

1. **Ans: a**
It was merged with SBI;
2. **Ans: b**
An increase in public spending or a reduction in the level of taxation that might be performed by a government in order to encourage and support economic growth. Most government bailout packages offered to various business types can be considered a form of fiscal stimulus.
3. **Ans: b**
The **Base effect** relates to inflation in the corresponding period of the previous year, if the inflation rate was too low in the corresponding period of the previous year, even a smaller rise in the Price Index will arithmetically give a high rate of inflation now. On the other hand, if the price index had risen at a high rate in the corresponding period of the previous year and recorded high inflation rate, a similar absolute increase in the Price index now will show a lower inflation rate now.
4. **Ans: a**
A bank rate is the interest rate at which a nation's central bank lends money to domestic banks, often in the form of very short-term loans. Managing the bank rate is method by which central banks affect economic activity. Lower bank rates can help to expand the economy by lowering the cost of funds for borrowers, and higher bank rates help to reign in the economy when inflation is higher than desired.
5. **Ans: d**
A closed economy is an economy in which no activity is conducted with outside economies. A closed economy is self-sufficient, meaning no imports are brought in and no exports are sent out, the goal being to provide consumers with everything they need from within the economy's borders. A closed economy is the opposite of an open economy, in which a country conducts trade with outside regions.
Truly closed economies are rare
6. **Ans: d**
RBI is bank of all banks in India. As a banker of banks, RBI: Enables smooth and swift clearing and settlements of inter-bank transactions; Provides efficient means of funds transfer for all banks; Enables banks to maintain their accounts with RBI for statutory reserve requirements and maintenance of transaction balances; Acts as lender of last resort (LORL)
Reserve Bank maintains current account of all other banks and provides them facility to maintain cash reserves and also to carry out inter-bank transactions. RBI provides the Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) facility to the banks for inter-bank transactions.
7. **Ans: c**
Self explanatory.
8. **Ans: b**
World bank has no relation with price of currency in international market. So we can eliminate option a and option d. Price of any currency is determined like price of any other commodity ie, by forces of demand and supply. Demand for a currency is created by two factors, its exports that is other countries who want to buy, or the investments that people want to make in that currency. Therefore, Option 2 is correct. Stability of the government is very important factor too as an unstable govt may not be able to take effective economic decisions which will in turn affect export and import.
9. **Ans:d**
It commenced its operations on 1 April 1935 during the British Rule in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934;
The Indian government had demonetised bank notes on two prior occasions—once in 1946 and then in 1978—and in both cases, the goal was to combat tax evasion by "black money" held outside the formal economic system. In 1946, the pre-independence government hoped demonetisation would penalise Indian businesses that were concealing the fortunes amassed supplying the Allies in World War II. In 1978, the Janata Party coalition government demonetised banknotes of 1000, 5000 and 10,000 rupees, again in the hopes of curbing counterfeit money and black money.
10. **Ans: a**
It suggests making the department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP) the nodal agency for all IPR issues; Special thrust on awareness generation and effective enforcement of IPRs, besides encouragement of IP commercialisation through various

incentives; The Policy also seeks to facilitate domestic IPR filings, for the entire value chain from IPR generation to commercialisation. It aims to promote research and development through tax benefits.

11. Ans: a

National Institution for Transforming India Established on 1st January 2015 as a non-constitutional non-statutory body through an executive resolution. It replaced the erstwhile Yojana Ayog (Planning Commission).

The composition of the NITI Aayog is as follows:

- (a) **Chairperson:** The Prime Minister of India
- (b) **Governing Council:** It comprises the Chief Ministers of all the States, Chief Ministers of Union Territories with Legislatures (i.e., Delhi and Puducherry) and Lt. Governors of other Union Territories.
- (c) **Regional Councils:** These are formed to address specific issues and contingencies impacting more than one state or a region. These are formed for a specified tenure. These are convened by the Prime Minister and comprises of the Chief Ministers of States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories in the region. These are chaired by the Chairperson of the NITI Aayog or his nominee.
- (d) **Special Invitees:** Experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge as special invitees nominated by the Prime Minister.
- (e) **Full-time Organisational Framework:** It comprises, in addition to the Prime Minister as the Chairperson:
 - (i) **Vice-Chairperson:** He is appointed by the Prime Minister. He enjoys the rank of a Cabinet Minister.
 - (ii) **Members:** Full-time. They enjoy the rank of a Minister of State
 - (iii) **Part-time Members:** Maximum of 2, from leading universities, research organisations and other relevant institutions in an ex-officio capacity. Part-time members would be on a rotation.
 - (iv) **Ex-Officio Members:** Maximum of 4 members of the Union Council of Ministers to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
 - (v) **Chief Executive Officer:** He is appointed by the Prime Minister for a fixed tenure, in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.
 - (vi) **Secretariat:** As deemed necessary.

It houses a number of specialised wings, including:

- (a) **Research Wing:** It develops in-house sectorial expertise as a dedicated think tank of top notch domain experts, specialists and scholars.
- (b) **Consultancy Wing:** It provides a market-place of whetted panels of expertise and funding, for the Central and State Governments to tap into matching their requirements with solution providers, public and private, national and international. By playing match-maker instead of providing the entire service itself, NITI Aayog is able to focus its resources on priority matters, providing guidance and an overall quality check to the rest.
- (c) **Team India Wing:** It comprises of the representatives from every State and Ministry and serves as a permanent platform for national collaboration. Each representative:
 - 1. Ensures that every State/Ministry has a continuous voice and stake in the NITI Aayog.
 - 2. Establishes a direct communication channel between the State/Ministry and NITI Aayog for all development related matters, as the dedicated liaison interface.
- (d) **Knowledge and Innovation hub:** It builds NITI Ayog's think tank capabilities

12. Ans: d

All statements are correct and are informational

CIC consist of consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than 10 information commissioners. It has now eight Information Commissioners headed by the Chief Information Commissioner.

The salaries, allowances and service conditions of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners is equivalent to that of Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners respectively

13. Ans: b

Chief Executive Officer of NITI is appointed by the Prime Minister for a fixed tenure, in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India

14. Ans: c

There are 4 ex officio members who are the chairmen of National Commissions for SCs, STs, Minorities and Women. Chairman and members are appointed by the President as recommended by a select committee headed by Prime Minister, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Leader of Opposition of both the houses and the Central Home Minister. According to Human Rights (Amendment) Act of 2006, the absence of any member in the Selection Committee for selection of the Chairperson and member of the NHRC or the SHRCs **will not vitiate** the decisions taken by such Committees. To remove any of the members or chairman, the advice rendered by SC after enquiry on misbehaviour or incapacity of them is not binding on the President. Provision says, President can remove them on this ground only after SC enquiry and President can remove them if SC advises to do so.

15. **Ans: d**

The functions of the commission are mainly recommendatory in nature. It has no power to punish the violators of human rights, nor to award any relief including monetary relief to the victim. Notably, its recommendations are **not binding** on the concerned government or authority. But, it should be informed about the action taken on its recommendations **within one month**.

Inquiry cannot be conducted on all of human rights violations in the country *suo motu* or upon complaints. The commission is not empowered to inquire into any matter after the expiry of one year from the date on which the act constituting violation of human rights is alleged to have been committed. In other words, it can look into a matter within one year of its occurrence. Moreover, the commission has limited role, powers and jurisdiction with respect to the violation of human rights by the members of the armed forces. In this sphere, the commission may seek a report from the Central government and make its recommendations. The Central government should inform the Commission of the action taken on the recommendations **within three months**.

16. **Ans: d**

The jurisdiction of Lokpal includes the Prime Minister, Ministers, Members of Parliament and Groups A, B, C and D officers and officials of the Central Government

The following are the drawbacks (shortcomings) of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013:

1. Lokpal cannot suo motu proceed against any public servant.
2. Emphasis on form of complaint rather than substance.
3. Heavy punishment for false and frivolous complaints against public servants may deter complaints being filed to Lokpal.
4. Anonymous complaints not allowed – Can't just make a complaint on plain paper and drop it in a box with supporting documents.
5. Legal assistance to public servant against whom complaint is filed.
6. Limitation period of 7 years to file complaints.
7. Very non-transparent procedure for dealing with complaints against the PM.

17. **Ans: b**

The appointment of SHRC chairperson and members is by the state governor, but can only be removed by the president

18. **Ans: c**

The Protection of Human Rights Act (1993) also provides for the establishment of Human Rights Court in every district for the speedy trial of violation of human rights. These courts can be set up by the state government only with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court of that state. For every Human Rights Court, the state government specifies a public prosecutor or appoints an advocate (who has practiced for seven years) as a special public prosecutor.

19. **Ans: a**

The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners. They are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister. They should be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance. They should not be a Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislature of any State or Union Territory. They should not hold any other office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession.

20. **Ans: d**

In carrying out the functions, the NITI Aayog is guided by the following principles

- a) **Antyodaya:** Prioritise service and uplift of the poor, marginalised and downtrodden, as enunciated in Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's idea of 'Antyodaya'.
- b) **Inclusion:** Empower vulnerable and marginalised sections, redressing identity-based inequalities of all kinds—gender, region, religion, caste or class.
- c) **Village:** Integrate our villages into the development process, to draw on the vitality and energy of the bedrock of our ethos, culture and sustenance.
- d) **Demographic dividend:** Harness our greatest asset, the people of India; by focussing on their development, through education and skilling, and their empowerment, through productive livelihood opportunities.
- e) **People's Participation:** Transform the developmental process into a people-driven one, making an awakened and participative citizenry—the driver of good governance.
- f) **Governance:** Nurture an open, transparent, accountable, pro-active and purposeful style of governance, transitioning focus from Outlay to Output to Outcome.
- g) **Sustainability:** Maintain sustainability at the core of our planning and developmental process, building on our ancient tradition of respect for the environment

21. **Ans: b**

Central Information Commission and State Information Commission are statutory bodies under Right to Information Act, 2005

22. **Ans: d**

Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions have UPSC, SSC, CVC, CBI, CIC, CAT under it

23. **Ans: c**

The State Information Commissioner is eligible for appointment as State Chief Information Commissioner but cannot hold office for more than a total of five years including his term as State Information Commissioner

24. **Ans: b**

Informative

The Committee on Prevention of Corruption with parliamentarian K. Santhanam as the Chairman, four other MPs and two senior officers as members, was appointed by the Government of India in 1962. The committee recommended the formation of CBI as well as CVC. Government has accepted the recommendation and established both the bodies using executive resolution in 1963 and 64 respectively. In 2003, CVC was given statutory status by enacting a law while CBI remaining as a non-statutory non-constitutional body draws its powers from Delhi Police Establishment Act, 1946

25. **Ans: c**

Even much before the enactment of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013) itself, many states had already set up the institution of Lokayuktas. It must be noted here that the institution of Lokayukta was established first in Maharashtra in 1971. Although Odisha had passed the Act in this regard in 1970, it came into force only in 1983. Till 2013, 21 states and 1 Union Territory (Delhi) have established the institution of Lokayuktas.

26. **Ans: c**

Authored Poverty and un-British Rule in India and brought attention to the draining of India's wealth into Britain (Drain of Wealth Theory)

27. **Ans: c**

The 'Ilbert Bill' was a bill introduced in 1883 under the reign of the Viceroy Lord Ripon (who earned the epithet Ripon-The good) which was written by Sir C.P Ilbert (the law member of the Viceroy's Council). According to the said Act, Indian judges could try a European accused. At first, as a result of popular disapproval of the Ilbert Bill by a majority of English women, Viceroy Ripon (who had introduced the Bill) passed an amendment, whereby a jury of 50% Europeans was required if an Indian judge was to face a European on the dock. Finally, a solution was adopted by way of compromise: jurisdiction to try Europeans would be conferred on European and Indian District Magistrates and Sessions Judges alike. However, a defendant would in all cases have the right to claim trial by a jury of which at least half the members must be European. The bill was then passed on 25 January 1884 as the Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Act 1884, coming into force on 1 May of that year.

28. **Ans: b**

Self-explanatory

29. **Ans: c**

Following the 1857 Rebellion, the East India Company's rule in India came to an end. Queen Victoria's Proclamation of 1 November 1858 declared that thereafter India would be governed by and in the name of the British Monarch through a Secretary of State. Also no further expansion of the empire was to be made.

Other features

- Act for the good government of India
- Abolished East India Company and transferred the powers of governor, territories and revenues to the British Crown
- Abolished Double Government by abolishing Board Of Directors and Court of Proprietors
- Governor General of India was made Viceroy of India (Lord Canning)
- Secretary of State for India vested with complete authority and control over Indian administration, responsible ultimately to British Parliament
- 15 member 'Council of India' to assist Secretary of State, an advisory body chaired by
- Secretary of State
- Constituted 'Secretary of State in Council' with a power to sue and be sued in India as well as England

30. Ans: d

British rule also meant misery to the artisans and handicraftsmen. The annexation of Indian states by the Company cut off their major source of patronage. Added to this, British policy discouraged Indian handicrafts and promoted British goods. The highly skilled Indian craftsmen were forced to look for alternate sources of employment that hardly existed. The greased cartridges did not create a new cause of discontent in the Army, but supplied the occasion for the simmering discontent to come out in the open.

31. Ans: c

At Kanpur, the natural choice was Nana Saheb, the adopted son of the last Peshwa, Baji Rao II. Begum Hazrat Mahal took over the reins at Lucknow. In Bihar, the revolt was led by Kunwar Singh, the zamindar of Jagdishpur.

32. Ans: b

Limited territorial spread was one factor of the failure of Revolt of 1857. There was no all-India veneer about the revolt. The eastern, southern and western parts of India remained more or less unaffected. Certain classes and groups did not join and in fact worked against the revolt.

33. Ans: d

The concept of common nationality and nationhood was not inherent to the revolt of 1857. During the entire revolt, there was complete cooperation between Hindus and Muslims at all levels that is between people as well between soldiers.

34. Ans: a

The Brahmo Samaj had the issue of widow remarriage high on its agenda and did much to popularise it. But it was mainly due to the efforts of Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar (1820-91), the principal of Sanskrit College of Calcutta, that the Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act, 1856, which legalised marriage of widows and declared issues from such marriages as legitimate, was passed by the Government. Vidyasagar cited Vedic texts to prove that the Hindu religion sanctioned widow remarriage. The practice of murdering female infants immediately after birth was common among upper class Bengalis and Rajputs who considered females to be an economic burden; The Hindu women had no right to inherit property or to terminate an undesirable marriage.

35. Ans:b

As a reformist ideologue, Roy believed in the modern scientific approach and principles of human dignity and social equality. He put his faith in monotheism. He wrote the book Gift to Monotheists (1809) and translated the Vedas and the five Upanishads into Bengali to prove his conviction that ancient Hindu texts supported monotheism. In 1814, he set up Atmiya Sabha in Calcutta to campaign against idolatry, caste rigidities, meaningless rituals and other social ills.

36. Ans: a

Roy had called for a reduction of export duties on goods abroad and abolition of the East India Company's trading rights.

37. Ans: d

In 1863, Keshub Chandra Sen started the Prarthana Samaj in Bombay. The Prarthana Samaj had as its prominent leaders Mahadeo Govind Ranade (1842-1901), R.G. Bhandarkar (1837-1925) and N.G. Chandavarkar (1855-1923).

38. Ans: b

The Derozians lacked any real link with the masses. For instance, they failed to take up the peasants' cause. In fact, their radicalism was bookish in character.

39. **Ans: b;**

The college was founded as a secular Native Female School (for the secular education of girls) in 1849 by **John Elliot Drinkwater Bethune**. The government took over it in 1856, renaming it as Bethune School after its founder in 1862–63. In 1879 it was developed into Bethune College, the first women's college in India. The movement had to face great difficulties. The young students were shouted at and abused and sometimes even their parents were subjected to social boycott.

40. **Ans: b**

Paramhansa Mandalis were founded in 1849 in **Maharashtra**, the founders of these Mandalis believed in one God. They were primarily interested in breaking caste rules. At their meetings food cooked by lower caste people were taken by all the members. These Mandalis also advocated widow remarriage and women's education. Branches of Paramhansa Mandalis existed in Poona, Satara and other towns of Maharashtra.

41. **Ans: d**

42. **Ans: b**

Gopal Krishna Gokhale, the liberal leader of Indian National Congress, founded the Servants of India Society in 1905. The aim of the society was to train national missionaries for the service of India, to promote, by all constitutional means, the true interests of the Indian people and to prepare a cadre of selfless workers who were to devote their lives to the cause of the country in a religious spirit.

Ramakrishna Mission was founded in 1897 after the death of Ramakrishna Paramahansa in 1886 with the principle – Service of Man is Service of God

43. **Ans: c**

The Arya Samaj Movement, revivalist in form though not in content, was the result of a reaction to western influences. Its founder, Dayanand Saraswati or Mulshankar (1824-83) was born in the old Morvi state in Gujarat in a Brahmin family. The Arya Samaj was able to give self-respect and self-confidence to the Hindus which helped to undermine the myth of superiority of whites and the western culture

44. **Ans: b**

Syed Ahmed Khan, born in 1817 in a respectable Muslim family, was a loyalist member of the judicial service of the Government. After retirement in 1876, he became a member of the Imperial Legislative Council in 1878. His loyalty earned him a knighthood in 1888.

He argued that Muslims should first concentrate on education and jobs and try to catch up with their Hindu counterparts who had gained the advantage of an early start. Active participation of Muslims in politics at that point, he felt, would invite hostility of the Government towards the Muslim masses. Therefore, he opposed political activity by the Muslims.

45. **Ans: a**

Proposed by Lord Lytton and was enacted in 1878. It was repealed by Ripon in 1881. English language publications were excluded from the ambit of the act.

46. **Ans: b**

The Indian League was started in 1875 by **Sisir Kumar Ghosh** with the objective of "stimulating the sense of nationalism amongst the people" and of encouraging political education.

The Bombay Presidency Association was started by **Badruddin Tyabji, Pherozshah Mehta** and **K.T. Telang** in 1885.

The East India Association was organized by Dadabhai Naoroji in 1866 in London to discuss the Indian question and influence public men in England to promote Indian welfare.

47. **Ans: a**

In 1890, Kadambini Ganguli, the first woman graduate of Calcutta University, addressed the Congress session, which symbolised the commitment of the freedom struggle to give the women of India their due status in national life

48. **Ans: c**

There is a theory that Hume formed the Congress with the idea that it would prove to be a 'safety valve' for releasing the growing discontent of the Indians. To this end he convinced Lord Dufferin not to obstruct the formation of the Congress. Modern Indian historians, however, dispute the idea of 'safety valve'. In their opinion the Indian National Congress represented the urge of the politically conscious Indians to set up a national body to express the political and economic

demands of the Indians; If the Indians had convened such a body on their own, there would have been unsurmountable opposition from the officials; such an organisation would not have been allowed to form. In the circumstances, as Bipin Chandra observes, the early Congress leaders used Hume as a 'lightning conductor' i.e., as a catalyst to bring together the nationalistic forces even if under the guise of a 'safety valve'.

49. **Ans: d**

Economic Critique of British Imperialism: The early nationalists, led by Dadabhai Naoroji, R.C. Dutt, Dinshaw Wacha and others, carefully analysed the political economy of British rule in India, and put forward, the to explain British exploitation of India. They opposed the transformation of a basically self-sufficient Indian economy into a colonial economy;

50. **Ans: a**

The movement was not able to garner support of the Muslims especially the Muslim peasantry, because of a conscious government policy of divide and rule.

51. **Ans: a**

LIGO is the world's largest gravitational wave observatory and a cutting edge physics experiment. Comprised of two enormous laser interferometers located thousands of kilometers apart, LIGO exploits the physical properties of light and of space itself to detect and understand the origins of gravitational waves

52. **Ans:d**

AIIB is headquartered at Beijing. China is the largest shareholder with 26.06% voting shares. India is the second largest shareholder with 7.5% voting shares followed by Russia 5.93% and Germany with 4.5%. More about AIIB. AIIB is a multilateral development bank backed by China and is seen as a rival to the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB). The bank started to function in January 2016. The bank was established to fund various infrastructure projects including energy, transportation, urban construction and logistics as well as education and healthcare in Asia-Pacific region.

53. **Ans: d**

The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) is a nongovernment non-profit private limited company created for providing the front end and back end IT and infrastructural support for the working of GST. Given its non-government nature, the shareholding is important. Here, the Governments –centre, states plus UTs hold 49% of GSTN. Central government holds 24.5% while the remaining governmental share of 24.5% is held by states and UTs. It has an authorized capital of Rs.10 crore to establish and operate the IT backbone of GST. The remaining 51% share is divided among five financial institutions—LIC Housing Finance with 11% stake and ICICI Bank, HDFC, HDFC Bank and NSE Strategic Investment Corporation Ltd with 10% stake each.

54. **Ans: b**

Declining population of parsi community in India is a matter of concern. Therefore, "JiyoParsi Publicity Phase-1" was initiated in 2013 for containing the declining trend of population of the Parsi community and reverse it to bring their population above the threshold level. The main objective of the "JiyoParsi" scheme is to reverse the declining trend of Parsi population by adopting a scientific protocol and structured interventions, stabilize their population and increase the population of Parsis in India. Ministry of Minority Affairs' scheme has two components: Medical Assistance and Advocacy/Counselling.

55. **Ans: c**

56. **Ans: b**

57. **Ans: c**

Who is eligible to run for the President?

A person who is 35 years of age. An Indian National. Must have a support of 50 MPs/MLAs (these can't be nominated members). Must deposit Rs 15,000 as a security amount with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Must not hold any Office of Profit. (Any Constitutional position, which may further give rise to a conflict of interests in discharging of duties).

Secret Vote: Unlike the voting for any Bill or any motion in Parliament or state Assembly, secret voting is done to elect the President (Nobody can ever come to know who voted for whom).

Parties can't issue a whip to their members: Since the Presidential election is intended to be free and fair, and representatives are supposed to exercise their free will, political parties are not allowed to issue a whip to their members for voting.

58. **Ans: c**

Statement 2 is incorrect because the project is being conducted by Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of the Ministry of Science and Technology in

collaboration with IITDelhi. The government will set up 19-member panel, who will select projects that can help scientifically validate the benefits of panchgavya – the concoction of cow dung, cow urine, milk, curd and ghee – in various spheres such as nutrition, health and agriculture.

59. **Ans: a**

The committee will have six members. Of the six members, the government will nominate three. No government official will be nominated to the MPC.

The other three members would be from the RBI with the governor being the ex-officio chairperson. Deputy governor of RBI in charge of the monetary policy will be a member, as also an executive director of the central bank.

Decision: Decisions will be taken by majority vote with each member having a vote.

RBI governor's role: The RBI Governor will chair the committee. The governor, however, will not enjoy a veto power to overrule the other panel members, but will have a casting vote in case of a tie.

Selection: The government nominees to the MPC will be selected by a Search-cum-Selection Committee under Cabinet Secretary with RBI Governor and Economic Affairs Secretary and three experts in the field of economics or banking or finance or monetary policy as its members.

Term: Members of the MPC will be appointed for a period of four years and shall not be eligible for reappointment.

60. **Ans: a**

Ugadi (Yugadi) is the New Year Day for the Hindus of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana states in India.

61. **Ans: b**

All persecuted minorities except Muslims.

62. **Ans: d**

The 606-year-old walled city of Ahmedabad, which was founded by Sultan Ahmed Shah, has become India's first World Heritage City. The World Heritage Committee (WHC) of UNESCO announced this. Ahmedabad is recognized the city as the cradle of India's non-violent freedom struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi.

63. **Ans: a**

With the launch of SWAYAM, India has become one of the few countries in the World which has its own online interactive learning platform that provides, not only video lectures, reading material but also assignments/quizzes that could end up in securing credits after completing the assessment system.

64. **Ans: c**

As per the electoral bond mechanism announced in the Budget, the proposed bonds will resemble a promissory note and not an interest-paying debt instrument. They will be sold by authorised banks and can be deposited in notified accounts of political parties within the duration of their validity. The bonds will not carry the name of the donor and routing of the money through banks will ensure that only tax paid money comes into the political system.

Advantages of Electoral Bonds: The advantage of the electoral bond system over donations through cheques is that many donors expressed reluctance to use cheques because it becomes transparent and leads to political vendetta by rivals. The other reason that donors did not want their names to be known was that, following the donation, if they legitimately win a contract, then they open themselves up to suspicion of benefiting from a quid pro quo arrangement with the party in power.

65. **Ans: d**

Self-explanatory. The Sundarbans is a natural region in West Bengal and Bangladesh. It is the largest single block of tidal halophytic mangrove forest in the world. The Sundarbans covers approximately 10,000 square kilometres (3,900 sq mi) of which 60% is in Bangladesh with the remainder in India. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

66. **Ans: d**

India has declared itself free from Bird Flu (highly pathogenic Avian Influenza – H5N1 and H5N8) and notified it to the World Organisation for Animal Health. The move will help it resume export of poultry products to the countries which had banned trade in such items early this year.

Other diseases eradicated from India are Small pox, Guinea worm, Polio, Yaws and Trachoma.

67. **Ans: b**

World's first White Tiger Safari was inaugurated at Madhya Pradesh.

68. **Ans: a**

The Godavari is the second longest river in India after the river Ganges having its source at Tryambakeshwar, Maharashtra. It starts in Maharashtra and flows east for 1,465 kilometres (910 mi) emptying into Bay of Bengal draining the Indian states Maharashtra (48.6%), Telangana(18.8%), Andhra Pradesh (4.5%), Chhattisgarh (10.9%), Madhya Pradesh (10.0%), Odisha (5.7%), Karnataka (1.4%) and Puducherry through its extensive network of tributaries. Measuring up to 312,812 km² (120,777 sq mi), it forms one of the largest river basins in the Indian subcontinent, with only the Ganges and Indus rivers having a drainage basin larger than it in India.

Important tributaries include Pravara, Purna, Manjira, Pranhita, Indravati and Sabari.

69. **Ans: b**

The scheme aims to empower and instill confidence among minority women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, Banks and other institutions at all levels. The scheme is implemented through Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The scheme is implemented with the involvement of the Gram Panchayat at village level and Local Urban bodies at the District level.

70. **Ans: b**

The FAME-India (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (hybrid &) Electric vehicles in India) scheme is proposed to be implemented over a period of 6 years, till 2020, wherein it is intended to support the hybrid/electric vehicles market development and its manufacturing eco-system to achieve self-sustenance at the end of the stipulated period. The scheme has four focus areas, technology development, demand creation, pilot projects and charging infrastructure. FAME India – Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric vehicles in India – is a part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan. The scheme envisages Rs 795 crores support in the first two fiscals starting with the current year. It is being administered by the Heavy Industries Ministry.

71. **Ans: a**

How do Mangroves cope with salt?

Coping with salt

The first line of defense for many mangroves is to prevent much of the salt from entering by filtering it out at root level. Some species can exclude more than 90 percent of salt in seawaters (Rhizophora, Ceriops, Bruguiera species are all 'salt-excluders'.) Another method is the retention of water in the leaves giving rise to leaf succulence in many species, viz., Sonneratia apetala, S. alba, Lumnitzerarecemos, Salvadorapersica etc. These species show remarkably high concentration of salts stored in their tissue. To avoid the toxic effects of salts, these plants absorb a large quantity of water for dilution of salt.

The leaves of many mangroves have special salt glands, which are among the most active salt-secreting systems known. It is quite possible to see and/or taste the salt on the leaf surfaces of species, which choose this method. (Examples of 'salt-secretors' include Avicennia, Sonneratia and Acanthus).

Fourth method of coping with salt is to concentrate it in bark or in older leaves which carry it with them when they drop. (Lumnitzera, Avicennia, Ceriops and Sonneratia species all use this)

72. **Ans: b**

The oceans are confined to the great depressions of the earth's outer layer. The oceans, unlike the continents, merge so naturally into one another that it is hard to demarcate them. The geographers have divided the oceanic part of the earth into five oceans, namely the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Indian, Southern ocean and the Arctic. The various seas, bays, gulfs and other inlets are parts of these five large oceans.

73. **Ans: a**

Calcareous ooze is ooze that is composed of at least 30% of the calcareous microscopic shells – also known as tests – of foraminifera, globigerina, coccolithophores, and pteropods. This is the most common pelagic sediment by area, covering 48% of the world ocean's floor. This type of ooze accumulates on the ocean floor at depths above the carbonate compensation depth. It accumulates more rapidly than any other pelagic sediment type. Calcareous oozes are soluble in highly saline water. With high pressure and salinity the calcareous oozes are seldom found below 4000m. Very rarely they are found up to 5000m.

74. **Ans: d**

Corals have multiple reproductive strategies – they can be male or female or both, and can reproduce either asexually or sexually. Asexual reproduction is important for increasing the size of the colony, and sexual reproduction increases genetic diversity and starts new colonies that can be far from the parents.

Corals also have to worry about competitors. They use the same nematocysts that catch their food to sting other encroaching corals and keep them at bay. Seaweeds are a particularly dangerous competitor, as they typically grow much faster than corals and may contain nasty chemicals that injure the coral as well.

Corals do not have to only rely on themselves for their defenses because mutualisms (beneficial relationships) abound on coral reefs. The partnership between corals and their zooxanthellae is one of many examples of symbiosis, where different species live together and help each other.

The Coral Triangle, the global centre of marine biodiversity, is a 6 million km² area spanning Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and the Solomon Islands.

Within this nursery of the seas live 76% of the world's coral species, 6 of the world's 7 marine turtle species, and at least 2,228 reef fish species.

75. **Ans: a**

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in 2003 to implement India's Biological Diversity Act (2002). The NBA is a Statutory, Autonomous Body and it performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory function for the Government of India on issues of conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources.

The main objectives of NBA are:

To regulate access to biological resources of the country to conserve and sustainable use of biological diversity.

To respect and protect the knowledge of local communities related to biodiversity

To secure sharing of benefits with the local people as conservers of biological resources, holders of knowledge and information relating to the use of biological resources.

Conservation and development of area of importance from the view point of biological diversity by declaring them as biological diversity heritage sites.

Protection and rehabilitation of threatened species, involvement of institutions of state government in the broad scheme of implementation of the Biological Diversity Act through constitution of committees.

76. **Ans : a**

The pygmy hog is a **critically endangered** pig, previously spread across India, Nepal, and Bhutan, but **now only found in Assam**. The current world population is about 150 individuals or fewer. Recent conservation measures have improved the prospects of survival in the wild of this critically endangered species.

There are two ecological hotspots found in India- Western Ghats and Eastern Himalyas.

There are eighteen Biological reserves in India. Nilgiri and Kanchendzonga are amongst them.

77. **Ans : c**

Water Bloom is also known as Algal Bloom.

BOD is already explained in previous tests.

78. **Ans : c**

This high level of precipitation often results in poor soils due to leaching of soluble nutrients in the ground.

Rainforests are divided into different strata, or layers, with vegetation organized into a vertical pattern from the top of the soil to the canopy. Each layer is a unique biotic community containing different plants and animals adapted for life in those particular strata. Only the emergent layer is unique to tropical rainforests, while the others are also found in temperate rainforests.

The forest floor, the bottom-most layer, receives only 2% of the sunlight. Only plants adapted to low light can grow in this region. Hence it has **very less undergrowth**.

79. **Ans: a**

80. **Ans : b**

Dyslexia - a reading disorder.

First three are caused by ozone depletion.

Minamata - by methyl mercury poisoning

itai itai or ouch ouch disease (pain in bones & joints) - by cadmium

Skeletal Fluorosis and **Knock knee syndrome** (outward bending of legs from knees) – fluorides

Black foot disease - by arsenic

81. **Ans: b**

Self -Explanatory

During retreating monsoon, the ITCZ shifts to the south from Northern plains which established the trade winds from northern hemisphere over the peninsula. These winds when flowing across Bay of Bengal to the eastern coast of peninsula, causes rainfall in regions perpendicular to its direction of flow. October and November are the rainiest months of eastern part of the peninsula.

82. **Ans: c**

The average annual rainfall in India is about 125 cm, but it has great spatial variations

- **Areas of High Rainfall:** The highest rainfall occurs along the west coast, on the **Western Ghats**, as well as in the sub-Himalayan areas is the northeast and the hills of Meghalaya. Here the rainfall exceeds **200 cm**. In some parts of **Khasi and Jaintia hills**, the **rainfall exceeds 1,000 cm**. In the Brahmaputra valley and the adjoining hills, the rainfall is less than 200 cm.
- **Areas of Medium Rainfall:** Rainfall between 100-200 cm is received in the southern parts of Gujarat, east Tamil Nadu, north-eastern Peninsula covering Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, eastern Madhya Pradesh, northern Ganga plain along the sub-Himalayas and the Cachar Valley and Manipur.
- **Areas of Low Rainfall:** Western Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, eastern Rajasthan, Gujarat and Deccan Plateau receive rainfall between 50-100 cm.
- **Areas of Inadequate Rainfall:** Parts of the Peninsula, especially in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra, Ladakh and most of western Rajasthan receive rainfall below 50 cm.
- **Snowfall** is restricted to the Himalayan region.

83. **Ans: a**

Owing to the continentality.

84. **Ans: d**

The diurnal range of temperature and annual range of temperature is less in the region due to the proximity to sea, and the extreme climatic conditions also will be absent due to the same reason.

85. **Ans: c**

In the higher reaches of Montane forests of Himalayas, there is a transition to Alpine forests and pastures. The cold, moist slopes and deep valleys of the eastern Himalayas form a conducive habitat for the luxuriant growth of Rhododendron species.

86. **Ans: d**

All statements are correct and is informative.

87. **Ans: d**

On the basis of the availability of water, tropical deciduous forests are further divided into moist and dry deciduous. **The moist deciduous forest** is found in areas receiving rainfall between 100 and 200 cm. These forests therefore exist mostly in the northeastern states along the foothills of the Himalayas, Jharkhand, West Orissa and Chhattisgarh, and on the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats. Teak is the most dominant species of this forest. Bamboos, sal, shisham, sandalwood, amla, khair, kusum, arjun, mulberry are other commercially important species.

88. **Ans: c**

In India, the total area under desertification is 81.45 mha. Major processes of desertification are

- Water erosion (26.21 mha)
- wind erosion (17.77 mha)
- vegetal degradation (17.63 mha) and
- frost shattering (9.47 mha)

Nearly one third of the country's land area (32.07%) is undergoing processes of land degradation. There are about eight major processes of land degradation active in the country of which water erosion is the most pronounced process, followed by vegetal degradation and Aeolian processes.

Area-wise Rajasthan, J&K, Gujarat and Maharashtra have high proportions of land undergoing degradation.

89. **Ans: c**

Rice absorbs carbon from the atmosphere, but if the plant cannot utilize it efficiently, the carbon is dispersed into the soil from the roots of the rice plants. Methane is produced from carbon and hydrogen by bacteria in the soil.

New varieties of rice are being developed which channels carbon into making flowers and grains and put less of it into the soil. Further, production of methane can be significantly reduced through midseason drainage, alternate wetting and drying irrigation, dry farming techniques in place of flood farming and even drip irrigation without reducing the rice yield (as practiced in Japan)

90. **Ans: b**

Analysis of soils of tropical regions shows them to be virtually devoid of soluble minerals. Rocks in the region weather rapidly due to high temperatures, abundant moisture and adequate organic activity. This rapid weathering and torrential rains wash away nutrients from the soils and have left the soils very low in nutrient stocks. This is supported by the analysis of stream water draining tropical regions, which likewise reveals a scarcity of dissolved nutrients. Most tropical soils are clays with little soluble mineral content, and moderate to strong acidity which interferes with the ability of roots to take up nutrients. Only about 20% of the humid tropics has soils that can support agriculture, and most of this area is already in use.

91. **Ans: a**

Millets are coarse grains and can be grown on less fertile and sandy soils. It is a hardy crop that needs low rainfall and high to **moderate temperature** and adequate rainfall. Jowar, bajra and ragi are grown in India. Other countries are Nigeria, China and Niger.

Maize requires **moderate temperature**, rainfall and lots of sunshine. It needs well-drained fertile soils. Maize is grown in North America, Brazil, China, Russia, Canada, India, and Mexico

92. **Ans: b**

NOWCAST weather alert system will provide free SMS service alerts on extreme weather conditions (ex-hailstorm) to over one crore registered farmers on their mobile phones. The free

SMS alerts will be sent in Hindi, English and regional languages as per farmers' request. It will be issued to farmers whose mobile phones are already registered on the government's **mKisan portal**.

Under this initiative, the extreme weather data originated from IMD will be updated on mKisan portal using a web service. Later, from mKisan portal the warnings regarding extreme weather conditions will be automatically transmitted by SMS to farmers located at district and block level.

Insurance Web-Portal (www.farmer.gov.in/insurance) will be used to create awareness and encourage farmers to insure their crops by taking advantage of existing schemes.

93. **Ans: c**

The trade winds are the prevailing pattern of easterly surface winds found in the tropics, within the lower portion of the Earth's atmosphere, in the lower section of the troposphere near the Earth's equator. The trade winds blow predominantly from the northeast in the Northern Hemisphere and from the southeast in the Southern Hemisphere, strengthening during the winter and when the Arctic oscillation is in its warm phase. Historically, the trade winds have been used by captains of sailing ships to cross the world's oceans for centuries, and enabled European empire expansion into the Americas and trade routes to become established across the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Winds from both the hemispheres meet at ITCZ and cancel each other causing unusual calmness in the region characterised by **absence of wind or movement of atmosphere**, to be hence called as doldrums.

94. **Ans: a**

Parkland landscape with open stretches in which teak and other trees interspersed with patches of grass are common. As the dry season begins, the trees shed their leaves completely and the forest appears like a vast grassland with naked trees all around

95. **Ans: b**

Informative

These plants have long roots to reach a depth up to 2 meters or more which can aid slope stabilization, erosion control etc.

96. **Ans: d**

- 'Loo', blow in the afternoon, and very often, they continue to well into midnight.
- **Dust storms** in the evening are very common during May in Punjab, Haryana, Eastern Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. These temporary storms bring a welcome respite from the oppressing heat since they bring with them light rains and a pleasant cool breeze.

- Occasionally, the moisture-laden winds are attracted towards the periphery of the trough. A sudden contact between dry and moist air masses gives rise to local storms of great intensity. These local storms are associated with violent winds, torrential rains and even hailstorms.

97. **Ans: a**

Sholas are patches of stunted tropical montane evergreen forest found in the valleys amid rolling grassland in the higher montane regions of South India. The southern mountain forests include the forests found in three distinct areas of Peninsular India viz; the Western Ghats, the Vindhyas and the Nilgiris. As they are closer to the tropics, and only 1,500 m above the sea level, vegetation is temperate in the higher regions, and subtropical on the lower regions of the Western Ghats, especially in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The temperate forests are called Sholas in the Nilgiris, Anaimalai and Palani hills

98. **Ans: b**

Statements 1 and 3 are correct and informative. India houses world's about 7% of mangrove forests

99. **Ans: d**

Arid soils range from red to brown in colour. They are generally sandy in structure and saline in nature. In some areas, the salt content is so high that common salt is obtained by evaporating the saline water. Due to the dry climate, high temperature and accelerated evaporation, they lack moisture and humus. Nitrogen is insufficient and the phosphate content is normal. Lower horizons of the soil are occupied by 'kankar' layers because of the increasing calcium content downwards. The 'Kankar' layer formation in the bottom horizons restricts the infiltration of water, and as such when irrigation is made available, the soil moisture is readily available for a sustainable plant growth. Arid soils are characteristically developed in western Rajasthan, which exhibit characteristic arid topography. These soils are poor and contain little humus and organic matter.

100. **Ans: d**

Both forest area and forest cover vary from state to state. Lakshadweep has zero per cent forest area; Andaman and Nicobar Islands have 86.93 per cent. Most of the states with less than 10 per cent of the forest area lie in the north and north-western part of the country. These are Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. Most of the forests in Punjab and Haryana have been cleared for cultivation. States with 10-20 per cent forest area are Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

In Peninsular India, excluding Tamil Nadu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Goa, the area under forest cover is 20-30 per cent. The north-eastern states have more than 30 per cent of the land under forest. Hilly topography and heavy rainfall are good for forest growth