

KSCSAPT 513 Ans

1. D

The Paik Rebellion was an armed rebellion against the British East India Company's rule in Odisha in 1817.

Paikas were essentially the peasant militias of the Gajapati rulers of Odisha who rendered military service to the king during times of war while taking up cultivation during times of peace. They unfurled the banner of rebellion against the British under the leadership of Baxi Jagandhu Bidyadhara as early as 1817 to throw off the British yoke.

History behind Paika rebellion

The British, having established their sway over Bengal Province and Madras Province to the north and south of Odisha, occupied it in 1803. The Gajapati King of Odisha Mukunda Deva-II was a minor then and initial resistance by Jai Rajguru, the custodian of Mukunda Deva-II, was put down brutally and Jai Rajguru was torn apart alive. A few years later, it was the Paikas under Baxi Jagabandhu, the hereditary chief of the militia army of the Gajapati King, who rose in rebellion, taking support of tribals and other sections of society.

Reason for revolt

The Paikas were alienated by the British regime, who took over the hereditary rent-free lands granted to them after the conquest of Khurda. They were also subjected to extortion and oppression at the hands of the company government and its servants.

Initiatives

The Paikas attacked British symbols of power, setting ablaze police stations, administrative offices and the treasury during their march towards Khurda, from where the British fled.

The Paikas were supported by the rajas of Kanika, Kujang, Nayagarh and Ghumusar and zamindars, village heads and ordinary peasants.

2. D

GSAT-29 communication satellite was successfully launched by the second developmental flight of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV MkIII-D2).

The launch took place from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR in Sriharikota. The vehicle injected the satellite into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

About

The GSAT-29 with a weight of 3,423 kg is a multiband, multi-beam communication satellite.

The satellite is designed for a mission life of 10 years and will serve as a test-bed for several new technologies in the future.

Its Ku-band and Ka-band payloads are configured to cater to the communication requirements of users including those from remote areas especially from Jammu & Kashmir and North-Eastern regions of India.

In addition, the Q/V-Band communication payload on-board is intended to demonstrate the future high throughput satellite system technologies.

The on-board Geo High Resolution Camera will carry out high resolution imaging.

The on-board Optical Communication Payload will demonstrate data transmission at a very high rate through optical communication link. This unique laser based optical communication is being tested for the first time by the ISRO.

GSAT-29 is the 33rd communication satellite of India.

GSLV Mk III

It is ISRO's fifth generation three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Two massive boosters with solid propellant constitute the first stage, the core with liquid propellant form the second stage and the cryogenic engine completes the final stage.

It is designed to carry 4 ton class of satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) or about 10 tons to Low Earth Orbit (LEO), which is about twice the capability of GSLV Mk II.

The first successful mission of GSLV Mark III was an experimental suborbital flight in 2014. Subsequently, GSLV Mark III-D1 launched GSAT-19, a high throughput communication satellite, with a lift-off mass of 3150 kg, into GTO on June 5, 2017.

Significance

With the launch, the GSAT-29 satellite aims at solving the communication barriers faced by Village Resource Centres (VRCs), which are responsible for providing space-based services to ISRO from rural areas.

Further, India has achieved significant milestone with its heaviest launcher lifting off the heaviest satellite from the Indian soil.

The success of GSLV MkIII-D2 marks an important milestone in Indian space programme towards achieving self-reliance in launching heavier satellites. This also marks the completion of the experimental phase of GSLV Mark III

3. A

The Ease of Doing Business Rank (EODB) is a measure of an economy's position to the best regulatory practices. Though World Bank used to publish the 'Doing Business' reports from 2003, the ranking of economies started only from 2006.

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The EODB study tries to capture the experience of small and mid-sized companies in a country with their regulators, by measuring the time, costs and red tape they deal with.

The goal of the World Bank in coming up with Doing Business score every year is to provide an objective basis for understanding and improving the regulatory environment for business around the world.

The Ease of Doing Business Rank is based on 10 parameters relating to starting and doing business in a country

parameters used for calculating the Ease of Doing Business Rank (Score)

Ease of Doing Business Rank Explained

Parameters considered:

Ease of starting a business.

Dealing with construction permits.

Getting electricity for the same.

Registering your property.

Getting credit for your business.

Protecting minority investors.

Paying taxes.

Trading across borders.

Enforcing contracts.

Resolving insolvency.

Doing Business Rank attempts to quantitatively capture the regulation that small- and medium-sized firms encounter in 190 countries around the world.

EODB rankings are carefully evaluated by foreign investors when they look to start a firm in any country

4. C
- From India the Intangible Cultural Heritages added into this list include:
- Tradition of Vedic chanting
 - Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana
 - Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre
 - Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas.
 - Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala
 - Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan
 - Chhau dance
 - Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir.
 - Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur
 - Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab
 - Yoga
 - Nawrouz
 - Kumbh Mela

5. A

State	Name of Thermal power plant
Madhya Pradesh	Amarkantak Thermal Power plant
Maharashtra	Amravati Thermal Power plant
Uttar Pradesh	Anpara Thermal Power plant
Bihar	Barauni Thermal Power plant
Karnataka	Bellary Thermal Power plant
Chhattisgarh	Bhilai Thermal Power plant
Jharkhand	Bokaro Thermal Power plant
Maharashtra	Chandrapur Thermal Power plant

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Rajasthan	Chhabra Thermal Power plant
Uttar Pradesh	Dadri Thermal Power plant
West Bengal	Durgapur Thermal Power plant
Tamil Nadu	Ennore Thermal Power plant
West Bengal	Farakka Thermal Power plant
Uttar Pradesh	Feroz Gandhi Unchahar Thermal Power plant
Gujarat	Gandhinagar Thermal Power plant
Odisha	Hirakud Captive Thermal Power plant
Odisha	Jharsuguda Thermal Power plant
Jhalawar, Rajasthan	Kalisindh Thermal Power plant
Maharashtra	Khaperkheda Thermal Power plant
Chhattisgarh	Korba Thermal Power plant
Kota, Rajasthan	Kota Thermal Power plant
Tamil Nadu	Mettur Thermal Power plant
Gujarat	Mudra Thermal Power plant
Uttar Pradesh	National Capital Thermal Power plant
Uttar Pradesh	Obra Thermal Power plant
Jharkhand	Patratu Thermal Power plant
Andhra Pradesh	Ramagundam Thermal Power plant
Uttar Pradesh	Rihand Thermal Power plant
Uttar Pradesh	Rosa Thermal Power plant
Madhya Pradesh	Sanjay Gandhi Thermal Power plant
Madhya Pradesh	Sant Singaji Thermal Power plant
Madhya Pradesh	Satpura Thermal Power plant
Gujarat	Sikka Thermal Power plant
Andhra Pradesh	Simhadri Thermal Power plant
Madhya Pradesh	Singrauli Thermal Power plant
Chhattisgarh	Sipat Thermal Power plant

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Odisha	Talcher Thermal Power plant
Maharashtra	Tiroda Thermal Power plant
Karnataka	Udupi Thermal Power plant
Gujarat	Ukai Thermal Power plant
Madhya Pradesh	Vindhyachal Thermal Power plant
Gujarat	Wanakbori Thermal Power plant

6. A

The coal seam in hills of Meghalaya is very thin, less than 2 m in most cases, in Jharkhand it is thick

7. C

According to Death Watch list published by International Press Institute, 78 journalists were killed in 2018.

IPI's Death Watch lists journalists and media staff who were deliberately targeted because of their profession either because of their reporting or simply because they were journalists as well as those who lost their lives while on assignment.

IPI is a global network of editors, journalists and media executives who share a common dedication to quality, independent journalism.

Its headquarters is based in Vienna.

It represents leading digital, print and broadcast news outlets in nearly 100 countries.

According to its 2017 report, India and Mexico are the two countries where the greatest number of recent cases are pending investigation.

8. D

9. A

Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a natural forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate arguments and debate policy

The UNFAO has decided to observe 2023 as the international years of Millets upon the request from the Indian government
FAO council also approved India's Membership to the Executive Board of the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) for 2020 and 2021

India celebrated 2018 as the national year of millets

10. C

Integrate Government online Training Programme (iGOT) has recently launched by Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and pensions

The National Training Policy- 2012 mandates that all civil servants will be provided with training to equip them with the competences for their current or future jobs.

iGOT programme aimed to provide a broad training eco-system creating synergies across various premier training institutes of the country and to cater the training needs which can encompass all the officials in the entire hierarchy of central and State governments

11. D

The Bhoj wetland consists of two lakes located in the city of Bhopal, the capital of the central Indian State of Madhya Pradesh

The Bhojal was created by Paramara Raja Bhoj (1005 -1055) ruler of Malwa

He established Bhopal (also named after him) to secure the eastern frontier of his kingdom. These two lakes – Upper Bhojal and Low lake became wetland of international importance under the international Ramsar convention since August 2002

Ramsar Convention entered into force in India on 1 February 1982

India currently has 27 sites designated as wetlands of international importance (Ramsar Sites)

12. C

The Happy Seeder is a tractor-mounted machine that cuts and lifts rice straw, sows wheat into the bare soil, and deposits the straw over the sown area as mulch.

13. D

Tiger Reserves in Madhya Pradesh

1. Kanha Tiger Reserve
2. Pench Tiger Reserve
3. Bandhargash Tiger Reserve
4. Panna Tiger Reserve
5. Satpura Tiger Reserve
6. Sanjay- Dubri Tiger Reserve

14. C

A foreign currency swap is an agreement to exchange currency between two foreign parties.

The agreement consists of Swapping principal and interest payments on a loan made in one currency for principal and interest payments of a loan of equal value in another currency

India and Japan recently signed currency swap agreement.

India, UAE currency swap part also signed before.

Currency Swap Agreement reduce Delhi's depending on US dollars

15. D

Prompt Corrective Action or (PCA) is intended to achieve to intervene early and take corrective measures in a timely manner, so as to restore the financial health of banks that are at risk by limiting deterioration in their health and preserving their capital levels

16. B

Digital Sky Portal is online portal to register drones and its operators in India.

It is an enforcement system designated as No Permission NO take off

Following registration, Directorate General of Civil Aviation will issue a Unique Identification Number (UIN) or Unmanned Airlift operators Permit (UAOP)

17. A

Third pole region which is to the north of India and to the South of China. The third pole region spreads across the Himalaya- Hindu Kush mountain ranges and the Tibetan Plateau. It is called the third pole because it contains the third large expanse of frozen water in Earth. Ten of Asia's largest rivers begin in the third pole. Rivers are yellow river, Manglze river in china, Irrawaddy river in Myanmar, the hanges flows through the Bangladesh and Mekong river.

18. C

The Supreme Court recently noted that Section 377 of the IPC was used as a weapon to harass the members of LGBTQ community, resulting in discrimination

In a historic verdict Supreme court proclaimed that majoritarian views and popular morality cannot dictate consituition rights and it violates right to equality and Supreme Court upheld right to privacy included in Right to life.

Supreme court recent judgement IPC 499 defamiation is a criminal offence and court said that dissent could not be allowed to affect the right to reputation of an individual guaranteed Article 21 of Indian Constitution

19. B

Tropical forest Research Institute (TFRI) is located in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.

It works under the Indian Council of Foerstry Research and Education of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change, Government of India.

Main thrust areas of Research are Biodiversity assessment, climate change, Biofuels from forests Environmental ameliorations etc

20. D

Global Gender Gap Report is published by World Economic forum

India has been ranked 108th in World Economic Forum (WEF) gender gap index same as 2017.

Growth- being on 72nd place, India recorded improvement in wage equality for similar work.

India's Positions worrened in 2 catagories – health and survival, economic participation and opportunity

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21. C

GSAT- 7A is an advanced military communications satellite meant primarily for the Indian Airforce with Indian Army using 30% of capacity

GSAT-7A is similar to Indian Navy's GSAT-7 and the Indian Airforce will be the sole operator of the satellite

GSAT-7A will enable IAF to interlink different ground radar stations ground aigfare, aircraft to aircraft Real time contro; system, Airbone easly warning and control (AWACS aircraft such as Beriov A-50 Phalcon, Unmanned aerial vehicle and DRDO AEW & CS

22. B

Earliest Buddhist settlement in halilgiri Cuttack district, Odisha has been recently converted into a museum

IT will be the third site museum of the Bhuvaneswar circle of the Archaeological Survey of India after Ratnagiri and Konark

Excanations at Lalitgiri shows the cultural community from the post Mauryan Period till the 13th Century CE

Lalitgiri along the Ratnagiri and Udayagiri sites are known as the "Diamond Friangle"

23. B

Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana is a scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for providing LPG connections to women from below Poverty line (BPL) households. In India the poor have limited access to cooking gas ie., clean cooking fuel. So ujjawala yojana ensures the achievement of SDG Goal fire

Ensure access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy for all.

24. B

North sentiel island is one of the Andaman island located in south Andaman. It is home to sentinelese a people who have rejected, often violently, any contact with the outside world

The Andaman and nicobar islands protection of a borginal tribes act of 1956 trarel to the island and any approach closer than five nantieal miles (9.26km) in order to prevent the resident tribes people from contracting diseases to which they have no immunity

25. A

India, Japan, USA, Australia hold their first Quadtalks at Manila a head of Asean summit. Indio -Pacific Quadrilateral is a closed group consisting of India, Australia, Japan and USA. Jspsn pioneered the initiative about a decade ago as a coalition of marietime democracies. It aims to contain a arising China and its predatory economic and trade policies.

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26. B

Jumbo care-India gets its first dedicated elephant hospital near Tajmahal

The 'Jumbo' hospital is the result of a collaborative effort between the Uttar Pradesh Forest department and conservation NGO wildlife SOS

Thermal imaging, ultrasonography, hydrotherapy, tranquilization equipment and quarantine facilities are the modern facilities available here.

27. B

Atmosphere and climate Research Modelling observing system and services (Aross) scheme was recently approved by the cabinet committee

It will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Science (MOES) Through its institutes

The Schemes will be implemented in integrated manner by 4 institutes.

1. Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)
2. Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)
3. National Centre for Medium Range Weather forecasting (NCMRWF)
4. Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Service (INCOIS)

28. C

India hosted partners forum this year

Quality, Equity and Dignity in services is the thematic areas shared by India and Cambodia.

Partners forum was launched in September 2005

The mission support the global health community to work towards achieving the SDG Goals to achieve good health and well being

29. B

Oumuamua is the first and currently only interstellar object detected passing through the Solar system

It was dark and faint with no visible 'coma' (atmosphere of dust and gas around a comet's core) or 'tail' (longated cloud that points away from the sun) signature identifies of comets as they approach the inner solar system.

30. A

Hyper spectral imaging satellite for advanced Earth observation is the country's first satellite for advanced Earth observation

Hysis will be ISRO's first full scale working satellite with this capability

The primary goal of Hysis is to study the Earth's surface in visible, near-infrared and short wave infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum

31. A

In 2015, four more Missions were added

Four missions added are:

Wind energy Mission

Human health Mission

Coastal Resource Mission

Waste-to-energy Mission

The National Action Plan hinges on the development and use of new technologies.

The implementation of the Plan includes public private partnerships and civil society action.

The focus will be on promoting understanding of climate change, adaptation and mitigation, energy efficiency and natural resource conservation.

There are Eight National Missions which form the core of the National Action Plan.

India's National Action Plan On Climate Change

National Solar Mission

National Mission On Sustainable Habitat

National Water Mission (NWM)

National Mission For Sustaining The Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE)

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National Mission For A Green India

National Mission For Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)

National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change (NMSKCC)

National Bio-Energy Mission

National Solar Mission

The National Solar Mission is a major initiative to promote ecologically sustainable growth while addressing India's energy security challenge.

The Mission will adopt a 3-phase approach:

spanning the remaining period of the 11th Plan and first year of the 12th Plan (up to 2012-13) as Phase 1, the remaining 4 years of the 12th Plan (2013-17) as Phase 2 and the 13th Plan (2017-22) as Phase 3.

At the end of each plan there will be an evaluation of progress.

Objectives

To establish India as a global leader in solar energy, by creating the policy conditions for its diffusion across the country as quickly as possible.

To create an enabling policy framework for the deployment of 100,000 MW of solar power by 2022.

To create favorable conditions for solar manufacturing capability, particularly solar thermal for indigenous production and market leadership.

National Mission For Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE)

NMEEE seeks to strengthen the market for energy efficiency by creating conducive regulatory and policy regime.

NMEEE has been envisaged to foster innovative and sustainable business models to the energy efficiency sector.

The NMEEE seeks to create and sustain markets for energy efficiency in the entire country which will benefit the country and the consumers".

National Mission On Sustainable Habitat

"National Mission on Sustainable Habitat" seeks to promote sustainability of habitats through improvements in energy efficiency in buildings, urban planning, improved management of solid and liquid waste, modal shift towards public transport and conservation through appropriate changes in legal and regulatory framework.

It also seeks to improve ability of habitats to adapt to climate change by improving resilience of infrastructure, community based disaster management and measures for improving advance warning systems for extreme weather events.

National Water Mission (NWM) Mission

Ensuring integrated water resource management for conservation of water, minimization of wastage and equitable distribution both across and within states.

Developing a framework for optimum water use through increase in water use efficiency by 20% through regulatory mechanisms with differential entitlements and pricing, taking the National Water Policy (NWP) into consideration.

Ensuring that a considerable share of water needs of urban areas is met through recycling of waste water.

Meeting water requirements of coastal cities through the adoption of new and appropriate technologies such as low-temperature desalination technologies allowing use of ocean water.

Revisiting NWP to ensure basin-level management strategies to deal with variability in rainfall and river flows due to climate change.

Developing new regulatory structures to optimize efficiency of existing irrigation systems.

National Mission For Sustaining The Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE)

Primary objectives

Develop a sustainable National capacity to continuously assess the health status of the Himalayan Ecosystem

Assist States in the Indian Himalayan Region with their implementation of actions selected for sustainable development.

National Mission For A Green India

Mission Objectives

Increased forest/tree cover on 5 million hectares (ha) of forest/non-forest lands and improved quality of forest cover on another 5 million ha of non-forest/forest lands (a total of 10 million ha)

Improved ecosystem services including biodiversity, hydrological services, and carbon sequestration from the 10 million ha of forest/ non-forest lands mentioned above

Increased forest-based livelihood income of about 3 million households, living in and around the forests

Enhanced annual CO₂ sequestration by 50 to 60 million tons in the year 2020.

National Mission on Seabuckthorn

Seabuckthorn plant is popularly known as Leh berries.

The MoEF and DRDO have launched a major national initiative for seabuckthorn cultivation in the high-altitude, cold desert ecosystems.

The initiative is one of many conservation measures for fragile high-altitude ecosystems.

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Seabuckthorn, also called the “Wonder plant” and “Ladakh gold”.

Uses

It has multi-purpose medicinal and nutritional properties, and also helps in soil conservation and nitrogen fixation. Hardy, drought-resistant and tolerant to extreme temperatures from – 43° C to + 40° C, the plant has an extensive root system which can fix atmospheric nitrogen, making it ideal for controlling soil erosion and preventing desertification.

The initiative is a part of Sub-Mission on Cold Desert Ecosystems under the Green India Mission — which is a part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change.

National Mission For Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)

The NMSA has identified key dimensions for

Adaptation and mitigation:

Improved Crop Seeds, Livestock and Fish Culture

Water Efficiency

Pest Management

Improved Farm Practices

Nutrient Management

Agricultural Insurance

Credit Support

Markets

Access to Information

Livelihood Diversification

The National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change (NMSKCC)

Mission Objectives

Formation of knowledge networks among the existing knowledge institutions engaged in research and development relating to climate science.

Establishment of global technology watch groups with institutional capacities to carry out research on risk minimized technology selection for developmental choices

Development of national capacity for modeling the regional impact of climate change on different ecological zones within the country for different seasons and living standards

Establishing research networks and encouraging research in the areas of climate change impacts on important socio-economic sectors like agriculture, health, natural ecosystems, biodiversity, coastal zones, etc.

National Bio-Energy Mission

The government is preparing a national bio-energy mission to boost power generation from biomass, a renewable energy source abundantly available in India.

The national mission will aim at improving energy efficiency in traditional biomass consuming industries, seek to develop a bio-energy city project and provide logistics support to biomass processing units.

It will also propose a GIS-based National Biomass Resource Atlas to map potential biomass regions in the country.

According to estimates, biomass from agro and agro-industrial residue can potentially generate 25,000 MW of power in India.

32. B

China hosts the largest number of CDM projects

The Indian government has constituted the National Clean Development Mechanism Authority. This Authority receives projects for evaluation and approval as per the guidelines and general criteria laid down in the relevant rules and modalities pertaining to CDM in addition to the guidelines issued by the CDM Executive Board and Conference of Parties serving as Meeting of Parties to the UNFCCC

From 2003 to 2011, a total of 2295 projects had been registered with NCDMA

In china, china's national policy steers CDM investment toward the country's priorities, such as renewable energy and economically backward provinces

33. A

India pledged to improve the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33-35% by 2030

Countries across the globe committed to create a new international climate agreement by the conclusion of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris in December 2015. In preparation, countries have agreed to publicly outline what post-2020 climate actions they intend to take under a new international agreement, known as their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). The INDCs will largely determine whether the world achieves an ambitious 2015 agreement and is put on a path toward a low-carbon, climate-resilient future.

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India has submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Salient features of India's INDC

To put forward and further propagate a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation.

To adopt a climate-friendly and a cleaner path than the one followed hitherto by others at corresponding level of economic development.

To reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 from 2005 level.

To achieve about 40 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030, with the help of transfer of technology and low cost international finance, including from Green Climate Fund.

To create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

To better adapt to climate change by enhancing investments in development programmes in sectors vulnerable to climate change, particularly agriculture, water resources, Himalayan region, coastal regions, health and disaster management.

To mobilize domestic and new and additional funds from developed countries to implement the above mitigation and adaptation actions in view of the resource required and the resource gap.

To build capacities, create domestic framework and international architecture for quick diffusion of cutting edge climate technology in India and for joint collaborative R&D for such future technologies.

Key elements and focus areas of India's INDC

India's INDC centre around the country's policies and programmes for:

Sustainable Lifestyles - To put forward and further propagate a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation.

Cleaner Economic Development - To adopt a climate friendly and a cleaner path than the one followed hitherto by others at corresponding level of economic development.

Reducing Emission intensity of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) - To reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 percent by 2030 from 2005 level.

Increasing the Share of Non Fossil Fuel Based Electricity - To achieve about 40 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030 with the help of transfer of technology and low cost international finance including from Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Enhancing Carbon Sink (Forests) - To create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

Adaptation - To better adapt to climate change by enhancing investments in development programmes in sectors vulnerable to climate change, particularly agriculture, water resources, Himalayan region, coastal regions, health and disaster management.

Mobilizing Finance - To mobilize domestic and new & additional funds from developed countries to implement the above mitigation and adaptation actions in view of the resource required and the resource gap.

Technology Transfer and Capacity Building - To build capacities, create domestic framework and international architecture for quick diffusion of cutting edge climate technology in India and for joint collaborative R&D for such future technologies

34. D

It is an agreement within the UNFCCC dealing with greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance starting in the year 2020. The Paris Accord is considered as a turning point for global climate policy.

Aims:

The central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

It further aims at pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The agreement aims to increase the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change.

It also aims at making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

Points to Remember

The Paris Agreement was adopted by 195 countries at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC in Paris on 12th December 2015.

It came into force on 4th November 2016

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As of June 2017, 195 countries have signed the agreement.
148 countries have ratified it.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs):

NDCs are contributions that each country should make in order to achieve the worldwide goals.

The level of NDC that each country sets determines the targets to be achieved by the particular country.

These contributions should be reported every five years.

The principle of 'progression' prevails which indicates that the next NDC should be more 'ambitious' than the previous one.

Nicaragua and Syria are the only countries who have not signed the agreement.

S.A recently joined the league as Trump announced to pull U.S.A out of the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement is not legally binding as a whole.

It does not penalise the countries who fail to fulfil their commitments.

However, it imposes obligations on countries to implement their plans.

This includes a review process every five years, designed to pressure them into compliance and increase their efforts to fulfil their commitments

35. C

What is Montreal Protocol?

It seeks to cut the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances (ODS) in order to protect the earth's fragile ozone layer. It also aims at phase out HCFCs by 2030. It came into force in 1989 and has been ratified by 197 parties making it universally ratified protocol in UN history. It is also highly successful international arrangement, as it has phased-out more than 95% of the ODS so far as per its main mandate in less than 30 years of its existence.

What is happening under this?

Under the Montreal Protocol, the accelerated phase out of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) is underway with a aim to complete phase out by 2030 of these chemicals that result in ozone depletion and aid global warming. At present, HCFCs are used in various sectors like refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC), polyurethane foam manufacturing and cold chains sectors etc. These sectors are directly related to urban development, agriculture through cold chain, and industrial developments

The Montreal Protocol (MP) aims at phasing out ozone depleting substances such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydro-chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) that were mostly used in air conditioning, refrigerating and foam industry. However, HFCs are not ozone depleting, but have a high global warming potential.

Developed countries led by the US have been lobbying for the inclusion of HFCs within the MP. But this was opposed by developing countries led by India. The latter wanted HFCs to be governed by the Kyoto Protocol, which embodies the principle of "common but differentiated responsibility"

36. D

The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark took place from 7-19 December 2009. It included the fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the fifth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 5). COP 15 and COP/MOP 5 were held in conjunction with the thirty-first sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 31) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 31), the tenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 10) and the eighth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the UNFCCC (AWG-LCA 8).

The Copenhagen Conference marked the culmination of a two-year negotiating process to enhance international climate change cooperation under the Bali Roadmap, launched by COP 13 in December 2007. Close to 115 world leaders attended the joint COP and COP/MOP high-level segment from 16-18 December, marking one of the largest gatherings of world leaders outside of New York. The conference was subject to unprecedented public and media attention, and more than 40,000 people, representing governments, nongovernmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, faith-based organizations, media and UN agencies applied for accreditation at the conference.

Many hoped that the Copenhagen Climate Conference would be able to "seal the deal" and result in a fair, ambitious and equitable agreement, setting the world towards a path to avoid dangerous climate change. To this end, what many characterized as "intense negotiations" took place over the two weeks at the level of experts, Ministers and Heads of State. But it was not without controversy. Questions concerning transparency and process played out during the meeting. Differences emerged, inter alia, on whether work should be carried out in a smaller "friends of the chair" format as well as on a proposal by the Danish COP Presidency to table two texts reflecting the

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work done by the AWGs. Many parties rejected this idea, urging that only texts developed in the AWGs by parties should be used

37. A

The Cartagena Protocol on Bio safety to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty governing the movements of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology from one country to another. It was adopted in 2000 as a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity and entered into force in 2003.

What are Living modified organisms (LMOs)?

The protocol defines a 'living modified organism' as any living organism that possesses a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology, and 'living organism' means any biological entity capable of transferring or replicating genetic material, including sterile organisms, viruses and viroids.

'Modern biotechnology': is defined in the Protocol to mean the application of in vitro nucleic acid techniques, or fusion of cells beyond the taxonomic family, that overcome natural physiological reproductive or recombination barriers and are not techniques used in traditional breeding and selection.

'Living modified organism (LMO) Products': are defined as processed material that are of living modified organism origin, containing detectable novel combinations of replicable genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology (for instance, flour from GM maize).

'Living modified organism intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (LMO-FFP)': are agricultural commodities from GM crops. Overall the term 'living modified organisms' is equivalent to genetically modified organism – the Protocol did not make any distinction between these terms and did not use the term 'genetically modified organism.'

Application

The Protocol applies to the transboundary movement, transit, handling and use of all living modified organisms that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health.

Relationship with the WTO

A number of agreements under the World Trade Organization (WTO), such as the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement), and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs), contain provisions that are relevant to the Protocol.

38. A

Stockholm convention – about the persistent organic pollutants

Rotterdam Convention – Hazardous chemicals and pesticide

Stockholm convention:

It is an International Environmental Treaty

It is a UN Treaty

Open for signature in 2001 in Stockholm

Became effective in 2004

It aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants

Signatories : 152

Parties : 180

India is a party to this treaty

US is not a party to this treaty

Why regulate POPs?

POPs are chemical substances that:

Persist in the environment

Bio-accumulate through the food web

Pose a risk of causing adverse effects to human health and the environment

Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) and the International Programme for Chemical Safety (IPCS) prepared a list, known as the Dirty Dozen :

Eight organochlorine pesticides: aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mirex and toxaphene;

Two industrial chemicals: hexachlorobenzene (HCB) and the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) group; and

Two groups of industrial by-products: dioxins and furans.

POPs can be reviewed and added to the convention, if they meet certain criteria for persistence and transboundary threat i.e. list of POPs can change and evolve over time.

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There is provision that developed countries provide new and additional financial resources and measures to minimise/regulate POPs to developing nations.

Rotterdam convention:

The Convention imposes legally binding obligations upon the member nations for implementing the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure. It expanded the voluntary PIC procedure initiated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The Convention includes pesticides and industrial chemicals which either have been banned or are severely restricted for health or environmental reasons by Parties and which have been notified for inclusion in the PIC procedure by the Parties to the Convention.

Objectives of Convention

To promote cooperative efforts and shared responsibility among the Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals with the aim of protecting human health and environment from potential harm.

To ensure environmentally sound use of those hazardous chemicals, by facilitating information exchange regarding their characteristics, by also providing for a national decision-making process on their export and import and by disseminating these decisions to Parties.

Annex III Chemicals

The chemicals listed in this annex include pesticides and industrial chemicals which either have been banned or are severely restricted for health and/or environmental reasons by two or more Parties. These chemicals must have been decided by the Conference of the Parties subject to the PIC procedure. At present, there are 43 chemicals listed in Annex III of which 32 are pesticides and 11 industrial chemicals.

One notification from each of the two specified reasons triggers the consideration for the addition of a chemical to the Annex III of the Convention. Certain chemical formulations considered to be severely hazardous, which present a risk under conditions of use in developing countries or those countries with economies in transition may also be proposed for their inclusion in Annex III.

Basel convention:

Formally called: The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

It is an international treaty

It is a UN Treaty

Open for signature in 1989

Effective from 1992

Signatories : 53

Parties : 183

What it does?

Aims to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations, and specifically to prevent transfer of hazardous waste from developed to less developed countries

The Convention is also intended to :

minimize the amount and toxicity of wastes generated,

to ensure their environmentally sound management as closely as possible to the source of generation, and

to assist LDCs in environmentally sound management of the hazardous and other wastes they generate

It does not address the movement of radioactive waste.

Its objective was to stop dumping of hazardous waste from developed countries in developing nations.

39. C

the land exploration of Antarctica is recent, most of it being accomplished during the twentieth century.

By mid-century, permanent stations were being established and planning was underway for the International Geophysical Year (IGY) in 1957-58, the first substantial multi-nation research program in Antarctica.

The outstanding success of the IGY led these nations to agree that peaceful scientific cooperation.

The Antarctic Treaty was signed in Washington on 1 December 1959 by the twelve nations that had been active during the IGY (Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States and USSR).

The Treaty, which applies to the area south of 60° South latitude, is surprisingly short, but remarkably effective.

The Treaty has 52 signatories, 28 Consultative.

Conventions such as the Conservation of Antarctic Seals (1972), and Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (1980) are appended to this treaty for protection.

40. C

Not in partnership with IMF but with multilateral development bank in different countries

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The Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) were designed by developed and developing countries and are implemented with the multilateral development banks (MDBs) to bridge the financing and learning gap between now and the next international climate change agreement.

CIFs are two distinct funds: the Clean Technology Fund and the Strategic Climate Fund.

The CIFs are additional to existing Official Development Assistance (ODA) and aim to enable countries to continue on their development path and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

These funds will be operated in close coordination with existing bilateral and multilateral efforts.

41. D

42. D

. Muslims : Dhaka

Chintzes : Masulipatnam

43. A

China is the largest gold producing country in the world

44. C

Transvaal – Africa

Ruhr – Europe

45. B

China's coal is of poor quality, it imports metallurgical grade coal from Australia

46. B

District roads connects important industrial centers and market centers and the responsibility of development and maintenance lies with the local self government

47. B

Mica Reserves in India

Andhra Pradesh (41 per cent)

Rajasthan (21 per cent)

Odisha (20 per cent)

Maharashtra (15 per cent)

Bihar (2 per cent)

Jharkhand (Less than 1 per cent)

48. C

49. C

It is to reduce poverty and vulnerability of the rural and urban poor households

The mission would aim at providing shelters equipped with essential services to the rural and urban homeless in a phased manner

To provide Skill training to the poor in cities and villages. This would make them eligible for employment and will help in poverty alleviation

By 2020, developed nations will have shortage of ~57 million workers & foreign companies will have to outsource work elsewhere

Companies require cheap but skilled labour force (India will have ~47 million new workers by 2020)

Every year, 12 million Indians join workforce but out of them only 10% are skilled compared to 70% in and 50% in China

Therefore, success of Make in India, will depend on success of this scheme

Also, under the current urban poverty alleviation programmes, only 790 cities and towns are covered

The government has decided to extend these measures to all the 4,041 statutory cities and towns, there by covering almost the entire urban population

50. C

Union Government has launched the Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTAAD) Scheme.

The Scheme aims at upgrading Skills and Training of minority communities by preservation of traditional ancestral Arts and Crafts.

It also envisages boosting the skill of craftsmen, weavers and artisans who are already engaged in the traditional ancestral work.

Under the scheme, assistance will be provided to traditional artisans to sell their products in order to make them more compatible with modern markets.

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The scheme will also establish linkages of traditional arts/crafts with the national and international market and ensure dignity of labour.

It is fully funded by Union Government and Union Ministry of Minority Affairs is nodal agency in implementing it.

For facilitating and promoting marketing of the traditional art and craft products, USTTAD also helps establish linkages of traditional skills with the global market. The scheme also provides for institutional support for up-gradation of Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts. USTTAD Fellowship for Research and Development is another step towards promoting the Hunar of our traditional craftsmen.

USTTAD scheme is expected to help not only in preserving and promoting our traditional art and craft but also give a dignified life style and higher standard of living to our crafts men and women endowed with unmatched talent, expertise and passion to take forward India's rich heritage.

51. c

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act provides for the constitution of the following three types of municipalities in every state.

A Nagar Panchayat (by whatever name called) for a transitional area, that is, an area in transition from a rural area to an urban area.

A Municipal Council for a smaller urban area.

A Municipal Corporation for a larger urban area.

The Mandal/Block Panchayat is the intermediate level of the Panchayats, between Village Panchayats (Gram Panchayats) and Zila Parishad (District council). Hence, option 2 does not come under 74th constitutional amendment act.

52. c

The State Finance Commission was created by the 73rd and 74th Constitutional (Amendment) Acts. SFCs were created to review the financial position of the panchayats and municipal corporations, and to make recommendations to the Governor.

Article 243I prescribes that the Governor of a State shall constitute a Finance Commission to review the financial position of the Panchayats to make recommendations to the Governor

Article 243 (Y) of the Constitution further provides that Finance Commission constituted under Article 243 (I) shall review financial position of the Municipalities and make recommendations to the Governor

Note: State Finance Commissions are constituted every five years

Role and Functions of State Finance Commission:

State Finance Commissions are required to recommend on the following:

The principles that should govern-

the distribution between the state and the local governments (panchayats and ULBs) of the net proceeds of taxes, duties, tolls and fees leviable by the state and the inter se allocation between different panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) and urban local bodies(ULBs)

The determination of taxes, duties, tolls and fees which may be assigned to, or appropriated by the local bodies, Grants-in-aid from the consolidated fund of the State to the local bodies

The measures needed to improve the financial position of the Panchayats

Any other matter referred to the Finance Commission by the Governor in the interests of sound finance of the Panchayats

53. A

Option 1 is correct: The East India Association was founded by Dadabhai Naoroji in 1866, in collaboration with Indians and retired British officials in London. It superseded the London Indian Society and was a platform for discussing matters and ideas about India, and to provide representation for Indians to the Government.

Options 2 and 3 are not correct: Indian Association was founded by Surendranath Banerjee and Anand Mohan Bose in 1876. Poona Sarvajanik Sabha was founded by MG Ranade in 1870.

54. B

British Army in India fulfilled following important functions:

It was the instrument through which the Indian powers and territories were conquered. It handled peasant rebellions against high revenue demands.

It defended the British Empire in India from foreign rivals.

It protected the empire against real or imagined internal threats.

It was the chief instrument for extending and defending the British Empire in Asia and Africa.

It collected information about Indian society and economy. Hence, all the statements correct.

55. C

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Statement 1 is correct: because while import to India was free, Indian goods were charged at very high duty (like 66.5% on muslin) in Britain.

Statement 2 is correct: Industrial Revolution in England made cost of foreign goods cheaper.

Statement 3 is not correct: In spite of higher prices Indian goods (specially muslin, silk etc.) were very popular in England.

56. D

Statement 1 is correct: They urged the development of agricultural banks to save the peasant from the clutches of the moneylender. They wanted the government to undertake a large-scale programme of extension of irrigation for the development of agriculture and to save the country from famines.

Statement 2 is correct: They also agitated for improvement in the working conditions of the plantation labourers. They declared high taxation to be one of the causes of India's poverty and demanded the abolition of the salt tax and the reduction of land revenue. They condemned the high military expenditure of the Government of India and demanded its reduction.

Statement 3 is correct: The nationalists urged the government to undertake and develop welfare activities of the state. They laid a great deal of emphasis on the spread of primary education among the masses. They also demanded greater facilities for technical and higher education.

57. B

The general high caste character of the reform movements of the early nineteenth century explains to a large extent the relative silence on the caste question. Untouchability as an issue of social reform had to wait until the beginning of the twentieth century and the arrival of Mahatma Gandhi in Indian public life after the first World War. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Lacking in a broad social base, the reformers of the early nineteenth century thus exhibited an intrinsic faith in the benevolent nature of colonial rule and relied more on legislation for imposing reform from above. There was very little or no attempt to create a reformist social consciousness at the grass-roots level, where religious revivalism later found a fertile ground. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The dissemination of religious knowledge through translation of religious texts into vernacular languages and the right granted to the laity to interpret scriptures represented an important initial breach in the stranglehold of misinterpreted religious dogmas. The simplification of rituals made worship a more intensely personal experience without the mediation of intermediaries. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

58. D

Statement 1 is correct: The conservative religious and social sentiments of many people were hurt by some of the humanitarian measures which government took on the advice of Indian reformers such as abolition of practice of Sati, permission of Widow remarriage, opening of Western education to girls.

Statement 2 is correct: Religious sentiments were also hurt by the official policy of taxing the lands belonging to temples and mosques which had been exempted from taxation by previous Indian rulers.

Statement 3 is not correct: Rediscovery of India's past by European scholars, gave a psychological boost to educated Indians later and it has nothing to do with 1857 revolt.

59. C

Home Charges refer to the expenditure incurred in England by the Secretary of State on behalf of India. The main constituents were:

- Dividend to the shareholders of the East India Company.
- Interest on Public Debt raised abroad.
- Expenses on India Office establishment in London.
- Pensions and furloughs payments of British officers in the Civil and Military departments in India.
- Payments to the British war office.
- Store purchases in England.

Whereas, Economic drain mainly consists of -

- All the Home Charges
- Interests and profits on Foreign Capital Investments
- Payments with regard to banking, insurance and shipping services in India.

60. D

Statement 1 is correct: Bharata Dharma Mahamandal was established in 1887 to propagate Sanatan Dharma and Hindu culture.

Statement 2 is correct: This organisation of the orthodox educated Hindus, stood for a defence of orthodox Hinduism against the teachings of the Arya Samaj, the Theosophists, and the Ramakrishna Mission.

Statement 3 is correct: Pandit Madan -Mohan Malaviya was a prominent figure in this movement.

61. D

What are Zonal Councils?

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Zonal councils have been established by the Parliament to promote interstate cooperation and coordination. They are statutory bodies established under the States Reorganisation Act 1956 and not constitutional bodies. They are only deliberative and advisory bodies

How many Zonal Councils are there?

There are 5 five Zonal councils namely:

The Northern Zonal Council, comprising the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh.

The Central Zonal Council, comprising the States of Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

The Eastern Zonal Council, comprising the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, and West Bengal.

The Western Zonal Council, comprising the States of Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and the Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

The Southern Zonal Council, comprising the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

The North Eastern States i.e. (i) Assam (ii) Arunachal Pradesh (iii) Manipur (iv) Tripura (v) Mizoram (vi) Meghalaya (vii) Sikkim and (viii) Nagaland are not included in the Zonal Councils and their special problems are looked after by the North Eastern Council, set up under the North Eastern Council Act, 1972.

What is the composition of Zonal Councils?

Chairman – The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of each of these Councils.

Vice Chairman – The Chief Ministers of the States included in each zone act as Vice-Chairman of the Zonal Council for that zone by rotation, each holding office for a period of one year at a time.

Members- Chief Minister and two other Ministers as nominated by the Governor from each of the States and two members from Union Territories included in the zone.

Advisers- One person nominated by the Planning Commission (which has been replaced by NITI Ayog now) for each of the Zonal Councils, Chief Secretaries and another officer/Development Commissioner nominated by each of the States included in the Zone.

Union Ministers are also invited to participate in the meetings of Zonal Councils depending upon necessity.

What is the objective of zonal councils?

The main objectives of setting up of Zonal Councils are:

Bringing out national integration.

Arresting the growth of acute State consciousness, regionalism, linguism and particularistic tendencies.

Enabling the Centre and the States to co-operate and exchange ideas and experiences.

Establishing a climate of co-operation amongst the States for successful and speedy execution of development projects.

62. C

The Treaty of Lisbon (initially known as the Reform Treaty) is an international agreement that amends the two treaties which form the constitutional basis of the European Union (EU). The Treaty of Lisbon was signed by the EU member states on 13 December 2007, and entered into force on 1 December 2009.[2] It amends the Maastricht Treaty (1993), known in updated form as the Treaty on European Union (2007) or TEU, and the Treaty of Rome (1957), known in updated form as the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (2007) or TFEU.[3] It also amends the attached treaty protocols as well as the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM).

Prominent changes included the move from unanimity to qualified majority voting in at least 45 policy areas in the Council of Ministers, a change in calculating such a majority to a new double majority, a more powerful European Parliament forming a bicameral legislature alongside the Council of Ministers under the ordinary legislative procedure, a consolidated legal personality for the EU and the creation of a long-term President of the European Council and a High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The Treaty also made the Union's bill of rights, the Charter of Fundamental Rights, legally binding. The Treaty for the first time gave member states the explicit legal right to leave the EU and the procedure to do so.

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63. B

Towards the end of 1921, peasant discontent surfaced in Avadh. The centers were the districts of Hardoi, Bahraich and Sitapur in the northern part of the province. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

The main grievance were related to extraction of a rent that was generally fifty per cent higher than the recorded rent, the opposition of thekedars to whom the work of rent-collection was farmed out and the practice of share-rents. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Unlike the earlier Kisan Sabha movement that was based almost solely on tenants, the Eka Movement included in its ranks many small zamindars who found themselves disenchanted with the Government because of its heavy land revenue demand. Hence, statement 3 is correct

64. B

The Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of—

1. the Prime Minister, who shall be the Chairperson of the committee;
2. the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha; and
3. a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

Explanation.—For the purposes of removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that where the Leader of Opposition in the House of the People has not been recognised as such, the Leader of the single largest group in opposition of the Government in the House of the People shall be deemed to be the Leader of Opposition.

65. B

Punjab in 1914 was very different from what the Ghadrites had been led to expect- When Ghadrites entered Punjab they found no cooperation from the civilian population in Punjab or the army.

Lala Har Dayal founded the Ghadar Party in America.

After finding limited support in Punjab frantically, the Ghadar made an attempt to find a leader; Bengali revolutionaries were contacted and through the efforts of Sachindranath Sanyal and Vishnu Ganesh Pingley, Rash Behari Bose, the Bengali revolutionary who had become famous by his daring attack on Hardinge, the Viceroy, finally arrived in Punjab in mid-January 1915 to assume leadership of the revolt. Hence, statement 1 is not correct and 2 is correct.

Three events that influenced Ghadar movement were - arrest and escape of Hardayal, Komagata Maru incident and outbreak of World War 1. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

66. B

The Swadeshi Movement had its genesis in the anti-partition movement which was started to oppose the British decision to partition Bengal.

Among the several forms of struggle thrown up by the movement, it was the boycott of foreign goods which met with the greatest visible success at the practical and popular level. Boycott and public burning of foreign cloth, picketing of shops selling foreign goods, all became common in remote corners of Bengal as well as in many important towns and cities throughout the country.

Women refused to wear foreign bangles and use foreign utensils, washermen refused to wash foreign clothes and even priests declined offerings which contained foreign sugar.

Social regeneration was one of the center point of the Swadeshi Movement organizing movement against early marriage, dowry, caste oppression, alcohol etc. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

The main drawback of the Swadeshi Movement was that it was not able to garner the support of the mass of Muslims and especially of the Muslim peasantry. The British policy of consciously attempting to use communalism to turn the Muslims against the Swadeshi Movement was to a large extent responsible for this.

67. A

Ahrar Movement was a movement founded in 1910 under the leadership of Maulana Muhammad Ali, Hakim Ajmal Khan, Hasan Imam, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan and Mazhar-ul-Haq. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

It was started in opposition to the loyalist politics of Aligarh Movement. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

As it was moved by modern ideas of self-governance, its members advocated active participation in the nationalist movement. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

68. D

Statement 1 is correct: District Planning Committee is a constitutional authority formed under Article 243ZD of the Indian Constitution.

Statement 3 is correct: Its function is to consolidate the plans prepared by panchayats and municipalities in the district, and to prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole.

The state legislature may make provisions with respect to the following:

- The composition of such committees. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The manner of election of members of such committees;
- The functions of such committees in relation to district planning; and
- The manner of the election of the chairpersons of such committees.

The act lays down that four-fifths of the members of a district planning committee should be elected by the elected members of the district panchayat and municipalities in the district from amongst themselves.

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69. D

A group of Responsivists arose in the Swaraj party, after riots of 1924, who wanted to work the reforms and to hold office wherever possible. They offered support to the government for the protection of Hindu interests. The Responsivists joined the Government in the Central Provinces. Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.

Their ranks were soon swelled by N.C. Kelkar, M.R. Jayakar and other leaders. Lajpat Rai and Madan Mohan Malaviya too separated themselves from the Swaraj Party on Responsivist as well as communal grounds. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

70. C

Cooperative and Competitive Federalism

Primary platform for operationalizing Cooperative Federalism by enabling States to have active participation in the formulation of national policy, as well as achieving time-bound implementation of quantitative and qualitative targets.

Replacement of the one-way flow of policy from centre-to-state. Systematic and structured interactions between the Union and State Governments, to better understand developmental issues and forge a consensus on strategies and implementation mechanisms.

Cooperation would be further enhanced by the vibrancy of Competitive Federalism with the Centre competing with the States and vice versa, and the States competing with each other, in the joint pursuit of national development.

2. Shared National Agenda

Evolve a shared vision of national development priorities and strategies, with the active involvement of States. This will provide the framework 'national agenda' for the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers to implement.

3. State's Best Friend at the Centre

Support States in addressing their own challenges, building on strengths and comparative advantages. This will be through coordination with Ministries, championing their ideas at the centre, providing consultancy support and building capacity.

4. Decentralized Planning

Restructure the planning process into a bottom-up model.

Empower States, and guide them to further empower local governments

Develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level, which are progressively aggregated up the higher levels of government.

5. Vision & Scenario Planning

Design medium and long-term strategic frameworks across all sectors.

Identify critical gaps and harness untapped potentialities.

Constantly monitor for necessary mid-course recalibration and incorporate evolving trends and addressing emerging challenges.

Fundamental transition from merely planning for where the nation's money goes, to planning where we want the Nation to go.

6. Domain Strategies

Build a repository of specialized domain expertise, imbibe good governance measures nationally and internationally to assist Central and State governments.

7. Network of Expertise

Main-stream external ideas and expertise into government policies and programmes through a collaborative community of national and international experts, practitioners and other partners. This would entail being Government's link to the outside world.

8. Knowledge and Innovation hub

Be an accumulator as well as disseminator of research and best practices on good governance, through a Resource Centre which identifies, analyses, shares and facilitates replication of the same.

9. Harmonization

Facilitate harmonization of actions across different layers of government through communication, coordination, collaboration and convergence amongst all stakeholders. The emphasis will be on bringing all together on an integrated and holistic approach to development.

10. Conflict Resolution

Provide a platform for mutual resolution of inter-sectoral, inter-departmental, inter-state as well as centre-state issues.

Facilitate consensus acceptable and beneficial to all, to bring about clarity and speed in execution.

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11. Coordinating interface with the World

Be the nodal point for strategically harnessing global expertise and resources from multilateral platforms , nations etc.

12. Internal Consultancy

Offer an internal consultancy function to central and state governments on policy and program design , specialised skills such as structuring and executing Public Private Partnerships.

13. Capacity building

Enable capacity building and technology up-gradation across government, benchmarking with latest global trends and providing managerial and technical knowhow.

14. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitor the implementation of policies and programmes, and evaluate their impact through tracking of performance and evaluations. This will help to identify weaknesses and bottlenecks for necessary course correction. It will also enable data-driven policy making encouraging greater efficiency as well as effectiveness.

71. B

The Governor of a state shall, after every five years, constitute a Finance Commission to review the financial position of the Panchayats. It shall make the following recommendations to the Governor: The principles that should govern:

The distribution between the state and the Panchayats of the net proceeds of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees levied by the state.

The determination of taxes, duties, tolls and fees that may be assigned to the Panchayats.

The grants-in-aid to the panchayats from the consolidated fund of the state.

The measures needed to improve the financial position of the Panchayats.

Any other matter referred to it by the governor in the interests of sound finance of the Panchayats.

72. B

The CSP from the beginning assigned itself the task of both transforming the Congress and of strengthening it.

The CSP was to develop as the nucleus of the alternative socialist leadership of the Congress.

As the Meerut Thesis of the CSP put it in 1935, the task was to wean the anti-imperialist elements in the Congress away from its present bourgeois leadership and to bring them under the leadership of revolutionary socialism.

This perspective was, however, soon found to be unrealistic and was abandoned in favour of a 'composite' leadership in which socialists would be taken into the leadership at all levels.

73. A

Importance of Cooperative sector for India

The Cooperatives play very important role in India because it is an organization for the poor, illiterate and unskilled people. The importance of Cooperative sector for India is given below:

1. It provides agricultural credits and funds where state and private sectors have not been able to do very much.
2. It provides strategic inputs for the agricultural-sector; consumer societies meet their consumption requirements at concessional rates.
3. It helps to overcome the constraints of agricultural development.

How the pre-monsoon rain became the boon of India's markets and Farmers!

Provisions of Indian Constitution

1. Directive Principles of State Policy enshrines under article 43 that- Living wage, etc., for workers. The State shall endeavour to secure, by suitable legislation or economic organisation or in any other way, to all workers, agricultural, industrial or otherwise, work, a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to promote cottage industries on an individual or co-operative basis in rural areas.

2. Right to form cooperatives can also be construed as a Fundamental Right, Article 14 – (Right to Equality) and Article 19(1)(c) as 'Right to form Associations or Unions.

Committee related to the Cooperative Movements in India

1. All-India Rural Credit Survey Committee Report (1954)

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2. Chaudhary Brahm Prakash Committee (which proposed a model law) (1990)

3. Mirdha Committee (1996)

4. Jagdish Kapoor Committee (2000)

5. Vikhe Patil Committee (2001)

6. V. S. Vyas Committee (2001 and 2004)

74. A

Servants of India Society was founded by Gopal Krishna Gokhale in 1905 to unite and train Indians of different ethnicities and religions in welfare work. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It was a secular organisation in the country. It devoted itself to the underprivileged, rural and tribal people, emergency relief work and other social causes. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The organisation has its headquarter in Pune and branches in Chennai, Mumbai, Allahabad, Nagpur and other locales.

Some of the members of the Society joined the agitation under the Home Rule League Movement started by Annie Besant and Tilak. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

75. A

Motion of Thanks

Motion of Thanks is a motion in Indian Parliament which follows the address of the President of India to the joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha at the commencement of first session of a new Lok Sabha and first session of every year.

Procedure:

- President's address is the speech delivered by the President of India to both Houses of Parliament assembled together at the commencement of the first session after each general election to Lok Sabha and at the commencement of the first session of each year (this is usually the budget session). This speech is a statement of the government policy and is approved by the cabinet.
- The president highlights legislative and policy activities of the government, achievements of the previous year and broad agenda of the upcoming year.
- This address is followed by a Motion of Thanks, which is moved in each house by an MP of the ruling party.
- The deliberations on this motion last for three to four days. The deliberations allow the opposition to critically discuss the government's vision, scope and policies.
- At the end of these discussions, the Prime Minister gives replies to the points or questions raised.
- After the reply of the PM is over, the Members of Parliament vote on this motion of thanks. This motion must be passed in both of the houses. A failure to get motion of thanks passed (which may happen rarely) amounts to defeat of government and leads to collapse of government.
- This is why, the Motion of Thanks is deemed to be a no-confidence motion. However, before such voting, some members may also move amendment to the address. Such amendments may be: for emphasising or adding issues addressed by the president for including some issues or highlight some issues which did not find mention in the speech there have already been three instances so far.

Amendment to Motion of Thanks

For the second year in a row, an Opposition-sponsored amendment to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address has been adopted by the Rajya Sabha. Last year, the Motion of Thanks was amended on the issue of black money; this year, the amendment focussed on legislation passed by Bharatiya Janata Party governments in Rajasthan and Haryana limiting the rights of citizens to contest panchayat elections. Before 2015, there were just three occasions on which the President's Address was amended in the Rajya Sabha, once each during the tenures of Indira Gandhi, V.P. Singh and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The first instance of such an amendment to the Motion of Thanks came in 1980 on the issue of engineering defections. The second was in 1989, when six amendments — including on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute and the India-Sri Lanka accord — were approved. The third occasion was in 2001, when the House adopted an amendment on the sale of a public sector undertaking, Balco, to a private company. These were all politically contentious issues. So was the issue on which the Opposition parties mobilised themselves this year, and it raises vital questions for democracy.

76. B

What is GI tag?

The GI tag is an indication that is definite to a specific geographical territory. It is used for agricultural, natural and manufactured goods having special quality and established reputation. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The GI tag is governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection Act), 1999.

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This Act is administered by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, who is also the Registrar of Geographical Indications, DIPP, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

The registration of a GI is valid for 10 years after which it needs to be renewed. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

77. B

The Indian press Act, 1910, empowered the local government to deregister an offending newspaper.

It imposed strict censorship on all publications vernacular as well as English.

It was repealed in 1921 on the recommendation of a press committee chaired by Tej Bahadur Sapru. It was not based on the recommendations of a committee led by Motilal Nehru. It was enacted during the tenure of Lord Hardinge.

78. A

The annulment of partition of Bengal was decided in 1911(Delhi Durbar) under the viceroyship of Lord Hardinge. Lord Minto - II was appointed the Viceroy of India in the year 1905 after the resignation of Lord Curzon and served office till 1910. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

It was decided to annul the partition of Bengal in 1911 mainly to curb the menace of revolutionary terrorism. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The annulment came as a rude shock to the Muslim political elite. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

It was decided to shift the capital to Delhi as a sop to the Muslims, as it was associated with Muslim glory, but the Muslims were not pleased. Bihar and Orissa were taken out of Bengal and Assam was made a separate province.

79. B

Statement 1 is not correct: A year into the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1921, Mahatma Gandhi announced the Tilak Swaraj Fund.

Statement 2 is correct: The Fund, a homage to Bal Gangadhar Tilak on his first death anniversary, aimed at collecting Rs 1 crore to aid India's freedom struggle and resistance to the British rule. A massive amount at the time, the skeptical were proved wrong when the money came in by the set deadline of June 30. Of the collected amount, Rs 37.5 lakh was donated by Bombay, which led him to refer to the city as –Bombay the Beautiful||.

80. C

On 16 June 1914, Bal Gangadhar Tilak was released after serving a prison sentence of six years, most of which he had spent in Mandalay in Burma.

Tilak initially concentrated all his attention on seeking readmission, for himself and other Extremists, into the Indian National Congress. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

He was obviously convinced that the sanction of this body, that had come to symbolize the Indian national movement, was a necessary pre-condition for the success of any political action.

Tilak started his Home League in April 1916 and covered the area of Maharashtra (excluding Bombay city), Karnataka, Central Province and Berar. To conciliate the Moderates and convince them of his bonafides, as well as to stave off any possible government repression, he publicly declared: I may state once for all that we are trying in India, as the Irish Home-rulers have been doing in Ireland, for a reform of the system of administration and not for the overthrow of Government; aid I have no hesitation in saying that the acts of violence which had been committed in the different Parts of India are not only repugnant to me, but have, in my opinion, only unfortunately retarded to a great extent, the pace of our political progress". Hence, statement1 is correct and 3 is not correct.

He further assured the Government of his loyalty to the Crown and urged all Indians to assist the British Government in its hour of crisis.

81. B

Corps of volunteers or Samitis was another major form of mass mobilization widely used by the Swadeshi Movement. The Swadesh Bandhab Samiti set up by Ashwini Kumar Dutt, a school teacher, in Barisal was the most well known volunteer organization of them all. The Samitis was able to generate an unparalleled mass following among the predominantly Muslim peasantry of the region. The

Samitis took the Swadeshi message to the villages through magic lantern lectures and Swadeshi songs, gave physical and moral training to their members, and did social work during famines and epidemic, organized schools, training in Swadeshi craft and arbitration courts Barisal Samiti reportedly settled 523 disputes through eighty-nine arbitration committees.

Anushilan Smiti was the first revolutionary organization in Bengal.

Hence, only statements 2 and 3 are correct.

82. D

Annie Besant along with Sarojini Naidu played leading role in the foundation of Indian Women's Association in 1917 whereas, Bharat Stree Mahamandal was the first all-women's organisation in India founded by Sarala Devi Chaudhurani in Allahabad in 1910. One of the primary goals of the organisation was to promote female education, which at that time was not well developed. The organisation opened several offices in Lahore (then part of undivided India), Allahabad, Delhi, Karachi, Amritsar, Hyderabad, Kanpur, Bankura, Hazaribagh, Midnapur and Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) to improve the situation of women all over India. Hence, option 1 is not correct.

Saraladevi Chaudhrani was an extraordinary female leader in action. She was one of the earliest women freedom fighters of India, who participated in the 'Swadeshi Movement' as well as in the revolutionary movement of the country. She was born

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in 1872 and joined active politics in 1915. In 1915 she organized 'All India Revolutionary Party' and secretly assisted the revolutionaries and continued her secret activities through another group 'Sohard Society.

Rajaram Mohan Roy along with David Hare set up Hindu college in 1817. Whereas, Annie Besant laid the foundation of the Central Hindu College in Benaras in 1898 where both Hindu religion and western scientific subjects were taught. The college became the nucleus for the formation of Benaras Hindu College in 1916. Hence, option 2 is not correct.

83. C

Tana Bhagat movement in Chhotanagpur reflected the aspirations of the Oraon tribals for deliverance from the exploitation of zamindars and mahajans under the leadership of Jatra Bhagat and Turia Bhagat. Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.

The Tana Bhagats opposed the taxes imposed on them by the British and they staged a Satyagraha (civil disobedience movement) even before Gandhi's satyagraha movement.

84. D

All the given statements are not correct.

The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is slotted for Question hour. During this time, the members ask questions and the ministers usually give answers. The questions are of three kinds, namely, starred, unstarred and short notice.

A starred question (distinguished by an asterisk) requires an oral answer and hence supplementary questions can follow.

An unstarred question, on the other hand, requires a written answer and hence, supplementary questions cannot follow.

A short notice question is one that is asked by giving a notice of less than ten days. It is answered orally.

85. B

Disqualification of MP's and MLA's on the ground of holding office of profit is a controversial topic of nation-wide debate. It began with the disqualification of Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan from Rajya Sabha on March 17, 2006 with retrospective effect from July 14, 2004. Very soon the controversy took a constitutional crisis and different state governments rushed to save their pillars of power.

There are separate provisions of disqualification for the Members of Parliament and MLAs. Our constitution clearly mentions that the Parliament has the power to make a law in respect to the issue of qualification and disqualification of the membership in case:

(i) He holds any office of profit under the Government of India or of any state, other than an office declared by a law of Parliament not to disqualify its holder.

(ii) He is of unsound mind and stand so declared by a competent court.

(iii) He is an undischarged insolvent.

(iv) He is not a citizen of India or has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a foreign state, or is under any acknowledgement or allegiance or adherence to a foreign state, and

(v) It is he so disqualified by or under any law of Parliament. It applies to the case of 'defection' as prescribed in tenth schedule.

Any dispute about the disqualification of a member of Parliament shall be referred to the President, who will take a decision on the advice of the Election Commission and decision shall be final according to the article 103. In case of disqualification on grounds of defection, the matter will be decided by speaker or chairman or Rajya Sabha as the case may be.

86. A

Schengen agreement is an agreement that allows for passport free travel through 26 European states as participating countries have agreed not to impose border controls. Following countries participate in schengen agreement. Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

87. A

Chief information commission

It is an independent, statutory committee formed under the RTI Act to ensure freedom of information to citizens. It has jurisdiction over central government bodies, PSU and authorities.

Composition:

It has chief information commissioner and up to 10 information commissioners. All are appointed by the president on recommendation of prime minister, union minister nominated by him and leader of opposition in Lok Sabha.

Qualification:

Qualification for membership to commission are People should person of eminence in public life with experience in field of law, science and technology, governance, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration. They should not be MP / MLA's or connected to any political party, doing some business or holding office of profit.

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They hold office till age of 65 or 5 years. The information commissioner is eligible for post of chief information commissioner but can be in office for maximum 5 years including his tenure of information commissioner.

Removal:

Removal is done by president on grounds of bankruptcy, unsound mind, infirmity of body or mind, sentenced to imprisonment for a crime, or engages in paid employment.

He can also be removed for proved misbehavior or incapacity if SC inquiry finds him guilty. They can resign by writing to president.

Powers and functions:

1. Acts as second appellate authority for RTI applications.
2. Inquires into complaints under RTI Act
3. Have powers of a civil court. No public record can be withheld from it during inquiry of complaints.
4. Can secure compliance of its orders from a public authority
5. Submits annual reports to the central govt which are tabled before the house.
6. Commission can recommend steps to be taken by an authority to become complaint under RTI.

Central vigilance commission:

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) was set up by the Government of India in February, 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by Shri K. Santhanam, to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the field of vigilance. CVC is conceived to be the apex vigilance institution, free of control from any executive authority, monitoring all vigilance activity under the Central Government and advising various authorities in Central Government organisations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilance work. Consequent upon promulgation of an Ordinance by the President, the Central Vigilance Commission has been made a multi member Commission with Statutory Status, with effect from 25 August, 1998. The CVC Bill was passed by both the houses of Parliament in 2003 and the President gave his assent on 11th September 2003. Thus, the Central Vigilance Commission Act 2003 (No 45 Of 2003) came into effect from that date. Nittoor Srinivasa Rau became the first Chief Vigilance Commissioner of India. The Commission shall consist of a Central Vigilance Commissioner – Chairperson and not more than 2 Vigilance Commissioners – Members. This is a question that has been asked frequently in the previous exams and is even a part of the IAS exam pattern.

Removal

The president can remove the Central Vigilance Commissioner or any vigilance commissioner from the office under the following circumstances:

- (a) If he is adjudged an insolvent; or
- (b) If he has been convicted of an offence which (in the opinion of the Central government) involves a moral turpitude; or
- (c) If he engages, during his term of office, in any paid employment outside the duties of his office; or
- (d) If he is (in the opinion of the president), unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body; or
- (e) If he has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his official functions. In addition to these, the president can also remove the Central Vigilance Commissioner or any vigilance commissioner on the ground of

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proved misbehaviour or incapacity. However, in these cases, the president has to refer the matter to the Supreme Court for an enquiry.

If the Supreme Court, after the enquiry, upholds the cause of removal and advises so, then the president can remove him. He is deemed to be guilty of misbehaviour, if he

(a) is concerned or interested in any contract or agreement made by the Central government, or

(b) participates in any way in the profit of such contract or agreement or in any benefit or emolument arising therefrom otherwise than as a member and in common with the other members of an incorporated company. The salary, allowances and other conditions of service of the Central Vigilance Commissioner are similar to those of the Chairman of UPSC and that of the vigilance commissioner are similar to those of a member of UPSC. But they cannot be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment

88. D

The Greenhouse Gas Bulletin

a) Recently World Meteorological Organization has released its annual flagship report the 'Greenhouse Gas Bulletin'.

b) The reports find that the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have hit a new record high.

c) The report says that there is no sign of a reversal in the trend of rising levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

d) The report is published by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) every year.

e) These bulletins report the latest trends and atmospheric burdens of the most influential, long-lived greenhouse gases

i) Carbon dioxide (CO₂)

ii) Methane (CH₄)

iii) Nitrous oxide (N₂O)

f) This year's edition has a special section devoted to trichlorofluoromethane gas (CFC-11)

89. D

90. A

A High Court has the power of superintendence over all courts and tribunals functioning in its territorial jurisdiction (except military courts or tribunals). Hence, statement 1 is correct.

This power of superintendence of a High Court is very broad because:

it extends to all courts and tribunals whether they are subject to the appellate jurisdiction of the high court or not.

it covers not only administrative superintendence but also judicial superintendence. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

it is a revisional jurisdiction.

it can be suo-motu (on its own) and not necessarily on the application of a party. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

91. d

As a court of record, the Supreme court and high High court has two powers:

They have the power to punish for contempt of court, either with simple imprisonment or with fine or with both. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.

Their judgements, proceedings and acts are recorded for perpetual memory and testimony. These records are admitted to be of evidentiary value and cannot be questioned when produced before any subordinate court. They are recognised as legal precedents and legal references. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.

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The Supreme Court has been specifically conferred with the power of review by the constitution. A high court also has the power to review and correct its own judgement or order or decision but no specific power of review is conferred on it by the Constitution. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

92. C

The powers, privileges and immunities of the State Legislature and their members are the same as those of Parliament and its members. Salaries and allowances for members, which differ from one State to the other, are determined by the Legislature. As regards the privileges of the Legislature, repeated efforts have been made by the State Legislatures on the one hand and High Courts and the Supreme Court on the other to treat themselves as the repository of privileges which could not be infringed by the other. There have been cases of High Courts declining to interfere in matters falling within the exclusive rights of the Legislature and leaving to the Speaker, as the holder of the office of the highest distinction, the responsibility of maintaining the prestige and dignity of the House. It was decided by a majority of Judges in the Supreme Court in a famous case that the fundamental right to freedom of speech guaranteed to a citizen under Article (19) 1 (a), could not over-ride the privileges of the Legislature which had been conferred on it by Constitutional law. It was, at the same time, pointed out by a dissenting Judge that freedom of speech also was an important fundamental right and, while the Legislature had the right to prevent mala fide publication of the proceedings, it was not quite necessary to accord a preferred position to the privileges of the Legislature over the fundamental rights of the citizens expressly guaranteed by the Constitution.

93. A

The British had pledged to withdraw after the first Burma war (1824-26) from Assam but in contrast, the British attempted to incorporate the Ahoms territories in the company's dominion after the war. This sparked off a rebellion in 1828 under the leadership of Gomdhar Konwar. Finally the company decided to follow a conciliatory policy and handed over upper Assam to Maharaja Purandar Singh Narendra and parts of the kingdom was restored to the Assamese king.

94. B

As per Article 280:

The President shall, within two years from the commencement of this Constitution and thereafter and at the expiration of every fifth year or at such time earlier time as the President considers necessary, by order constitute a Finance Commission which shall consist of a Chairman and four other members to be appointed by the President.

Parliament may by law determine the qualification which shall be requisite for appointment as members of the Commission and the manner in which they shall be selected.

It shall be the duty of the Commission to make recommendations to the President as to the distribution of the net proceeds of taxes which are to be, or may be divided between them under this chapter and the allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds. It is also the duty of the Finance Commission to define the financial relations between the Union and the State and it also caters to the purpose of devolution of non-plan revenue resources.

Composition of Finance Commission IAS

Chairman: Heads the Commission and presides over the activities. He should have had public affairs experience.

One Secretary and four Members.

The Parliament determines legally the qualifications of the members of the Commission and their selection methods.

The 4 members should be or have been qualified as High Court judges, or be knowledgeable in finance or experienced in financial matters and are in administration, or possess knowledge in economics.

All the appointments are made by the President of the country.

Grounds of disqualification of members:

found to be of unsound mind, involved in a vile act, if there is a conflict of interest

The tenure of the office of the Member of the Finance Commission is specified by the President of India and in some cases the members are also re-appointed.

The members shall give part time or whole time service to the Commission as scheduled by the President.

The salary of the members is as per the provisions laid down by the Constitution.

Powers, Functions and Responsibilities

The Commission decides the basis for sharing the divisible taxes by the centre and the states, and the principles that govern the grants-in-aid to the states every five years.

Any matter in the interest of sound finance may be referred to the Commission by the President.

The Commission's recommendations along with an explanatory memorandum with regard to the actions done by the government on them are laid before the Houses of the Parliament.

The FC evaluates the rise in the Consolidated Fund of a state in order to affix the resources of the state Panchayats and Municipalities.

The FC has sufficient powers to exercise its functions within its activity domain.

As per the Code of Civil Procedure 1908, the FC has all the powers of a Civil Court. It can call witnesses, ask for the production of a public document or record from any office or court.

Functions of Finance Commission

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The Finance Commission makes recommendations to the president of India on the following issues:

The net tax proceeds distribution to be divided between the Centre and the states, and the allocation of the same between states.

The principles governing the grants-in-aid to the states by the Centre out of the consolidated fund of India.

The steps required to extend the consolidated fund of a state to boost the resources of the panchayats and the municipalities of the state on the basis of the recommendations made by the state Finance Commission.

Any other matter referred to it by the president in the interests of sound finance

95. A

Annie Besant started the Home Rule League in September, 1916 and Tilak started it in April 1916.

Tilak's league demanded swarajya, education in vernacular and formation of linguistic states. His league was restricted to Maharashtra (excluding Bombay), Karnatka, Central Provicnce and Berar. It had 6 branches. Hence statement 1 is correct and 2 is not correct.

Annie Besant's league had 200 branches and were spread to other parts of India. But as far as organization skill is concerned, Tilak's Home Rule League movement was more organized, and there were many volunteers who worked for Tilak.

The membership of Annie Besant's League increased at a rate slower than that of Tilak's. By March 1917, her League had 7,000 members. Besides her existing Theosophical followers, many others including Jawaharlal Nehru in Allahabad and B. Chakravarti and J. Banerjee in Calcutta joined the Home Rule League. Hence statement 3 is not correct.

96. B

97. B

Statement 1 is correct. One of the many functions of the NHRC, intervention in the proceedings pending before a court involving violation of human rights.

Statement 2 is not correct. 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. Under the Protection of Human Rights Act, armed forces means the naval, military and air forces and includes any other armed forces of the Union. A.M. Ahmadi Committee set up by the commission recommended that the definition of the 'armed forces' should be changed in a way that it includes only navy, army and air force, not paramilitary forces.

Statement 3 is correct. 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.

98. A

Constitutional Provisions

1. Article 74-Council of Ministers to aid and advice President

- a. There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President
- b. The advice tendered by Ministers to the President shall not be inquired into in any court

2. Article 75-Other Provisions as to Ministers

- a. The Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- b. The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha. The provision was added by the 91st Amendment Act of 2003. A member of either house of Parliament belonging to any political party who is disqualified on the ground of defection shall also be disqualified to be appointed as a minister. This provision was also added by the 91st Amendment Act of 2003.
 - i. The ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.
 - ii. The council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
 - iii. The President shall administer the oaths of office and secrecy to a minister.
 - iv. A minister who is not a member of the Parliament (either house) for any period of six consecutive months shall cease to be a minister.

3. The salaries and allowances of ministers shall be determined by the Parliament Article 77-

Conduct of Business of the Government of India

- a. All executive action of the Government of India shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the President.
- b. Orders and other instruments made and executed in the name of the President shall be authenticated in such manner as may be specified in rules to be made by the President.
- c. The President shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India, and for the allocation among Ministers of the said business.

4. Article 78-Duties of Prime Minister

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- a. To communicate to the President all decisions of the Council of Ministers relating to the administration of the affairs of the Union and proposals for legislation
- b. If the President so requires, to submit for the consideration of the Council of Ministers any matter on which a decision has been taken by a Minister but which has not been considered by the Council.

Nature of Advice by Ministers

The 42nd and 44th Constitutional Amendment Acts have made the advice binding on the President.

- Further, the nature of advice tendered by ministers to the President cannot be enquired by any court.
- This provision emphasises the intimate and the confidential relationship between the President and the ministers.
- In 1971, the Supreme Court held that even after the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, the council of ministers does not cease to hold office.
- Article 74 is mandatory and, therefore, the president cannot exercise the executive power without the aid and advice of the council of ministers.

Strength of the Council

- The Constitution did not lay down the number of ministers that may constitute the Council of Ministers.
- However, a ceiling has been put on the strength of the Council of Ministers both in the union as well as in the states by 91st Amendment Act, 2003.
- Total number of ministers including the PM shall not exceed 15% of the total members of the Lok Sabha in case of the Union Council of Ministers and 15% of the state legislative assembly in case of state Council of Minister.
- All the members of the Council of Ministers do not belong to the same rank. The constitution does not classify minister into different ranks but in practice 4 ranks have come to be recognized.

99. B

Statement 1 is correct: Centre directs the State towards measures to be taken for the protection of the railways within the state.

Statement 2 is not correct: Centre directs the State towards execution of specified schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes (and not Scheduled Castes)

Statement 3 is not correct: Instruction in mother tongue at primary level of education to children belonging to linguistic (and not religious) minorities.

100. A

In June 2011, the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) was conducted through a comprehensive door to door survey across India for generating data on a large number of social and economic indicators relating to households in both rural and urban areas. It was the first ever caste census post-Independence in India, the results of which were released by the government in 2015. SECC-2011 was also the first paperless census in the country conducted by handheld electronic devices in 640 districts in the country. SECC was conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, The Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner and the State Governments. The SECC 2011 was not conducted under the Census Act of 1948 and hence, the information was collected on 'self-declaration by the respondents' model.

Dr N C Saxena committee (for rural areas) and S R Hashim committee (for urban areas) was constituted to suggest the design of the new BPL census. They recommended a three-fold classification of households.

Excluded Households: these would be identified by assets owned and income and would not be eligible for welfare benefits of the government.

Automatically included Households: these would be the households facing extreme social destitution and would automatically be included for the welfare benefits of the government.

Other Households: these households would be eligible for graded benefits decided on the basis of multiple deprivation indicators.

However, both the committees used different parameters for classification of the households in rural and urban areas.

The decision was taken by the Ministry of Rural development to use the data generated for identification of beneficiaries under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) through JAM trinity (Jandhan-Adhaar-Mobile) and implementation of programmes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY). The SECC is a better method of identifying the beneficiaries for effective implementation of various schemes as it is targeted and precise. While the BPL approach focused on income and expenditures only, SECC gave a complete and holistic picture. Binary approach of BPL method either included the households in all schemes or excluded them from all, however, SECC will be used to map each household on various deprivation factors and if found deprived they will be eligible for that specific scheme.