational waves. By logic also 'evolved Laser **Interferometer Space Antenna** (eLISA)' in its name has **Space Antenna**, so it must be related to celestial objects and their phenomenon. You also know that antenna is used to transmit and receive the wave signals.

Only options (b) & (d) are related to cosmos. But gravitational waves are a more prominent topic for space related studies nowadays. So, most likely the answer of the question is option (b) only.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

## 38. What is the purpose of Vidyanjali Yojana'?

1. To enable the famous foreign educational institutions to open their campuses in India.
2. To increase the quality of education provided in government schools by taking help from the private sector and the community.
3. To encourage voluntary monetary contributions from private individuals and organizations so as to improve the infrastructure facilities for primary and secondary schools.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Explanation:** Difficult question.

It is a tough question requiring lots of facts to be known. Answer only when you are sure of the said yojana. Vidyanjali Yojana was launched by MHRD to encourage youngsters to volunteer their services at any neighbourhood government school. It has nothing to do with the opening of campuses in India by foreign educational institutions. So statement-1 is wrong. And, option (c) is eliminated.

This yojana aims to improve the quality of education in Govt. school. Statement 2 is correct.

Vidyanjali Yojana is for primary and upper primary education only, not cover secondary education. Statement-3 has secondary education also. So 3<sup>rd</sup> statement is wrong.

**Correct Answer – (a).**

## 39. What is the aim of the programme 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'?

- (a) Achieving 100% literacy by promoting collaboration between voluntary organizations and government's education system and local communities.
- (b) Connecting institutions of higher education with local communities to address development challenges through appropriate technologies.
- (c) Strengthening India's scientific research institutions in order to make India a scientific and

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technological power.

(d) Developing human capital by allocating special funds for health care and education of rural and urban poor, and organizing skill development programmes and vocational training for them.

**Explanation:-** Easy question based on current affairs. **Correct Answer – (b).**

**40. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Election Commission of India is a five-member body.
2. Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.
3. Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognised political parties.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Explanation:** Easy question. Study of basic NCERT books help us in identifying the correct answer. ECI is three member body (one Chief Election commissioner and 2 election commissioner) so statement-1 is wrong.

For election matters constitution has provision of separate Election commission and decision on schedule for the conduct of all election have been entrusted to EC (*jab is kam ko karne k liye EC already hai to fir Ministry of Home Affairs ka kya kam??*). So statement-2 is also wrong.

So, we have left with the option (d) only which is a correct answer.

**Correct Answer – (d).**

**41. In India, if a species of tortoise is declared protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, what does it imply?**

- (a) It enjoys the same level of protection as the tiger.
- (b) It no longer exists in the wild, a few individuals are under captive protection; and now it is impossible to prevent its extinction.
- (c) It is endemic to a particular region of India.
- (d) Both (b) and (c) stated above are correct in this context.

**Explanation:-** Intermediate/medium question.

The question seems factual, so exact knowledge of facts is vital, right?? Of course. But what if you don't know the fact? Don't worry use *applied thought* here.

Wild life (**protection**) Act, 1972 is meant for **protection** against the threat to their lives, survival and reversing the declining trend of their population. So option (a) which says the same level of protection as tiger (which itself is facing survival threats and declining trend of population) is correct.

Option (b) - no longer exist in the wild then what is the use of wild life protection so this may be wrong. Endemic has nothing to do with protection. So option (c) is also wrong.

**Correct Answer – (a).**

**42. In India, Judicial Review implies**

- (a) the power of the Judiciary to pronounce upon the constitutionality of laws and executive orders.
- (b) the power of the Judiciary to question the wisdom of the laws enacted by the Legislatures.
- (c) the power of the Judiciary to review all the legislative enactments before they are assented to by the President.
- (d) the power of the Judiciary to review its own judgements given earlier in similar or different cases.

**Explanation:-** Easy question. NCERT and M. Lakshmikanth have explicitly explained judicial review. Through Judicial Review, judiciary checks the constitutionality of laws and executive orders. So option (a) is correct.

Questioning wisdom of laws, and reviewing legislative enactment before presidential assent are not functions of the judiciary.

Reviewing own judgements seems somehow close but that is not judicial review in particular.

**Correct Answer – (a).**

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**43. With reference to Indian freedom struggle, consider the following events :**

1. Mutiny in Royal Indian Navy
2. Quit India Movement launched
3. Second Round Table Conference

What is the correct chronological sequence of the above events ?

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

**Explanation:** Easy question, based on simple facts and huge difference of years between the events, which makes the question a bit easy to reach on correct answer. *Second round table conference (1931), quit India movement (1942), Mutiny in Royal Indian Navy (1946).*

**Correct Answer - (c).**

**44. Consider the following statements:**

1. Tax revenue as a percent of GDP of India has steadily increased in the last decade.
2. Fiscal deficit as a percent of GDP of India has steadily increased in the last decade.

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

**Explanation:** Intermediate/medium question.

Prima facie it seems tough because how one can know the percentage trend of tax revenue and fiscal deficit for decades. Don't worry...you are a sincere civil services aspirants who will use his common sense to solve the question.

Since 1991 economy of India in terms of GDP is growing. National income is also growing. There is maximum chances of steady increasing of tax revenue percentage of GDP. So statement-1 correct.

If you are regular with the Govt. Budget then it easier to guess that there is decreasing trend or ups-down trend of this deficit. By using logic also, one can guess that *FRBM act 2003* since it came into force, continuously talked about reduction of fiscal deficit. So, "*kabhi to kuchh kam hua hoga.....Indian govt. itna bhi inefficient and ineffective nahi hai*". Hence, steadily increasing trend seems less credible. So, statement-2 is wrong.

**Correct Answer - (a).**

**45. Recently there was a proposal to translocate some of the lions from their natural habitat in Gujarat to which one of the following sites?**

- (a) Corbett National Park
- (b) Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary
- (c) Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary
- (d) Sariska National Park

**Explanation:** Intermediate/medium question.

It is a relatively tough question. Now, let us try to get close enough to the correct answer and take a calculated risk.

Lions are mostly found in tropical regions around tropic of cancer (in India - central Indian region). Thus Corbett national park of Uttarakhand (far away from tropic of cancer and high land region) and Mudumalai (in South India - equatorial region) are climatically not suitable for lions. Sariska in Rajasthan is though in tropical regions but it is tiger reserve dedicated to tigers. So chances of relocation of lions in a tiger reserve is minimum. So only one option (b) left.

**Correct Answer - (b).**



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**46. Which of the following are not necessarily the consequences of the proclamation of the President's rule in a State?**

1. Dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly
2. Removal of the Council of Ministers in the State
3. Dissolution of the local bodies

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Explanation:-** Intermediate/medium question.

It is a simple question related to president rule but needs factual and conceptual clarity. Imposition of president rule **does not necessary cause dissolution** of state assembly and local bodies.(as evident from recent imposition of president rule in Delhi, Uttarakhand, and Arunachal Pradesh).

But *as soon as President Rule is imposed the council of ministers are automatically removed* (i.e. they lose their executive powers). So only 1 & 3 is the correct.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**47. Which of the following are envisaged by the Right against Exploitation in the Constitution of India?**

1. Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour
2. Abolition of untouchability
3. Protection of the interests of minorities
4. Prohibition of employment of children in factories and mines.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Explanation:** Intermediate/medium question.

It is a relatively a tough question. It can only be attempted by diligent study of fundamental rights. Right against exploitation consists of article 23 (prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour) & 24 (Prohibition of employment of children in factories and mines).

Abolition of untouchability (article 17) comes under right to equality and protection of interest of minorities (article 29) comes under cultural and educational rights.

**Correct Answer – (c).**

**48. Which of the following is geographically closest to Great Nicobar ?**

- (a) Sumatra
- (b) Borneo
- (c) Java
- (d) Sri Lanka

**Explanation:** Easy Question based on map. Aspirants are expected to learn by heart – the map of India Physical and Political. Please observe the extract of the map for your better understanding.

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Correct Answer – (a).

**49. Out of the following statements, choose the one that brings out the principle underlying the Cabinet form of Government:**

- (a) An arrangement for minimizing the criticism against the Government whose responsibilities are complex and hard to carry out to the satisfaction of all.
- (b) A mechanism for speeding up the activities of the Government whose responsibilities are increasing day by day.
- (c) A mechanism of parliamentary democracy for ensuring collective responsibility of the Government to the people.
- (d) A device for strengthening the hands of the head of the Government whose hold over the people is in a state of decline.

**Explanation:** Difficult question.

It is a tough question because principle underlying the cabinet is not directly mentioned in NCERT and M. Laxmikanth. By logic also one can eliminate option (a) & (d) because minimizing criticism and strengthening the hands of state over people seems irrelevant to cabinet form of Govt.

Between options (b) & (c), there exists 50-50% possibilities hence difficult to figure it out the correct one. Though one can go one step closer knowing that mechanism of parliamentary democracy for ensuring collective responsibility of the Govt. is to the Lok Sabha (House of People - lower house), wherein the executives are responsible to the lower house. This feature is not the base of cabinet form of government. Rather cabinet form seems fit to deal with multitude of challenges and finding the right set of leadership to man the government departments. Isn't this observed in corporate as well?

Hence option (b) which says speeding of the activities of the Govt. is correct statement.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**50. Which one of the following is not a feature of Indian federalism?**

- (a) There is an independent judiciary in India.
- (b) Powers have been clearly divided between the Centre and the States.
- (c) The federating units have been given unequal representation in the Rajya Sabha.
- (d) It is the result of an agreement among the federating units.

**Explanation:** Easy question. According to constitution of India, India is Union whose formation is not the result of agreement of the federating units. **Correct Answer – (d).**

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## 51. The object of the Butler Committee of 1927 was to?

- (a) Define the jurisdiction of the Central and Provincial Governments.
- (b) Define the powers of the Secretary of State for India.
- (c) Impose censorship on national press.
- (d) Improve the relationship between the Government of India and the Indian States.

**Explanation:** Easy question.

Though the question is factual it is an easy one and can be attempted by sincere study of modern History from NCERT. *Butler committee of 1927 was on improving relations between Govt. of India and Indian States.* **Correct Answer - (d).**

## 52. The term 'Domestic Content Requirement' is sometimes seen in the news with reference to

- (a) Developing solar power production in our country
- (b) Granting licences to foreign T.V. channels in our country
- (c) Exporting our food products to other countries
- (d) Permitting foreign educational institutions to set up their campuses in our country

**Explanation:** Easy question based on current affairs.

It was in news since India launched its solar mission. *Domestic Content requirement was challenged at WTO. Under 'Domestic Content requirement' some percentage of PV cells should be sourced from domestic manufacturers.*

If you have skipped this topic then also you can solve above question using "Thinking stimulus". See how??

**Domestic Content requirement** is seeking ways to give a boost to "make in India". Hence it is mostly related to "manufacturing" and not service sector. This should remove options (b) and (d) from probable answer list.

Option (c) intends to confuse you. Please understand – why would our food production need DCR requirement? *Apne khet (agricultural land) me kya Uganda waley aayenge ganna (sugar-cane) kaatne?* Also, the entire export can take place from Special economic zone – which are island in themselves– in relation to domestic taxation, labour laws etc.

**Correct Answer – (a).**

## 53. Consider the following statements:

1. The Nuclear Security Summits are periodically held under the aegis of the United Nations.
  2. The International Panel on Fissile Materials is an organ of International Atomic Energy Agency.
- 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

**Explanation:** Difficult question. "**QUESTION** तब तक नहीं छूने का जब तक कि **CURRENT AFFAIRS** अछे से पढा न गया हो".

Note - President Obama had initiated Nuclear Security Summit in 2010. It was not held under the aegis of UN. So, first statement is wrong.

The International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM), an independent group of arms-control and non-proliferation experts from 17 countries, has been keeping track of High Enriched Uranium and plutonium around the world. So statement 2 also wrong.

**Correct Answer - (d).**

## 54. Who among the following can join the National Pension System (NPS)?

- (a) Resident Indian citizens only
- (b) Persons of age from 21 to 55 only
- (c) All State Government employees joining the services after the date of notification by the respective State Governments
- (d) All Central Government employees including those of Armed Forces joining the services on or after 1st April, 2004

**Explanation:-** Difficult question, unless you know the fact.



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'Resident Indian citizens' and 'persons of age 21-55 years' include both working and *non-working* persons. NRIs are also Indian citizen. *NPS is open till 60 years of age*. Armed forces are not party to NPS. This leaves us with option (c).

**Correct Answer – (c).**

**55. With reference to river Teesta, consider the following statements:**

1. The source of river Teesta is the same as that of Brahmaputra but it flows through Sikkim.
2. River Rangeet originates in Sikkim and it is a tributary of river Teesta.
3. River Teesta flows into Bay of Bengal on the border of India and Bangladesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Explanation:** Intermediate/medium question.

So, better to avoid it if you have no idea of Teesta river.

Note - Teesta and Brahmaputra rivers have different source of origin. Teesta flows into the Ganga River in Bangladesh then as the Ganga River it flows into Bay of Bengal. So statement-1 & 3 are wrong.

Now only one option (b) is left with statement-2 as correct.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**56. Consider the following statements:**

1. In tropical regions, Zika virus disease is transmitted by the same mosquito that transmits dengue.
2. Sexual transmission of Zika virus disease is possible.

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

**Explanation:** Intermediate/medium question, based on current affairs.. Diligent coverage of current affairs could help you in answering this question correctly. But if you have skipped this topic in current affairs then better to skip it here also.

Note - Both diseases are transmitted by same mosquito (*Aedes Aegypti*). Zika virus transmission is possible through sexual intercourse (or coitus - as "Sheldon" might have said it) also.

**Correct Answer - (c).**

**57. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Standard Mark of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is mandatory for automotive tyres and tubes.
2. AGMARK is a quality Certification Mark issued by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

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

**Explanation:-** bit tough because of facts, right? Now apply the beauty of Stimulated thinking.

In your daily life you might have seen that many things whose quality and safety standard is vital for Human being, bear some kind of standard mark like **ISI mark, hallmark etc.** given by **BIS**. So by same logic don't you think that "tyre and tube's quality" can affect human safety??? So BIS standard should be mandatory. Hence statement-1 is correct.

AGMARK as a name sounds India centric. So it should have been issued by Indian organisation. But FAO is UN body. So statement 2 is wrong.

**Correct Answer – (a).**



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**58. What is/are the advantage/advantages of implementing the 'National Agriculture Market' scheme?**

1. It is a pan-India electronic trading portal for agricultural commodities.
2. It provides the farmers access to nationwide market, with prices commensurate with the quality of their produce.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Explanation:** Easy question, based on current affairs..

By using common sense **National Agriculture Market** scheme should be an **electronic portal** to cover entire nation without a boundary for agricultural commodities. So statement-1 is correct.

We all know if market is national...so by default farmers get access to nationwide market and get better price as per the quality of the produce. Hence statement-2 is also correct.

**Correct Answer – (c).**

**59. With reference to the 'National Intellectual Property Rights Policy', consider the following statements:**

1. It reiterates India's commitment to the Doha Development Agenda and the TRIPS Agreement.
2. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is the nodal agency for regulating intellectual property rights in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Explanation:** Intermediate/medium question

Most govt. policies are formulated in commensurate with international agendas and agreement. Doha Development agenda and TRIPS agreement both are related to IPR. Hence National Intellectual Property Policy should reflect India's commitments. So statement-1 is correct.

'Department of **Industrial Policy and Promotion**' looks after the **Industrial matters**. You have mostly seen IPR issues in relation with Industrial and commercial matters. So by logic DIPP should be the nodal agency for IPR in India. Hence statement-2 is correct.

**Correct Answer – (c).**

**60. According to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which of the following animals cannot be hunted by any person except under some provisions provided by law?**

1. Gharial
2. Indian wild ass
3. Wild buffalo

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Explanation:** Intermediate/medium question.

All animals are prohibited for hunting. List of their names are given in NCERT and Shankar IAS's Environment.

If unable to recall then give some thought that *Gharial and Indian wild ass can't be hunted except under some provision of law* and thus only option (d) has 1 & 2 together irrespective of correctness of wild buffalo.

**Correct Answer – (d).**

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**61. Which of the following statements is/are true of the Fundamental Duties of an Indian citizen?**

1. A legislative process has been provided to enforce these duties.
2. They are correlative to legal duties.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Explanation:** Difficult question.

Very tricky question. Remember, Union Parliament has enforced most fundamental duties via legislative processes, But there is not "a legislative process" as given in question. There are multiple acts to cover multiple dimensions. For example – National Honour Act, Environmental Protection Act, National Monuments Act etc.

Statement (2) is ambiguous but can be logically arrived at. *All duties are not correlative to legal duties.* Sometimes, like citizen charter, they are merely representative and do not have legal backing. Even in Fundamental Duties not all articles have been backed by a legal statute. Hence, statement-2 seems incorrect.

**Correct Answer – (d).**

**62. Consider the following pairs:**

1. Radhakanta Deb — First President of the British Indian Association
2. Gazulu Lakshminarasu Chetty — Founder of the Madras Mahajana Sabha
3. Surendranath Banerjee — Founder of the Indian Association

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

**Explanation:** Factual question.

Tough question as facts are difficult to recall, to be answered only when the facts are known.

Madras Mahajansabha (1884) was founded by: M.Viraghavachari, B.Subramaniya Aiyer and P. Ananda Charlu. So pair #2 is wrong. This eliminates option (c) and (d).

India Association (1876): Surendranath Banerjee and Ananda Mohan Bose. So, #3 is right. Only Option (b) fits this combination.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**63. Which one of the following objectives is not embodied in the Preamble to the Constitution of India?**

- (a) Liberty of thought
- (b) Economic liberty
- (c) Liberty of expression
- (d) Liberty of belief

**Explanation:-** Easy question.

In the preamble- "We, the people of India,....LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship..."

Note: you are potential civil servants and Indian Citizens and hence must be thorough with some basic articles including preamble, DPSP, fundamental rights and duties.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**64. With reference to 'Quality Council of India (QCI)', consider the following statements:**

1. QCI was set up jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry.
2. Chairman of QCI is appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendations of the industry to the Government.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

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- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Explanation:** Factual question.

Such questions better be avoided.

Though both statements are correct. (we left this question. None of our group members (aim4mains) attempted this question). Remember that *we have to attempt around 75 question with least error margin (error of max 5-6 questions).*

**Correct Answer – (c).**

## 65. What is the purpose of setting up of Small Finance Banks (SFBs) in India?

1. To supply credit to small business units
2. To supply credit to small and marginal farmers
3. To encourage young entrepreneurs to set up business particularly in rural areas.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Explanation:** Easy question

By using logic - **supply of credit** to **small entities** (small business and small-marginal farmers) seems commensurate to the function of **small** banks. Hence statements - 1 & statement-2 both are correct.

Encouraging entrepreneurship is a non-relevant activity for a bank. At best, a Bank can use its expertise to channelize credit efforts (like "Lead bank" scheme). Encouraging young entrepreneurs to set up business particularly in rural area is the work of government and FICCI like associations. So statement-3 is wrong.

**Correct Answer – (a).**

## 66. With reference to 'Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)', consider the following statements:

1. The first APMCHUD was held in India in 2006 on the theme 'Emerging Urban Forms — Policy Responses and Governance Structure'.
2. India hosts all the Annual Ministerial Conferences in partnership with ADB, APEC and ASEAN.

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

**Explanation:** Factual question, based on an old event. So, avoid attempting it unless you exactly know the details of the event.

For your information in the year 2006, the theme was "A Vision for Sustainable Urbanization in the Asia-Pacific by 2020. So statement-1 is wrong.

APMCHUD's ministerial conference is a **biennial event not annual event**. So second statement is also wrong. Also, remember - anything which is regional (like SAARC, BIMSTEC etc) - will have its annual meeting points distributed among its members (no one would like the responsibility of hosting all meetings every time). Like, a group of friends - would you all meet at one place (like Connought Place ) every time or change in the meeting location?

**Correct Answer – (d).**

## 67. Democracy's superior virtue lies in the fact that it calls into activity

- (a) the intelligence and character of ordinary men and women.
- (b) the methods for strengthening executive leadership.
- (c) a superior individual with dynamism and vision.
- (d) a band of dedicated party workers.

**Explanation:** Intermediate question.

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A bit political but can be easily attempted by using logic.

In Democracy, common people are supreme (Demos = people). Many things revolve around common people's (men and women) development, their excellence, assents and dissent etc. Only option (a) talks about activities related to common people (men and women).

Rest options are related to executive leadership, superior individuals and party workers. They are away from the soul of democracy. So option (a) fits better here.

**Correct Answer – (a).**

**68. Which of the following is a most likely consequence of implementing the 'Unified Payments Interface (UPI)'?**

- (a) Mobile wallets will not be necessary for online payments.
- (b) Digital currency will totally replace the physical currency in about two decades.
- (c) FDI inflows will drastically increase.
- (d) Direct transfer of subsidies to poor people will become very effective.

**Explanation:** Easy question based on current affairs.

UPI was in news related to online payments which aims for direct payment from one account to other account. So, option (a) is correct here.

By using common sense other options can be eliminated. Like option (b) has extreme word like 'totally', which is any how not possible in the near future. So, it should be eliminated. Payment interface has no direct impact on FDI inflows.

Similarly transfer of subsidies to poor will become easier due to UPI but this is the secondary after effect. Due to multiplicity of Banking channels and payment banks, there has been ocean of mobile wallets. How many would you download or maintain as an "app"?- to book a train ticket would you download apps like "MMT, "Yatra""Go Ibibo" or "IRCTC"?

**Correct Answer – (a).**

**69. The terms 'Event Horizon', 'Singularity', 'String Theory' and 'Standard Model' are sometimes seen in the news in the context of**

- (a) Observation and understanding of the Universe
- (b) Study of the solar and the lunar eclipses
- (c) Placing satellites in the orbit of the Earth
- (d) Origin and evolution of living organisms on the Earth

**Explanation:** Easy question, based on the current affairs.

**Standard Model** explains the forces that governs the Universe. **Event horizon** is the imaginary boundary surrounding the black hole from beyond which light cannot escape. The **singularity** constitutes the centre of a black hole and is hidden by the object's surface.

Now apply some thought – we have not heard these terms in the contexts of eclipses, satellite placing and origin and study of organisms on the earth (no where we read these words when we revised our basic geography, ecology NCERTs). So these options can be eliminated.

Understanding and observation of universe is nowadays a hot topic.

**Correct Answer – (a).**

**70. With reference to agriculture in India, how can the technique of 'genome sequencing', often seen in the news, be used in the immediate future?**

1. Genome sequencing can be used to identify genetic markers for disease resistance and drought tolerance in various crop plants.
2. This technique helps in reducing the time required to develop new varieties of crop plants.
3. It can be used to decipher the host-pathogen relationships in crops.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Explanation:** Difficult question.



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This is a tough question because of typical scientific facts. None of our group members had read about this "genome sequence" but still we marked the right answer. This happened due to application of "thinking stimulus".

The question is about **genome sequencing** means something related to **genetically modified organisms** in agriculture like GM crops, seeds etc. Every serious aspirants know that GM crops are important to improve resistance against diseases, extreme natural conditions like drought, flood, salinity etc. Statement-1 is about **identification of marker** (using "sequence" instead of checking the full genomic code) in different diseases resistance and drought tolerant crops. So this is correct because it has close relation with the objective of genetic modification.

Statement-2 is having positive connotation as it reduces time in developing such crops. So this must be true.

Even you don't know about the correctness of statement-3 but only option (d) has the suitable combination of statement-1 and statement-2 irrespective of statement-3.

**Correct Answer – (d).**

**71. The main advantage of the parliamentary form of government is that**

- (a) the executive and legislature work independently.
- (b) it provides continuity of policy and is more efficient.
- (c) the executive remains responsible to the legislature.
- (d) the head of the government cannot be changed without election.

**Explanation:** Easy Question.

It is a simple question based on NCERT. The basic feature of Parliamentary form of govt. is "*the executive remains responsible to the legislature*". Moreover, "**No Confidence**" motion has its existence only because **the executives are responsible to the legislature**.

**Correct Answer – (c).**

**72. In the context of India, which one of the following is the correct relationship between Rights and Duties?**

- (a) Rights are correlative with Duties.
- (b) Rights are personal and hence independent of society and Duties.
- (c) Rights, not Duties, are important for the advancement of the personality of the citizen.
- (d) Duties, not Rights, are important for the stability of the State.

**Explanation:** Intermediate/medium question.

This statement is directly mentioned in the M. Lakshmikanth book. "Rights and duties are correlative and inseparable."

By using common sense - except statement of option (a) other options' statements reflects *divergence* between Rights and Duties. Option (d) is absurd, it talks of "cherry picking" ideology meaning "*ki sab kuchh chahiye but I won't do anything*". Hence (a) must be the correct option.

**Correct Answer – (a).**

**73. The mind of the makers of the Constitution of India is reflected in which of the following?**

- (a) The Preamble
- (b) The Fundamental Rights
- (c) The Directive Principles of State Policy
- (d) The Fundamental Duties

**Explanation:** Easy question, based on preamble which truly reflects the objectives and mind of the constitution makers of India. Also, remember that Preamble means "index" and its origin from the "Objective resolution" proposed by Pandit Nehru.

**Correct Answer – (a).**

**74. If you travel by road from Kohima to Kottayam, what is the minimum number of States within India through which you can travel, including the origin and the destination?**

- (a) 6
- (b) 7

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- (c) 8
- (d) 9

**Explanation:** Intermediate/medium question

It needs precise knowledge of the Indian map. But, are you not preparing for an 'All India' service exam? Hence, the first thing one should do is to memorise the India Physical and Political map (*Ratta mar lo*) - No excuse



Correct Answer – (b).

**75. The Parliament of India exercises control over the functions of the Council of Ministers through**

1. Adjournment motion
2. Question hour
3. Supplementary questions

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Explanation:** Easy question. All are the mechanisms through which parliament exercises control over the Council of Ministers. Executives are supposed to function under constant auditory vision of the parliament. Motions, question hour are nothing but components to support "auditor vision".

Correct Answer – (d).

**76. With reference to the Parliament of India, consider the following statements:**

1. A private member's bill is a bill presented by a Member of Parliament who is not elected but only nominated by the President of India.
2. Recently, a private member's bill has been passed in the Parliament of India for the first time in its history.

Aspirants are expected to avoid the error of judgement, measurement and omission.

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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

**Explanation:** Easy question.

Private member bill means bill introduced by member of the house other than ministers *including nominated members*. So first statement is wrong. By using logic this statement seems wrong as it contains the extreme word "only" nominated members.

Similarly, second statement also contains the extreme word "first time" in its History. So this is also wrong by logic. Why – Indian constitution is based on parliamentary governance? Now, after 91<sup>st</sup> amendment to the constitution, there is a limit to the size of council of ministers. But parliamentary governance calls for deliberation. So ask yourself, are only the ministers allowed to raise bills? The members who are in opposition or non-ministers are also selected to the house by "people's mandate", so, is it possible to limit their exercise of deliberation and give exclusive rights to ministers?

Clearly, the answer is "no".

Note - 14 private members bill have been passed since 1952.

**Correct Answer – (d).**

**77. With reference to the difference between the culture of Rigvedic Aryans and Indus Valley people, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. Rigvedic Aryans used the coat of mail and helmet in warfare whereas the people of Indus Valley Civilization did not leave any evidence of using them.
2. Rigvedic Aryans knew gold, silver and copper whereas Indus Valley people knew only copper and iron.
3. Rigvedic Aryans had domesticated the horse whereas there is no evidence of Indus Valley people having been aware of this animal.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Explanation:-** Intermediate/medium question.

This is a factual question and also it is difficult to recall tiny and ambiguous details required here. This question deserves respect and should be left unless you know those tiny details.

**Iron was unknown to Indus civilisation**, so statement 2 is wrong. Hence, remove option (b) and (d).

Statement-3 - Evidence of horse in Indus civilisation is ambiguous (scholars are divided). But as per the NCERT, Indus people were aware of this animal. For Rigvedic period - Chariot racing, Ashvamedha yajan are the evidences of horse domestication by Rigveda people. Hence, statement-3 should also be wrong.

**Correct Answer – (a).**

**78. Recognition of Prior Learning Scheme' is sometimes mentioned in the news with reference to**

- (a) Certifying the skills acquired by construction workers through traditional channels.
- (b) Enrolling the persons in Universities for distance learning programmes.
- (c) Reserving some skilled jobs to rural and urban poor in some public sector undertakings.
- (d) Certifying the skills acquired by trainees under the National Skill Development Programme.

**Explanation:** Easy question.

'Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Scheme' is one of the components of Skill India mission. Let's assume that you didn't know about RPL Scheme. How would you solve this?

Start elimination - RPL means that you will get a certificate which will act as documented proof of your learning. Why would you go to a university to do that? RPL is a boon to people who have **learned while they earn**. Hence, option (b) and (c) are certainly not the answer.

'Recognition of prior learning' has nothing to do with enrolment in Universities, reservation of jobs and certification of acquired skill under NSDP. Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified under RPL component of PMKVY. In National Skill development programme, the



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trainee may not have any "prior" learning and the basic theme of RPL is "prior". Hence option (d) is a misfit. Our answer is (a), and you know now, why it is (a).

**Correct Answer - (a).**

**79. From the ecological point of view, which one of the following assumes importance in being a good link between the Eastern Ghats and the Western Ghats?**

- (a) Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
- (b) Nallamala Forest
- (c) Nagarhole National Park
- (d) Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve

**Explanation:** Factual question.

It is a tough question because of the difficulty in memorising various facts of different fields. In many books the meeting point of eastern ghat and western ghat is Nilgiri Hills. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve is a wildlife corridor in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve between the Western Ghats and the rest of the Eastern Ghats, serving as a genetic link to contiguous protected areas. We do not know the exact location of this reserve. At best we can remove Seshachalam Biosphere reserve (it is not in Nilgiri ) and Nallamala Forest. Such a question should be left to avoid negative marking.

**Correct Answer - (a).**

**80. One of the implications of equality in society is the absence of**

- (a) Privileges
- (b) Restraints
- (c) Competition
- (d) Ideology

**Explanation:** Easy question provided you have read M. Lakshmikanth diligently. *Equality means absence of privileges.*

Now, consider that you haven't read Laxmikanth. Think what privileges mean - preferential treatment to someone on a certain ground. If this is absent then equality is possible. Absence of restraints, competition and ideology do not bring equality in its literal meaning. So option (a) is correct.

**Correct Answer - (a).**

**81. Consider the following statements in respect of Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC):**

1. TRAFFIC is a bureau under United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. The mission of TRAFFIC is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Explanation:** Factual question. However, even if you have forgotten bodies and programmes of UNEP, you can still solve this question (Using "Thinking Stimulus")

UNEP mostly looks after Climate change and related aspects like global warming by greenhouse gases, ozone depletion etc. But this question is related to trade of fauna (ANIMAL PARTS/LIVE SPECIMEN) and flora (plants). Conservation of flora and fauna is the domain of IUCN (like preparing IUCN Red list of threatened wild plants and animals) and WWF. So statement (1) is wrong.

Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce is the full form of TRAFFIC. Nowadays, everybody is talking about sustainability - Sustainable development in every aspect of life (SDG -2030). Trade is one of the aspect of life. Statement 2 talks of sustainable trade in wild fauna and flora as its mission. So, there is convergence of statement 2 with full form of TRAFFIC. Hence statement (2) is correct.

**Correct Answer - (b).**



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**82. Which principle among the following was added to the Directive Principles of State Policy by the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution?**

- (a) Equal pay for equal work for both men and women
- (b) Participation of workers in the management of industries
- (c) Right to work, education and public assistance
- (d) Securing living wage and human conditions of work to workers

**Explanation:** Difficult question due to demand of specific details of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitution amendment. It is really hard to recall each and every facts of even an important constitution amendment.

42<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 made significant changes to multiple parts of the constitution. "Participation of workers in the management of industries (Article 43A)" was introduced as one of the DPSP by 42<sup>nd</sup> amendment of the constitution.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**83. Which one of the following statements is correct?**

- (a) Rights are claims of the State against the citizens.
- (b) Rights are privileges which are incorporated in the Constitution of a State.
- (c) Rights are claims of the citizens against the State.
- (d) Rights are privileges of a few citizens against the many.

**Explanation:** Intermediate/medium question.

**Rights** means some kind of claims. Citizens are the subjects of the state and rights enable them to make demand from the state. Also, think of what you had studied in "Fundamental Rights". These rights "limit" state action and hence are a claim against arbitrary station action. So option (c) is correct.

**Correct Answer – (c).**

**84. Which of the following gives 'Global Gender Gap Index' ranking to the countries of the world?**

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) UN Human Rights Council
- (c) UN Women
- (d) World Health Organization

**Explanation:** Factual question. Attempt only when you exactly know the answer. Since last 4 years UPSC is compulsory asking the report, ranking and index based factual question.

**Solution:** There has been a continuous debate over gender-centric development. Many International bodies publish reports to expose this divided growth/development and loss of opportunity (for women). For example, UNDP (as we all know) publishes HDI (India is at 131 position). To expose male biased development paradigm, it also publishes Gender Inequality Index.

Now, during your preparation stage, you must have gone through these reports. But, the challenge is to "recall" them during actual exam. Herein, "Thinking Stimulus will help you find the right answer. If you see the options given, you can very well remove WHO and UN HRC. Why? Because WHO deals with health related facts and hence does not cover overall gender dimension. Similarly, UNHRC is concerned with Human rights violation/abuses and does not necessarily have to factor in women.

Let's come to UN Women. This can be a possible answer, but *this body is mainly concerned with being a facilitator, advisor to women's rights*. So far, it has not ventured out to review gender gap related reports (none so far as we have studied them during our UPSC preparations).

**Correct Answer – (a).**

**85. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Smart India Hackathon 2017?**

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme for developing every city of our country into Smart Cities in a decade.
2. It is an initiative to identify new digital technology innovations for solving the many problems faced by our country.

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3. It is a programme aimed at making all the financial transactions in our country completely digital in a decade.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Explanation:** Factual question.

It is tough question. Ohh really...??? Come- on, logic lagao yaaron!

Break hackathon – **hack + athon**, implies a big event related to **hacking activities** (generally occurs in the digital world and hampers digital activities). Statement 1 is about smart cities scheme of Govt. Hence statement-1 is wrong.

Statement-2 appears close enough to the hacking problem faced by digital world and seeks new methods, technology and innovation to cure it. So this statement is correct.

Statement 3 has extreme word “all” and mainly talks **digitisation of financial transaction**. So this is not commensurate with hacking problem. Hence statement-3 is also wrong.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**86. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?**

- 1. It decides the RBI’s benchmark interest rates.
- 2. It is a 12-member body including the Governor of RBI and is reconstituted every year.
- 3. It functions under the chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Explanation:** Easy question.

Though factual but easy because of its references in the latest budget and economic survey. **MPC** was frequently in the news all the year around.

By using logic one can proceed like this - **monetary policy** means decision of **RBI** to regulate money supply in economy by modification/changes of interest rates. So **Monetary Policy committee** means someone who looks after the **monetary policy** and **must be related to RBI**. So statement 1 is correct (this makes option (c) and (d) obsolete, dude - hata do inhe).

Everyone says RBI’s monetary policy should be independent from Government’s influence. So **MPC** must function under the **chairmanship of RBI Governor** to maintain its autonomy, not under a Union Minister. Hence statement 3 is wrong.

Earlier monetary policy was exercised by a single person i.e. RBI governor. Now entrusting same responsibility to 12 members, don't you think “वही काम कुछ ज्यादा लोगों को दे दिया गया - **Disguised unemployment...**” So statement-2 is also wrong. These is a committee - but not of 12 but 6 members.

**Correct Answer – (a).**

**87. With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is a song and dance performance.
- 2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance.
- 3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Explanation:** Intermediate/medium question.

This question becomes easy if we attempt it using “common sense”.

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"Sankirtana" is pointing toward religious performance. Statement- 2 says - the **only** musical instrument used are "cymbals". It is an **extreme** word and can be eliminated. Hence statement 2 is wrong. Thus options (a) and (c) are automatically eliminated.

Now according to both options (b) and (d) statement 1 is correct, meaning **sankirtana** is a song and drama performance. *Dekho na magic.... Thank you UPSC !!! if you see the whole paper...UPSC has tried to help us....*

Now jump to statement-3 which talks about the life of Lord Krishna. We all know that Manipuri classical dance and other folklore mostly focuses on the deeds and life events of "Lord Krishna". He is the epitome of love, affection and *mischief*. So statement 3 is correct.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**88. Who among the following was/were associated with the introduction of Ryotwari Settlement in India during the British rule?**

1. Lord Cornwallis
2. Alexander Read
3. Thomas Munro

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Explanation:** *Factual and Easy question. Options are framed in a manner that the correct answer can be easily figured out. We all know that Lord Cornwallis implemented permanent settlement (1793). So statement 1 is wrong. Thus option (a), (b) and (d) automatically get eliminated.*

**Correct Answer – (c).**

**89. In the context of solving pollution problems, what is/are the advantage/advantages of bioremediation technique?**

1. It is a technique for cleaning up pollution by enhancing the same biodegradation process that occurs in nature.
2. Any contaminant with heavy metals such as cadmium and lead can be readily and completely treated by bioremediation using microorganisms.
3. Genetic engineering can be used to create microorganisms specifically designed for bioremediation.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Explanation:** *Intermediate/medium question.*

Just a basic knowledge about the bio- remediation process and microorganisms can help us here in solving this question.

Bioremediation means remediation done *biologically*. Look at Statement-2. It says **any** contaminant with metals can be **readily and completely** (these are extreme words) eliminated by bioremediation. Till now we have not heard about any **panacea** for all pollution problems in bioremediation. So statement 2 is wrong. Thus options (b) and (d) are eliminated.

According to Both options (a) & (c), statement 1 is correct.

Nowadays genetic engineering is widely used for designing specific microorganism for the purpose of bioremediation. E.g. oil zapper bacteria, Bacteria of Hybrid Toilet designed by DRDO. So statement 3 is also correct.

**Correct Answer – (c).**

**90. The Trade Disputes Act of 1929 provided for**

- (a) the participation of workers in the management of industries.
- (b) arbitrary powers to the management to quell industrial disputes.

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- (c) an intervention by the British Court in the event of a trade dispute.
- (d) a system of tribunals and a ban on strikes.

**Explanation:** Factual question.

As all options are talking about trade, industries, management, workers, strikes, so it is difficult to figure out the correct answer. Leave this question unless you know the answer.

*Trade Disputes Act of 1929 forbade trade union activity of coercive or purely political nature and even sympathetic strikes. It created a system of tribunals.*

**Correct Answer – (d).**

**91. Local self-government can be best explained as an exercise in**

- (a) Federalism
- (b) Democratic decentralisation
- (c) Administrative delegation
- (d) Direct democracy

**Explanation:** Easy question.

Local self govt. like Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban local bodies were introduced in India as "institutions promoting" democratic decentralisation.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**92. Consider the following statements:**

With reference to the Constitution of India, the Directive Principles of State Policy constitute limitations upon

1. legislative function.
2. executive function.

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

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

**Explanation:** Easy question.

**Directive Principles of state Policies** are the **directions, principles, guidelines** to states (legislative and executives) while framing laws, by-laws, policies and performing duties. These are meant to facilitate states. Thus DPSPs do not pose any limitations on the functions (legislative and executives) of the state. It is the fundamental rights that constitute limitations upon state action (whether legislative or executive).

**Correct Answer – (d).**

**93. The term 'Digital Single Market Strategy' seen in the news refers to**

- (a) ASEAN
- (b) BRICS
- (c) EU
- (d) G20

**Explanation:** Factual question..

However, it becomes easier with common sense. See how? For "Digital single Market strategy" we need high digital literacy and robust digital infrastructures. Developed regions have such suitable conditions to implement digital single market.

Among given options except EU, other groups like ASEAN, BRICS and G20 are developing regions. They have neither extensive digital infrastructure nor high digital literacy. Moreover, ASEAN, BRICS and G20 economies are not even close to be an "European Union" which is a pre-cursor to implementation of Digital **Single Market strategy**". Hence EU is the correct answer.

**Correct Answer - (c).**

**94. At one of the places in India, if you stand on the seashore and watch the sea, you will find that the sea water recedes from the shore line a few kilometres and comes back to the shore,**



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twice a day, and you can actually walk on the sea floor when the water recedes. This unique phenomenon is seen at

- (a) Bhavnagar
- (b) Bheemunipatnam
- (c) Chandipur
- (d) Nagapattinam.

**Explanation:** Difficult question.

It is unorthodox unusual question. Such questions are designed to tempt candidates. So bas *aage badhne ka...."*

One of our group member did attempt this question. He mentioned that "somewhere "he had heard this word "*Chandipur on sea*" – he applied "on sea" word to mean that there could be recession of sea water. You may call it pure luck – he says it was "selective application" of a logic.

Correct answer is Chandipur. Here unlike other beaches, the sea water recedes away from the shore line *about five km twice a day*, an unusual phenomenon.

**Correct Answer – (c).**

**95. With reference to the 'Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988 (PBPT Act)', consider the following statements:**

1. A property transaction is not treated as a benami transaction if the owner of the property is not aware of the transaction.
2. Properties held benami are liable for confiscation by the Government.
3. The Act provides for three authorities for investigations but does not provide for any appellate mechanism.

Which of the statements .given above is/are correct?

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

**Explanation:** Difficult question.

It is a tricky question. *First impression suggests ki act ke bare me full padh ke aana tha...but think...kitna and kitne saare act padhoge? Is there a limit ?*

Now use the magic of "thinking stimulus". During your upsc preparation you must have observed that every small to big dispute-prone action of Govt. (from income tax, debt recovery, enforcement, TRAI, etc.) has a provision of appellate mechanism. Also, as per natural justice (and multilateral trade, energy agreements) - it is must for a constitutional government to provide for an appellate mechanism. This provision is the litmus test for "separation of power" between executive and judiciary. Then how could it be possible that Benami Property related matter does not have any appellate mechanism? Think..?? So statement 3 is wrong, eliminate options (c) & (d).

Also statement 1 is incorrect. Why? Because "be-naami" means no clear title of the concerned "property". Obviously, owner of the property might not be aware of the transaction.

Everybody knows that Benami property transaction is a crime. These are the method of money laundering. Thus logically such property should be liable for confiscation by Govt. So statement 2 is correct.

Hence option (b) is correct.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**96. Due to some reasons, if there is a huge fall in the population of species of butterflies, what could be its likely consequence/consequences?**

1. Pollination of some plants could be adversely affected.
2. There could be a drastic increase in the fungal infections of some cultivated plants.
3. It could lead to a fall in the population of some species of wasps, spiders and birds.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

# "aim4mains" - because, you can !

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

**Explanation:** Intermediate/medium question.

We all know that Butterflies are pollinating agents, hence a huge fall in their population will certainly affect some plants adversely like flowering/fruit plants. So statement 1 is correct.

Statement 2 has extreme word "Drastic" increase of fungal infections. So chances of being correct (or universally valid) is minimal. Thus statement 2 is wrong. So options (b) & (d) are eliminated.

Environment is complex and species are directly or indirectly interacting with each other. Species of wasps, spiders and birds have direct interaction with plants which are, in turn, affected by Butterflies. So possibility of fall in population of those species due to fall in butterfly population is genuine. So statement 3 is correct.

**Correct Answer – (c).**

**97. It is possible to produce algae based biofuels, but what is/are the likely limitation(s) of developing countries in promoting this industry?**

1. Production of algae based biofuels is possible in seas only and not on continents.
2. Setting up and engineering the algae based biofuel production requires high level of expertise/technology until the construction is completed.
3. Economically viable production necessitates the setting up of large scale facilities which may raise ecological and social concerns.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Explanation:** Intermediate/medium question.

Even though you don't know the exact facts, you can solve it by using "common sense".

Question is about algae based biofuels productions. We all know that algae (type of plant) can be produced in watery conditions and in presence of sunlight, irrespective of the location (like ponds/lakes in continent or seas/oceans). So statement 1 is wrong. Option (a) & (d) are eliminated.

Look at statement 2, everyone knows that setting up new infrastructure and suitable engineered modification of any fuel requires high level expertise/technology. Engineering itself is the domain of expertise and technology. So statement 2 is correct.

Only option (b) consists of statement-2.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**98. Which of the following are the objectives of 'National Nutrition Mission'?**

1. To create awareness relating to malnutrition among pregnant women and lactating mothers.
2. To reduce the incidence of anaemia among young children, adolescent girls and women.
3. To promote the consumption of millets, coarse cereals and unpolished rice.
4. To promote the consumption of poultry eggs.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Explanation:-** Factual question. All given statements are related to nutrition and relevant to question. Options are framed in such a manner that makes it difficult to figure out the correct answer. (so pranam karo aur aage badho....)

According to PIB except statement 3 all remaining statements have been mentioned as the objectives of "National Nutritional Mission".

**Correct Answer – (c).**

**99. Consider the following statements:**

Aspirants are expected to avoid the error of judgement, measurement and omission.

# "aim4mains" - because, you can !

1. The Factories Act, 1881 was passed with a view to fix the wages of industrial workers and to allow the workers to form trade unions.
  2. N.M. Lokhande was a pioneer in organizing the labour movement in British India. Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Explanation:** Factual question. Attempt it only when you know the answer of the question.

Here is the solution: - Lord Ripon introduced the Factory Act of 1881 to *improve the service condition of the factory workers in India*. The Act banned the appointment of children below the age of seven in factories and reduced their working hours. It was made compulsory for all dangerous machines in the factories to be properly fenced to ensure security to the workers. Hence this Act did not talk about fixing wages of industrial workers. Thus statement 1 is wrong.

In Bombay, middle class philanthropic efforts to improve labour conditions began fairly early with N.M. Lokhande starting weekly Dinabandhu in 1880. Hence statement 2 is correct.

**Correct Answer – (b).**

**100. In the context of mitigating the impending global warming due to anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide, which of the following can be the potential sites for carbon sequestration?**

1. Abandoned and uneconomic coal seams
2. Depleted oil and gas reservoirs
3. Subterranean deep saline formations

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Explanation:** Difficult question, due to presence of typical scientific facts.

But see the beauty of “thinking stimulus”... **Carbon sequestration** describes *long-term storage of carbon dioxide or other forms of carbon to either mitigate or defer global warming and avoid dangerous climate change.*

It is a kind of dumping and where do we dump the garbage? “The places which are presently not in use for any commercial/economic purposes and have been practically abandoned”. Right?

Based on this premise ‘Abandoned and uneconomic coal seams’, ‘Depleted oil and gas reservoirs’ and ‘Subterranean deep saline formations’ do not have any direct economic use. Their potentials are either exhausted or harnessing the remaining potential is practically not feasible. So these places can be used for dumping (storing) the Carbon. So, all three options are the potential sites for carbon sequestrations.

**Correct Answer – (d).**