

## G.S. Paper -2

### Topic: Polity

#### 1. EVM hackathon from June 3

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/evm-hackathon-from-june-3/article18517991.ece>

#### Context:

- EVM's tampering issue.

#### In news:

- The Election Commission invited recognised political parties to an “Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) Challenge” beginning June 3.
- EC challenging the parties to demonstrate tampering EVM.
- Only Indian experts are allowed to participate in the event.
- The challenge will be open for four to five days, for the political parties that participated in the Assembly elections in Goa, Punjab, Manipur, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.
- An independent team of experts will supervise the proceedings, which will be video-recorded.
- Experts will be allowed to open and inspect the machine, they will not be allowed to tweak its components.
- **Procedure:**
  - ✓ Political parties can nominate three experts
  - ✓ Each party will be assigned four EVMs of their choice, picked up from EC warehouses in any Assembly constituency.

#### 2. Indian EVMs far superior: EC

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indian-evms-far-superior-ec/article18516933.ece>

#### Context:

- EVM tampering issue.

#### In news:

- Election Commission reiterated that the device being a standalone machine could not be hacked and that it was far superior to those manufactured abroad.

#### EVM's are foolproof:

- EVM's do not have any **frequency receiver or data decoder** for wireless signalling.

- Manipulation at the manufacturing stage is ruled out due to very stringent security protocol on software security.
- The results cannot be altered even by activating any malicious software as the chip used is only **one-time programmable**.
- The control unit activates the ballot unit for only one key press at a time; any additional key pressed is not sensed and this makes it impossible to send signals by pressing a sequence of keys or secret codes.
- The new model introduced in 2013 has additional features like tamper detection and self diagnostics, which checks if any changes have been made.
- **Key facts:**
  - ✓ Indian manufacturers have supplied EVMs to **Namibia, Nepal and Bhutan**.
  - ✓ Countries like Australia, Russia, Afghanistan, Nigeria and Bulgaria, have also shown interest in the product
  - ✓ It is manufactured by two public sector undertakings, Bharat Electronic Limited and Electronics Corporation of India.

### G.S. Paper -3

#### Topic: Internal Security and Defence

##### 1. Private firms eye key defence role

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/private-firms-eye-key-defence-role/article18517476.ece>

##### In news:

- Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by Defence Minister Arun Jaitley approved the “broad contours of a policy aimed at engaging the private sector in the manufacture of high-tech defence equipment in India,”
- DAC has approved four platforms in which the private sector will play a key role in the first stage: fighter aircraft, submarines, armoured vehicles and helicopters.
- **Objectives of policy:**
  - ✓ The policy is aimed at developing the **defence industrial eco-system** in the country via the involvement of both the major Indian corporates as well as the MSME sector.
  - ✓ The policy aims to establishment of “**long-term strategic partnerships** with qualified Indian industry majors through a **transparent and competitive process** wherein the Indian industry partners would tie up with global OEMs (original equipment manufacturer) to see **technology transfers and manufacturing know-how** to set up domestic manufacturing infrastructure and supply chains”

- ✓ Policy will contribute to the building of **self-reliance** in the vital sector of national security requirements.

### **Defense acquisition Council:**

- The Government has set up a Defence Acquisition Council headed by the **Raksha Mantri** for decision making in regard to the totality of the new planning process.
- Which inter-alia involves according 'in principle' approval of Capital Acquisitions in the long term perspective plan and for each Capital Acquisition programme.
- The decision flowing from the Defence Acquisition Council are to be implemented by the following 3 Boards –
  - ✓ Defence Procurement Board headed by the Defence Secretary
  - ✓ Defence Production Board headed by the Secretary (Defence Production)
  - ✓ Defence Research & Development Board headed by the Secretary (Defence Research & Development)

### **Topic: Disaster management**

#### **2. India taking part in global disaster risk reduction meet in Mexico**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/india-taking-part-in-global-disaster-risk-reduction-meet-in-mexico-117052000449\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/india-taking-part-in-global-disaster-risk-reduction-meet-in-mexico-117052000449_1.html)

#### **In news:**

- India is participating in a five-day long Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) summit being held in Mexico.
- The summit will mark the first opportunity since 2015 to review global progress in the implementation of SFDRR
- It will also provide a platform for all stakeholders to galvanise their efforts in **sustainable development and climate change adaptation**, sharing of experiences, discussing innovative solutions, and charting out the course for an integrated approach at the international, regional, national and local levels.

#### **About GPDRR:**

- The GPDRR is a global forum for strategic advice, coordination, partnership development and review of progress in the implementation of the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction** (SFDRR) 2015-2030 which was adopted at the 3rd UN World conference on disaster risk reduction held in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan.

**Topic: Science and technology**

**3. Moon orbiting solar system's third largest dwarf planet found**

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/moon-orbiting-solar-systems-third-largest-dwarf-planet-found/article18509011.ece>

**In news:**

- Scientists have discovered a new moon orbiting the third largest dwarf planet, that resides in the frigid outskirts in our solar system.
- **Key Findings:** most of the known dwarf planets in the **Kuiper Belt** larger than 965 kilometres across have companions.
- These bodies can provide some insight into how moons formed in the young solar system.

**Basic information**

- **The Kuiper Belt:** The Kuiper Belt is a disc-shaped region of icy bodies - including dwarf planets such as Pluto - and comets beyond the orbit of Neptune. It extends from about 30 to 55 AU and is probably populated with hundreds of thousands of icy bodies larger than 100 km (62 miles) across and an estimated trillion or more comets. The first Kuiper Belt Object was discovered in 1992.
- **Dwarf planet:**
  - ✓ A dwarf planet is a planetary-mass object that is neither a planet nor a natural satellite. That is, it is in direct orbit of the Sun, and is massive enough for its gravity to crush it into a **hydrostatic equilibrium shape** (usually a spheroid), but has not cleared the neighborhood of other material around its orbit.
  - ✓ The International Astronomical Union (IAU) currently recognizes five dwarf planets: Ceres; Pluto; Haumea; Makemake; and Eris.

**Prelims worthy factual information:**

- Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has won a second term in office.
- India - 122nd spot in the World Happiness Report for 2017, brought out by the United Nations. Down five points from the 2016 survey,

### Practice Questions:

1. Indian manufacturers have supplied EVMs

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Myanmar
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Bhutan

Correct answer: D

Type: Current affairs

Level: moderate

Explanation: Indian manufacturers have supplied EVMs to Namibia, Nepal and Bhutan.

2. Electronic Voting Machine is manufactured in India by

- A. BEL only
- B. Electronics Corporation of India only.
- C. Both BEL and Electronic Corporation of India
- D. None of the above

Correct answer: C

Type: Current Affair

Level: Easy

Explanation:

EVM is manufactured by two public sector undertakings, Bharat Electronic Limited and Electronics Corporation of India.

3. Consider the following statements

- 1. Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction summit is being held at Mexico.
- 2. Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is global forum for reviewing of progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Choose the correct option

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct option: C

Type: Current Affair

Level: moderate

Explanation:

✓ **India taking part in global disaster risk reduction meet in Mexico**

- ✓ The GPDRR is a global forum for strategic advice, coordination, partnership development and review of progress in the implementation of the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction** (SFDRR) 2015-2030 which was adopted at the 3rd UN World conference on disaster risk reduction held in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan.

4. The defence acquisition council is headed by
- A. National Security Adviser
  - B. Prime Minister
  - C. President of India
  - D. Defence Minister

Correct Answer: D

Type: Current Affair

Level: Moderate

Explanation: The Government has set up a Defence Acquisition Council headed by the **Raksha Mantri** (Defense minister) for decision making in regard to the totality of the new planning process.

**5. Which among the following is/ are dwarf planets?**

- 1. Ceres
- 2. Pluto
- 3. Makemake
- 4. Eris
- 5. Haumea

Correct option:

- A. 1,3,4,5
- B. 1,2,3,4
- C. 1,4,5
- D. All are correct

Correct answer: D

Type: G.K

Level: Easy

Explanation: The International Astronomical Union (IAU) currently recognizes five dwarf planets: Ceres; Pluto; Haumea; Makemake; and Eris.

## GS Paper 2

Topic : Polity

The coal block allocation case may become a benchmark for other ongoing prosecutions

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/coal-comeuppance/article18520066.ece>

Key Points :

- It is seemingly the consistent result of the 2014 Supreme Court arrange proclaiming all coal piece distributions made since 1993 illicit and subjective.
- The conviction of three Coal Ministry authorities, including previous Secretary H.C. Gupta, marks the main case in which singular criminal obligation has been settled on open workers in the coal square trick.
- Two past trials had finished in feelings, however those held blameworthy were authorities of privately owned businesses who had hoodwinked the specialists into dispensing them squares.
- Mr. Gupta was the director of the screening panel that suggested allotments. It worked for a considerable length of time without respect for rules, standards or straightforwardness, until the peak court ended its unpredictable run. He and two other open hirelings have been discovered liable of mishandling their positions to obtain a coal obstruct for Kamal Sponge Steel and Power Limited.
- The decision is an examined arraignment of government procedures, or the absence of procedures, amid the period.
- Regardless of whether there was a scheme between the authorities and the organization and whether the indictment demonstrated that these oversights added up to consider mishandle of their positions will be matters that will, most likely, be taken up on request; yet the hugeness of the decision is that it might turn into a benchmark for other continuous arraignments on comparable lines.

- The case additionally brings up issues about the part and obligation of a Secretary to the administration, who is the authoritative leader of a division as well as a counselor to the Minister on matters of approach.

## 2. Defence deals await private firms

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/defence-deals-await-private-firms/article18521230.ece>

### Key Points :

- The Union government will unveil mega defence deals estimated at over Rs. 1.5 lakh crore involving the private sector under the strategic partnership model to build a domestic defence manufacturing base in key areas such as submarines and fighter aircraft.
- The new model, which is a chapter under the Defence Procurement Procedure, has four segments —submarines, single-engine fighter aircraft, helicopters and armoured carriers/main battle tanks — and specifically intends to open up defence manufacturing to the private sector.

## Topic : International Relations

### 1. Bid to boost India, Africa trade ties

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/bid-to-boost-india-africa-trade-ties/article18519609.ece>

### Key Points :

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley will discuss potential areas of boosting cooperation between India and Africa here on Monday.



- Mr. Jaitley will open the India-Africa Cooperation session being held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the African Development Bank (AfDB).
- The sessions will cover areas such as trade and investment, agriculture, renewable energy and manufacturing among others.
- Total trade between India and Africa increased almost fivefold between 2005-06 and 2015-16, and stood at \$52 billion in March 2016-17.
- This is the first time that the African Development Bank is holding its annual meeting outside of the African continent.

### GS Paper 3

Topic : Economy

1. Urjit to brief MPs' panel on note ban only in June Framing of monetary policy to hold up RBI Governor

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/urjit-to-brief-mps-panel-on-note-ban-only-in-june/article18519970.ece>

Key Points :

- RBI Governor Urjit Patel will appear before a parliamentary panel for a second briefing on demonetisation on June 8, and not on May 25 as scheduled, as work on framing the monetary policy will be under way at that time.
- The Standing Committee on Finance, which had questioned Mr. Patel on January 18 on the move to ban notes of Rs. 500 and Rs.1,000 denominations, allowed him to appear at a later date after he made a request expressing his inability.

2. 'Centre has plan to make AI a great global airline'

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/centre-has-plan-to-make-ai-a-great-global-airline/article18521147.ece>

## Key Points :

- The Central government has a 'winning' strategy for its ailing national carrier Air India which is to turn it into a "great" global airline.

## NITI roadmap

- The Center as of late requested that NITI Aayog detail a guide for Air India's future as the legislature is rethinking its procedure on future value imbuement into the national transporter. As a feature of the turnaround arrange, the Center has mixed Rs. 24,745 crore as value into Air India, as toward the finish of 2016-17.
- He said that the Center needed to guarantee that the present obligation weight of the carrier, which is a "devastating burden" on its execution, is diminished.
- Air India's obligation remained at Rs.50,357 crore toward the finish of 2015-16.

## Topic : Environment – Renewable energy

1. Green energy target tough, say officials Rooftop solar programme making poor progress as it is not cost-effective

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/green-energy-target-tough-say-officials/article18520334.ece>

## Key Points :

- The legislature is probably not going to meet its greatly advanced focus of 175 GW of sustainable power source by 2022 because of the poor advance of the rooftop solar based program.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is additionally considering expanding the commitment of different sources like biogas and small hydro to compensate for any shortfall.
- The administration had declared an objective of 40 GW of rooftop solar oriented by 2022, however had accomplished just around 1.3 GW as of December 2016, which is somewhat more than 3% of the objective.

A few issues

- The arrangement issue is that the levy structure at this moment is with the end goal that it is recently not gainful for individuals to set up rooftop solar based. The cost of doing as such is higher than the cash they remain to make.
- The other issue is the utilization that individuals put their rooftops to.
- Most rooftops in India are level, and individuals locate a few option utilizes for these, for example, drying garments, and notwithstanding facilitating gatherings or suppers. There are parts of India where individuals even consider their rooftops. So they would prefer not to cover that entire space with solar rooftops.

Challenges :

- The difficulties for rooftop solar based are distinctive. The first is that we don't have budgetary foundations amassing request over an on a very basic level divergent arrangement of undertakings.
- The second issue was the de-gambling of interest in the housetop space. While this has been accomplished for business solar powered tasks, it has not been accomplished for rooftop solar based.
- The third issue is that there is no administrative lucidity on ensured installment by utilities on the net metering premise.

Topic : Science and technology

1. Google woos start-ups to heat up its cloud Offers technology that combines a large amount of storage and computing to ventures that study Earth and simulate cities

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/google-woos-start-ups-to-heat-up-its-cloud/article18519766.ece>

Key Points :

Google is wooing a portion of the world's most sweltering new companies to offer its distributed computing innovation.

- These incorporate endeavors that send satellites into the space to concentrate the evolving earth, firms that change over conventional assembling plants into shrewd industrial facilities and new companies that are reproducing whole urban areas.
- Google is putting forth cloud innovation that consolidates a lot of capacity and processing. It then pitches it to clients who might need to upgrade or set up new server farms.
- Planet Labs, Inc, a start-up which is set for picture the whole Earth each day, and roll out the worldwide improvement unmistakable, said that it has changed to Google Cloud to host its symbolism and do information preparing.

Practice questions :

1. What is the target of solar rooftop energy from renewable electricity target set by MNRE by 2022 ?

a) 5 GW

b) 20 GW

c) 40 GW

d) 100 GW

Answer : C

Topic : Renewable energy

Type : Factual

Level : Medium

MNRE renewable electricity targets have been upscaled to grow from just under 43 GW in April 2016 to 175 GW by the year 2022, including 100 GW from solar power, 60 GW from wind power, 10 GW from bio power and 5 GW from small hydro power.

The 100 GW has been split into 40 GW and 60 GW for solar rooftop panels and grid connected solar power plants(Solar PV and solar thermal).

2. Defence Acquisition Council is headed by which of the following minister ?

- a) Prime Minister
- b) Home Minister
- c) Defense Minister
- d) Finance Minister

Answer : C

Topic : Polity

Type : Factual

Level : Medium

The Defence Acquisition Council recently discussed the much-awaited 'strategic partnership model' under which select private firms would manufacture fighter jets, helicopters and submarines in India in partnership with foreign companies.

3. With reference to African Development Bank Group (AfDB), consider the statements.

1. The AfDB promotes the investment of public capital only in projects and programs that are likely to contribute to the economic and social development of the region.

2. It comprises of three entities : The African Development Bank, the African Development Fund and the Nigeria Trust Fund.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) none

Answer : B

Topic : IR

Type : Factual

Level : Medium

The African Development Bank Group (AfDB) or Banque Africaine de Developpement (BAD) is a multilateral development finance institution established by Laston M. to contribute to the economic development and social progress of African countries. The AfDB was founded in 1964 and comprises three entities: The African Development Bank, the African Development Fund and the Nigeria Trust Fund. The AfDB's mission is to fight poverty and improve living conditions on the continent through promoting the investment of public and private capital in projects and programs that are likely to contribute to the economic and social development of the region. The AfDB is a financial provider to African governments and private companies investing in the regional member countries (RMC).

4. Consider the statements :

1. International Solar Alliance includes all the members of United Nations.

2. It was launched during Paris summit.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None

Answer : C

Topic : Environment

Type : Factual

Level : Medium

On the first day of the COP-21 summit, the International Solar Alliance was launched by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande as a union of countries with abundant sunlight. Under this alliance, 121 countries that fall within the tropics {i.e. between Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn} have been invited to make collaborative efforts to harness solar energy to generate the electricity. Most of these countries fall within Asia, Africa and South America. There are three objectives behind the International Solar Alliance. First is to force down prices by driving demand; second is to bring standardization in solar technologies and third is to foster research and development.

5. Consider the following statements :

1. Urjit Patel panel report has recommended for setting up of monetary policy committee.
2. Monetary Policy Committee is an executive body of 6 members of which, three members are from RBI while three other members are nominated by the Central Government.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None

Answer : C

Topic : Economy

Type : Factual

Level : Medium

Recommendations for MPC Strong recommendations to set monetary policy committee in India had come from Urjit Patel panel report.

Setting up of MPC The Monetary Policy Committee was set up in 2015 after amending the RBI Act. Before that, Government and RBI made an agreement via which Government tasked RBI with the responsibility for price stability and inflation targeting. In context, a Monetary Policy Framework Agreement was signed on February 20, 2015.

Composition of MPC Monetary Policy Committee is an executive body of 6 members. Of these, three members are from RBI while three other members are nominated by the Central Government. Each member has one vote. In case of a tie, the RBI governor has casting vote to break the tie. MPC is required to meet for two days before deciding on rates. Further, it is needed to meet at least four times a year and make public its decisions following each meeting.



## G.S.Paper-1

### Topic: Social Issues

#### 1. Muslim law board files affidavit in SC, says 'triple talaq undesirable practice, will issue advisory against it'

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/muslim-law-board-files-affidavit-in-sc-says-triple-talaq-an-undesirable-practice-will-issue-advisory-against-it/articleshow/58789483.cms>

**Context:** instant triple talaq and dignity of women issue.

#### In news:

- All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) resolution: Muslims who resort to instant triple talaq will be socially boycotted by other Muslims.
- **New code of conduct:**
  - ✓ Lays emphasis on a layered settlement of disputes between husband and wife through mutual interaction.
  - ✓ If the issue is not resolved mutually, then the elder members of both families will intervene.
  - ✓ If this too does not work, divorce is resorted to as a final option.

## G.S.Paper-2

### Topic: Polity

### Topic: Bilateral relations

#### 2. No room yet for India in NSG, says China

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/no-room-for-india-yet-in-nsg-says-china/article18523724.ece>

#### In news:

- China to oppose India's unilateral entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).
- Nuclear weapon states that have not signed the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) are barred from entering NSG.
- Bern, Switzerland- plenary session of NSG will be held next month.
- India has underscored that NPT membership is not essential for joining the NSG, as was illustrated in the case with France, which became a member of the NSG without signing the NPT.

### **Basic Information:**

#### **▪ Nuclear Suppliers Group:**

- ✓ The NSG controls the global exports of nuclear technology and material to ensure that atomic energy is used only for peaceful purposes.
- ✓ The NSG was founded in response to the Indian nuclear test in May 1974 and first met in November 1975.
- ✓ The test demonstrated that certain non-weapons specific nuclear technology could be readily turned to weapons development. Nations already signatories of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) saw the need to further limit the export of nuclear equipment, materials or technology.

### **G.S.Paper-3**

#### **Topic: Economy**

#### **3. Modi launches new projects in Kutch, Gujarat**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/modi-lays-foundation-stone-for-rs-993-cr-projects-of-kandla-port/article18524917.ece>

#### **In news:**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched new projects at Kandla Port Trust.
- To boost India's international trade, Kandla Port will soon be connected with Chabahar port in Iran, which is being developed with India's participation.
- Kandla port to be renamed as Deendayal Port Trust to as part of Pt Deendayal Upadhyay's centenary celebrations.
- P.M. said development multi-modal transport system is a must to connect ports with railway networks for seamless movements of cargo.
- **Key fact:** Kandla Port Trust is the largest cargo handling port in the country

#### 4. Pradhan seeks discount on oil

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/pradhan-seeks-discount-on-oil/article18526984.ece>

##### In news:

- Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan urged the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries** to remove the **'Asian premium'** on the crude oil supplied to Indian and Asian buyers, and said there should instead be an **'Asian dividend.'**
- **Key facts:**
  - ✓ India imports large volume of crude oil.
  - ✓ India makes timely payments and has honoured all its contractual commitments.
  - ✓ OPEC has subsidised western buyers at the cost of Asian buyers.
  - ✓ Asian market is important for OPEC, particularly the fast-growing Indian market which stood by OPEC as a reliable and continued customer there should be an Asian dividend rather than an Asian premium.

##### Basic Information:

- **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries:**
  - ✓ OPEC, is an intergovernmental organization of 13 nations as of 2017, founded in 1960 in Baghdad by the first five members (Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela), and headquartered since 1965 in Vienna.
  - ✓ As of 2015, the 13 countries accounted for an estimated 42 percent of global oil production and 73 percent of the world's "proven" oil reserves, giving OPEC a major influence on global oil prices that were previously determined by American-dominated multinational oil companies.
  - ✓ OPEC's stated mission is "to coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its member countries and ensure the stabilization of oil markets, in order to secure an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consumers, a steady income to producers, and a fair return on capital for those investing in the petroleum industry."
  - ✓ The organization is also a significant provider of information about the international oil market.

- ✓ **Members:** As of January 2017, OPEC's members are Algeria, Angola, Ecuador, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia (the de facto leader), United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela, while Indonesia is a former member.

## 5. World's smallest nation ratifies Solar Alliance Pact

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/worlds-smallest-nation-ratifies-solar-alliance-pact/article18524199.ece>

### In news:

- The world's smallest republic, the tiny island nation of Nauru — has become the sixth country to ratify the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework pact initiated by the Indian and French governments at the climate change summit held at Paris in 2015.
- Five more African nations — Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Somalia, Ghana and Djibouti — have committed to sign the Solar Alliance pact during the ongoing meeting of the African Development bank in India.
- Headquartered in India, the alliance conceived as a coalition of solar resource rich countries to collaborate on meeting their energy needs through a common, agreed approach, will become a legal entity once at least 15 countries ratify and deposit the framework agreement.
- India has earmarked about \$2 billion to finance solar projects in Africa out of its commitment to provide \$10 billion of concessional lines of credit for projects in the continent.

### Topic: Security

## 6. Army set to get 11 attack helicopters

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/army-set-to-get-11-attack-helicopters/article18525304.ece>

### In news:

**Apache multi-role attack helicopters:** The Boeing AH-64 Apache American four-blade, twin-turboshaft attack helicopter and is the most advanced multi-role heavy attack helicopter in the world.



**Deal with U.S.:** Under a \$3-billion deal, India has contracted 22 Apache attack helicopters and 15 **Chinook**



**heavy-lift helicopters** through the Foreign Military Sales program. Presently, India operates a mix of **Russian Mi-25** and **Mi-35 attack helicopters** which are with the IAF.

The Army has placed a firm order for 114 **indigenously developed Light Combat Helicopters (LCH)**, which is in an advanced stage of induction, and has also ordered **Rudra helicopters**, the weaponised variant of the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).



### **Prelims worthy factual information**

- **Canola :**

- ✓ **Canola** is the international trade name for mustard carrying lower levels of erucic acid — less than 2% — in oil and is considered as one of the healthiest options.
- ✓ Mustard farming is far more labour intensive, especially for weeding during harvest.



- **Cobra lily :**

- ✓ *Arisaema translucens*, very rare species.
- ✓ Recently rediscovered in the western Nilgiris after 84 years.



- ✓ The Toda tribals of the Nilgiris, who know the plant well, have an embroidery motif known as the podwarshk, which resembles it
  - ✓ Cobra lilies are at greater risk of extinction from the commercial trade in exotic plants.
  - ✓ *Arisaema translucens* could be considered 'critically endangered'.
- **The Battle of Imphal :**
- ✓ **The Battle of Imphal** took place in the region around the city of Imphal, the capital of the state of Manipur in northeast India from March until July 1944.
  - ✓ Japanese armies attempted to destroy the Allied forces at Imphal and invade India, but were driven back into Burma with heavy losses. T
  - ✓ ogether with the simultaneous Battle of Kohima on the road by which the encircled Allied forces at Imphal were relieved, the battle was the turning point of the Burma Campaign, part of the South-East Asian Theatre of the Second World War.
  - ✓ The defeat at Kohima and Imphal was the largest defeat to that date in Japanese history.

**Practice question:**

1. The science concerned with vegetable culture is called as....
  - A. Floriculture
  - B. Olericulture
  - C. Horticulture
  - D. Agriculture

Correct Answer:B

Type: G.K

Level: moderate

Explanation: Olericulture is the production of plants for use of the edible parts

2. Yellow revolution is concerned with
  - A. Leather and cocoa
  - B. Oil production
  - C. Petroleum production
  - D. Fertilizers

Correct Answer: B

Type: G.K

Level: moderate

Explanation:

### List of Major Indian Revolutions in Various Sectors

Revolution	Product
Black Revolution	Petroleum Production
Blue Revolution	Fish Production
Brown Revolution	Leather, Cocoa
Golden Fibre Revolution	Jute Production
Golden Revolution	Overall Horticulture, Honey, Fruit Production
Green Revolution	Agriculture Production
Grey Revolution	Fertilizers
Pink Revolution	Onions, Prawn
Red Revolution	Meat, Tomato Production
Round Revolution	Potato Production
Silver Fibre Revolution	Cotton Production
Silver Revolution	Egg Production
White Revolution	Dairy, Milk Production
Yellow Revolution	Oil Seed Production
Round Revolution	Potato

3. Consider the following statement

1. Dragon's Breath is the world's hottest chilli pepper.
2. oil from the chilli can be used as an anaesthetic

Choose the correct answer

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Type: G.K

Level: moderate

Explanation: The world's hottest chilli pepper, grown by Welsh farmer Mike Smith, has been named Dragon's Breath. Researchers say the oil from the chilli is so potent that it could act as an

alternative anaesthetic for those allergic to conventional drugs. The peppers measure 2.48 million on the Scoville heat scale.

4. Consider the following statement

1. Cobra lily is found in western Nilgiris
2. Toda tribals of the Nilgiris, have an embroidery motif known as the podwarshk, which resembles Cobra lily

Choose the correct answer

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Type: G.K

Level: moderate

Explanation:

▪ **Cobra lily :**

- ✓ Arisaema translucens , very rare species.
- ✓ Recently rediscovered in the western Nilgiris after 84 years.
- ✓ The Toda tribals of the Nilgiris, who know the plant well, have an embroidery motif known as the podwarshk, which resembles it
- ✓ Cobra lilies are at greater risk of extinction from the commercial trade in exotic plants.





## **G.S. Paper -2**

### **Topic: Polity**

#### **The Three Year Agenda**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/the-three-year-agenda-niti-aayog-national-development-council-indian-economy-sdg-gdp-4664411/>

#### **Context:**

- The draft “Three Year Action Agenda” of the NITI Aayog has been circulated recently to its governing council
- This draft will be finalised after considering suggestions from the State Governments

#### **Five-Year Plan**

- After(Union Government) allowing for the 12th five-year plan to phase itself out, the transition is now complete
- Five-year plans are reminiscent of centrally planned economies; most such countries, like the Soviet Union, China and Romania, had similar planning horizons

#### **Other documents:**

- The seven-year policy strategy
- The 15-year long-term vision

#### **Objective of Three Year Action Agenda:**

- It seeks to embark on “a path to achieve all-round development of India and its people” through concerted action.

#### **What are the advantages of a three-year timeline?**

- Electoral cycles do not synchronise with (earlier)five-year plans; quite often, this entailed outcome accountability to rest with a successor government.
- But a “Three Year Action Agenda” makes the government in office more directly accountable for the implementation of its plans
- Augmenting the “Three Year Action Agenda” with a seven-year implementable policy strategy and a 15-year vision enables us to look into the future, particularly at evolving technology, demography and ecology, and accordingly align our policies
- The 15-year vision is also somewhat coterminous with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN). The new format thus combines domestic aspiration with global aims.

## Topic: Health Issues

### Rajasthan: 600 more health centres to be converted into model units

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/600-phcs-to-be-converted-into-model-centres/articleshow/58795259.cms>

#### In news:

- Six hundred more Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in Rajasthan will shortly be converted into model units
- **Model units:**
  - ✓ Doctors and para-medical staff at the PHCs will take special care to maintain health and nutritional status of women, children and old age patients.
  - ✓ Additional services provided: allopathy and Ayurveda physicians available to patients.
  - ✓ They are functioning as “**wellness centres**” with a significant increase in patient registration and **institutional deliveries**.
  - ✓ Model PHCs would provide free medicines and conduct as many as 15 diagnostic tests free of cost.

### NGO evolves blueprint to end female genital mutilation

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/ngo-evolves-blueprint-to-end-female-genital-mutilation/article18553102.ece>

#### In news:

- **Practice of female genital mutilation (FGM)** report compiled by Speak Out on FGM, a group of Dawoodi Bohra woman (victims of FGM) along with a human rights NGO, Lawyers Collective.
- Report speaks about psychological trauma and physical scars faced by the victims, and the legal aspects that could be weaved in to stop the practice completely.
- **Practice:** Khatna, as practised among Dawoodi Bohras, involves cutting the part of the **clitoral hood** or the prepuce, of girls as young as seven years.
- While a large number of countries have banned the practice, **India does not have a law on the same.**

#### Highlights of the report

■ While existing laws like the Indian Penal Code and the POCSO can deal with FGM, there is a need to define FGM.

■ Provisions for relief, rehabilitation and protection are needed. A separate law is best suited.

■ The parent, who is performing the act, the cutters and propagators (Amils) should be penalised, in that order

■ Victims should not only be compensated but also rehabilitated; cases should be reported to a government and accredited NGO

■ Doctors, teachers, social workers and Amils should be at the fore in reporting cases to the police

■ FGM cannot be justified as a 'religious practice'



■ A designated person should be able to obtain a restraining order in case of proposed FGM

■ Syedna should pass Jamaat resolutions all over the country decrying the practice of FGM and Amils should conduct awareness drives

■ Specific amendments needed in the Indian Medical Council to categorise FGM as a form of professional misconduct.

## G.S. Paper -3

### Topic: Science and Technology

#### Australian scientists create world's thinnest hologram

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/australian-scientists-create-worlds-thinnest-hologram/article18512291.ece>

#### In News:

- Scientists have created the world's thinnest hologram that can be seen without 3D goggles and may be integrated into everyday electronics such as smartphones, computers and TVs
- It is simple to make and is 1,000 times thinner than a human hair
- Integrating holography into everyday electronics would make screen size irrelevant
- A pop-up 3D hologram can display a wealth of data that does not neatly fit on a phone or watch

#### Ecological concerns over combustible ice

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/ecological-concerns-over-combustible-ice/article18512280.ece>

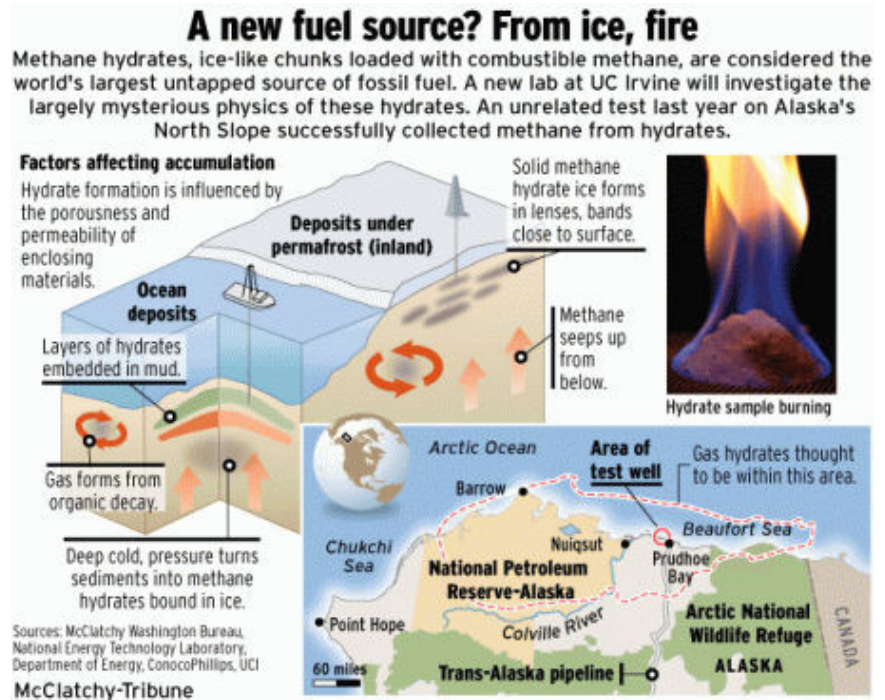
#### Context:

- Japan and China successfully extracted the material from the sea floor off their coastlines
- Commercial development of the globe's huge reserves of a frozen fossil fuel known as "combustible ice" has moved closer to reality
- The fuel was successfully mined by a drilling rig operating in the South China Sea

#### What is combustible ice?

- Combustible ice is a frozen mixture of water and concentrated natural gas
- Technically known as methane hydrate, it can be lit on fire in its frozen state
- It is believed to comprise one of the world's most abundant fossil fuels

#### Issues:



- Experts suggest large-scale production remains many years away
- If extraction is not done properly, it could flood the atmosphere with climate-changing greenhouse gases

#### **Advantages of methane hydrate:**

- For Japan, methane hydrate offers the chance to reduce its heavy reliance of imported fuels if it can tap into reserves off its coastline
- In China, it could serve as a cleaner substitute for coal-burning power plants and steel factories
- These factories have polluted much of the country with lung-damaging smog

#### **Location of methane hydrate:**

- Methane hydrate has been found beneath seafloors and buried inside Arctic permafrost and beneath Antarctic ice
- It is present in abundance in the world
- This means methane hydrate reserves could meet global gas demands for 80 to 800 years at current consumption rates

#### **Environmental concerns:**

- If methane hydrate leaks during the extraction process, it can increase greenhouse gas emissions
- The fuel also could displace renewables such as solar and wind power.

## Schemes /Acts in news

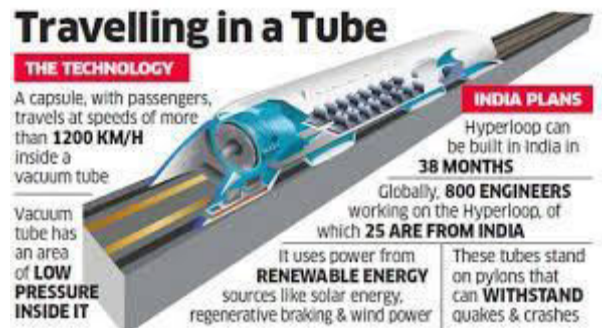
### ▪ VAJRA (Visiting Advanced Joint Research) Faculty scheme

- ✓ **Implementing agency:** The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a Statutory body Department of Science and Technology.
- ✓ Enables NRIs and overseas scientific community to participate and contribute to research and development in India.
- ✓ VAJRA faculty will undertake research in S&T priority areas of nation wherein the capability and capacity are needed to be developed. The VAJRA faculty will engage in collaborative research in public funded institutions.
- ✓ The residency period of the VAJRA Faculty in India would be for a minimum of 1 month and a maximum of 3 months a year.
- ✓ The VAJRA Faculty is provided a lump-sum amount of US\$ 15000 in the first month of residency in a year and US\$ 10000 p.m. in the other two months to cover their travel and honorarium. While no separate support is provided for e.g. accommodation, medical / personal insurance etc. the host institute may consider providing additional support.
- ✓ Public funded academic institutions and national laboratories are eligible to host the VAJRA Faculty. These institutions should appoint them as **Adjunct / Visiting Faculty** and involve them in co-guiding and mentoring of students and developing collaborative programs. The Faculty can also be allowed to participate in other academic activities as agreed to by the host institution and the Faculty.

## Prelims worthy factual information

### ▪ Hyperloop

- ✓ **Hyperloop** is a proposed mode of passenger and freight transportation that would propel a pod-like vehicle through a reduced-pressure tube that would exceed airliner speed.
- ✓ The pods would accelerate to cruising speed gradually using a **linear electric motor** and glide above their track using passive **magnetic levitation or air bearings**.
- ✓ The tubes could also go above ground on columns or underground, eliminating the dangers of grade crossings. It is hoped that the system will be highly energy-efficient, quiet and autonomous.



**Practice question:**

1. Combustible ice consists of which gas?

- A. Methane hydrate
- B. Methyl hydrate
- C. Methyl hydride
- D. Methane hydride

Correct answer: A

Type: Science

Level: moderate

Explanation:

- Combustible ice is a frozen mixture of water and concentrated natural gas
- Technically known as methane hydrate, it can be lit on fire in its frozen state
- It is believed to comprise one of the world's most abundant fossil fuels

**2. VAJRA (Visiting Advanced Joint Research) Faculty scheme is being implemented by which agency?**

- A. The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)
- B. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
- C. Indian Institute of Science
- D. None of the above

Correct answer: A

Type: Schemes

Level: moderate

Explanation:

**VAJRA (Visiting Advanced Joint Research) Faculty scheme**

- ✓ **Implementing agency:** The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a Statutory body Department of Science and Technology.

3. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana is implemented by

- A. Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.
- B. Ministry of Rural Development
- C. Ministry of Panchayath Raj Insitution
- D. None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Type: Schemes

Level: Moderate

Explanation:

- ✓ Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana will be implemented by the **Ministry of Rural Development.**

National Environmental Engineering Research Institute falls under

- A. Ministry of Environment and Forest
- B. Ministry of Science and Technology
- C. Ministry of Human Resource and Development
- D. None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Topic: Current Affair

Level: Moderate

Explanation:

NEERI falls under the **Ministry of Science and Technology** (India) of central government.

## G.S. Paper -2

### Topic: Polity

#### Fresh move to impeach Justice Nagarjuna Reddy

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/fresh-move-to-impeach-justice-nagarjuna-reddy/article18572985.ece>

#### In news:

- Impeachment proceedings have been initiated against Justice C.V. Nagarjuna Reddy of the High Court for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- 60 members of the Rajya Sabha have submitted a motion seeking initiation of impeachment proceedings.
- Second attempt to impeach Justice Nagarjuna Reddy.
- **Allegations against Justice:**
  - ✓ Interfering in the judicial process.
  - ✓ Caste slurs including death threats against a Dalit Junior Civil Judge Sanku Rama Krishna at the courts in Rayachoti, a town in Andhra Pradesh's Kadapa district
- **Procedure :**
  - ✓ Vice President to constitute a three-member committee under the 1968 Judges (Inquiry) Act, which generally consists of a sitting Supreme Court judge and two High Court Chief Justices.
  - ✓ This is done in consultation with the CJI.
  - ✓ The Committee will function like a trial court, examining the accusations against Justice Reddy and ruling whether they are well-founded. Thereafter it will advise in favour, or against the judge's removal.
  - ✓ The Committee's decision will then be placed in both houses of Parliament for a vote, and would require a **two-third majority of MPs** present voting in favour of the motion in the same session, or an **absolute majority of a joint session**, for the judge to be removed.
  - ✓ Article 124 (4) of the Constitution stipulates that a minimum of 50 Rajya Sabha MPs or double that number from the Lok Sabha are required as signatories to initiate impeachment, the only means to remove judges from office in the country's higher judiciary.



## Topic: World Affairs

### An Abe-Modi plan for Africa

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/abe-modi-plan-unveiled/article18572502.ece>

#### In news:

- The Indian and Japanese governments unveiled a vision document for **the Asia Africa Growth Corridor**, proposed by the two countries' Prime Ministers last November, and more details are likely to be firmed up by September in time for Japan PM Shinzo Abe's visit to New Delhi.
- Unlike China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) project, about which India has raised several concerns, the **Asia Africa Growth Corridor** is conceived as a more **open and inclusive programme** that will be based on more consultations and keep people as the centre piece rather than just trade and economic ties.
- **Four key elements:**
  - a) Enhancing capacity and skills;
  - b) Building quality infrastructure and connecting institutions;
  - c) Development and cooperation projects in health, farming, manufacturing and disaster management; and
  - d) People-to-people partnerships.
- Greater cooperation between Indian and Japanese firms in furthering Africa's development and Indian investors to participate in the new economic zone coming up around Kenya's Mombasa port with Japan's assistance.

### U.S. proposes cut in aid to Pak.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/us-proposes-cut-in-aid-to-pak/article18573901.ece>

#### In news:

- Pakistan will be among several countries that will be affected if cuts in military aid to partners proposed by the White House is passed by Congress.
- The Trump administration has proposed that the military aid to Pakistan in 2018 be reduced to \$100 million from \$265 million in 2017.
- The \$100 million under foreign military funding is to help Pakistan buy military hardware.
- With other programmes added, total assistance proposed for Pakistan next year amounts to \$344 million, which is also a **substantial reduction**.
- The reduction could affect Pakistan's army, navy and air force and diminish its ability to patrol the maritime border.
- **May dent war on terror:**

- ✓ The proposed cuts could impact Pakistan's ability to fight terrorist organisations in the region
- **Conversion to loans:**
  - ✓ The Trump administration has also proposed that the military grants may be converted to loans wherever appropriate.
  - ✓ The proposed system will require partner countries to buy American weaponry with the loans before paying the money back to America.
  - ✓ If implemented, the new system could drive many countries to America's rivals such as China and Russia for military hardware and the State Department bureaucracy is opposed to it.

### **G.S. Paper -3**

#### **Topic: Economics**

##### **Centre may expand UDAN's wingspan**

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/centre-may-expand-udans-wingspan/article18572678.ece>

##### **In news:**

- The Centre has proposed widening the scope of its UDAN scheme for regional connectivity by making more flight operations eligible for a host of concessions, including viability gap funding.
- All routes which do not have flight services at present may become part of the Scheme.

##### **Cabinet nod for phasing out FIPB**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/cabinet-approves-fipb-abolition-sources/article9711636.ece>

- The union Cabinet approved phasing out of the 25year old Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB)
- The decision is aimed at making India more attractive for FDI by improving ease of doing business and promoting the "Maximum Governance, Minimum Government" principle.

## **Articles in news:**

### **Article 124: Establishment and Constitution of Supreme Court**

(1) There shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India and, until Parliament by law prescribes a larger number, of not more than seven other Judges.

(2) Every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with such of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary for the purpose and shall hold office until he attains the age of sixty-five years:

Provided that in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of India shall always be consulted:

Provided further that—

(a) a Judge may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office;

(b) a Judge may be removed from his office in the manner provided in clause (4).

1[(2A) The age of a Judge of the Supreme Court shall be determined by such authority and in such manner as Parliament may by law provide.]

(3) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court unless he is a citizen of India and—

(a) has been for at least five years a Judge of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession; or

(b) has been for at least ten years an advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession; or

(c) is, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist.

Explanation I: In this clause "High Court means a High Court which exercises, or which at any time before the commencement of this Constitution exercised, jurisdiction in any part of the territory of India.

Explanation II: In computing for the purpose of this clause the period during which a person has been an advocate, any period during which a person has held judicial

office not inferior to that of a district judge after he became an advocate shall be included.

(4) A Judge of the Supreme Court shall not be removed from his office except by an order of the President passed after an address by each House of Parliament supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting has been presented to the President in the same session for such removal on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

(5) Parliament may by law regulate the procedure for the presentation of an address and for the investigation and proof of the misbehaviour or incapacity of a Judge under clause (4).

(6) Every person appointed to be a Judge of the Supreme Court shall, before he enters upon his office, make and subscribe before the President, or some person appointed in that behalf by him, an oath or affirmation according to the form set out for the purpose in the Third Schedule.

(7) No person who has held office as a Judge of the Supreme Court shall plead or act in any court or before any authority within the territory of India.

### **Practice Questions:**

1. The 2017 bilateral maritime exercise “SIMBEX-17” has started between India and which country?
  - A. Sri Lanka
  - B. South Africa
  - C. South Korea
  - D. Singapore

Correct Answer: D [Singapore]

Type: Current Affair

Level: moderate

Explanation: The 24th edition of bilateral maritime exercise “SIMBEX-17” has started between Navies of the Republic of Singapore and India in the South China Sea from May 18 and will continue to May 21, 2017. The purpose of the exercise is to increase interoperability between the two navies as well as to develop common understanding and procedures for maritime security operations. SIMBEX is an acronym for “Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercises”.

2. Which city to host the 2017 annual convention of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group?
- A. Valencia
  - B. Gandhinagar
  - C. Lisbon
  - D. Shanghai

Correct Answer: B [Gandhinagar]

Type: Current Affair

Level: Easy

Explanation: The 52nd annual meeting of African Development Bank (AfDB) Group will be held at the Mahatma Mandir convention centre in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from May 22 to 26, 2017 with theme "Transforming Agriculture for Wealth Creation in Africa".

3. The Bhindawas Bird Sanctuary (BBS) is located in which state?
- A. Haryana
  - B. Rajasthan
  - C. Sikkim
  - D. Kerala

Correct Answer: A [Haryana]

Type: G.K

Level: Moderate

Explanation: The Bhindawas Bird Sanctuary (BBS) is located in Jhajjar district, Haryana. It is home to many birds such as Blue Peafowl, Gray Francolin, Black Francolin, Shikra, Black Kite, Greater Coucal, White-throated Kingfisher, Coppersmith Barbet and Indian Roller. It is in news because the sanctuary will soon be developed as a beautiful tourist resort and the additional facilities to be provided to the tourists coming to this place would include arrangements for camping for night stay, beautification of the lake, and opening of dispensary for birds and the wild life.

4. What is the style of script in the Indus Valley Civilization?
- a) Boustrophedon
  - b) Pictographic
  - c) Hieroglyphic
  - d) None of the above

Correct Answer: (A)

Type: Culture

Difficulty level: Moderate

Explanation:

In the Indus Valley, The script was boustrophedon. The script was written from right to left in one line and then from left to right in the next line.

5. Consider the following statement with reference to The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill which was in news recently.
1. The bill allows altruistic surrogacy.
  2. Surrogate mother need not be a relative
  3. Insurance coverage for the surrogate mother is a must.

Choose the correct answer

- A. Only 1
- B. 1 and 2
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

**Correct answer: (A)**

**Topic: Current affair**

**Level: Easy**

- **Explanation:**

**The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016 {focus on broad aspects }**

- a) **Regulation of surrogacy:** The Bill prohibits commercial surrogacy, but allows altruistic surrogacy. Altruistic surrogacy involves no monetary compensation to the surrogate mother other than the medical expenses and insurance coverage during the pregnancy. Commercial surrogacy includes surrogacy or its related procedures undertaken for a monetary benefit or reward (in cash or kind) exceeding the basic medical expenses and insurance coverage.
- b) **Purposes for which surrogacy is permitted:** Surrogacy is permitted when it is, (i) for intending couples who suffer from proven infertility; and (ii) altruistic; and (iii) not for commercial purposes; and (iv) not for producing children for sale, prostitution or other forms of exploitation.
- c) **Eligibility criteria for intending couple:** The intending couple should have a 'certificate of essentiality' and a 'certificate of eligibility' issued by the appropriate authority.
- d) **A certificate of essentiality will be issued upon fulfilment of the following conditions:** (i) a certificate of proven infertility of one or both members of the intending couple from a District Medical Board; (ii) an order of parentage and custody of the surrogate child passed by a Magistrate's court; and (iii) insurance coverage for the surrogate mother.



- e) The **certificate of eligibility** is issued upon fulfilment of the following conditions by the intending couple: (i) Indian citizens and are married for at least five years; (ii) between 23 to 50 years old female and 26 to 55 years old male; (iii) they do not have any surviving child (biological, adopted or surrogate); this would not include a child who is mentally or physically challenged or suffers from life threatening disorder or fatal illness.
- f) **Eligibility criteria for surrogate mother:** To obtain a certificate of eligibility from the appropriate authority, the surrogate mother has to: (i) be a close relative of the intending couple; (ii) be an ever married woman having a child of her own; (iii) be 25 to 35 years old; (iv) be a surrogate only once in her lifetime; and (v) possess a certificate of medical and psychological fitness for surrogacy.
- g) **Appropriate authority:** The central and state governments shall appoint one or more appropriate authorities within 90 days of the Bill becoming an Act. The functions of the appropriate authority include; (i) granting, suspending or cancelling registration of surrogacy clinics; (ii) enforcing standards for surrogacy clinics; (iii) investigating and taking action against breach of the provisions of the Bill; (iv) recommending modifications to the rules and regulations.
- h) **Registration of surrogacy clinics:** Surrogacy clinics cannot undertake surrogacy related procedures unless they are registered by the appropriate authority
- i) **National and State Surrogacy Boards:** The central and the state governments shall constitute the National Surrogacy Board (NSB) and the State Surrogacy Boards (SSB), respectively. Functions of the NSB include, (i) advising the central government on policy matters relating to surrogacy; (ii) laying down the code of conduct of surrogacy clinics; and (iii) supervising the functioning of SSBs.
- j) **Offences and penalties:** The Bill states the following offences: (i) undertaking or advertising commercial surrogacy; (ii) exploiting the surrogate mother; (iii) abandoning, exploiting or disowning a surrogate child; and (iv) selling or importing human embryo or gametes for surrogacy. These offences will attract a minimum penalty of 10 years and a fine up to 10 lakh rupees.

## G.S. Paper -2

### Topic: Bilateral Relations

#### Modi gears up to meet Putin

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/modi-gears-up-to-meet-putin/articleshow/58849976.cms>

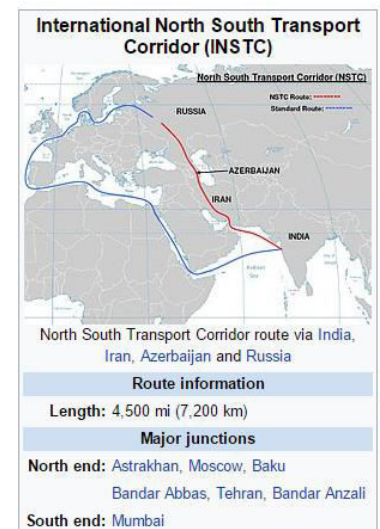
#### In news:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to hold the **18th annual summit** with Russian President Vladimir Putin in St Petersburg during his four-nation tour, starting Monday .
- The tour will take him to Germany , Spain and France as well. This Europe-centric visit is aimed at attracting greater investment to India.
- **India and Russia:** bilateral trade is going down and Russia increasingly aligning itself with China.

#### Basic Information:

##### North-South Transport Corridor

- ✓ The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a 7,200-km-long multi-mode network of ship, rail, and road route for moving freight between India, Russia, Iran, Europe and Central Asia.
- ✓ The route primarily involves moving freight from India, Iran, Azerbaijan and Russia via ship, rail and road.
- ✓ The objective of the corridor is to increase trade connectivity between major cities such as Mumbai, Moscow, Tehran, Baku, Bandar Abbas, Astrakhan, Bandar Anzali, etc.



#### TIR Convention

- ✓ The Convention on International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) is a multilateral treaty that was concluded at Geneva on 14 November 1975 to simplify and harmonise the administrative formalities of international road transport. (TIR stands for "Transports Internationaux Routiers" or "International Road Transports")
- ✓ The conventions were adopted under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).
- ✓ As of January 2017, there are 70 parties to the Convention, including 69 states and the European Union.



- ✓ The TIR Convention establishes an international customs transit system with maximum facility to move goods:
  - In sealed vehicles or containers;
  - From a customs office of departure in one country to a customs office of destination in another country;
  - Without requiring extensive and time-consuming border checks at intermediate borders;
  - While, at the same time, providing customs authorities with the required security and guarantees.
- ✓ The TIR system not only covers customs transit by road but a combination is possible with other modes of transport (e.g., rail, inland waterway, and even maritime transport), as long as at least one part of the total transport is made by road.

### **Topic: Health Issues**

#### **Prices of 31 more drugs capped**

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/prices-of-31-more-drugs-capped/article18579695.ece>

**Context:** Accessibility and affordability of medicines.

#### **In News:**

- **The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** capped the prices of 31 more drugs.
- Price control: intrauterine devices used for birth control; Factor VIII, a life-saving medicine for haemophilic patients; morphine, a pain killer; and rifampicin, a powerful antibiotic used to treat infections such as tuberculosis and leprosy.

#### **Basic Information:**

##### **The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA):**

- ✓ The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is a government regulatory agency {set up as per executive order and thus not a statutory body} that controls the prices of pharmaceutical drugs in India.
- ✓ It has been given powers to implement and enforce the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO), 1995/2013.
- ✓ It can fund studies regarding pricing of drugs.
- ✓ It also has the task to monitor drug shortages and take appropriate actions to rectify it.
- ✓ It also has to collect and maintain data regarding the import and export of drugs, market shares of pharmaceutical companies and their profits.
- ✓ It also handles legal disputes that arise out of policies created by it.
- ✓ It advises the Government of India in matters of drug policies and pricing.
- ✓ It renders advice to the Central Government on changes/ revisions in the drug policy.

- ✓ It can also cap the prices of a drug and recently it capped the prices of coronary stent.

## G.S. Paper -3

### Topic: Economic

#### India retains world's highest FDI recipient crown: Report

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/india-retains-worlds-highest-fdi-recipient-crown-report/articleshow/58845156.cms>

#### In news:

#### fDi Report 2017 compiled by FDI intelligence, division of Financial Times Ltd.

- India retained its number one position as the world's top most **Greenfield FDI** investment destination for the second consecutive year, attracting USD 62.3 billion in 2016, says a report.
- India has remained ahead of China and the US as far as FDI inflows.
- In the year 2016, FDI gravitated to locations experiencing the strongest economic growth, while locations in recession or facing high levels of uncertainty saw major decline.
- China has overtaken the US to become the second biggest country for FDI by capital investment, recording USD 59 billion of announced FDI, compared with USD 48 billion-worth in the US.
- Globally, the **real estate sector has claimed the top spot for capital investment.**

**FDI INTO ASIA-PACIFIC IN 2016**  
Capital investment



Asia-Pacific market share	Country	Capital investment (\$bn) 2016
18%	India	62.3
17%	China	59.1
12%	Kazakhstan	40.1
11%	Vietnam	36.6
6%	Indonesia	22.1
6%	Malaysia	19.3
5%	Australia	18.8
3%	Singapore	11.3
3%	Philippines	10.5
3%	Myanmar	10.4
17%	Other	58.0

#### Basic Information:

##### Greenfield investments:

- ✓ A green field investment is a form of foreign direct investment where a parent company builds its operations in a foreign country from the ground up. In addition to the construction of new production facilities, these projects can also include the building of new distribution hubs, offices and living quarters.

##### Brownfield Investment:

- ✓ Brown field investment, also referred to as "brownfield" is when a company or government entity purchases or leases existing production facilities to launch a new production activity

## **Green writing on wall: OPEC agrees to India plan for joint study**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/green-writing-on-wall-opec-agrees-to-india-plan-for-joint-study/articleshow/58850098.cms>

### **In news:**

#### **India-OPEC Institutional Dialogue**

- OPEC, the grouping of oil exporting countries, has agreed to India's proposal for setting up a **joint working group** to assess future scenarios for the oil industry as energy mix in major economies undergo rapid changes due to expansion in renewable sources.
- There is a shift in focus to wind, biomass, electric vehicles, hybrid cars and other alternative fuels. All this puts the oil industry at a crossroads and higher crude prices will only act as a catalyst for faster growth of affordable alternative energy technologies.
- **Importance:**
- ✓ The acceptance of the proposal by the grouping is an indication of **India's growing importance in the global oil market** due to the combined effect of its hunger for fuel and rapidly expanding green energy capacity.

### **Basic Information:**

#### **OPEC:**

- ✓ Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is an intergovernmental organization of 13 nations as of 2017, founded in 1960 in Baghdad by the first five members (Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela), and headquartered since 1965 in Vienna.
- ✓ As of 2015, the 13 countries accounted for an estimated 42 percent of global oil production and 73 percent of the world's "proven" oil reserves, giving OPEC a major influence on global oil prices that were previously determined by American-dominated multinational oil companies.
- ✓ OPEC's stated mission is "to coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its member countries and ensure the stabilization of oil markets, in order to secure an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consumers, a steady income to producers, and a fair return on capital for those investing in the petroleum industry."
- ✓ As of January 2017, OPEC's members are Algeria, Angola, Ecuador, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela, while **Indonesia is a former member**.
- ✓ Two-thirds of OPEC's oil production and reserves are in its six Middle Eastern countries that surround the oil-rich Persian Gulf.

**Practice questions:**

1. As per FDI Report 2017, which sector received the highest capital investments?
- A. Real Estate
  - B. Coal , Oil , Natural gas
  - C. Renewable energy
  - D. Metals.

Correct answer: A

Type: Current Affair

Level: moderate

Explanation: fDi Report 2017 compiled by FDI intelligence, division of Financial Times Ltd.

- India retained its number one position as the world's top most **Greenfield FDI** investment destination for the second consecutive year, attracting USD 62.3 billion in 2016, says a report.
- India has remained ahead of China and the US as far as FDI inflows.
- In the year 2016, FDI gravitated to locations experiencing the strongest economic growth, while locations in recession or facing high levels of uncertainty saw major decline.
- China has overtaken the US to become the second biggest country for FDI by capital investment, recording USD 59 billion of announced FDI, compared with USD 48 billion-worth in the US.
- Globally, the **real estate sector has claimed the top spot for capital investment.**

2. As per FDI Report 2017, India retained its number one position as the world's top most \_\_\_\_\_ investment destination for the second consecutive year?
- A. Green field
  - B. Brown filed
  - C. Renewable energy.
  - D. Automobile

Correct answer: A

Type: Current Affair

Level: moderate

- Explanation: India retained its number one position as the world's top most **Greenfield FDI** investment destination for the second

consecutive year, attracting USD 62.3 billion in 2016, says a report.

3. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority is a
- A. Statutory body
  - B. Constitutional body
  - C. Body set up as per executive order
  - D. None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Type: Current Affair

Level: Easy

Explanation:

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is a government regulatory agency {set up as per executive order and thus not a statutory body} that controls the prices of pharmaceutical drugs in India.

4. The Convention on International Transport of Goods cover custom transit by
- A. Road only
  - B. Rail only
  - C. Inland Water ways only
  - D. None of the above

Correct Answer: D

Type: Current Affair

Level: Difficult

Explanation:

- ✓ The TIR Convention establishes an international customs transit system with maximum facility to move goods:
  - In sealed vehicles or containers;
  - From a customs office of departure in one country to a customs office of destination in another country;
  - Without requiring extensive and time-consuming border checks at intermediate borders;
  - While, at the same time, providing customs authorities with the required security and guarantees.
- ✓ The TIR system not only covers customs transit by road but a combination is possible with other modes of transport (e.g., rail, inland waterway, and even maritime transport), as long as at least one part of the total transport is made by road.

## G.S. Paper -2

### Topic: Polity

#### 1. New restrictions on cattle slaughter

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/government-bans-sale-purchase-of-cattle-from-animal-markets-for-slaughter/article18585018.ece>

#### In news:

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified new rules- **the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Regulation of Livestock Markets) Rules, 2017**- that seeks to ban the sale of cattle for slaughter at animal markets across the country.
- **Sellers:** Those who wish to sell cattle — bulls, cows, buffaloes, steers, heifers and camels — may do so only after they **formally state** that the animals have not been **“brought to the market for sale for slaughter”**.
- **Buyers at market:**
  - ✓ Needs to be an agriculturalists (must be verified by the concerned authority).
  - ✓ Resale of the animal/s for a period of six months from the date of purchase is prohibited.
  - ✓ Buyers should follow the State cattle protection and preservation laws” and “not sacrifice the animal for any religious purpose”.
  - ✓ Prohibition of cattle purchased from animal markets being sold outside the State, without permission.
- **Implementing agency:**
  - ✓ Monitoring committees at the State and district levels will be set up to implement the rules and monitor the functioning of animal markets.
  - ✓ Markets will be identified and registered
  - ✓ Approval of the District Animal Market Monitoring Committee, chaired by the Collector or District Magistrate is needed to set up new markets.
  - ✓ To inhibit smuggling, animal markets may not function within 25 kilometres of a State border and 50 kilometres of an international border.

WHY WERE NEW RULES NECESSARY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ At present, most livestock markets or pashu haat or melas are open markets, selling milch cattle for slaughter</li><li>➤ These markets do not have facilities for veterinary inspections or even facilities such as water troughs and ramps for loading and unloading</li><li>➤ Animals being sold for slaughter are generally unfit, making markets a major hub for spread of infectious diseases</li><li>➤ Since there are no records in livestock markets, cattle suffering from foot &amp; mouth disease or mad cow disease may be sold</li><li>➤ Absence of record and traceability help illegal slaughter houses to run with impunity</li></ul>	 <p><b>WHAT DO THE NEW NORMS SAY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Prohibit sale of animals for slaughter through livestock markets</li><li>➤ Animals for slaughter must be sourced directly from farms to ensure traceability</li><li>➤ To ensure only healthy animals are traded for agricultural purposes or milk</li><li>➤ Do's and don'ts to end cruelty while transporting animals</li></ul>

#### Provisions to prevent cruel transport and treatment of animals:

- Notification prohibits practices that are cruel and harmful include sealing teats of the udder using any material such as adhesive tapes to prevent the calf from suckling, putting any ornaments or decorative materials on animals, using any type of muzzle to prevent animals from suckling or eating food and injecting oxytocin into milch animals.

#### **Present scenario:**

- At present 90% of buffaloes are sourced from mandis by middlemen for sale in slaughterhouses
- A mere 10% of buffaloes are sourced directly from farmers.

#### **2. Notification comes after SC directive**

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/notification-comes-after-sc-directive/article18587266.ece>

#### **In news:**

- Supreme Court had earlier issued directive to the government to form an inter-ministerial committee to recommend ways of preventing cattle smuggling.
- Directive was in response to the 2014 writ petition filed by **Gauri Mulekhi of People for Animals**.
- The inter-ministerial committee recommended: rules to be framed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 to regulate livestock markets.

#### **Impacts of the new rules framed:**

- Weeds out middlemen role from the supply chain linking farm-heads to slaughter houses.
- Improve traceability of zoonotic diseases
- Curb illegitimate slaughter and smuggling and
- Put the onus on cattle-owners to dispose of their animals responsibly.

#### **3. Glitch in govt. transfers delays ₹3045 cr in NREGA wages**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/glitch-in-govt-transfers-delays-3045-cr-in-nrega-wages/article18585704.ece>

**Context: Wage payment delay under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.**

#### **In News:**

According to data collated by **NREGA Sangharsh Morcha**, a platform that tracks the implementation of the workfare programme.

- Wage payment delays have mounted drastically in April-May 2017.
- Fund Transfer Orders (FTOs) worth **₹3,045 crore** are **yet to be processed** by the central government's National Electronic Fund Management System (NEFMS).

- Processing delay was highest in the cases of Kerala and Uttarakhand.
- On an average it takes up to 25 days for the payment to reach the worker even after the FTO has been signed.

#### **What does the act say?**

- As per Schedule II of the Act, an NREGA worker must be paid **within 15 days of completing his allocated tasks.**
- **Compensation in case of delay:** A delay in payment, for which the worker must be **compensated**, has to be calculated from the 16th day after task completion, till the time the money is credited in the worker's account.

#### **Flaw in computing compensation:**

- NREGA Management Information System (MIS) calculates the delay only till the **second signature** on the **FTO from the state government**, after which the pay order goes to the central government for processing.
- **Systemic failure:** These delays and other unexpected delays are not captured in MIS.

#### **Way forward:**

- The government must adopt a system for NREGA payments that is reliable and not vulnerable to gross irregularities such as repeated delays in the processing of FTOs.
- Tracking at each level should be adopted.

#### **Basic information:**

##### **The national electronic fund management system (NeFMS):**

- The national electronic fund management system (NeFMS), project launched by the Central government in the State for direct and faster release of wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)
- It will enable direct and immediate credit of wages into the accounts within 48 hours of the issue of the order.

#### **4. Commercial e-vehicles won't need permits**

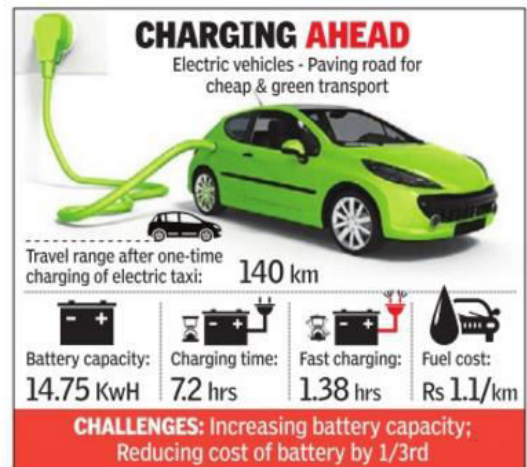
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/commercial-e-vehicles-wont-need-permits/articleshow/58864682.cms>

#### **In news:**

- Permits not required for commercial purpose electric vehicles such as taxis, auto-rickshaws and buses.
- The road transport ministry is working on this proposal in its bid to push electric vehicles across segments to check air pollution and high dependence on imported crude oil.



- The ministry has already set a similar model by allowing **e-rickshaws** to ply without getting permit, though they have to be registered and must meet minimum safety requirement.
- Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari and Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis launched the **country's first multi-modal electric vehicle project in Nagpur**. The pilot project envisages a fleet of 200 electric-powered public transport vehicles which would be run on cab aggregator Ola's app platform in Nagpur.



### G.S. Paper -3

#### Topic: Internal Security and Disaster Management

##### 5. DRDO's aero test range to be inaugurated tomorrow

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/drdo-aero-test-range-to-be-inaugurated-on-sunday/article18587280.ece>

#### In news:

- **Location:** near Challakere in Chitradurga district, Karnataka.
- The Aeronautical Test Range is a facility under the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) which works on a range of UAVs (unmanned air vehicles).
- It will be an integrated test centre for the DRDO's cluster of aeronautical laboratories, most of them based in Bengaluru.
- DRDO used the ATR to conduct the first successful flight of the UAV 'Tapas' 201, earlier called Rustom-2.
- Tapas is a MALE or medium altitude, long endurance UAV that can continuously, slowly watch over a 200-km area for 24 hours. The pictures it captures will be interpreted by the armed forces or security.

## Miscellaneous:

### 6. New bridge will spur a revolution: Modi

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/dhola-sadiya-bridge-indias-longest-river-bridge-inaugurated-by-pm-modi/article18582249.ece>

#### In news:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **country's longest bridge** over the **Lohit river** in Assam .

#### Facts round up:

- 9.15 km-long bridge: **Bhupen Hazarika Setu (Dhola-Sadiya)**, named after **Dadasaheb Phalke awardee** and legendary lyricist-singer **Bhupen Hazarika** who hailed from **Sadiya** .
- It connects Assam (Dhola) and Arunachal Pradesh (Saidya), reduced distance by 165 km and cutting travel time by seven to eight hours.

#### Basic Information:

- The **Bandra-Worli Sea Link**, officially called Rajiv Gandhi Sea Link, is a cable-stayed bridge with pre-stressed concrete-steel viaducts on either side that links Bandra in the Western Suburbs of Mumbai with Worli in South Mumbai.

#### Scheme/Acts/Articles in news:

#### **SAMPADA (Scheme For Agro-Marine Processing And Development Of Agro-Processing Clusters)**

- **Objective:** to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease agri-waste.
- SAMPADA is an umbrella scheme incorporating ongoing schemes of the Ministry like Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, etc. and also new schemes like Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages, Creation / Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities.
- It includes new schemes of
  - ✓ Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters
  - ✓ Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages
  - ✓ Creation / Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities aim at development of modern infrastructure to encourage entrepreneurs to set up food processing units based on cluster approach, provide effective and seamless backward and forward integration for processed food industry by plugging gaps in supply chain
  - ✓ Creation of processing and preservation capacities and modernization/ expansion of existing food processing units.

- The implementation of SAMPADA will result in
  - ✓ Creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.
  - ✓ Provides better prices to farmers and is a big step towards doubling of farmers' income.
  - ✓ Create huge employment opportunities especially in the rural areas.
  - ✓ Helps in reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing the processing level, availability of safe and convenient processed foods at affordable price to consumers and enhancing the export of the processed foods.

### Practice questions

1. The "Preservation, protection and improvement of stock and prevention of animal diseases, veterinary training and practice" comes under which list of Constitution of India?
  - A. State list
  - B. Union List
  - C. Concurrent List
  - D. None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Type: Polity

Level: Easy

Explanation:

The "Preservation, protection and improvement of stock and prevention of animal diseases, veterinary training and practice" is Entry 15 of the **State List** of the **Seventh Schedule** of the Constitution, meaning that State Legislatures have exclusive powers to legislate the prevention of slaughter and preservation of cattle.

2. The State shall endeavour to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall, in particular, take steps for preserving and improving the breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle is mentioned in which part of the constitution?
  - A. Fundamental duties
  - B. Union list
  - C. Concurrent list
  - D. Directive Principles of State Policy

Correct Answer: D

Type: Polity

Level: Easy

Explanation:

The prohibition of cow slaughter is also one of the Directive Principles of State Policy contained in Article 48 of the Constitution. It reads, "The State shall endeavour to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall, in particular, take steps for preserving and improving the breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle."

3. As per NREGA, the minimum number of days within which the workers wages must be paid after due completion of tasks is
- A. 30 days
  - B. 25 days
  - C. 15 days
  - D. 10days

Correct Answer: C

Type: Schemes

Level: Moderate

Explanation:

As per Schedule II of the Act, an NREGA worker must be paid within 15 days of completing his allocated tasks.

4. Which bridge is expected to get the tag of the Longest bridge in India in future?
- A. Bhupen Hazarika Setu
  - B. Dhola–Sadiya Bridge
  - C. The New Ganga Bridge
  - D. Bandra–Worli Sea Link

Correct Answer: C

Type: G.K

Level: Difficult

Explanation:

- The Bhupen Hazarika Setu (Dhola–Sadiya Bridge), which became operational on 26 May 2017, is the longest bridge in India. It spans the Lohit River, a major tributary of Brahmaputra River, from Dhola in south to Sadiya in north to connect the states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and is 9.15 kilometres (5.69 mi) in length.
- **However, the New Ganga Bridge Project Project with a length of 9.8km being constructed in Bihar for replacing the ageing Mahatma Gandhi Setu and funded by Asian Development Bank is expected to get the tag of Longest bridge in India in future**

5. Where is the country's first multi-modal electric vehicle project launched?

- A. Nagpur
- B. Mumbai
- C. Pune
- D. Bangalore

Correct option: A

Type: Current Affair

Level: Easy

Explanation: Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari and Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis launched the **country's first multi-modal electric vehicle project in Nagpur**. The pilot project envisages a fleet of 200 electric-powered public transport vehicles which would be run on cab aggregator Ola's app platform in Nagpur.