

1. Ans-B

Such a specific resolution must be passed by the state assembly by a special majority.

This Act of Parliament is not to be deemed as an amendment of the Constitution for the purposes of Article 368 and is passed like an ordinary piece of legislation (ie, by simple majority).

2. Ans-A

The provisions of Article 1 (declaring India as a Union of states and its territory) is applicable to J&K.

The President can declare that Article 370 ceases to be operative or operates with exceptions and modifications. However, this can be done by the President only on the recommendation of Constituent Assembly of the state.

Part VI of the Constitution of India (dealing with state governments) is not applicable to this state. The very definition of 'state' under this part does not include the State of J&K.

Part IV and Part IV-A are not applicable to the state.

3. Ans-D

Articles 371 to 371-J in Part XXI of the constitution contain special provisions for eleven states

1. Article 371 - Maharashtra and Gujarat
2. Article 371 A - Nagaland
3. Article 371 B - Assam
4. Article 371 C - Manipur
5. Articles 371-D & 371-E - Andhra Pradesh
6. Article 371-F - Sikkim
7. Article 371-G - Mizoram
8. Article 371-H - Arunachal Pradesh
9. Article 371-I - Goa
10. Article 371-J - Karnataka

4. Ans-C

Part III (dealing with Fundamental Rights) is applicable to the state with some exceptions and conditions. The Fundamental Right to Property is still guaranteed in the state.

5. Ans-D

6. Ans-C

The same person can be appointed as Governor for two or more States at the same time.

The governor has no security of tenure and no fixed term of office. He may be removed by the President at any time.

The judges of a high court are appointed by the President. The chief justice is appointed by the President after consultation with the chief justice of India and the governor of the state concerned.

In the case of a Union Territory having a legislative setup, the chief minister is appointed by the President (not by the Lt. governor). The other ministers are appointed by the president on the advice of the chief minister.

7. Ans-A

The provision of joint sitting is applicable to ordinary bills or financial bills only and not to money bills or Constitutional amendment bills. In the case of a money bill, the Lok Sabha has overriding powers, while a Constitutional amendment bill must be passed by each House separately.

8. Ans-B

Rajya Sabha has been given two exclusive or special powers that are not enjoyed by the Lok Sabha:

1. It can authorise the Parliament to make a law on a subject enumerated in the State List.
2. It can authorise the Parliament to create new All-India Services common to both the Centre and states

9. Ans-B

Question Hour is the first hour of every parliamentary sitting. (and not zero hour)

The zero hour is not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure.

Thus it is an informal device available to the members of the Parliament to raise matters without any prior notice.

The zero hour starts immediately after the question hour and lasts until the agenda for the day (ie, regular business of the House) is taken up.

It is an Indian innovation in the field of parliamentary procedures.

It has been in existence since 1962.

10. Ans-B

The budget goes through the following six stages in the Parliament:

1. Presentation of budget.
2. General discussion.
3. Scrutiny by departmental committees.

4. Voting on demands for grants.

5. Passing of appropriation bill .

6. Passing of finance bill .

11. Ans-A

RajyaSabha can only discuss the budget but can not vote on the demands for grants (which is the exclusive privilege of the LokSabha).

12. Ans-D

The appointment, posting and promotion of district judges in a state are made by the governor of the state in consultation with the high court .

13. Ans-A

The position with respect to lapsing of bills is as follows:

1. A bill pending in the LokSabha lapses (whether originating in the LokSabha or transmitted to it by the RajyaSabha).

2. A bill passed by the LokSabha but pending in the RajyaSabha lapses.

3. A bill not passed by the two Houses due to disagreement and if the president has notified the holding of a joint sitting before the dissolution of Lok Sabha, does not lapse.

4. A bill pending in the RajyaSabha but not passed by the LokSabha does not lapse.

5. A bill passed by both Houses but pending assent of the president does not lapse.

6. A bill passed by both Houses but returned by the president for reconsideration of Houses does not lapse.

14. Ans-D

The Chief Justice of India must consult a collegium of judges. After this the President of India gives orders for the transfer of judges, even while the high courts come under the administrative control of the SC.

15. Ans-A

The governor in the states has much more discretion as compared to the President at the Centre. He is not bound by the aid and advice of the council of ministers. The council can advise him even after resignation to maintain political continuity.

16. C

First statement is correct because the primary market of commodity trading is the market of raw products. Secondary market is the commodity exchanges. Second statement is also correct because commodity exchanges provide both spot as well as derivative market facilities

17. **Participatory Notes** commonly known as **P-Notes** or **PNs** are instruments issued by registered foreign [institutional investors](#) (FII) to overseas investors, who wish to invest in the Indian stock markets without registering themselves with the market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India - [SEBI](#). However, they are not used within the country. They are used outside India for making investments in shares listed in the Indian stock market. That is why they are also called **offshore derivative instruments**. [SEBI](#) permitted foreign institutional investors to register and participate in the Indian stock market in 1992. Investing through P-Notes is very simple and hence very popular amongst foreign institutional investors.

18. C.

Monetary policy refers to the policy of the central bank – ie Reserve Bank of India – in matters of interest rates, [money supply](#) and availability of credit.

It is through the monetary policy, RBI controls [inflation](#) in the country.

RBI uses various monetary instruments like [REPO rate](#), [Reverse RERO rate](#), [SLR](#), [CRR](#) etc to achieve its purpose. (This is explained well in one of our earlier articles – [basics of economy concepts](#)).

In short, Monetary policy refers to the use of **monetary instruments** under the control of the **central bank** to regulate magnitudes such as interest rates, money supply and availability of credit with a view to achieving the **ultimate objective of economic policy**.

How does Reserve Bank of India get its mandate to conduct monetary policy?

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is vested with the responsibility of conducting monetary policy. This responsibility is explicitly mandated under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

What is the main goal of Monetary Policy of India?

Maintain price stability.

The primary objective of monetary policy is to maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth. Price stability is a necessary precondition to sustainable growth.

To maintain price stability, inflation needs to be controlled. The government of India sets an inflation target for every five years. RBI has an important role in the consultation process regarding inflation targeting. The current inflation targeting framework in India is flexible in nature.

Flexible Inflation Targeting Framework (FITF)

- **Flexible Inflation Targeting Framework:** Now there is a flexible inflation targeting framework in India (after the 2016 amendment to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934).

- **Who sets inflation target in India:** The amended RBI Act provides for the inflation target to be set by the Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, once in every five years.

- **Current Inflation Target:** The Central Government has notified **4 percent Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation as the target** for the period from August 5, 2016, to March 31, 2021, with the upper tolerance limit of 6 percent and the lower tolerance limit of 2 percent.

- **Factors that constitute a failure to achieve the inflation target:** (1) the average inflation is more than the upper tolerance level of the inflation target for any three consecutive quarters, OR (2) the average inflation is less than the lower tolerance level for any three consecutive quarters.

19. B

- Gross domestic saving = Gross Domestic Product - final consumption.

- When people save, they tend to invest. Some part of this GDS will be re-invested back, and that is called gross capital formation. The percentage of the investment made each year out of the total GDP is called Gross Capital Formation. So, Rate of Gross Capital Formation is arrived as follows: Rate of Capital Formation = $(\text{Investments} / \text{GDP}) \times 100$

- An increase in GDS may not lead to an increase in investment as investment depends on a number of other factors also.

20. C .What is NPA?

- The assets of the banks which don't perform (that is - don't bring any return) are called Non Performing Assets (NPA) or bad loans. Bank's assets are the loans and advances given to customers. If customers don't pay either interest or part of principal or both, the loan turns into bad loan.

- According to RBI, terms loans on which interest or installment of principal remain overdue for a period of more than 90 days from the end of a particular quarter is called a Non-performing Asset.

- However, in terms of Agriculture / Farm Loans; the NPA is defined as under-For short duration crop agriculture loans such as paddy, Jowar, Bajra etc. if the loan (installment / interest) is not paid for 2 crop seasons, it would be termed as a NPA. For Long Duration Crops, the above would be 1 Crop season from the due date.

Reasons for the rise in NPA in recent years

- GDP slowdown -Between early 2000's and 2008 Indian economy were in the boom phase. During this period Banks especially Public sector banks lent extensively to corporate. However, the profits of most of the corporate dwindled due to slowdown in the global economy, the ban in mining projects, and delay in environmental related permits affecting power, iron and steel sector, volatility in prices of raw material and the shortage in availability of. This has affected their ability to pay back loans and is the most important reason behind increase in NPA of public sector banks.

- One of the main reasons of rising NPA is the relaxed lending norms especially for corporate honchos when their financial status and credit rating is not analyzed properly. Also, to face competition banks are hugely selling unsecured loans which attributes to the level of NPAs.

- 5 sectors Textile, aviation, mining, Infrastructure contributes to most of the NPA, since most of the loan given in these sector are by PSB, They account for most of the NPA.

- Public Sector banks provide around 80% of the credit to industries and it is this part of the credit distribution that forms a great chunk of NPA. Last year, when kingfisher was marred in financial crisis, SBI provided it huge amount of loan which it is not able to recover from it.

- There is a myth that main reason for rise in NPA in Public sector banks was Priority sector lending, However according to the findings of Standing Committee on Finance NPAs in the corporate sector are far higher than those in the priority or agriculture sector. However, even the PSL sector has contributed substantially to the NPAs. As per the latest estimates by the SBI, education loans constitute 20% of its NPAs.

- The Lack of Bankruptcy code in India and sluggish legal system make it difficult for banks to recover these loans from both corporate and non-corporate.

Other factors

- Banks did not conducted adequate contingency planning, especially for mitigating project risk. They did not factor eventualities like failure of gas projects to ensure supply of gas or failure of land acquisition process for highways.

- Restructuring of loan facility was extended to companies that were facing larger problems of over-leverage & inadequate profitability. This problem was more in the Public sector banks.

- Companies with dwindling debt repayment capacity were raising more & more debt from the system.

21. D.

22. D

- Capital inflows allow the recipient country to invest and consume more.

- Capital inflows facilitate the attainment of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the objective of national economic, empowerment and development strategy (NEEDs).

- As the economy becomes more open and integrated with the rest of the world, capital flows will contribute significantly to the transformation of the developing economy.

- Capital inflows are also necessary for macroeconomic stability as capital inflows affect a wide range of macroeconomic

variables such as exchange rates, interest rates, foreign exchange reserves, domestic monetary conditions as well as saving and investments.

- Some commonly observed effects of the capital inflows that have been documented include real exchange rate appreciation, stock market and real estate boom, reserve accumulation, monetary expansion as well as effect on production and consumption

23. **B**

Liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) is a monetary policy which allows banks to borrow money through repurchase agreements. LAF consists of repo and reverse repo operations.

24. **A**

The preference shares are safer investments than the equity shares. In case the company is wound up and its assets (land, buildings, offices, machinery, furniture, etc) are being sold, the money that comes from this sale is given to the shareholders. After all, shareholders invest in a business and own a portion of it. Please note that usually, the preference shares are most commonly issued by companies to institutions.

That means, it is out of the reach of the retail investor. For example, banks and financial institutions may want to invest in a company but do not want to bother with the hassles of fluctuating share prices. In that case, they would prefer to invest in a company's preference shares. Companies, on the other hand, may need money but are unwilling to take a loan. So they will issue preference shares. The banks and financial institutions will buy the shares and the company gets the money it needs. This will appear in the company's balance sheet as 'capital' and not as debt (which is what would have happened if they had taken a loan). Preference Shares are NOT traded in stock exchange. This also means they are not 'liquid' assets; there's little scope for the price of these shares to move up or down. On the other hand, ordinary or equity shares are traded in the markets and their prices go up and down depending on supply and demand for the stock. But, that does not mean the investor is stuck with his shares. After a fixed period, a preference shareholder can sell his/her preference shares back to the company. This cannot be done with the ordinary shares. Ordinary shares can be only sold to another buyer in stock market. One can sell the ordinary shares back to the company only if the company announces a buyback offer.

25. **A**

The first statement is correct while second is incorrect. A company may issue shares at a discount i.e. at a value below its par value under certain conditions such as

The shares must be of a class already issued. A new class of shares cannot be issued at discount.

Issue of the shares at discount must be authorized by resolution passed in the general meeting of company and sanctioned by the company law board.

The resolution must also specify the maximum rate of discount at which the shares are to be issued.

Not less than one year has elapsed from the date on which the company was entitled to commence the business.

The shares to be issued at discount must be issued within 2 months after the date on which issue is sanctioned by the company law board or within extended as may be allowed by the Company Law Board.

Any company could not offer the shares at discount when:

It is a new company

It is a new class of shares even though of an old company

The discount on issue of shares is treated as a loss of capital nature.

26. (b) The followers of Muhammad set up an empire called the Caliphate. The Umayyads and the Abbasids were called the caliphs. They expanded their rule by conquests and spread their religion Islam. In 712 A.D., Muhammad bin Qasim invaded Sind. He was the commander of the Umayyad kingdom. Qasim defeated Dahir, the ruler of Sind and killed him in a well-contested battle.

27. (a) Mahmud is said to have made seventeen raids into India. The initial raids were against the Hindu Shahi kingdom in which its king Jayapala was defeated in 1001. After this defeat, Jayapala immolated himself because he thought that his defeat was a disgrace. His successor Anandapala fought against Mahmud but he was also defeated in the Battle of Waihind, the Hindu Shahi capital near Peshawar in 1008. In 1024, Mahmud marched from Multan across Rajaputana, defeated the Solanki King Bhimadeva I, plundered Anhilwad and sacked the famous temple of Somanatha. Then, he returned through the Sind desert. This was his last campaign in India. Mahmud died in 1030 A.D.

28. (c) Mahmud was considered a hero of Islam by medieval historians. He also patronized art and literature. Firdausi was the poet-laureate in the court of Mahmud. He was the author of Shah Namah. Alberuni stayed in Mahmud's court and wrote the famous Kitab-i-Hind, an account on India. Utbi was the official historian of Yamini dynasty, where the Mahmud of Ghazni belongs to.

29. (d) NCERT fact and previous UPSC question. The question refers to the Persian wheel which was introduced in the medieval age for irrigation.

30. (b) The inscriptions of the Cholas who ruled in Tamil Nadu refer to more than 400 terms for different kinds of taxes. The most frequently mentioned tax is vetti, taken not in cash but in the form of forced labour, and kadamai, or land revenue. There were also taxes on thatching the house, the use of a ladder to climb palm trees, a cess on succession to family property, etc

31. (c) Mahmud of Ghazni was only an invader who plundered Indian wealth to build cities in his kingdom. He never settled in India. But, Ghori instead attacked and ruled over Indian territories and became the first Muslim ruler in India.

32. (c) Unusual for the twelfth century was a long Sanskrit poem containing the history of kings who ruled over Kashmir. It was composed by an author named Kalhana. He used a variety of sources, including inscriptions, documents, eyewitness accounts and earlier histories, to write his account. Unlike the writers of prashastis, he was often critical about rulers and their policies. Rajatarangini (Rājatarāṅgi, "The River of Kings") is a metrical legendary and historical chronicle of the north-western Indian subcontinent, particularly the kings of Kashmir. It was written in Sanskrit by Kashmiri historian Kalhana in the 12th century CE. The work consists of 7826 verses, which are divided into eight books called Tarangas ("waves"). The Rajatarangini provides the earliest source on Kashmir that can be labeled as a "historical" text on this region. Although inaccurate in its chronology, the book still provides an invaluable source of information about early Kashmir and its neighbors in the north western parts of the Indian subcontinent, and has been widely referenced by later historians and ethnographers.

33. (d) Settlements of peasants, known as *ur*, became prosperous with the spread of irrigation agriculture. Groups of such villages formed larger units called *nadu*.

Chola inscriptions mention several categories of land:-

- vellanvagai - land of non-Brahmana peasant proprietors
- brahmadeya - land gifted to Brahmanas
- shalabhoga - land for the maintenance of a school
- devadana, tirunamattukkani - land gifted to temples
- pallichchhandam - land donated to Jaina institutions

34. (a) The Tripartite Struggle for control of northern India took place in the ninth century. The struggle was between the Pratihara Empire, the Pala Empire and the Rashtrakuta Empire. The war fought for centuries between these parties were fought for the control of Kanauj.

35. (d) Coins minted here, called *dehliwal*, had a wide circulation. It was during the period of Tomaras, under their region.

36. (c) The agricultural department, Diwan-i-Kohi was established by Mahmud-bin-Tughlaq. Alai Darwaza was built by AlauddinKhalji. The department called Diwan-i-Khairat was created by FirozTughlaq to take care of orphans and widows. Balban introduced the Persian festival of Nauroz to impress the nobles and people

37. (d) The QutabMinar is a minaret that forms part of the Qutab complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the Mehrauli area of Delhi, India. QutabMinar is a 73-metre (239.5 feet) tall tapering tower of five storeys, with a 14.3 metre (47 feet) base diameter, reducing to 2.7 metres (9 feet) at the peak. It contains a spiral staircase of 379 steps. Its design is thought to have been based on the Minaret of Jam, in western Afghanistan. QutabUd-Din-Aibak, founder of the Delhi Sultanate, started construction of the QutubMinar's first storey around 1192. In 1220, Aibak's successor and son-in-law Iltutmish completed a further three storeys. In 1369, a lightning strike destroyed the top storey. Firoz Shah Tughlaq replaced the damaged storey, and added one more.

38. (b) NCERT based facts.

39. (c) AlauddinKhalji maintained a large permanent standing army and paid them in cash from the royal treasury. According to the Ferishta, he recruited 4,75,000 cavalymen. He introduced the system of *dagh* (branding of horses) and prepared *huliyā* (descriptive list of soldiers). The introduction of paying salaries in cash to the soldiers led to price regulations popularly called as Market Reforms. AlauddinKhalji established four separate markets in Delhi, one for grain; another for cloth, sugar, dried fruits, butter and oil; a third for horses, slaves and cattle; and a fourth for miscellaneous commodities. Each market was under the control of a high officer called *Shahna-iMandi*. The supply of grain was ensured by holding stocks in government store-houses. Regulations were issued to fix the price of all commodities. A separate department called *DiwaniRiyasat* was created under an officer called *Naib-i-Riyasat*. Every merchant was registered under the Market department. There were secret agents called *munhiyans* who sent reports to the Sultan regarding the functioning of these markets.

40. (c) *Padmavat* (or *Padmawat*) is an epic poem written in 1540 by Sufi poet Malik Muhammad Jayasi, who wrote it in the Hindustani language of Awadhi, and originally in the Persian *Nasta'liq* script. It is the oldest extant text among the important works in Awadhi. A famous piece of Sufi literature from the period, it relates an allegorical fictional story about the Delhi Sultan AlauddinKhalji's desire for the titular *Padmavati*, the Queen of Chittor.

41. **Ans: c**

India accounts for 2.4% of the total geographical area of the world and not the land area

42. **Ans: b**

IST Meridian passes through 5 states namely Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

43. **Ans: b**

The *chaibagaan* time or *bagaan* time is introduced by British people about 150 years ago, was set one hour ahead of the Indian Standard Time (IST) for tea estates, collieries and oil industry of Assam. The *bagaan* time will be helpful to save energy, reduce

power consumption and increase productivity. This was introduced because, sun rises about 1 hour early in North East region and sets early. This initiative would save more day light
Recently Guwahatti HC has rejected a plea seeking a direction from the Central government to notify a separate time zone for the Northeast

44. **Ans: c**

Tropic of cancer passes through 8 states namely Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram

45. **Ans: c**

India is the 7th largest country in the world in terms of total geographical extend. Russia, Canada, USA, China, Brazil, Australia are the 6 countries ahead of India in land area in decreasing order of their area.

46. **Ans: d**

The Himalayan uplift out of the Tethys Sea and subsidence of the northern flank of the peninsular plateau resulted in the formation of a large basin. In due course of time this depression, gradually got filled with deposition of sediments by the rivers flowing from the mountains in the north and the peninsular plateau in the south. A flat land of extensive alluvial deposits led to the formation of the northern plains of India.

Peninsular Plateau constitutes one of the ancient landmasses on the earth's surface. It was supposed to be one of the most stable land blocks. The Himalayas and the Northern Plains are the most recent landforms. From the view point of geology, Himalayan Mountains form an unstable zone.

The peninsular plateau is composed of igneous and metamorphic rocks with gently rising hills and wide valleys

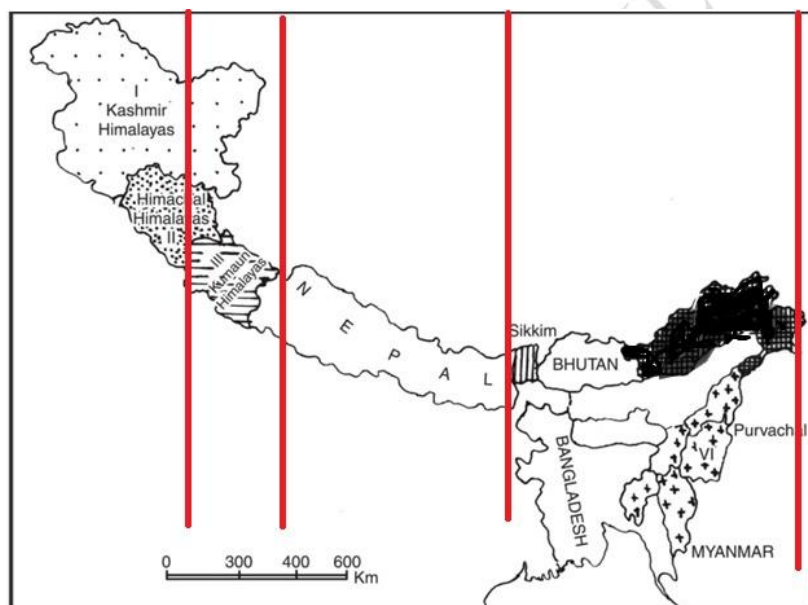
47. **Ans: d**

Even though the altitude of Western Himalayas is higher than the Eastern Himalayas, the altitude variation is greater in the eastern half than in the western half

The 3 ranges of Himalayas are namely

1. Greater Himalaya/ Himadri/ Inner Himalaya
2. Lesser Himalaya/ Himachal/ Middle Himalaya
3. Outer Himalaya/ Shiwaliks/ Sub Himalaya

48. **Ans: b**



49. **Ans: d**

Informative and self-explanatory

50. **Ans: b**

Gondwana coal makes 98% of coal reserves and 99% of the coal production in the country. The Gondwana coal is of low calorific value and high ash content owing to its drift origin. It is found in the Damodar, Mahanadi, Godavari, Son and Narmada valleys.

51. **Ans: c**

Karewas are The Kashmir Himalayas are also famous for Karewa formations, which are useful for the cultivation of Zafran, a local variety of saffron thick deposits of glacial clay and other materials embedded with moraines.

52. **Ans: d**

Informative and self-explanatory.

53. **Ans: d**

Jhelum river in its youth stage forms meanders in the Kashmir valley which forms the local base level, favourable for lateral flow. This valley also accommodates Dal Lake

Eastern Himalayan rivers have high rate of fall or in other words Eastern Himalayas have high rate of change in altitude, favourable for hydro power generation

Loktak lake in Manipur has floating islands, called Phumdis. These are heterogeneous mass of vegetation, soil and organic matter in different stages of decay. This mass constitutes lake's largest floating park, Keibul Lamjao, which houses Sangai, an endangered deer species

54. **Ans: a**

Banni Grasslands Reserve or Banni grasslands form a belt of arid grassland ecosystem on the outer southern edge of the desert of the marshy salt flats of Rann of Kutch.

55. **Ans: b**

Arunachal Himalayas are conspicuous by the absence of the Shiwalik formations. In place of the Shiwaliks here, the 'duar formations' are important, which have also been used for the development of tea gardens. Duars are the alluvial floodplains in northeastern India that lie south of the outer foothills of the Himalayas and north of the Brahmaputra River basin. The tea gardens of Darjeeling is situated in these formations

Bhotia's are the nomadic groups who migrate to the summer grasslands in the higher reaches of Himadri during summer months and return to the valleys during winters. They inhabit the Great Himalayan valleys

The hill stations of North Western Himalayas are situated at an altitude of 1000-2000 meters in the Lesser Himalayas. The climate here which is similar to the British climate attracted the British administrations to construct the hill stations

The longitudinal valley which is unusually wide and long that lies between two intermittent ranges of the Himalayas bounded on all sides by mountains in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Uttarakhand are called Duns. Dehra Dun, Patli Dun are among them

56. **Ans: c**

Lakshadweep Islands is broadly divided by Eleven Degree channel north of which is the Amini Island and to the south of the Cannanore Island.

Andaman separated from Nicobar Islands by Ten Degree Channel.

Andaman and Nicobar islands are an elevated portion of submarine mountains. However, some smaller islands are volcanic in origin. The coastal line has some coral deposits.

57. **Ans: c**

The western coastal plains are an example of submerged coastal plain. Because of this submergence it is a narrow belt and the coast is largely inundated too. This provides natural conditions for the development of ports and harbours. Kandla, Mazagaon, JLN port Navha Sheva, Marmagao, Mangalore, Cochin, etc. are some of the important natural ports located along the west coast.

Western coast has broad continental shelf while eastern coast has a comparatively narrow continental shelf.

58. **Ans: b**

The name is derived from the Scandinavian word for stairs ("trappa") and refers to the step-like hills forming the landscape of the region. The steps are formed due to the differential erosion of basalt lava province

59. **Ans: a**

Bugyals are summer grasslands in the higher reaches of Himadri in Western Himalayan region to where the Bhotia nomadic tribe migrates during summer. They return to the valleys during winters.

The narrow belt ranging between 8-10 km parallel to the Shiwalik foothills at the break-up of the slope are called as Bhabbar. As a result of this, the streams and rivers coming from the mountains deposit heavy materials of rocks and boulders, and at times, disappear in this zone

60. **Ans: a**

Mizoram is known as Land of Rolling Mountains, i.e. it has huge number of mountains. Formation of most mountains are accompanied by formation of foreland basin or in simple terms valley type depression which runs parallel to mountains. These depressions get accumulated with unconsolidated deposits known as molasses basin.

61. D. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in [Kyoto, Japan](#), on December 11, 1997 and entered into force on February 16, 2005. It deals with green house gases only. Montreal protocol deals with ozone.

62. B. 1. Bandhavgarh- MP; famous for endemic plants; 2. [Balphakram National Park](#)- Wild water buffalo; red panda; 3 in Great Nicobar.

63. C. The Eld's deer or **sangai** is an endemic and endangered subspecies of [brow-antlered deer](#) found only in [Manipur, India](#). It is also the state animal of Manipur.^[2] Its common English name is Manipur brow-antlered deer or Eld's deer

and the scientific name is, *Rucervuselidii*.^[1] Its original natural habitat is the floating marshy grasslands of the [Keibul Lamjao National Park](#), located in the southern parts of the [Loktak Lake](#), which is the largest freshwater lake in eastern India. (Wiki)

64. A; Uttarakhand-Assam-Karnataka

65. C; Great Nicobar;

66. A; all the other 3 are in MP;

67. C. The **Carmichael coal mine** is a proposed thermal [coal](#) mine in the north of the [Galilee Basin](#) in [Central Queensland](#), Australia. Mining is planned to be conducted by both [open-cut](#) and underground methods.^[1] The mine is proposed by Adani Mining, a wholly owned subsidiary of India's [Adani Group](#). The mine has drawn immense controversy about its claimed economic benefits,^[2] its financial viability, plans for government subsidy and the [damaging environmental impacts](#). Broadly, these have been described as its potential impact upon the [Great Barrier Reef](#), [groundwater](#) at its site and its [carbon emissions](#)

68. B. Kerala=6; A&N -9; TN -5; Wb-6

69. D. In India, Red Pandas are only found in the states of Sikkim, northern West Bengal (Darjeeling and Kalimpong), Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. other national parks where they can be seen: Neora Valley (WB), Kanchandzonga (Sikkim)

70. B, the bustard is restricted to isolated pockets in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan (shared with Pakistan).

71. (b) The term 90-90-90 refers to a target set by UNAIDS programme. This target is: By 2020, 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status. By 2020, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy. By 2020, 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.

72. (a) About Paika Rebellion (Also known as Paika Bidroh)

Paiks were the traditional landed militia of Odisha, used to perform policing functions. Paiks owned rent-free land that had been given to them for their military service to Kingdom of Khurda. However problem started when British forcefully usurped their land rendering them landless. They were also subjected to repressive land revenue policies and humiliation by the British. At that critical juncture, Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar, the military chief of the King of Khurda, led army of Paikas forcing the East India Company forces to retreat. Though this rebellion predates the first war of independence of 1857 but did not get similar recognition.

73. (c) National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) was established in the year 2003 under the Ministry of Culture. The Mission has designated IGNCA (Indira Gandhi National Center for Art) as the Nodal Agency for implementing the Mission. Its aim is to document, preserve and digitize the vast manuscript wealth of India. To enhance the access, improve awareness about cultural inheritance and encourage the use of manuscripts for educational and research purpose.

74. (d) The China-Nepal exercise, "Sagarmatha Friendship – 2017" began in Nepal Army's paratraining school in Maharajganj. It is the first military exercise between Nepal and China. The military exercise will focus on counter terrorism and disaster response. It marks the Nepali Army's extension of military diplomacy with china.

75. (d) The Hoysala architectural style is considered an intermediate between the NAGARA and Dravidian traditions. They were influenced by the western Chalukyan architecture and employed their craftsmen as well.

Some of the distinctive styles are: The temples have a star shaped base with the main structure standing on a raised platform. The garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum) houses a centrally placed murti (enshrined icon) on a pitha (pedestal). There are three shrines structured around a central pillared hall, each with a tower. Pillars with horizontal mouldings, produced by a mechanical process. There are intricate grille windows, an abundance of sculptural details. The sikharas unlike the northern style (parabolic) are constructed in well-defined horizontal tiers and together with sanctum sanctorum they form the vimana of temple. In temple courtyard (Prakram) several minor shrines and outbuildings often abound. The temple may be approached via entrances with gigantic gopurams (gigantic entrance towers) towering over each doorway. The temples are almost entirely covered with intricate sculptural carvings. This was mainly possible, for the temples were constructed out of a very fine grained soft soap stone (chloritic schist). Other major temples of these styles are: Hoysaleswara temple, Halebidu, Karnataka and Kesava temple, Somnathapura, Mysore (Karnataka)

76. (c) Contemporaries of the Mughals, the Qutb Shahi dynasty was founded in 1512 by sultan Quli Qutb-ul-Mulk. Before founding his empire, he served in the Bahmani Sultanate. The fifth king, Quli Qutb Shah, established Hyderabad in 1591. He also built the Charminar. They ruled till 1686-87, when Aurangzeb conquered Golconda.

77. (d) It is dedicated to promotion of literature. Though set up by the Government of India in 1954, it functions as an autonomous organization. Besides the 22 languages enumerated in Schedule VIII of the Constitution, it has recognised English and Rajasthani as languages in which its programme may be implemented. The Akademi has instituted an annual prize for literary translation to be given to translations in the 24 languages recognised by it.

78. (d) The Champaran Satyagraha of 1917 was Mahatma Gandhi's first Satyagraha in India. He was approached by several leaders at the first meeting of the Congress in Lucknow in 1916 with a request to start a movement against the atrocities on farmers in Champaran. Gandhiji arrived in Champaran but was later ordered by the District magistrate W B Heycock to leave. Gandhiji refused and persisted. He decided to commit Satyagraha. The peasants of Champaran and other areas of North Bihar were growing the Indigo crop under tinakathia system. Under the system peasants were bound to plant 3 out of 20 parts of his

land with indigo. Farmers were also oppressed by the khurki system. Under Khurki system, the British planters used to pay money to the farmers (Raiyyat) by mortgaging their lands and houses and compelling them to sow indigo.

79. (a) NCBC is a statutory body under NCBC act of 1993. It deals with the inclusion-exclusion matters of backward classes, but the constitutional provisions for addressing the grievances of backward classes lies with National Commission for SC.

80. (d) Article 51A of the Constitution makes it a fundamental duty for every citizen of India to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the national flag and the national anthem. The Prevention of Insult to National Honour Act, 1971 deals with cases of insults to the Constitution, the national flag and the national anthem with penalty. However, no section of this Act or Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860 makes it mandatory for a citizen to stand up when the national anthem is being played.

The most famous case of punishing someone for not singing the national anthem was that of three children from Kerala. The school students, in *Bijoe Emmanuel vs State of Kerala*, were expelled for not singing the national anthem, although they remained standing. At the time, the Supreme Court had observed, "There is no provision of law which obliges anyone to sing the National Anthem nor is it disrespectful to the National Anthem if a person who stands up respectfully when the National Anthem is sung does not join the singing." Existing laws don't penalise or force any person to stand up or sing the national anthem. The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 states: "Whoever intentionally prevents the singing of the Jana Gana Mana or causes disturbances to any assembly engaged in such singing shall be punished with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both."

81. (b) Article 263 of the Constitution provides for establishment of InterState Council for coordination between states and union government. It is not a permanent constitutional body but it can be established 'at any time' if it appears to the President that the public interests would be served by the establishment of such a council. The inter-state council was established by Presidential order dated 28 May, 1990 (during VP Singh as PM). The council shall consist of the PM as the Chairman, CMs of all states and UTs and six union cabinet minister nominated by PM.

82. (d) Mandatory registration with real estate regulatory authorities (RERA) of projects of at least 500 square meter area, or those comprising eight flats. The regulator's website should have the necessary public disclosure of details related to each project. Project developers will now be required to deposit at least 70% of their funds, including land cost, in a separate escrow account to meet the cost of construction. A provision for imprisonment up to 3 years in case of promoters and 1 year in case of agents and buyers for violation of orders of appellate tribunals. A clear definition of carpet area and buyers will be charged for the carpet area and not super built-up area. Appellate tribunals will adjudicate cases and regulatory authorities will dispose complaints within 60 days.

83. (c) Self-explanatory fact

84. (a) Teesta originates in Sikkim and flows through India and Bangladesh only. Teesta River originates from the Pahunri (or TeestaKangse) glacier in Sikkim, flows through the northern parts of West Bengal before entering Bangladesh. It merges with the Brahmaputra River (or Jamuna in Bangladesh). The river is a major source of irrigation to the paddy growing greater Rangpur region of Bangladesh. Bangladesh and India share 54 rivers but none evokes as much passion in Bangladesh as Teesta.

85. (d) It is a public sector enterprise (PSE) inducted in 1999. It is a Mini Ratna Category 1 PSE.

Its functions include: Upgrade and manage the catering and hospitality services at stations, on trains and other locations. Develop budget hotels, special tour packages, information & commercial publicity and global reservation systems. Manufacture packaged drinking water for Rail Passengers.

86. (b) They can't offer loans but can raise deposits of upto Rs. 1 lakh, and pay interest on these balances just like a savings bank account does. They can enable transfers and remittances through a mobile phone. They can offer services such as automatic payments of bills, and purchases in cashless, chequeless transactions through a phone. They can issue debit cards and ATM cards usable on ATM networks of all banks. They can transfer money directly to bank accounts at nearly no cost being a part of the gateway that connects banks. They can provide forex cards to travellers, usable again as a debit or ATM card all over India. They can offer forex services at charges lower than banks. They can also offer card acceptance mechanisms to third parties such as the 'Apple Pay.'

87. (a) It is a subordinate office under the DIPP. It administers the working of the Patents Act, 1970, the Trade Marks Act, 1999, the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 and the Designs Act, 2000 and also renders advice to the Government on matters relating to Intellectual Property Rights.

88. (b) self-explanatory

89. (a) It is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals. It was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of IUCN. It entered into force in 1975. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild. It is known as Washington consensus

90. (d) Kharai Camel or Swimming Camels are found only in Gujarat's Bhuj area. Kharai Camel can live in both coastal and dry ecosystems. It grazes on saline / mangrove trees and is tolerant to high saline water. It can swim up to three kilometers into the sea in search of mangroves, their primary food. They are bred by two distinct communities — Fakirani Jats, the handlers, and Rabaris, who are owners.

91. C, In India coral reefs can be found in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Gulf of Mannar and Gulf of Kutch.

92. A, **Coral bleaching** occurs when coral polyps expel algae that lives inside their tissues. Normally, coral polyps live in an endosymbiotic relationship with the algae and that relationship is crucial for the coral and hence for the health of the whole reef. When a coral bleaches, it is not dead. Corals can survive a bleaching event, but they are under more stress and are subject to mortality.



93. C,
94. D;

95. A, Since 1991, the award has been presented in two categories - one for individuals and another for organizations, eg Bombay Natural History Society, MalayalaManorama etc have got it.

96. D, other environmentally important UNESCO sites: Khangchendzonga National Park, Great Himalayan National Park, Western Ghats, Sunderbans, Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks

97. B, **Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary** is a marine wildlife sanctuary located in Odisha and is a very popular tourist attraction of Odisha in India.^[1] It extends from Dhamra River mouth in the north to Brahmani river mouth in the south. It is very famous for its nesting beach for olive ridley sea turtles. It is the one of world's most important nesting beach for turtles.

98. A, upsc previous qn; The **Indian flying fox** also known as the **greater Indian fruit bat**, is a species of flying fox. Like other fruit bats, the Indian flying fox may be a natural reservoir for a number of diseases. It is nocturnal and feeds mainly on ripe fruits, such as mangoes and bananas, and nectar.

99. C, 1 is in kerala; 2 is in Tripura;

100. C, The **Kashmir stag** (*Cervus canadensis shanglu*), also called **hangul**, is a subspecies of elk native to India. It is found in dense riverine forests in the high valleys and mountains of the Kashmir Valley and northern Chamba district in Himachal Pradesh. In Kashmir, it's found in the Dachigam National Park where it receives protection but elsewhere it is more at risk